



# BirdTalk



NEWSLETTER OF THE MALTA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

JULY '93

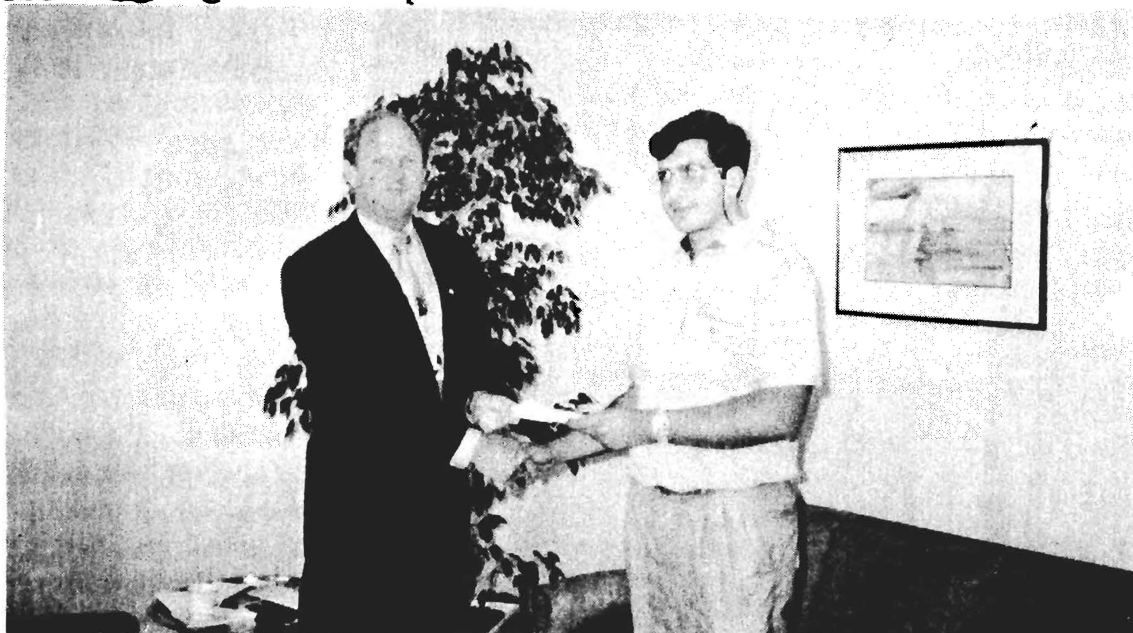
## IMPORTANT COASTAL & MARINE SEABIRDS SITES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

MOS is about to produce another book as part of its awareness programme, regarding the importance of safeguarding important bird habitats.

This publication which is being made possible with the co-operation of Amoco Oil Mediterranean Co., highlights the importance of seabirds sites in the Mediterranean basin. It lists about 130 sites spread all over the Mediterranean countries, giving a brief description of the

localities, the various threats to the sites as well as the status of these important seabird colonies. The aim of the book is to inform governments and authorities of the various Mediterranean countries of these important areas.

The author, Mr Joe Sultana has co-written a number of books about birds and their environment, among which you will find "A NEW GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF MALTA".



*Mr Steven P. Flodder, the Resident Manager of Amoco Oil Mediterranean Co. is seen here presenting to Mr Joe Doublet, MOS President, the sponsorship for the MOS publication " IMPORTANT COASTAL & MARINE SEABIRD SITES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN "*

A group of members from the Swiss League for the Protection of Nature, recently visited Malta to carry out conservation work at the Ghadira and Is-Simar Nature Reserves.

The week's stay was organised in association with the MOS youths. The Swiss also visited various important bird areas in Malta and Gozo, namely Buskett, Dingli Cliffs, and Ta' Cenc.

This was an ideal opportunity for them to learn at first hand about the local habitat with its unique flora and fauna.

At the end of their visit, they expressed their hope that the singularity of our Mediterranean environment will be appreciated and protected by all Maltese.

### *A Special Treat*

Adrian Muscat Inglott, our education officer and John Borg a bird ringer organised a special bird ringing session at San Miguel School for handicapped children in St. Andrews.

Despite the bad weather, John caught a *spotted flycatcher* in an especially set-up net. The sight of this little bird brought smiles and curious eyes from all the children. The expression on their faces was worth all the planning that went into it.

Once John explained what it involves to ring birds, they all went out in the courtyard to release the bird back to its deserved freedom.



### *From the Editor*

Summer is here again! A time to take things easy, to work less, to go to the beach, and just laze about.

However for MOS this summer could be an important turning point in bird protection. As you know the new hunting and trapping regulations are expected to be issued by August.

MOS has been campaigning for many years to bring about better protection for birds. This campaign has begun to pay off. From reports in the papers the hunters are not at all amused with the new regulations, which must be good for us. Let us hope so!

For too many years, man has abused his surroundings, selfishly taking and not replacing the vital parts in the environment jigsaw. We have now realised the consequences, such as pollution, ozone depletion and habitat destruction with their negative effects on all living things.

Although some effects are irreversible, it is not too late. We have to take action! We have to do something or else we stand to lose the lot. Unless drastic action is taken we would end up living in a total artificial world. It would be necessary to wear protective clothing at all

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times, breathe with the aid of a respirator and recount to our children the days when wild animals lived. Who would like to live like that?

Nature on its own can look after itself, but as soon as man steps in he upsets the fragile balance. Millions of years of evolution are thrown out of the window with our intrusion.

This is why MOS firmly believes that, we should safeguard birds and their environment. That is why we are concerned when natural habitats are in danger of being destroyed. That is why we help to create natural reserves and organise educational campaigns.

It is our obligation to see that, our natural habitats are not put as the last item on the development list. With your support we can bring about a better environment.

## Recycled Products

As from the previous issue, this newsletter will be printed on recycled, unbleached paper.

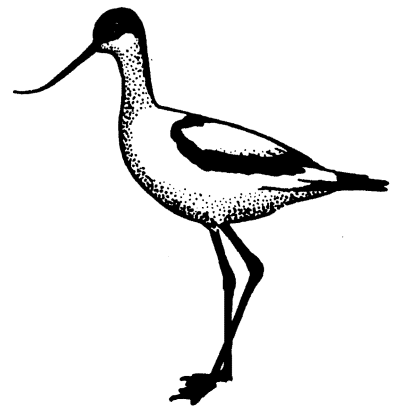
It is our small contribution towards the preservation of the important forests, It is also a contribution towards reducing the mountains of waste that are produced.

In Malta, the use of recycled products has not yet been fully appreciated. In most of Europe, many of the packaging and paper products are made of recycled paper. Now, even cars have a significant percentage of recycled material.

You can help as well, consider using recycled products.

*Are you changing your address?*

If so, please let us know, so that you can continue to receive this newsletter and the **Birds Eye View** magazine.



Avocet



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Managing Director



As partners of BirdLife International, MOS will be participating in a *World Bird Watch* activity which aims to get one million people around the world out bird watching on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October '93.

The Bird Watch event will be held at nature reserves and important conservation sites such as Buskett. This event will be an ideal opportunity for members to enjoy bird

watching in the company of experienced volunteers. If you are interested and would like to take part, make a note of the dates. The programme of the event will be published in the *BirdTalk* at a later date.

You may ask but what are we going to do there? Well the idea is to, watch as many birds as possible on their Autumn journey south. The sightings will be recorded

and forwarded to BirdLife International to evaluate the movements and quantity of birds going to their winter sites.

To enjoy this relaxing pastime you will need a good pair of binoculars and if possible a good bird guide book. The MOS Nature Shop stocks a selection of such books. For more information, you may phone Peter Camilleri on 230684.

