

## Systematic List 2000-2005

Compiled by

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This list of birds occurring in the Maltese Islands during the years 2000-2005 has been compiled from the observation records, which were submitted by several observers, as well as from the daily log of birds of the Nature Reserves at Għadira and Simar. A list of birds occurring from 2006 to 2010 will appear in the next issue of *II-Merill*. The regular contributors for the six years under review were: Jason Aloisio, David Attard, John Attard Montalto, Ian Balzan, Edward Bonavia, John J. Borg, Denis Cachia, Alex Casha, Charles Coleiro, Raymond Galea, Charles Gauci, Mark Gauci, Gilbert Haber, Manuel Mallia, Joseph M. Mangion, Caldon Mercieca, Michael Sammut, Joe Sultana, and Raymond Vella. Other contributors were Patrick Abela, John Azzopardi, Stefan Azzopardi, Dustin Balzan, Saviour Balzan, Ray Bishop, Norman Bonavia, Guido Bonett, Matthew Borg Cardona, Richard Cachia Zammit, Carl Camillieri, Oliver Cardona, Charmaine Casha, Norman Chetcuti, Victor Cilia, Philip Clay, Ron Clevely, Kevin Crisp, Emanuel Curmi, Denis Degiovanni, Joe Doublet, Desire Falzon, Mark Anthony Falzon, Victor Falzon, Jean Paul Farrugia, Jean-Paul Fiott, Charles Galea Bonavia, Sylvia Falzon, Nicholas Galea, Antoine Gatt, Stanley Gatt, Kevin Gauci, Graziella Grech, Joe Grech, John Grech, John Hayes, Rodney Ingram, Jerry Lewis, Mario Mizzi, Juan Ellul Pirotta, Flath Rouger, Marvic Sammut, Glenn Micallef, John & Hanna Middleton, Silvio Scicluna, Simon Suda, Mark Sultana, Steve Sutcliffe, Aron Tanti, Justin Vassallo, Joseph Vella, and Louis Vella.

The **sequence and the scientific nomenclature** of the last systematic list, which covered the years 1996-1999, and which was published in 2005 (*II-Merill* 31: 1-34), followed the recommendations of the British Ornithologists Union (*Ibis* (2002), 144:707-710; *Ibis* (2004), 146: 153-157; and *Ibis* (2005), 147: 821-826). These entailed, *inter alia*, a new taxonomic order, in which Anseriformes and Galliformes were placed at the start of the list, the correction of the of various scientific names, and the reappraisal of various taxa. Since then there have been three other taxonomic reports (*Ibis* (2007), 149:853-857; *Ibis* (2008), 150: 833-835; and *Ibis* (2010), 152: 180-186), which have been taken up also for this systematic list.

In these reports we find, amongst others, the following recommendations:

- (a) That ***Porphyryla*** be treated as a sub-genus within ***Porphyrio***; thus **Allen's Gallinule** becomes ***Porphyrio alleni***.
- (b) Due to phylogenetic analyses of mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences and morphology the shank species in the genera *Xenus*, *Actitis* and *Tringa* should be listed in the following sequence: **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*, **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*, **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*, **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*, **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*, **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*, **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*, **Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*.
- (c) To recognise the following species to better reflect recent advances in knowledge of the evolution and systematic of large gulls: **Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans* (monotypic); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* (polytypic, including *fuscus*, *intermedius*, *graellsii*, *heuglini*, *taiyrensis*, *barabensis*); **American Herring Gull** *Larus smithsonianus* (polytypic, including *smithsonianus*, *vegae*, *mongolicus*); **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis* (polytypic, including *michahellis*, *atlantis*); **Armenian Gull** *Larus armenicus* (monotypic); and **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* (polytypic, including *argentatus*, *argenteus*).
- (d) The genus ***Chroicocephalus*** is recommended for **Slender-billed Gull** and **Black-headed Gull**, amongst others, and the genus ***Hydrocoloeus*** for **Little Gull**. So the scientific nomenclature for 3 former *Larus* gulls become: **Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus genei*, **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, and **Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*. In compiling this list we have taken up these recommendations, some of which are widely adopted.
- (e) To treat **Green Warbler** *Phylloscopus nitidus* (monotypic) and **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (polytypic with subspecies *trochiloides*, *ludlowi*, *obscuratus*, *plumbeitarsus* and *viridanus*) as two separate species.
- (f) A total revision of the taxonomic sequence of the passerines (as can be noted in the present systematic list).

The **English names** used in this systematic list are those found in the reviewed and updated list of English names (Brit. Birds (2004) 97: 2-5). This list can be down-loaded from [www.britishbirds.co.uk](http://www.britishbirds.co.uk) (the *British Birds* Website).

All records of rare and vagrant species which appear in this list have been approved by the National Rarities Committee. For those rare species which were not recorded in one or more of the six years under review, the year during which the species was not recorded has been omitted. (M) or (G) following a place name refer to Malta and Gozo respectively.

**Mute Swan *Cynus olor***

**2002:** 9 at St. Thomas Bay (of which at least 6 shot) and 2 at Ta' Gajdoru Xagħra on 20 Jan. 1 at Qawra and Aħrax on 17 Dec.

**Greylag Goose *Anser anser***

**2001:** flock of 53 over Victoria on 20 Dec.

**Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis***

**2001:** 1 shot at Marsalforn Valley on 20 Dec. (1<sup>st</sup> record for Malta).

***Anser* sp.**

**2001:** Flock of 60 "grey geese" over Victoria on 20 Dec .

**2002:** Flock of 12 over Victoria on 27 Nov .

**Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna***

**2000:** 1 from 1 Jan to 16 Feb, 6 on 17-18 Feb and 2 on 19-22 Feb, all at Għadira. 12 at Qammieħ on 11 Mar and 8 at B'Bugia on 16 Apr. In autumn, 3 at Qawra on 22 Oct, then up to 6 on 12 dates from 12 Nov to 26 Dec, but 11 on 22 Nov and on 24 Dec, both at Qawra.

**2001:** 8 at Ċirkewwa on 12 Mar. Then in single or low double figures on 17 dates from 2 Nov till 29 Dec (all at Għadira and Qawra (except for 5 at San Luċjan on 13 Dec) with max. of 19 on 17 Nov, and 20 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 18 on 12 Dec, all at Qawra.

**2002:** 1 at Salina on 5 Jan and 6 at Pt St Elmo on 12 Jan. 5 sightings in spring: 7 on 23 Feb, 7 on 9 Mar, 38 on 23 Mar, 6 on 26 Mar and 6 on 30 Mar, all in Malta-Gozo channel. In autumn, 18 on 27 Oct and 3 on 28 Oct, both at Qawra, then up to 7 at Qawra and Għallis on 8 dates from 25 Nov to 21 Dec, but 25 at Għallis and 24 at Qawra on 8 Dec.

**2003:** 8 at Ċirkewwa on 21 Mar. In autumn, 3 at Qawra on 3 Nov, then 1-4 on 4 days from 4-10 Dec, mostly at Qawra.

**2004:** One at Għadira on 13 Jan; then in Mar with 6 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 16 on 9<sup>th</sup>, both at Ċirkewwa. Early sightings with 2 at Comino on 25 Jul and in Sep with 3 at Delimara on 22nd. Then 1-6 on 12 dates in Nov from 7 – 30<sup>th</sup> but 32 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 18 on 8<sup>th</sup> at Qawra, 46 at Pt. St Elmo on 21<sup>st</sup> and 16 over Red Tower on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Singles at Għadira from 25 Nov to 17 Dec and 2 from 21-31 Dec with 3 on 29<sup>th</sup>. Outside Għadira in Dec: singles on 17-19<sup>th</sup> and 5 at Qawra on 20<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Most sightings from the East coast.

**2005:** 1-3 on 4 dates from 1 Jan to 14 Jan. In autumn, 7 on 16 Oct at Qawra, then up to 9 on 12 dates from 7 Nov to 29 Dec, but 25 at Qawra on 28 Nov and 19 at Sliema and 52 at Bahar iċ-Ċagħaq on 17 Dec.

**Eurasian Wigeon *Anas Penelope***

**2000:** 35 at Qammieħ on 18 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on 15-16 Oct, 13 at Qawra on 18 Oct and singles again at Għadira on 1 Nov and 18-19 Nov. In Dec: 1 at Simar on 1 Dec, then up to 5 daily from 12-18 Dec, but 29 at Qawra on 14 Dec. 19 at Qawra on 24 Dec. **2001:** In spring on 3 dates in March: 19 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 11 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 14<sup>th</sup> at Ċirkewwa/Qammieħ. Then single at Simar daily from 12 Oct till 8 Nov and at Għadira from 7-21 Nov. Up to 4 also at Simar on 10 dates from 30 Nov to 12 Dec. At Qawra in single, double or low treble figures on 19 scattered dates from 28 Oct to 22 Dec, max. 105 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 107 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 94 on 5 Dec. The only record outside the above locations was a single at Xgħajra on 2 Nov.

**2002:** 2 records in spring: 25 at Ċirkewwa on 22 Feb and 14 at Qammieħ on 23 Mar. In autumn, up to 10 on 9 dates from 20 Oct to 22 Nov, but 25 on 25 Oct and 30+ on 27 Oct, both at Qawra.

**2003:** On 11 days from 12 Oct to 26 Dec, with most sightings at Qawra, mostly 1-5 but 10 on 11 Nov and 18 on 3 Dec.

**2004:** First sightings in Sep with 1 at Għadira on 27<sup>th</sup> and 2 at Qawra on 29<sup>th</sup>, then singles in Oct at Luqa on 7<sup>th</sup> and at Qawra on 9<sup>th</sup>. 3 at Qawra on 25 Oct; then 1-7 on 7 dates in Nov but max. 75 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 22 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 11 on 27<sup>th</sup>, all at Qawra. 1-2 at Għadira from 27 Nov increasing to 3-4 from 10-28 Dec. 1-2 from other sites in Dec on 8-9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**2005:** 1 record in spring: 25 at Ċirkewwa on 25 Feb. In autumn, up to 6 on 14 dates from 19 Oct to 26 Dec (mainly of a single female at Simar), but 30 at Pt. St. Elmo on 7 Nov.

**Gadwall *Anas strepera***

**2000:** 3 at Qawra on 24 Dec.

**2001:** 7 on 10<sup>th</sup> and 5 on 13 Dec at Qawra and 1-2 daily at Għadira from 15-18 Dec.

**2004:** Two sightings at Qawra with 2 on 21 Nov and flock of 8 on 24 Dec.

**Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca***

**2000:** Up to six birds at Għadira from 1 Jan to 23 Feb. Single birds on most days from 26 Aug to end of year at Simar and Għadira. 5 at Qawra on 24 Dec. only sighting away from the two reserves.

**2001:** 1-6 at Għadira and Simar almost daily from 1 Jan to 18 Feb. Only 1 sighting outside the reserves: 1 at Wied I-Għasri on 4 Jan. Then 1 at Ċirkewwa on 6 Mar. 1-2 almost daily from 27 Aug to 10 Sep, all at Simar except for singles at Buskett on 1 Sep and at Għadira on 5 Sep. Then single figures on most days at Għadira, Qawra and Simar from 23 Sep to 31 Dec, but 25 on 30 Sep and 12 on 3 Nov, both at Qawra.

**2002:** Up to 6 at Simar almost daily from 1 Jan to 2 Apr, but 9 on 31 Jan. Outside Simar: 3 at Għadira on 19 Feb, singles at Ċirkewwa on 4 Mar, and singles at Qammieħ on 23-24 Mar. 1 at Simar on 11 Apr. In autumn, up to 7 on 4 dates from 20-28 Oct, most from Qawra. Then daily from 20-23 Nov, in singles but 10 at Simar and 11 at Qawra on 21 Nov. 1-2 at Simar on 11 dates in Dec from 2-17 Dec. 11 at Għallis on 11 Dec.

**2003:** Singles at Simar on 1-2 Feb and at Għadira on 16 Mar. In autumn 1-3, mainly at Għadira, on 4 days from 1 Sep to 4 Oct, then up to 8 on 12 days from 1-26 Nov but 14 at Qawra on first date and 20 at Qawra on 5 Nov. All sightings from Għadira, Simar and Qawra. Singles at Simar on 18 Dec and at Għadira on 20 Dec.

**2004:** Singles at Simar in Jan from 1-11<sup>th</sup> and 27-29<sup>th</sup>, in Feb from 7-19<sup>th</sup>, in Aug from 13-27<sup>th</sup> and on 5 dates from 16 Sep to 7 Oct. Again at Simar with 1-2 daily from 3 Nov to end of year but 3 on 1-9 Dec. At Għadira singles on 9 May and 19-27 Sep, then 1-4 from 24 Oct to 21 Nov but 5 on 3 Nov. 4 on 21 Dec. Outside Simar and Għadira: 17 on 27 Aug at Qawra and in Sep with 1 on 11<sup>th</sup> at Tigne and 5 on 19<sup>th</sup> at Qawra. Then in Nov with 9 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 5<sup>th</sup>, all at Qawra and 11 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 5<sup>th</sup> at M'scala whilst 2 at Red Tower on 5<sup>th</sup>. Singles at 2 sites on 21<sup>st</sup> and 2 at Salina on 25<sup>th</sup>, both in Nov.

**2005:** 2 at Simar almost daily from 2 Jan to 13 Feb. Outside Simar, 1 at Għadira on 2 Jan and 1 from 20 Mar to 26 Mar. 1 at Simar almost daily from 15-21 Jul. In autumn, up to 9 on 18 dates from 17 Aug to 8 Sep, all at Simar, except for a single at Għadira. At Simar, 1-3 almost daily from 21 Sep to 31 Dec, but 6 on 16-17 Nov. Outside Simar, 1-2 regularly at Għadira from 8 Sep to 18 Dec, 6 at Ġnejna Bay on 25 Sep, 4 at Pembroke on 15 Sep, up to 5 on 4 dates at Qawra from 16 Oct to 23 Nov, and single at Salina on 26 Dec.

#### **Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos***

**2000:** Singles on 3-5 Jan, and from 19-29 Dec at Simar. 1 female at Għadira on 28 Nov.

**2001:** Singles at Għadira on 21 Nov and at Qawra on 23 Nov, then 7 at Qawra on 11 Dec, 7 at Għadira and 6 at Qawra on 12 Dec, 1 at Simar on 13-15 Dec and 1 at Qawra on 22 Dec.

**2002:** 2 on 2 Jan and 1 on 3-4 Jan, both at Simar. Singles at Għadira on 7 Jan and at Simar on 22-23 Apr. 1 at Simar from 16 Aug to 23 Dec and 2 at Għadira on 15 Nov.

**2004:** 1 on 23 Aug, then 5 on 11-12<sup>th</sup> and 1-2 in Nov – Dec, all at Għadira. Other sightings in Nov with 1 at M'scala on 5<sup>th</sup> and 2 at Qawra on 6<sup>th</sup>, then singles at Simar on 15-16<sup>th</sup> and at Pt.St. Elmo on 21<sup>st</sup>. Also 10 at Ramla Valley on 27<sup>th</sup> and 2 at Pt.St.Elmo on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**2005:** Singles at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 10 Apr and at Salina on 28 Aug. In Nov, 5 at Simar on 22 Nov, 1 at Qawra on 23 Nov and 2 at Simar on 24 Nov.

#### **Pintail *Anas acuta***

**2000:** First birds in Gozo Channel on 19 Feb with 73 birds seen, 115 recorded in the same area in the following day. Single bird at Għadira from 23-26 Feb. 9 sightings in March mainly off Qammieħ Point: highest being 100 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 93 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 80 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 61 on 21<sup>st</sup>. First autumn birds on 6 Oct with 33 off Qawra. Recorded on most days in Oct with 112 off Qawra on 14 Oct highest. Up to 2 birds at Għadira throughout Dec.

**2001:** 1 at Għadira from 1-6 Jan, and 5-35 daily at Ċirkewwa from 9-13 Feb. Then in double or treble figures almost daily off Ċirkewwa from 3-16 Mar ( max 337 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 353 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 448 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 110 on 15<sup>th</sup>) but 1500 on 9<sup>th</sup>. Last spring record: 40 off Ċirkewwa on 5 Apr. 1 at Qawra on 24 Aug and 8 at Tigne on 17 Sep. Then in single or low double figures of up to 35 on most dates from 1 Oct to 20 Nov, but 158 at Qawra on 3 Nov. 19 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 9 on 12 Dec at Qawra. 1 injured bird released at Għadira on 10 Mar stayed till 2 Aug.

**2002:** 10-53 on 7 dates from 22 Feb to 4 Mar, but 160 on 1 Mar, 307 on 2 Mar and 390 on 3 Mar, all at Ċirkewwa. Daily from 23-29 Mar, highest 221 on 25 Mar and 244 on 26 Mar, both at Qammieħ, otherwise up to 150. In autumn, 3 at Simar and 1 at Żebbuġ (M) on 13 Sep, then almost daily from 1-26 Oct, mainly at Simar and Qawra, in single or double figures of up to 72 but 384 on 20 Oct and 286 on 21 Oct, both at Qawra. 1 on 2 Nov, 15 on 21 Nov and 1 on 20 Dec, all from Qawra.

**2003:** Spring passage from 9 Feb to 19 Mar, with peaks on 20-24 Feb and 11-14 Mar. Treble figures in south Comino Channel on 8 days: 278 on 21 Feb, 145 on 22 Feb, 662 on 23 Feb (when 250 also at Fomm ir-Riħ) and 128 on 24 Feb; and 310 on 11 Mar, 1000+ on 12 Mar, 665 on 13 Mar and 150 on 14 Mar. In autumn 1 on 16 Sep and 8 on 19 Sep, 1 on 4 Oct, 3 on 13 Oct, 1 on 14 Oct, and 2 on 18 Oct, all at Qawra, and singles at Għadira on 11 Oct and 17 Oct. Then on 15 days, mostly at Qawra, from 30 Oct to 16 Nov when mostly in single to low double figures, but 156 on 1 Nov. Singles on 28 Nov and 4 Dec.

**2004:** All sightings in spring in Mar with 108 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 13 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 141 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 2400 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 1300 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 610 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 200 on 12<sup>th</sup>, all at Ċirkewwa except 35 at Migra l-Ferħa on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then in Sep with 6 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 19 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 22 on 30<sup>th</sup>, all at Qawra. Again at Qawra in Oct with 1 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 16<sup>th</sup>, then 2 at Simar from 10-23 Oct. Double figures of up to 70 daily from 25 Oct to 6 Nov mainly from the East coast but 458 at Qawra and 316 at M'scala on 4<sup>th</sup>, 207 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 236 on 5<sup>th</sup>, both at Qawra. 1 at Għadira from 7-15 Nov and 7 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 6 on 21<sup>st</sup> from the East Coast.

**2005:** 1-4 on 7 dates from 18 Feb to 6 Mar, but 50 on 24 Feb and 130+ on 25 Feb, both at Ċirkewwa. Almost daily from 15-25 Mar, highest 147 on 15 Mar and 254 on 19 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa., otherwise up to 124. Singles at Simar on 25 and 27 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Marsascula on 24 Aug, 8 at Għadira on 21 Sep and 26 at Qawra on 4 Oct, then almost daily from 16 Oct to 11 Nov, mainly at Simar and Qawra, in single or double figures of up to 32, but 58 at Sliema on 16 Oct, 61 at Qawra on 17 Oct and 40 at Qawra on 25 Oct. 1 at Simar on 15 Nov, 36 at Pt.St. Elmo on 16 Nov, 11 on 22 Nov and 9 on 23 Nov, both from Qawra.

#### **Garganey *Anas querquedula***

**2000:** Spring passage from 16-24 Mar with most sightings from Qammieħ. Highest counts include: 160 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 140 on 17<sup>th</sup> 200 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 500 on 24<sup>th</sup> March, all at Qammieħ. 29 birds were seen at Ċirkewwa on 12 Apr. One to two birds at Simar on 2-4 May and 5-10 Aug. 1 at Għadira on 23-24 Aug. Single bird at Simar from 23 Aug to 16 Oct. 1 bird off Qawra on 10 Sep.

**2001:** In single, double or treble figures daily from 3-29 Mar; max. 110 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 300 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 890 on 14<sup>th</sup>, and 125 on 15<sup>th</sup>, but 2366 on 10<sup>th</sup>, all Qammieħ, Ċirkewwa, Gozo Channel area. Then 78 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 1000 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 114 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 20 on 8<sup>th</sup>, all in Apr again all from Qammieħ, Ċirkewwa, Gozo Channel area. In autumn, in single or low double figures of up to 12 on 10 dates from 12 Aug to 6 Sep, but 16 at Simar on 5 Sep. Then 4 at Qawra on 28 Sep, 2 at Qawra on 12 Oct and 1 at Xgħajra on 3 Nov.

**2002:** 3 on 1 Mar and 20 on 5 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa, then up to 420 recorded on 10 dates from 21-31 Mar, mostly from Malta-Gozo channel, but 1450 on 22 Mar, 3700 on 23 Mar, 3800 on 24 Mar, 2500 on 25 Mar, and 1500 on 26 Mar. 2 records in autumn: 5 at M'Scala on 9 Aug and 12 at Qawra on 29 Sep.

**2003:** 54 on 23 Feb and 27 on 24 Feb at Ċirkewwa, then heavy passage from 8-20 Mar with highest concentrations at Ċirkewwa where numbers ran into four figures on 5 days with max of 3000 on 18 Mar. Then 70 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar, 20 at Miġra l-Ferħa and 1 at Għadira on 1 Apr, and a late bird at Simar on 23-29 May. In autumn 1-4 on 5 days from 12-20 Sep; but 26 on 15 Sep and 42 on 16 Sep, both at Qawra.

**2004:** Daily at Ċirkewwa in Mar from 9-13<sup>th</sup> with max. 684 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 270 on 9<sup>th</sup>, otherwise 5-20. Then almost daily again at Ċirkewwa from 23 Mar to 3 Apr when mostly in double figures but max.400 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 220 on 24<sup>th</sup> and 130 on 26<sup>th</sup>. In autumn from Aug with 1 at Għadira on 4<sup>th</sup>, then 9 at Qawra on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8 over Għadira on 24<sup>th</sup> and 24 at Qawra on 28<sup>th</sup>. In Sep, 22 at Qawra on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12 at Pt.St.Elmo and 25 at Qawra on 19<sup>th</sup>, and 2 at Qawra on 26<sup>th</sup>. 1 at Simar from 19 Sep to 15 Oct with 2 on last date.

**2005:** 50+ on 25 Feb at Ċirkewwa, then up to 87 almost daily from 13 Mar to 2 Apr, mostly from Malta-Gozo Channel, but 127 on 13 Mar and 173 on 16 Mar. 1 at Simar almost daily from 3-15 Apr. In autumn, 1-3 almost daily between 16 Aug to 8 Sep, mainly from Simar, but 7 at Għallis on 16 Aug, 3 on 20 Aug and singles on 27 Aug and 31 Aug all at Qawra, and 1 on 3 Sep at Xlendi. 10 on 10 Sep and 6 on 25 Sep at Qawra and 9 on 25 Sep at Pt.St. Elmo.

### **Shoveler *Anas clypeata***

**2000:** Singles at Qammieħ on 29 Jan and at Għadira from 29 Jan to 14 Feb. 3 sightings in March at Qammieħ: 2 on 11 Mar, 10 on 16 Mar, and 30 on 19 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Salina on 30-31 Aug, 3 on 17 Sep, 6 on 7 Oct, 12 on 8 Oct, 14 on 18 Oct, and 54 on 11 Nov, all from Qawra. 8 sightings in Dec from 13-26 Dec, all of singles except for 24 on first date and 36 on 24 Dec, both at Qawra.

**2001:** In single or double figures of up to 50 on 5 dates from 5-15 Mar, but 140 on 9 Mar and 123 on 10 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa. Then up to 20 on 3 dates at Ċirkewwa from 5-8 Apr. 3 on 12 Aug and 10 on 2 Oct, both at Qawra. Then in single or low double figures of up to 30 on 18 dates from 27 Oct to 9 Dec, but 83 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 73 on 30 Nov, and 68 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 41 on 6 Dec, all at Qawra. 1 at Għadira on 22 Dec.

**2002:** 1 at Simar on 4 Jan and 2 at Ċirkewwa on 16 Feb. 2 daily at Għadira and Simar (same birds) from 19 Feb to 18 Mar, 35 on 1 Mar and 17 on 3 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa, and 2 at Msida on 6 Mar. Then in single or double figures on 6 dates at Ċirkewwa from 21-27 Mar, highest 79 on 26 Mar, otherwise up to 56. In autumn, 25 on 24 Sep, 3 on 26 Sep, 7 on 30 Sep, 2 on 22 Oct, 30 on 23 Oct, 2 on 26 Oct, 25 on 27 Oct, 7 on 20 Nov, 10 on 21 Nov, and 1 on 16 Dec, all from Qawra.

**2003:** 1 at Simar on 13-15 Feb, then on 5 days at Ċirkewwa: 60 on 21 Feb; and 20 on 13 Mar, 117 on 14 Mar, 6 on 18 Mar and 5 on 19 Mar. In autumn 1 at Qawra on 16 Sep, then on 16 days, mostly at Qawra, from 12 Oct to 12 Dec; single to very low double figures, but 50 on 6 Nov and 70 on 11 Nov.

**2004:** 1 at Għadira on 3 Jan. Then in Mar with 2-20 daily at Ċirkewwa from 8-12<sup>th</sup> but 200 on 9<sup>th</sup>. 13 on 23 Mar also at Ċirkewwa. In autumn 5 at Qawra on 27 Aug, then singles at Simar from 8-24 Sep and from 10-30 Oct. On 3 dates at Qawra with 9 on 22 Sep, then 3 on 29 Sep and 3 Oct. Almost daily from 30 Oct to 24 Nov with low double figures on most days mainly from the East coast. Usually up to 16 but 32 at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on 30 Oct, 34 at M'scala and 27 at Qawra on 4<sup>th</sup>, 25 at Qawra on 5<sup>th</sup> and 22 at Għallis on 24<sup>th</sup>. Singles at Simar from 6-24<sup>th</sup>. In Dec singles on 9<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, then 18 on 28<sup>th</sup> all at Qawra.

**2005:** 1 at Pembroke on 1 Feb, 10 at Ċirkewwa on 25 Feb, singles on 15-16 Mar at Ċirkewwa, 4 on 16-17 Mar at Għadira, 14 on 19 Mar and 1 on 5 Apr, both at Ċirkewwa. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on 29 Aug, 7 at Qawra on 17 Sep, 15 on 16 Oct at Sliema and 4 on 17 Oct at Qawra. Singles at Simar regularly from 19 Oct-2 Nov, and almost daily from 2-14 Dec. Outside Simar: 3 on 19 Oct and 9 on 29 Oct, both at Qawra, 4 on 19 Nov at Pt.St. Elmo, 1 on 23 Nov, 2 on 28 Nov and 6 on 12 Dec, all at Qawra, 1 on 15 Dec at Għadira and 4 on 23 Dec at Qawra.

### **Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris***

**2004:** 3 at Għadira on 17 Dec.

### **Common Pochard *Aythya ferina***

**2000:** Singles at Simar from 16-26 Feb, and on 8-9 Mar. Singles at Simar on 6 dates from 21 Jul to 30 Aug, at Għar Lapsi on 15 Aug and at Salina and Qawra on 26 Oct. 1 again at Simar on most dates from 6-31 Dec.

**2001:** 1-2 almost daily at Għadira and Simar from 2 Jan to 2 Mar. Then 1 at Simar on most dates from 11-29 Sep and 1 at Qawra on 21 Sep. 2 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 22 Nov at Għadira, and singles at Għadira and Simar on 5 dates from 20-29 Dec.

**2002:** Singles at Simar from 1 Jan to 28 Feb and from 22 Nov to 19 Dec. 1-2 at Għadira from 16-30 Dec.

**2003:** 1-2 on and off at Għadira from 1 Jan to 13 Feb and at Simar from 8 Jan to 20 Feb, then 7 at Ċirkewwa on 21 Feb and 1 at Għadira on 22 Mar, 26 Mar and 28 Mar and from 31 Mar to 3 Apr. In autumn, 9 on 13 Oct and 20 on 5 Nov, both at Qawra and 1 alternating between Għadira and Simar from 11 Nov to 31 Dec.

**2004:** Male at Għadira from Jan-Mar till 7<sup>th</sup> but 2 males in Feb from 19-28<sup>th</sup>. Singles males at Simar in Feb on 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

**2005:** 1-2 at Simar on 3 dates from 13-16 Apr. In autumn, singles regularly at Simar from 5-14 Oct, 3 at Qawra on 6 Oct, 2 at Għallis on 26 Nov, 1 at Għadira on 9 Dec and singles on 11 Dec at Qawra and Pt.St. Elmo.

### **Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca***

**2000:** 1 at Għadira on 26 Feb. Migration between 16-21 March off Qammieħ with 205 on 18 Mar highest. 1 on 1 Apr and 17 Jun, 2 on 8 July than one bird from 21 Jul to 30 Aug almost daily all at Simar. 1 on 1 Aug at Għadira, 3 at Qawra on 22 Oct, single bird at Simar from 24 Oct to 7 Dec, and one bird at Għadira from 11<sup>th</sup> to 30 Dec.

**2001:** 1 at Għadira from 1-28 Jan and 1-2 almost daily at Simar from 29 Jan to 24 Mar, but 3 at same place on 12 Feb. Then in double figures on 7 dates at Ċirkewwa from 5 Mar to 5 Apr, max. 42 on 5 Mar<sup>h</sup> and 30 on 10 Mar. Singles at Għadira on 26 Jun and at Simar on 11 Jul. In autumn 3 sightings from Qawra: 18 on 12 Sep, 25 on 3 Oct and 24 on 24 Oct.

**2002:** Only recorded in spring: 25 on 5 Mar, then 24-70 daily at Malta-Gozo Channel from 23-29 Mar, but 220 on 28 Mar. 1 at Simar from 2-7 Apr and 3 at same place on 16 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 17 May and on 14 Jun.

**2003:** 1 at Għadira on 20 Jan and 23-25 Jan, then on 8 days at Ċirkewwa from 9-18 Mar, with 160 on 12 Mar and 10-50 on other days. Then singles at Simar from 24 Mar to 11 Apr and 1 at Għadira on 6 Apr. In autumn 2 on 8 Sep, 13 on 14 Oct and 28 on 8 Nov at Qawra.

**2004:** First spring sightings at Simar in Mar with 2 males from 2-7th. Then at Ċirkewwa, also in Mar, with 70 on 9th, 15 on 10th, 20 on 12th and 21 on 29th. 1-2 at Għadira from 30 Mar to 1 Apr and singles at Simar on 30th and Miġra l-Ferħa on 31st, both in Mar. Flock of 30 at Ċirkewwa on 3 Apr. Then in Oct with 12 at Qawra on 1st and 1 at Simar from 8-22nd, followed by 1 at Qawra on 27th. In Nov 5 at M'scala and 4 at Qawra on 4th, then 1 at M'scala and flock of 35 at Qawra on 5th. 1 at Għadira on 25-27 Nov.

**2005:** 30 on 25 Feb at Ċirkewwa, then up to 105 almost daily at Malta-Gozo Channel from 15-21 Mar, but 171 on 16 Mar and 145 on 19 Mar. Only one record outside the channel: 1 at Għadira on 20 Mar. 1-2 almost daily from 10-18 June at Simar. In autumn, 1 at Simar almost daily from 28 Aug to 3 Sep, and 10 on 29 Oct at Qawra.

#### **Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula***

**2001:** 2 at Qawra on 18 Nov.

#### **Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra***

**2005:** 2 (1 shot) at St. Thomas Bay on 18 Nov.

#### **Smew *Mergellus albellus***

**2001:** 1 at Għadira on 20 Dec.

#### **Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator***

**2000:** 2 at Qawra on 13 Nov.

**2001:** 2 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 1 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 20<sup>th</sup>, and 4 on 26<sup>th</sup>, all at Qawra in Nov.

**2002:** 1 at Ċirkewwa on 22 Mar. 1-2 on 9 dates from 15 Nov to 22 Dec, but 2 on 13th and 6 on 21st both in Nov at Qawra.

**2003:** 6 on 15 Nov, then 1 on 4 Dec, 2 on 6 Dec and 1 on 7-9 Dec, all at Qawra.

**2004:** On 6 dates in Nov with 2 at M'scala on 5th, 1 at Qawra on 6th, 6 at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on 17th and 3 at Qawra on 20th. Then singles at M'scala and Pt. St Elmo on 21st, followed by 2 at Għallis and 1 at Qawra on 24th.

**2005:** 1-3 on 11 dates from 19 Nov to 18 Dec, but 4 at Comino on 4 Dec and 4 at Qawra on 9 Dec.

#### **Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix***

**2000:** Recorded in all months except for June. One early bird on 3 Jan at Għadira, then present in same location on various dates from 03 Feb to 23 Mar. Single birds from different localities in Malta, Gozo and Comino throughout Apr; highest number 8 at Qawra on 15 Apr. One on Comino on 10 May last spring sighting. 1 at Għadira on 3 July than recorded on most days, mainly in single figures from 13 Aug to 8 Nov. Maxima 8 at Qawra on 1 Oct. Single birds at Għadira on 3 and 8 Dec.

**2001:** Singles at Simar and Ta' Gajdoru on 9 Feb and again at Ta' Gajdoru on 20 Feb. Then 1 at Mizieb on 13 Mar, and 1-2 on 17 dates (20 localities) from 5 Apr to 12 May; an influx of ca. 150 on 8 Apr in the NW part of Gozo and 6 at Mellieħa on 12 Apr. 1 at Simar on 29 Jun. In autumn, singles at Tigne on 22<sup>nd</sup> and at Sliema on 30 Sep and at Qawra on 21<sup>st</sup> and 25 Oct and 3 Nov.

**2002:** 1-3 on most days from 3 Mar to 15 Apr, and singles on 3 dates from 2-15 May. In autumn, singles on 5 Sep, 7 Oct and 23 Oct.

**2003:** 1 on 25 Feb, then 1-2 on 31 days from 10 Mar to 6 May and singles on 27 May and 31 May and on 13 Jun. In autumn 1 on 14 Aug, 1 at Qawra on 17 Sep, 10+ at Qawra on 19 Sep, then singles on 4 days from 28 Sep to 23 Oct. 1 on 26 Dec.

**2004:** Singles at 4 sites on 6 dates in Feb from 10-28th but 3 at Għadira on 27th. Singles again on 5 dates from 17 Mar to 1 Apr from 5 sites, then 3 on 10th and 2 on 11th both at Dwejra, Malta. Singles almost daily in Apr from 11-28th, then in May on 3-4th and 8th but 2 at Salina 25 Apr. In autumn in singles again at 2 sites on 6th and 21 Sep, and also at 2 sites in Oct on 30-31st. Then in Nov with 6 at M'scala on 4th and singles on 7th and 12th.

**2005:** 1-2 on 6 days from 4-23 Jan at Għadira, but 2 at Cumnija on 10 Jan. 1-3 on most days from 22 Feb to 1 May, and singles on 3 dates from 9-22 May. Singles at Għadira on 5 Jun and at Chadwick Lakes on 12 Jun. In autumn, 1 on 3 Sep, 5 on 18 Sep, 1 on 29 Sep, 4 at Daħlet Qorrot and 9 at Qawra on 7 Oct and 1 on 29 Oct.

#### **Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

**2000:** Single bird on 4 dates in January and 3 dates in February at Simar, 2 birds at Simar from 10 Oct till end of year and one bird at Għadira from 22 Oct till end of year. Only one sighting away from the two nature reserves; 1 at Għadira Bay on 2 Nov.

**2001:** 1-2 at Għadira and Simar almost daily from 1 Jan to 8 Feb, then 1 at Għadira from 18 Feb to 4 Mar. 1 at Simar on 1 Oct.

**2003:** 1 at Għadira from 19 Sep to 6 Oct, then 2 on to 31 Dec. Also 1 at Simar seen on most days from 16 Oct to 31 Dec.

**2004:** 2 wintered at Għadira between Jan – Mar till 13th, decreasing to 1 till 18 Mar. 1 wintering at Simar stayed between Jan – Feb till 23rd. 1 at Salina during summer from 23-28 Jul and irregularly from 5-17 Aug. 1 again at Simar from 26 Oct to end of year.

**2005:** 1 at Simar from Jan to 19 Mar. Singles at Salina on 27-28 Aug and again at Simar from 19 Sep to 8 Nov but 2 on 24th and 27 Oct. 1-2 at Simar from 9-27 Nov with 3 on 22nd. Counts of 6 on 28 Nov and 5 on 16 Dec, otherwise 4 till end of year, all at Simar. At Għadira, singles on 12 Oct and from 9-20 Dec when found dead.

**Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus***

**2000:** 1 spring record; 1 at Qammieħ on 20 Mar. Recorded 7 times in autumn between 26 Oct and 14 Dec all at Qawra. 11 birds on 26 Oct highest.

**2001:** 1 at Qawra on 1 Jan. 5 records of 1-3 on 5 dates from 5 Mar to 3 Apr and 21 in Gozo Channel on 3 Apr. Then 2 at Tigne on 10 Oct and 1-4 on 13 dates at Qawra from 12 Oct to end of year, but 33 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 17 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 25 Nov.

**2002:** 2 records in spring: 2 at Ċirkewwa on 23 Feb and 2 at Mġarr (G) on 18 Mar. Singles at Ramla on 20 Sep and at Qawra on 29 Sep, then in single or low double figures of up to 25 on 13 dates from 18 Oct to 25 Dec, but 87 at Qawra on 28 Oct.

**2003:** 2 on 8 Mar and 3 on 12 Mar at Ċirkewwa. 5 at Qawra on 19 Sep, then 1-8 on 7 days from 26 Oct to 6 Dec, with most at Qawra.

**2004:** All spring sightings at Ċirkewwa with 4 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 1 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 31<sup>st</sup>; all in Mar. Then in Apr with 20 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 1 on 3<sup>rd</sup>. In autumn singles at Qawra on 29-30 Sep, 24<sup>th</sup> and 27 Oct but also at Pt.St.Elmo on 24 Oct. Then 1-3 on 5 dates in Nov from 3-10 but 20 at Qawra on 7<sup>th</sup>. Almost daily from 19 Nov to 15 Dec but daily at Għadira between 27 Nov and 5 Dec with 3 till 3 Dec and 1 on 4-5<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise 1-6 from various sites mainly on the East coast but 90 at Qawra on 19 Nov. 1 at Għadira Bay on 21-23 Dec.

**2005:** 5 at Qawra on 4 Oct and 7 at Qawra on 17 Oct, then 1-3 almost daily from 4-11 Nov at Qawra, but 7 on 8 Nov. 1-3 at 4 locations on 9 days from 19 Nov - 27 Dec.

**Black Necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis***

**2000:** Two birds present at Għadira from 1 Jan to 3 Mar. 1-2 at Għadira and Simar from 1 Sep till end of year. Outside the reserves: 1-2 at Salina on various dates from 14 Sep to 26 Oct, 3 at Marsaxlokk on 5 Oct, 1 at Qawra on 23 Oct, 10 at Qawra on 14 Nov and 1 at Msida Creek on 2 Dec.

**2001:** Singles at Għadira from 1 Jan to 4 Feb, at Salina from 20 Aug to 8 Sep and at Simar from 10 Sep to 2 Oct. Then 1-2 almost daily, mainly at Għadira and Simar, from 17 Nov till end of year, but 15 on 8 Nov and 6 on 1 Dec, both records at Qawra.

**2002:** 1 at Simar from 1-8 Jan and up to 3 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 5 Mar. Singles at Tigne' on 5 Sep, at Qawra on 28 Sep, at Għadira on 1 Oct and at Qawra on 20 Oct. 4 at Qawra on 26 Oct then singles at Simar daily from 28 Oct to 2 Nov and on most days from 10 Nov to 14 Dec but 2 on 18 Nov. 1 at Għadira almost daily from 19 Nov till end of year. Outside the reserves: 2 on 2 Nov and 1 on 12 Nov, both at Pt St Elmo, and singles at Qawra on 14 Nov, 18 Nov and 20 Nov, and at Salina on 27 Nov.

**2003:** 1 at Għadira on 1-2 Jan, 2 on 4-10 Jan, and 1 from 11 Jan-7 Feb. 10 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 2 Apr. In autumn 2 at Għadira on 22 Aug, then 1 till 1 Sep; 3 from 20 Sep, increasing to 4 on 30 Sep, then down to 3 on 6 Oct and 2 on 7-19 Oct. Again 3 from 20 Oct, increasing to 4 on 24 Oct and 5 on 17-31 Dec. 8 sightings outside Għadira, with 1 at Qawra on 16 Sep, 4 at Qawra on 10 Oct, 1 at Qawra on 13 Nov and 1 staying at Simar from 15-29 Nov.

**2004:** 5 wintering at Għadira during Jan-Feb, then decreasing gradually in Mar till 22<sup>nd</sup>. Only other sighting in spring at Ċirkewwa with 15 on 7 Mar. In autumn singles at Għadira from 28 Aug to 30 Sep, occasionally 2 but 3 on 24-26 Sep. Again at Għadira with 1 increasing to 2 between 16 Nov and 5 Dec but 3 on 18 Nov. 8 sightings outside Għadira with singles at Simar on 30 Aug and at Xlendi on 4 Sep; then at Qawra on 12 Sep, 8 Oct and 7 Nov. 1 at Salina on 18<sup>th</sup> but 25 at Ricasoli on 20<sup>th</sup>, both in Nov. 1 at Pembroke on 3 Dec.

**2005:** 15 on 1 Mar and 2 on 2 Apr, both at Ċirkewwa. 1-3 at Simar almost daily from 24 Aug to 30 Sep and singles regularly from 10-20 Oct and again on 26 Dec. Singles at Għadira almost daily from 29 Nov to 9 Dec, and again from 29-31 Dec. Outside reserves: 1 on 26-28 Aug and on 5 dates between 4 Sep and 16 Oct at Salina. 1-3 on 12 dates from 17 Nov to 18 Dec, but 4 on 5 Dec, also at Salina. 1 at Xwejni on 30 Aug, 1 at Għar Lapsi on 21 Sep, 4 on 2 Dec and 2 on 12 Dec, both at Qawra, and 1 on 26 Dec at Rinella.

**Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea***

**2000:** First bird sighted on 20 Feb off Lapsi, Recorded daily offshore or at breeding colonies from 2 March to 28 Nov (last sighting). Low treble figures counted offshore with highest count being 1000+ off Għar Ħasan on 21 Jul,

**2001:** First single seen off Qawra on 12 Feb then present regularly until final sighting also off Qawra on 13 Nov. Triple figures on 32 dates from 11 Mar to 28 Sep and up to 3000 on 6 dates, max. 2000 off Hal Far on 12 Mar and 3000 off Għar Lapsi on 10 Apr.

**2002:** 1 at Miġra L-Ferħa on 16 Feb. Regularly present from 23 Feb till 15 Nov. Best counts: 3000+ off Miġra L-Ferħa on 10 Apr and 3000+ off Delimara and Qawra on 12 Aug. 1 at Qawra on 14 Dec was unusual.

**2003:** First on 18 Feb, then in varying numbers, mainly at Ċirkewwa, from 21 Feb to late Apr with max of 1000 on 10 Mar. Frequent offshore from May to Jul with another max of 1000 at Għallis on 29 Jul. Then almost daily in Aug-Oct and on to 5 Nov, often in low to medium treble figures. As usual a few newly-fledged young found inland, the last on 7 Nov. Bred in usual colonies.

**2004:** Breeding visitor. First sighting at Ċirkewwa on 10 Feb then regular offshore sightings till 26 Nov. Up to 200 already in Feb with treble figures regularly from various sites. Usually up to 300, mainly between Apr-Sep, but max.500 off Ta' Ċenċ on 11 Apr, and in Jul off Għar Ħasan on 6<sup>th</sup> and Għallis on 14<sup>th</sup>. Lower numbers in Oct -Nov but 200 on 7 Nov.

**2005:** Regularly present from 17 Feb to 29 Oct. Maxima: 6000+ off Marsascala on 24 Aug and 4000+ off Pt.St. Elmo on 21 Sep.

**Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan***

**2000:** Recorded in almost all months except in June and August; 40 birds off Qammieħ on 27 Feb highest numbers offshore, followed by 30 off Kemmuna on 20 Feb. Single and low double figures offshore throughout the year. 2 summer sightings; 1 and 2 off Qawra on 05<sup>th</sup> and 24 Sept. *Breeding colonies:* 20 birds at L-Aħrax on 29 Jan, single and double figures from November to July at Hal-Far, Lapsi, L-Aħrax, Kemmuna and several sites in Gozo.

**2001:** In single or double figures seen on several days offshore from 1 Jan to 22 May, but in treble figures on 5 dates in April max. 362 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 400 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, all off Qawra. Singles on 16 Jun and 7 July with 20 at Għar Lapsi on 19 Jun. In Autumn 5 off Qawra on 24 Oct then 1-8 regularly until 29 Dec with 11 on 31 Dec, again off Qawra.

**2002:** Single to double figures were sighted offshore in Jan-May but 171 on 25 Feb and 135 on 27 Mar, both off Qawra, and 200+ off Comino on 31 Mar. Singles at Migra L-Ferha on 8 Jun, at Għar Lapsi on 10 Jun, at Qawra on 11 Jun and 15 Jul, and at Delimara on 31 Aug. Then in single figures on most dates from 6 Oct till end of year but 13-15 on 3 dates from 8-18 Dec.

**2003:** Regular offshore in Jan-late Apr, when often in double figures and 140 at Qawra on 4 Feb. Then 5 on 7 May and 15 on 14 May and 10 on 21 Jun. Single birds on 6 Aug, 20 Sep, 6 Oct and 8 Oct, then single figures regularly from 27 Oct to 31 Dec, and 10 at Qawra on 29 Nov. Bred in usual colonies.

**2004:** Regular offshore sightings between Jan –Apr when in double figures of up to 70 on most days but max.200 off Għar Hasan on 21 Feb and off Ċirkewwa on 10 Mar. Present in colonies till end Jun. Singles on 30 Jun and 14 Aug. Regular offshore sightings again between Nov – Dec when in singles figures of up to 8 but 12 off M'scala on 14 Nov and 15 off Qawra on 21 Dec.

**2005:** Singles on 13 Jan and 31 Jan at Qawra. Then single to double figures sighted regularly offshore in Feb-May, but 100+ on 4 Mar at Ċirkewwa. Pullus at L-iRdum tal-Madonna on 2 Jun. 1 at Qawra on 3 Sep, then in single figures regularly from 16 Oct to end of year, but 15 at Qawra on 27 Nov.

#### **Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus***

**2002:** 3 at Qawra on 24 Oct. (**1st record for Malta**).

**2003:** 1 at Għallis on 29 Nov .

#### **European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus***

**2000:** 1 at Marsalforn on 24 July, and 1 light disoriented juvenile found at Żurrieq on 30 August. 2 visits to Filfla produced over 400 birds on 12 May and 144 on 26 July.

**2001:** One at Għar Lapsi on 10 Apr, up to 4 on 7 dates off Qawra from 22 Aug to 29 Sep (but 15 on 9<sup>th</sup>), and singles on 5<sup>th</sup> and 30 Dec at Qawra and Gozo Channel respectively. At its breeding colonies ca. 1000 on 31 May and ca. 200 on 18 Jul both on Filfla and 16 on 8 Jul at Ta' Ċenċ.

**2002:** 5 at Ta' Ċenċ colony on 17 May and 1 at Qawra on 9 Jun. c.300 were estimated at Filfla on the night of 5-6 Jul.

**2003:** Sightings outside Filfla: single birds on 30 Jul; 1 Aug, 2 Aug and 5 Aug, and 2 on 14 Sep, all at Qawra.

**2004:** 200+ adults and ca. 50 pulli (heard) on the night of 8 Jul.

**2005:** At main breeding colony on Filfla: 300+ on 11 Jul and 50+ on 9 Aug. Away from Filfla, 1 at Għar Lapsi on 11 Aug.

#### **Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus***

**2000:** 2 spring records; single birds off Qammieħ on 17<sup>th</sup> and 25 Mar. 18 sightings of single birds from 10 Sept to 31 Dec, mainly off Qawra.

**2001:** Singles recorded on 13 dates from 2 Jan to 14 Mar mainly off Qawra and Qammieħ. Then up to 3 on 22 dates from 25 Oct to 30 Dec most off Qawra.

**2002:** On 9 dates from 5 Jan to 22 Mar and on 13 dates from 18 Oct till end of year, all in singles except for 2 at Pt. St. Elmo on 31 Dec.

**2003:** 19 sightings of 1-2 on 18 dates from 2 Jan to 17 Mar but 4 at Pt. St. Elmo on 18 Jan. In autumn 26 sightings on 22 days from 19 Oct to 30 Dec, with 7 at Qawra on 13 Nov and 3 at Pt. St. Elmo on 19 Oct, otherwise 1-2.

**2004:** Singles on 5 dates in Jan from 2-19<sup>th</sup> but 2 adults at Qawra on 4<sup>th</sup>, then in Feb with singles at 6 sites on 4 dates from 7-29<sup>th</sup>. At Ċirkewwa in Mar with 2 on 9<sup>th</sup>, and singles on 10<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. In autumn singles on 4 dates from 16-29 Oct, then on most days in Nov from 12-30<sup>th</sup>; mostly in singles but 2 at Qawra on 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. In Dec singles on 18-19<sup>th</sup> and 2 at Pembroke on 31<sup>st</sup>. All autumn sightings from the East coast.

**2005:** Singles on 17 dates from 2 Jan to 31 Mar, but 3 on 16 Feb at Pembroke, 2 on 18 Feb at Marfa, 3 on 2 Mar at Ċirkewwa and 2 on 31 Mar at Marsalforn. 1 at M'Scala on 18 May was unusual. 1-2 on 10 dates from 1 Oct to 26 Dec, but 3 on 18 Dec at Pt.St. Elmo and 4 on 23 Dec at Qawra.

#### **Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

**2000:** 2 at St. Julian's on 18 Jan, then singles at Għadira on 19 Jan and at Reqqa Pt. l/o Żebbuġ (G) on 21 Feb and 8 at Qammieħ on 20 Mar. Recorded in single figures on most days from 22 Sep to end of year. Highest number being; 7 birds at Qawra on 6 Nov, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 12 Dec.

**2001:** 6 at Qawra on 2 Jan, then 1-3 on 21 dates from 18 Jan and 6 Apr, but 8 on 10 Feb at M'Xlokk and a flock of ca.80 off Qawra and Għadira on 21 Feb. In single figures (up to5) on 28 dates from 4 Oct till end of year, but 15 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 33 on 17<sup>th</sup>, and 17 on 21<sup>st</sup>, all in Nov, and 13 on 29 Dec – most records off NE coast, mainly Qawra.

**2002:** 4 sightings in Feb: 1 at Simar on 19 Feb, a flock of 56 at San Luċjan on 22 Feb, singles at Aħrax on 24 Feb and at Qawra on 26 Feb. 1 at Qammieħ on 18 Mar, 2 at Ċirkewwa on 21 Mar, singles at Qala on 31 Mar, at San Luċjan on 20 Apr and at Victoria on 22 Apr. Then in single figures on 38 dates from 10 Oct to 30 Dec, but 13 at Pembroke on first date and 21 at Qawra on 3 Nov.

**2003:** 1-3 on 6 days from 1 Jan to 19 Feb, then 1 on 8 Mar and 5 on 14 Mar. First in autumn 2 on 19 Sep, then 44 sightings on 32 days from 13 Oct to 27 Dec when mostly 1-5 but occasionally up to 8 and 10 at Qawra on 5 Nov.

**2004:** Singles irregularly in Jan – Feb but 9 over Salina on 5 Jan. Daily in Mar from 13 – 28<sup>th</sup> with most sightings from the South Comino Channel; usually 1-3 but 10 at M'scala on 21<sup>st</sup>. In autumn singles on 28 Sep and 7 Oct, then almost daily from 15 Oct to 24 Nov. 1-4 till early Nov but 8 at Migra l-Ferha and 10 at Qawra on 15 Oct. Then 15 flocks of 4-16 birds between 7-24 Nov but 19 on 17<sup>th</sup>, 18 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 17 on 21<sup>st</sup>, all at Qawra, and 40 over Airport on 19<sup>th</sup>. In Dec 1 on 1<sup>st</sup>, then 10 sightings on 7 dates from 12 – 29<sup>th</sup>; usually 1-4 but 22 over Għadira on 26<sup>th</sup>. Most autumn sightings from the East coast. 1 at Qawra on 19 Nov of ssp. *lucidus/moroccanus*.

**2005:** Singles on 16 dates from 2 Jan to 30 Mar, but 2 on 22 Jan at Mġiebaħ and 23 at Xrobb I-Għagin on 30 Mar. Then in single figures on 38 dates from 23 Sep to 24 Dec, but 16 at Luqa on 20 Nov.

**Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis***

**2004:** 3 at Qawra on 19 Nov.

**Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris***

**2001:** 2 in the Gozo Channel on 10 Mar.

**2003:** 1 fell in an internal yard at Naxxar on 21 Oct (released at Simar). 1 on Comino on 26 Oct.

**2005:** Singles on 9 dates from 14 Mar to 11 Apr, all from Simar, except for 2 at Dwejra (Malta) on 14 Mar and 1 at Xrobb I-Għagin on 10 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 29 Nov.

**Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus***

**2000:** 1 at Għadira on 1 May, single male bird at Simar from 15 Apr to 12 May when 2 birds were present. 1 to 3 birds daily at Simar throughout late spring when breeding was suspected on 10 June. A nest with 4 young was found on 8 Jul, the nest was abandoned on 15 July. The last birds at Simar were seen on 25 Oct. Other sightings include: 1 at Attard on 28 Apr, 1 at Lunzjata, G. on 6 May, 2 at Wied Qannotta on 13 May and 1 at il-Magħluq, M'xlokk on 6 Nov.

**2001:** 1 at Simar on 4 Jan, then 1-2 regularly at that site from 25 Apr to 27 Aug (68 dates) but 4 on 12th and 3 on 14th in May. Single birds also recorded on 9 dates in spring in 6 other localities (on 4 dates at Għadira). Then singles at Salina on 12 Jul and at Lunzjata on 21 Sep.

**2002:** Only recorded in spring. Singles on 10 dates from 14 Apr to 23 May, but 2 at Simar on 8 May.

**2003:** 1 at Simar on 20 Mar then 1-3 on most days, mostly at Simar but a few also at Għadira and elsewhere, from 2-27 Apr, followed by 1 at Għadira on 3 May and 1 at Simar on 7 days from 9 May to 5 Jun. In autumn 1-2 on 7 days from 21 Sep to 15 Oct, all at Għadira and Simar. 1 at Simar on 29 Dec.

**2004:** Female found dead at Simar on 1 Jan, then 1 at Għadira on 6 Feb. Only in spring with singles at six sites on 4 dates in Apr from 23-30th and in May on 7th and 11th. Most sightings at Simar.

**2005:** Singles on 32 dates from 3 Apr to 31 May, but 2 regularly at Simar from 15 Apr to 30 May, and 3 at Simar on 20 May. 1-2 present at Simar almost daily from 1-7 Jun. Only one record in autumn: 1 at Simar on 15 Sep.

**Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax***

**2000:** First bird (one) seen on 26 Mar at Għadira, then almost daily from 02 Apr to 16 May at various localities, maximum numbers were 30 at Manoel Island on 08 Apr. Single bird at Simar till 12 Jul. 1 at Delimara and 2 at Ta'Gajdoru, Xagħra on 30 and 31 July respectively. Single to double figures from 25 Aug to 24 Oct. maxima 52 at Buskett on 11 Sept. Last bird on 4 Nov at Kapuċċini Valley, Marsalforn.

**2001:** In single or low double figures on 23 dates from 3 Mar to 20 May, with max. of 22 at Qawra on 25 Mar and 26 at Comino on 4 Apr. 1 at Simar on 7 dates from 29 May to 14 Jun, but 2 on 12 Jun, and 1 at Rabat on 24 Jul. Then again in single and very low double figures on 17 dates (21 localities) from 14 Aug to 27 Oct, max. 13 at B'Kara on 28 Aug and 19 at Marsa on 22 Sep.

**2002:** 48 sightings of up to 40 on 28 dates from 26 Mar to 30 May, but 59 at Ċirkewwa on 29 Mar and 60 at Manoel Island on 30 Mar. 1 at Simar on 4 dates from 19-26 Jun. In autumn, 27 sightings of up to 29 on 21 dates from 17 Aug to 28 Oct, but 62 at Buskett on 25 Aug.

**2003:** 5 at Ċirkewwa on 14 Mar then 43 sightings on 31 days from 19 Mar to 19 May; mostly single figures, but flocks of 13 to 30 on 4 days. 2 on 28-29 May and 1 Jun at Simar were flightless bird also seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 21 Jul. In autumn 35 sightings from 21 Aug to 28 Oct, with most in Sep; double figures on 9 occasions with 53 over Qawra on 4 Sep and 45 over Xagħra on 26 Sep highest. Then 5 at Għadira on 7 Nov and 1-4 on most days at Simar till 30.

**2004:** Single at Simar on 2 Jan and at Salina on 22 Mar. Then 22 sightings on 13 dates from 27 Mar to 24 Apr with 9 flocks of 4-19 on 7 dates but also 30 at Lunzjata on 30 Mar, otherwise 1-3. 1 at Simar between late Apr and late Aug. Almost daily in autumn from 16 Aug to 20 Sep with 23 flocks of 4-30 on 12 days but also flocks of 42 over Dingli on 24th, 50 over Simar on 29th and 61 over Airport on 20th, all in Aug and 43 at St. Paul's Bay on 11 Sep. Then singles on 23 Sep, in Oct on 5th, 15th and 27th and in Nov on 4-5th.

**2005:** 33 sightings of up to 21 on 24 dates from 14 Mar to 20 May, but 35 on 3 May at Għarghur. Singles at Għadira on 3 Jun, at Simar on 3 dates from 18-21 Jun, and at Xrobb I-Għagin on 21 Jun. 7 at Comino on 23 Jun, 1 at Għadira on 18 Jul and 3 at Lunzjata on same day. In autumn, 61 sightings of up to 31 on 37 dates from 10 Aug to 30 Oct, but 165 at Birkirkara on 30 Aug and 68 at Cottonera on 31 Aug. Singles at Simar on 4 Nov and 8 Nov.

**Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides***

**2000:** 4 at Qawra on 9 Apr, 1 to 3 birds from various localities from 13 to 19 May, 1 to 2 birds at Għadira from 3rd to 26 May. 1 at Salina on 6 Jun last spring sighting. There were only two autumn sightings: 1 at Salina on 14 Sep and 1 at Qawra on 13 Oct.

**2001:** 1-2 on 57 dates from 11 Apr to 18 Jul, most at Simar and Għadira, but 4 at Simar on 17<sup>th</sup> and 5 at Ta' Lambert on 29 Apr.

**2002:** Singles at Salina on 3 Apr and at Simar on 3-4 Apr. Then 1-2 on 5 dates from 18 Apr to 8 May and 1-2 daily from 22 May to 8 Jun, all at Għadira and Simar except for 2 at San Luċjan on 18 Apr and 1 at Dwejra (G) on 30 Apr. In autumn, singles at Simar on 31 Jul to 4 Aug and on 10 dates from 11-24 Aug.

**2003:** 17 at Gebel Ċiantar and 9 at Għadira on 15 Apr, then daily, mostly at Simar and Għadira, till 13 May. 10 at Għadira on 4 May, otherwise 1-2 in Apr and 1-6 in May. Then 8 sightings of singles on 6 days from 18-28 May, and 1-2 on most days at Simar and Għadira from 29 May to 13 Jun. Late singles at Simar on 26<sup>th</sup> and 30 Jun. 1 at Qawra on 16 Sep. 1 on 6 Nov was a late record.



**2004:** In spring singles in Apr on 9th at Ċirkewwa and 19th at Msida but 10 at Pieta on 24th; then singles at Simar from 23-28th and at Għadira on 26-27th. In May singles again on Comino on 1st and at Simar from 14-28th. In autumn 7 at Għallis on 29 Aug and 1 at Simar from 1-6 Sep.

**2005:** 1 at Xatt l-Aħmar on 28 Mar, then 1-2 on 17 dates from 4 Apr to 24 May. In autumn, 1 at Qawra on 30 Aug, 10 at Qawra on 2 Sep and 1 at Pt.St. Elmo on 4 Sep.

#### **Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis***

**2001:** An adult in full breeding plumage at Għadira on 2 Jun.

**2003:** Singles at Għadira on 8 Oct and 16 Nov.

**2004:** 1 at Qawra on 27 Nov.

#### **Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

**2000:** Recorded in single and low double figures from 19 Mar to 26 June from various localities, but mostly from Għadira. Highest spring sightings include; 17 at Għadira on 17 Apr, 16 at Qawra on 29 Mar, 11 on Comino on 28 Apr. First autumn migrants on 1 Aug than almost daily in single and low double figures till 21 Nov. Highest numbers being 23 at Qawra 14 Oct, 18 at Blata l-Bajda on 13 Sep and 15 at Simar on 11 Sep.

**2001:** In single or low double figures almost daily from 19 Mar to 6 Jun, max. 37 at Gozo Channel on 10<sup>th</sup>, 65 at Simar on 11<sup>th</sup> and 23 at Xlendi on 17<sup>th</sup>, all in Apr. Then in single figures on 22 dates and double figures on 5 dates from 31 Jul to 11 Nov, max. 66 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 35 on 23 Aug at Għadira, and 15 at St. Andrew's on 2 Sep.

**2002:** 2 at Għadira on 13 Mar, then up to 32 almost daily from 26 Mar to 24 Apr, but 62 at Comino on 2 Apr. Up to 3 at Għadira daily from 30 Apr to 14 May and 11 at Comino on 1 May. Up to 5 almost daily from 22 May to 2 Jun but 8 at Sliema on 22 May. In autumn, 1-2 at Għadira daily from 21 Jul to 2 Aug and 1 at Qawra on 28 Jul, then up to 21 on most days from 15 Aug to 28 Sep, but 57 at Qawra and 51 at Simar on 27 Sep. 1-2 on 6 dates from 12 Oct to 11 Nov, but 4 at M'Scala on 22 Oct.

**2003:** 1 at Għadira on 23 Feb. Almost daily sightings at several sites from 13 Mar to 13 May; usually single figures but low double figures on 5 days, max 30 at Għadira on last day. Then 7 sightings of 1-3 on 6 days from 18 May to 3 Jun. 4 at Salina on 18 Jul and singles at Għadira on 4<sup>th</sup> and 14 Aug, then on several days from 21 Aug to 18 Oct with most in mid-late Sep, when daily. In single to low double figures but 86 at Qawra on 5 Sep and 33 at Għadira on 7 Oct. 1 at Għadira on most days from 25 Oct to 21 Nov when occasional singles also elsewhere.

**2004:** Singles at Simar on 2nd and 6 Feb, then 1-2 from 5 sites on 5 dates from 10 Feb to 23 Mar. Daily sightings at various sites from 26 Mar to 12 May when mostly in single figures but double figures in Apr on 8-10th, 16th and 28-30th. Highest 65 at Ċirkewwa on 9th and 29 on 8th. Most spring sightings at Għadira, Simar, Salina and Ċirkewwa. 2 at Għadira from 17-21 May, then singles till 6 Jun and 1-2 at other sites on 4 dates in May. In autumn 3 at St.Pauls Bay on 11 Aug, then daily from 17 Aug to 28 Sep. Mostly in single figures but double figures on a few days with 12 flocks of 14-32 but also 35 at Simar on 7 Sep and 135 at Delimara on 19 Sep. Then 21 sightings of 1-6 on 16 dates from 2 Oct to 5 Nov but 40 at Simar and 18 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 15th, 21 at Qawra on 16th and 23 at Red Tower on 21st, all in Oct. Last sightings in Nov with 3 at Simar on 16th and at Qawra on 21st, then 1 at Għadira on 22-23rd.

**2005:** Singles at Salina regularly from 12-18 Jan, at Simar on 26 Jan and 30 Jan, and at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 30 Jan. 1 at Għadira on 14 Mar, then up to 20 almost daily from 16 Mar to 18 Apr, but 26 at Għajnsielem on 3 Apr. 1-3 almost daily from 26 Apr to 30 May, but 8 at Għadira on 27 Apr and 5 at Comino on 30 Apr. Singles at Għadira daily from 1 Jun to 15 Jul. In autumn, up to 20 on 45 dates from 15 Aug to 29 Oct, but 21 on 4 Sep and 25 on 21 Sep, both at Qawra, and 22 at Għadira on 6 Oct. Singles at Għadira on 5 Nov and 26 Nov, and 2 at Pt.St. Elmo on 27 Nov.

#### **Great White Egret *Ardea alba***

**2000:** 2 at Għadira on 14-15 Feb, 1 at Gnejna on 17 Sept and 2 at Qawra on 22 Oct.

**2001:** 1 at Salina on 7 Sep and 3 at Għadira (seen also at Qawra) on 29 Sep.

**2002:** 1 at Comino on 30 Mar. 7 sightings on 6 dates from 28 Sep to 13 Oct, highest 5 at Simar on 4 Oct and 11 at Mrieħel on 5 Oct, otherwise 1-2.

**2003:** 1 at Għadira on 19 Aug, 5 at Qawra and 4 at Tigne' on 19 Sep, singles at Qawra on 21 Sep, 27 Sep and 2 Oct. Singles at Dwejra (M) on 2 Oct, at Simar on 2-3 Oct, again at Qawra on 14 Oct and at Għadira, at Magħtab and at Qawra on 28 Oct.

**2004:** Singles in autumn at Simar on 18 Sep followed by sightings in Oct at Salina on 4th, at Simar on 8th and at Għadira on 11th. Then 2 at Comino on 20th and at Qawra on 4 Nov.

**2005:** Singles on 7 dates from 30 Aug to 29 Sep, but 3 at Pt.St. Elmo on 4 Sep and 2 at Simar on 29 Sep.

#### **Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

**2000:** Recorded in all months of the year except in December. Low double figures in spring with 40 at Qammieħ on 23 March highest counted. More common in autumn with high double and low treble figures: 137 at Blata l-Bajda and Ta'Gajdor, Xagħra on 9 Sep, 101 at Qawra on 17 Sep and 107 at Buskett on 26 Sep highest.

**2001:** In single or low double figures almost daily from 21 Feb to 13 May, max. 35 at Gozo Channel and 39 at Għadira on 10<sup>th</sup>, 30 at Gozo Channel on 13<sup>th</sup> and 25 at Qala on 25 Mar, and 25 on Comino on 10 Apr. 1 at Comino on 9 Jul. Then single or double figures (including 2 treble figures) on 52 dates from 27 Jul to 17 Nov; max 90 at Dwejra on 30 Aug, and 56 at Buskett on 19<sup>th</sup>, 91 at Marsalforn on 21<sup>st</sup>, 120 at Tigne on 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 94 at Dwejra, 115 at Qawra and 80 at Għadira on 28<sup>th</sup>, all in Sep.

**2002:** 63 sightings in single or double figures of up to 53 on 36 dates from 19 Feb to 26 Apr, but 108 at Ċirkewwa and 138 at Comino on 30 Mar. 1-4 on 5 dates from 3 May to 15 Jun, but 10 at Mellieħa and Simar on 22 May. 1 at Simar on 10 Jul, 2 at Għadira on 26 Jul and 1-7 on 3 dates from 3-9 Aug. Then, 112 sightings on 53 dates from 17 Aug to 30 Oct, in single or double figures of up to 53, but 72 at Qawra on 12 Sep, 81 at Victoria on 13 Sep, 94 at Dingli on 14 Sep and 80 at Qawra on 27 Sep. Singles at Qawra on 24 and 25 Nov.

**2003:** Main spring passage from 1 Feb to 10 May when almost daily in single to low double figures of up to 36, but 43 over Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar. Singles, mostly at Għadira, on 18, 27 and 30 May and on 5 and 15 Jun. Singles at different sites on 20, 26-27 Jul and 4 Aug and at Simar on 12-21 Aug. Main autumn passage from 13 Aug, with daily sightings from 24 Aug to 15 Sep and almost daily to 26 Oct, followed by 22 sightings of 1-7 birds on 13 days from 17 Oct to 10 Dec, but 35 at Qawra on 26 Oct. Double figures frequent during peak period and totals of 300 (6 sites) on 16 Sep and 242 (5 sites) on 4 Sep.

**2004:** Singles in Jan on 28th and in Feb on 27th and 29th. Then 33 sightings on 16 dates from 1 Mar to 9 Apr with peak on 23 Mar with 107 from 4 sites. Otherwise in single figures but 12 on 9th and 30 on 13th both at Ċirkewwa in Mar. Then 19 sightings of 1-8 on 9 dates from 17 Apr to 3 May, and singles on 10 dates from 18 May to 17 Jul, but 3 on 26 May. Singles almost daily in Aug from 3-15th with most at Għadira, then almost daily from 17 Aug to 14 Nov with 171 sightings from various sites mainly around the coast but also overland. In single to double figures with highest numbers from 31 Aug to 12 Sep with 150 over Saqqajja and Dwejra (M) on 6th, 75 at Mtaħleb on 7th and 44 over Delimara on 12th, otherwise up to 29. Sporadic large flocks also in Oct with 32 at Għadira on 4th and 40 at Delimara on 10th, otherwise up to 24. 1-2 in Nov on 23-25th and singles in Dec on 25-26th.

**2005:** 57 sightings in single to low double figures of up to 23 on 42 dates from 9 Feb to 29 Apr, but 40 at Ċirkewwa on 15 Mar. Singles at Għadira regularly from 4 May to 1 Jun. Outside Għadira, 8 sightings of single birds from 5 May to 25 Jul. Then, 125 sightings on 63 dates from 7 Aug to 30 Oct, in single or double figures of up to 58, but 76 at Buskett on 25 Sep, 101 at Għadira on 8 Oct and 66 at Għadira on 18 Oct. Singles on 7 dates from 4 Nov to 19 Dec, but 2 at Qawra on 4 Nov.

### Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

**2000:** First bird on 4 Apr at Blata l-Bajda, single birds at Għadira and Simar on most days in Apr; 12 at Għadira on 18 Apr highest. 1 single bird at Simar on 21 June and then single birds from 24 Aug to 23 Oct mainly from Għadira and Simar and Qawra. Highest counts being 8 at Dwejra, (M). and 6 at Buskett both sightings on 26 Sep.

**2001:** In single figures on 17 dates and double figures on 3 dates from 30 Mar to 29 Apr, max. of 54 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 30 on 10 Apr, both over 10 Comino. In autumn in single figures on 14 dates from 16 Aug to 29 Sep (max 7 on 28 Aug and 6 on 3 Sep at Simar) and singles in Oct. at Dwejra on 10<sup>th</sup> and at Għadira on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**2002:** 28 sightings on 17 dates from 26 Mar to 24 Apr, highest 51 at Comino and 16 at Ċirkewwa on 30 Mar, and 17 at Simar on 23 Apr, otherwise up to 7. 1 at Comino on 8 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 27 Jul and at Buskett on 28 Aug, then 23 sightings of up to 7 on 19 dates from 1 Sep to 12 Oct, but 60+ at Qawra on 27 Sep. 1 at Qawra on 21 Oct.

**2003:** 27 sightings of 1-8 on 19 days from 18 Mar to 19 Apr, then 1 at Simar on 20-25 Apr. A slightly injured bird released at Għadira on 29 Apr stayed till 31 May. In autumn 26 sightings on 20 days from 19 Aug to 9 Oct when mostly 1-5, but 10-16 on 4 days. Then singles on 15 and 30 Oct.

**2004:** In spring, 19 at M'Xlokk on 23 Mar; then 14 sightings on 7 dates from 30 Mar to 9 Apr. Highest numbers in early Apr with 10 at Victoria, G on 4th, 16 on 5th and 22 on 9th, both at Ċirkewwa, otherwise up to 8. Then daily from 14-18 Apr with 10 sightings of 1-3 and 1-5 from 3 sites on 24 Apr. Daily at Simar with 1-3 from 25 Apr to 6 May. 1 at Għadira on 22 Jul. In autumn 1-2 from 5 sites on 4 dates from 24-29 Aug, then daily from 5-13 Sep with 16 sightings of 1-8 but 10 at Saqqajja on 6th, 16 at Mtaħleb on 7th, and 14 at St. Paul's Bay on 11 Sep. 5 sightings of singles from 19-21 Sep with 10 on 20th at M'scala. In Oct, 1 at Simar on 5-6th and 2-5 on 19-20th.

**2005:** 48 sightings on 30 dates from 18 Mar to 3 May, highest 22 at Għadira on 3 Apr, 25+ at Simar on 4 Apr and 13 at Comino on 29 Apr, otherwise up to 12. Singles at Simar on 13 dates from 4 July to 29 Aug and 1 at Qawra on 18 Aug. Then, 29 sightings of up to 5 from 30 Aug to 31 Oct, but 18 at Qawra and 12 at Għadira on 30 Aug, and 10 at Simar on 6 Sep.

### Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

**2000:** 1 at Buskett, Dingli Cliffs and Żebbuġ (M) on 13 Sep, 3 at Dwejra, (M) on 23 Sep, and 1 at Dwejra, (M), Rabat and Buskett on 24 Sep. In Oct 1 at Victoria on 1 Oct, 4 at Dwejra (M) on 20 Oct and 1 at San Anton Gardens on 30 Oct.

**2002:** Singles at Buskett on 13 Sep, at Dwejra (M) and Buskett on 15 Sep, at Sliema on 22 Sep, at Buskett, Mellieħa, and Dwejra (M) on 2 Oct and at Buskett, Mosta, and Dwejra (M) on 3 Oct.

**2003:** 1 over Għadira on 4 Apr. In autumn singles over Dwejra and Buskett on 7 Sep and over Qawra on 17 Sep, and 6 over Ta' Xbiex on 27 Oct.

**2004:** Singles in Sep at Mellieħa and Buskett on 10th, and at Buskett and Mtaħleb on 11th but 3 also on 11th at St. Julians. Then in Oct with 2 on 1st at Buskett, Dwejra (M) and Miġra l-Ferħa; followed by 1 on 2nd, 2 on 14th and 1 on 17th all at Buskett.

**2005:** 1 at Dingli on 21 Sep, 1 at Ġnejna Bay and 3 at Buskett on 25 Sep and 1 at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 27 Sep.

### White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

**2001:** 2 at Dingli on 27<sup>th</sup> and 1 at Victoria on 28 Sep.

**2002:** Singles at San Luċjan and Luqa Airport on 17 Apr and at Buskett on 18 Apr. 1-2 seen at Għajn Tuffieħa, Buskett, Lunzjata, Victoria, Miżieb, and Dwejra (M) on 17 Sep.

**2003:** 1 at Victoria and 2 at Simar and Dwejra (M) on 19 Mar; and 2 at Għadira and Ċirkewwa on 20 Mar (prob. same birds).

**2004:** 2 at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 22 Aug.

**2005:** 5-8 seen at Blata l-Bajda, Dwejra (M) and Għadira on 30 May. 3 at Ġnejna Bay on 25 Sept.

### Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

**2000:** 70 at Qammieħ on 26 Mar. 1 at Ta' Ħida, Nadur (G), and 21 off Buġibba on 12 Sep.

**2001:** Sightings on 5 dates in spring: 4 at Qammieħ on 19<sup>th</sup>, 30 at M'Scala on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 1 at Għadira on 24 Mar; and 33 at Simar on 7<sup>th</sup> and 16 at Għadira on 20 Apr. Sightings on 4 dates in autumn: 2 on 17<sup>th</sup> (seen at Għadira and Għajn Tuffieħa) and 1 at Għadira on 18 Aug; and 3 at Simar on 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 at San Luċjan on 19 Sep.

**2002:** Only recorded in spring. 34 at Ċirkewwa on 2 Mar, 35 at Qammieħ on 23 Mar, 1 at Għadira on 30 Mar, 14 at Comino and 38 at Għadira on 2 Apr, 1 at Għadira on 14 Apr and 7 at Wied iż-Żurrieq on 1 May.

**2003:** Flock of 42 over Ċirkewwa and 2 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 23 Mar were the only spring sightings. In autumn singles on 4, 5 (at three sites) and 6 Sep, then 3 at Xgħajra on 16, 3 over Buskett on 18 and 5 at Qawra and 7 at Tigne' on 19 Sep.

**2004:** Singles at Għadira and Ċirkewwa on 30 Mar. Again in singles in Apr at Salina on 24th, at Għadira on 24-25th and at Simar on 27th. Flock of 22 over Simar on 26 Aug, then in Sep with singles at Delimara and M'scala on 19th and 6 over Dwejra (M) on 28th.

**2005:** 52 at Ċirkewwa on 16 Mar, 35 at Għajn Tuffieħa, 21 at Dwejra (G) and 18 at Kerċem on 3 Apr, 2 at Santa Margerita on 16 Apr and singles at Għadira and Simar on 17 Jun. In autumn, singles at Qawra on 17 Aug, at Pieta on 5 Sep and at Għadira on 3 Oct.

#### **Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia***

**2000:** Single birds at Għadira on 15-16 Jan and 23 Mar. 1 off Qawra on 24 Sept and 3 sightings at Għadira: 16 on 1 Oct, 1 on 6 Oct and 2 on 10 Oct.

**2002:** 3 sightings in spring: 3 at San Luċjan on 10 Mar, 2 at Qala on 20 Mar and 6 at San Luċjan on 16 Apr. Flock of 10 on 11 Sep, flock of 27 on 2 Oct and 1 on 3 Oct, all at Qawra.

**2003:** 17 at Għadira and 11 at Migra L-Ferħa on 8 Apr. Singles at Għallis on 27 Aug, at Għajn Tuffieħa and Qawra on 16 Sep, and at Qawra on 26 Oct.

**2004:** In Jan 3 on 4th and 2 from 5-9th, then singles from 12-16 Mar and 20-28 Jun all at Għadira. Only sighting elsewhere at Imġiebah with 1 on 23 Jun. 1 at Simar and Red Tower on 15 Oct.

**2005:** Singles at Għadira on 25-26 Jan and at Pembroke and Simar on 26 Jan. Singles at Għadira and Simar daily from 17 May to 9 Jun and again at Għadira on 14 Jun. In autumn, singles at Valletta on 30 Aug and at Xlendi (injured) on 25 Sep. This bird was released at Għadira on 9 Oct and remained there until 20 Nov.

#### **Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus***

**2000:** 15 at Tas-Safra on 29 Aug, 40 at Qawra on 4 Sep, 1 at Qawra on 8 Sep, 9 at Qawra, Ċirkewwa, and Comino on 9 Sep, 85 at Qawra on 18 Oct, 4 at Qawra on 10 Dec, and 5 again at Qawra on 24 Dec.

**2001:** 5 records: 48 on 3 Apr (reported off Qawra and in Gozo Channel); 1 on 6 May (seen at Simar and Għadira), 57 off Pt. St Elmo on 30 Sep, and 3 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 9 on 21 Nov from Qawra.

**2002:** 10 at Comino on 4 Apr, 1 at Għadira on 22-23 Apr, 3 at M'Scala on 7 Aug, and singles at Qbajjar on 23 Aug and at Qawra on 31 Aug.

**2003:** 1 at Għadira on 9 Sep, then sightings at Qawra on 8 days: 36 on 14, 69 on 15, 48 on 18, 1 on 19 and 24 on 21 Sep; 10 on 14 Oct, 14 on 2 Nov and 17 on 10 Nov.

**2004:** Most sightings in Sep with 69 on 12th and 1 on 15th both at Delimara, then 13 at Pembroke on 18th, and 4 again at Delimara on 19th. Another 4 sightings on 19th with singles at Għadira and Qawra, 2 at Gnejna and 3 at M'scala. Four sightings in Oct with 28 at Delimara on 2nd, then at Qawra with 13 on 8th, 10 on 16th and 25 on 27th.

**2005:** 1 at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 31 Mar. In autumn, 110+ at Qawra on 9 Sep, 8 at Qawra on 26 Sep, 55 at Pt. St. Elmo and 71 at Qawra on 7 Nov, 4 at Tigne on 8 Nov and 2 at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on 18 Dec.

#### **Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus***

**2000:** 2 at Mgarr Ix-Xini on 10 Apr, then up to 4 on 8 dates from 27 Apr to 30 May, but 7 at Buskett on 28 May. 1 at Buskett on 12 Jun. In autumn, 5 at Buskett on 25 Aug, 1 at Mdina on 26 Aug, and 1 at Buskett on 30 Aug, then up to 100 on most days from 3 Sep to 11 Oct, but 193 at Buskett on 12 Sep, 126 at Buskett on 13 Sep, 291 at Dwejra (M) and 296 at Buskett on 23 Sep, and 130 at Dwejra (M) and 255 at Buskett on 24 Sep. 1-2 on 6 dates from 17-30 Oct, but 4 at Dwejra (M) on 20 Oct.

**2001:** 1-6 on 8 dates in May, but a total of 18 (max 9 at Manoel Island) on 13 May. 2 at Chadwick Lakes on 7 Jun and 1 at Qala on 14 Jun. Then in single and double figures almost daily from 26 Aug to 16 Oct, max. 100 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 58 on 27 Sep at Buskett, and 50 at Mellieħa on 30 Sep and at Buskett on 9 Oct.

**2002:** Very good year for this species. 1 at Comino on 14 Apr, then on 22 dates from 25 Apr to 6 Jun, mostly in single or double figures, but 250+ at Comino on 5 May, 700+ at Blata L-Bajda and 900+ at Comino on 8 May, and 150+ at Marfa on 9 May. 1-2 on 3 dates from 22-30 Jun, most from Dwejra (M). In autumn, singles at Buskett on 25 Aug and 30 Aug, then daily in single or double figures from 1 Sep to 8 Oct, but 200+ at Buskett on 13 Sep, and 650+ at Buskett, 136 at Mizieħ, 300+ at Victoria, and 380 at Dwejra (M), all on 17 Sep. Up to 3 on 7 dates from 10-20 Oct, but 20 at Buskett on 15 Oct. 1 at Qawra on 28 Oct.

**2003:** 24 sightings of 1-6 on 14 days from 18 Apr to 8 Jun, then 1 over Mistrà and Simar on 23 Jun. In autumn 2 singles on 23 Aug, 10 on 28 Aug and singles on 29-30 Aug, then daily from 3 Sep to 5 Oct when low to medium double figures on most days, but 405 at Buskett, 268 at Dwejra (M) and 174 at Marsalforn on 14 Sep, and 229 at Tigne' and 142 at Qawra on 19 Sep. Then single to low double figures on most days from 6-16 Oct and singles on 21, 23, 25 and 26 Oct.

**2004:** 2 on Comino on 20 Apr, then almost daily from 23 Apr to 10 May. Several sightings in double figures from 23-28 Apr but heavy passage on 26th with 1000+ at Buskett, San Pawl tat-Targa and Luqa Airport and treble figures from various sites including 365 at Comino, 150 at Simar and 100 at Addolorata, otherwise in double figures. Then a smaller passage on 27th with 110 at Simar, 75 at Buskett and 60 at San Pawl tat-Targa with various other sightings up to 35. In May 1-9 till 10th, then 1 on 20th and 2 on 30th. In Jun 1-3 on 5 dates from 4-23rd. In autumn 4 at Buskett and 3 at Dingli on 23 Aug, then daily from 27 Aug to 24 Oct with 146 sightings from various sites. Highest numbers from 8-14 Sep when mostly in treble figures of up to 200 mainly at Buskett but max. 563 at Buskett and 266 at Dwejra (M) on 10th, 264 at Buskett and 270 at Dwejra (M) on 11th, 226 at Buskett and 109 at Dwejra (M) on 13th, and 150 at Dwejra (M) on 14 Sep. Then in double figures up to 31 till 8 Oct but 52 at Migra L-Ferħa on 1 Oct and 1-8 till 24 Oct. 2 on 26 Oct and 1 on 23 Nov.

**2005:** 2 at Luqa and 1 at Xrobb I-Għagin on 16 Apr, then 30 sightings from 23 Apr to 30 May, mostly in single to low double figures, but 30+ at Marsascalea on 6 May and 62 at Red Tower on 7 May. Singles on 7 dates from 2-25 Jun, but 10 at Ta' Gajdor on 2 Jun. In autumn, 9 at Buskett on 28 Aug and 1 at Victoria on 30 Aug, then almost daily in single or double figures from 2 Sep to 17 Oct, but 200+ at Dwejra (M) on 16 Sep, 136 at Dwejra (M) and 210+ at Buskett on 17 Sep, 112+ on 25 Sep, 153 on 26 Sep and 113 on 29 Sep, all at Buskett. Singles on 3 dates from 23 to-28 Oct. 1 on 6 Nov was a late bird.

**Black Kite *Milvus migrans***

**2000:** 1-2 on 12 dates from 24 Mar to 27 Apr, but 10 at Dwejra (M) on 5 Apr. In autumn, 1-3 on 12 dates from 29 Aug to 29 Sep. 1 at Buskett on 5 Oct.

**2001:** In low single figures on 11 scattered dates from 14 Mar to 7 May, max. 5 at Victoria on 3 Apr and 4 at Comino on 5 May. In autumn recorded mainly singly on 17 dates from 26 Aug to 20 Oct, but 5 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 7 Sep at Buskett, and 4 on 26 Sep at Tigne.

**2002:** 35 sightings of up to 5 on 23 dates from 25 Mar to 13 May, but 7 at Victoria on 11 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 6 Jul was unusual. In autumn, 26 sightings of up to 4 on 16 dates from 15 Aug to 19 Sep, but 6 at Buskett on 19 Aug and at Dwejra (M) on 3 Sep.

**2003:** 21 sightings on 16 days from 18 Mar to 13 May; 2 on first date, otherwise singles. In autumn, 1 on 3 Aug, then 22 sightings on 18 days from 23 Aug to 14 Oct, with most in Sep. 25 over Qawra on 20 Sep and 2 on 23 Aug, otherwise singles.

**2004:** Singles in Mar on 13<sup>th</sup>, 21-22<sup>nd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Then in Apr with 25 sightings on 13 dates from 1-27<sup>th</sup>, when mostly 1-2 but 7 at Dwejra (M) on 13<sup>th</sup>, 5-6 from 4 sites on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3 at 2 sites on 27<sup>th</sup>. 1 on Comino from 28 Apr to 9 May. In autumn singles at Ċirkewwa on 3<sup>rd</sup> and at Buskett on 22<sup>nd</sup>, then almost daily from 27 Aug to 15 Sep with 27 sightings of 1-4 but 12 at Buskett on 13 Sep. Singles on 26 Sep and 1-4 Oct but 2 at Buskett on 1 Oct. Most autumn sightings at Buskett.

**2005:** 26 sightings of up to 4 on 19 dates from 8 Mar to 13 May. In autumn, 19 sightings of up to 4 on 14 dates from 25 Aug to 12 Oct.

**Red Kite *Milvus milvus***

**2002:** Singles at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 1 Oct and at Dwejra (M) on 2 Oct.

**2003:** 1 at Għadira on 21 Nov.

**2005:** 1 at Buskett on 14 Oct.

**Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus***

**2003:** Adult over Simar on 6 Mar.

**2004:** 1 juv at Buskett on 17 Oct.

**2005:** 1 juv at Dwejra (M) on 5 Oct.

**Short-Toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus***

**2000:** 7 sightings from 24 Sep to 17 Oct. Mostly single birds but 3 on 24 Sep at Buskett and 9 on 5 Oct at Dwejra (M).

**2001:** 1 on 11 Sep seen from Dwejra (M) and Buskett, 2 at Buskett on 12 Oct, and 1 at Dwejra M and 2 at Buskett on 13 Oct.

**2002:** 2 at Buskett and 1 at Dwejra (M) on 2 Oct.

**2003:** 1 at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 24 Sep.

**2004:** 2 at Dwejra (M) and 1 at Buskett on 13 Sep, then 2 again at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 30 Sep. Singles in Oct on 12<sup>th</sup> at Mellieħa, on 14<sup>th</sup> at Dwejra (M) and Buskett, and again at Buskett on 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**2005:** Singles at Buskett, Dingli and Mellieħa on 9 Oct.

**Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus***

**2000:** In single or low double figures of up to 35 almost daily from 12 Mar to 30 Apr, but 40 at Gozo on 22 Mar, 39 at Wied Għajn Riħana on 25 Mar, and 40 at Comino on 29-30 Apr. 6 sightings of singles on 5 dates from 4-28 May. 1 at Simar on 2 Jun. In autumn, up to 180 almost daily from 23 Aug to 29 Oct, but 287 at Nadur (G), 304 at Buskett, and 350 at Dwejra (M), all on 8 Sep; 331 at Buskett on 10 Sep; and 270 at Buskett on 23 Sep. Singles at Victoria on 8 Nov and at Għadira on 9 Nov.

**2001:** Singles at Luqa on 2<sup>nd</sup> and at Dwejra on 9 Jan. Then in single or low double figures on most dates from 3 Mar to 18 May, max. 43 at San Luċjan on 19<sup>th</sup>, 32 at Victoria on 24<sup>th</sup>, 30 at Dwejra on 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, all in March; and 29 at San Luċjan and 26 at Comino on 13<sup>th</sup> and 40 at Comino on 18 Apr; but 150 in Gozo on 1 May. In autumn in single and double figures almost daily from 26 Aug to 26 Oct, max. 97 at Buskett on 24 Sep, and 83 on 5<sup>th</sup> at Dwejra and 98 at Buskett on 9<sup>th</sup>, both in October. 4 triple figures were recorded in September: 106 on 24<sup>th</sup> at Dwejra, and 128 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 154 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 153 on 30<sup>th</sup> all at Buskett. Late singles at Qawra on 6 Nov and at Simar on 21 Dec.

**2002:** Almost daily in spring from 18 Feb to 31 May (daily from 9 Mar to 11 Apr and from 13 Apr to 11 May) in single or double figures of up to 41, but 60+ at Comino on 20 Mar. 2 at Victoria on 4 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 22 Aug, then almost daily from 28 Aug to 30 Oct (daily from 31 Aug to 8 Oct) in single, double or treble figures of up to 145, but 1000+ at Buskett (including 1 dark morph), 160+ at Simar, 200+ at Żebbuġ (M), and 236 at Victoria, all on 13 Sep. 2 at San Luċjan on 9 Nov.

**2003:** 5 sightings of 1-2 daily on 20-23 Feb, and 1-6 on most days from 1-7 Mar, but 13 at M'Scala on 3 Mar. Then daily from 15 Mar to 14 May with mainly low to medium double figures on 16 days; highest totals were 102 (9 sites) on 4 Apr and 73 (2 sites) 28 Mar. 11 sightings of singles on 10 days from 19 May to 7 Jun. In autumn singles on 4 days from 14-21 Aug, then practically daily from 23 Aug to 18 Oct, with double figures on several days and peaks of 102 on 3 and 112 on 9 Sep at Buskett. Then 1-4 on 5 days from 23 Oct to 4 Nov and 5 singles on 4 days from 23 Nov to 13 Dec.

**2004:** Singles at Bidnija on 28 Feb and at Ċirkewwa on 9 Mar, then daily from 20 Mar to 9 May with 225 sightings with highest numbers between late Mar and late Apr. Mostly in single to low double figures of up to 20 but 24-56 on 10 dates, but 60 at Għadira on 30 Mar, 120 at Dwejra (M) on 3 Apr and 65 again at Dwejra (M) on 23 Apr. Last sightings in May with singles on 17th and 27th. In autumn 1 on 18 Aug, then daily from 24 Aug to 21 Oct with 203 sightings. Highest numbers from 9-14 Sep and on 1-2 Oct when mostly in double figures but treble figures in Sep with 271 at Buskett and 181 at Dwejra (M) on 10th, and 174 at Mtaħleb, 162 at Buskett, 136 at Qawra, 123 at St. Paul's Bay, and 300 at Dwejra (M), all on 11th. Highest in Oct on 1st with 73 at Buskett, 66 at Miġra l-Ferħa and 50 at Dwejra (M); then 45 on 2nd and 38 on 11th, both at Buskett. 8 Sightings of 1-2 from 24-28 Oct and singles on 16-17 Nov.

**2005:** Almost daily in spring from 18 Feb to 14 May (daily from 10 Mar to 10 Apr and from 12 Apr to 14 May), in single or double figures of up to 30, but 40+ at Dwejra (M) on 23 Mar, 40+ at Xatt l-Aħmar on 28 Mar and 50 at Il-Qolla on 1 May. 1-3 on 7 dates from 20 May to 15 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 25 Aug, then almost daily from 28 Aug to 18 Oct in single or double figures of up to 95, but 150+ at Dwejra (M) and 295+ at Buskett on 16 Sep, 170+ at Buskett on 17 Sep, 112 at Buskett on 29 Sep, and 170 at Dwejra (M) on 7 Oct. 1 at Comino on 29 Oct.

#### **Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus***

**2000:** Singles on 25 Mar at Wied Għajn Riħana and Dwejra (M), at Victoria and Rabat (M) on 8 Sep and at Ta'Qali on 18 Oct.

**2001:** Singles on Comino on 18 Apr and at Buskett on 13 Oct.

**2002:** 1 at Buskett on 14 Oct.

**2003:** Singles on Comino on 24 Apr, at Buskett on 8 May, and at Qawra on 31 Oct.

**2005:** 1 at Luqa on 20 Nov.

#### **Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus***

**2000:** Singles on 22 Mar at Qammieħ, 30 Mar at Dwejra (M), 31 Mar on Comino, 03 Apr on Manoel Island. In autumn, 1 at Dwejra (M) on 29 Sep.

**2001:** Singles on 7 scattered dates from 19 Mar to 14 May. In autumn 5 singles in September: on 7<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at Buskett, and 27<sup>th</sup> at Dwejra.

**2002:** 1 at Luqa Airport on 12 Mar, then 1-2 on 7 dates from 30 Mar to 26 Apr. 1 at Gudja on 12 May. In autumn, singles at Blata L-Bajda on 13 Sep, at Buskett on 5 Oct, and at Qawra on 13 Oct.

**2003:** 1 at Salina on 1 Apr and 3 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 8 Apr, then 6 sightings of singles on 5 days from 11 Apr to 1 May and 5 at Dwejra (Malta) on 12 May. In autumn singles on 4 dates from 18-29 Sep.

**2004:** In Mar 1 at Targa Gap on 23rd, 3 at Gudja airport on 26th and 1 at Mellieħa on 27th. Then 12 sightings of singles on 9 dates from 31 Mar to 19 Apr but 2 at Luqa on 1 Apr. In autumn singles at Buskett, Dwejra (M) and Għarghur on 10 Sep and at Comino on 20 Oct.

**2005:** Singles on 13 dates from 21 Mar to 21 Apr, but 5 at Dwejra (M) on 22 Mar, 3 at Salina on 26 Mar and 5 at Targa Gap on 26 Mar. In autumn, singles at Ta' Ċenċ on 10 Sep, at Buskett on 16 Sep and at Buskett and Dingli on 25 Sep.

#### **Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus***

**2000:** On 9 dates in spring from 20 Mar to 29 Apr, all in singles except for 2 at Dwejra (M) on 27 Apr and 3 at Comino on last date. In autumn, 1-2 on most days from 25 Aug to 23 Sep, but 5 at Dwejra (M) and Mdina on first date and 5 at Dwejra (M) on 6 Sep. 1 at Għadira on 29 Sep.

**2001:** single figures on 12 dates from 25 Mar to 1 May, max. 4 at Comino on 13<sup>th</sup> and 7 at Wied Qannotta on 18 Apr. In autumn up to 4 on 13 dates mainly at Buskett and Dwejra from 27 Aug to 30 Sep. Late single at Buskett on 8 Oct.

**2002:** 2 at Sarraflu on 15 Mar and 1 at Mellieħa on 17 Mar, then 21 sightings on 17 dates from 29 Mar to 13 May, all in single figures, highest 9 at Comino on 25 Apr. In autumn, 27 sightings of up to 7 on 17 dates from 26 Aug to 2 Oct, but 21 at Buskett and 17 at Dwejra (M) on 4 Sep.

**2003:** Singles on 19 Mar, 27 Mar and 2 Apr, then 13 sightings on 10 days from 7 Apr to 6 May; 10 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 8 Apr and 6 on Comino on 9 Apr, otherwise 1-2. In autumn 25 sightings of 1-4 birds on 15 days from 25 Aug to 19 Sep.

**2004:** Singles at 4 sites in Mar on 26-27th and 29-30th. Then in Apr with 9 sightings of 1-7 from 7-9th but 10 at Dwejra (M) on 7th and at Mellieħa on 9th; followed by 40 sightings in single figures daily from 12-28th but 14 at Luqa on 18th, 12 at Dwejra (M) on 23rd and 13 on Comino on 24th. 1 at Luqa on 30Apr. In autumn 4 sightings of singles in Aug from 23-25th, then 25 sightings of 1-6 on 16 dates from 26 Aug to 14 Sep with max.13 at Buskett on 10 Sep. Most autumn sightings at Buskett.

**2005:** Singles at Ta' Gajdor and Targa Gap on 27 Mar, then 36 sightings on 26 dates from 30 Mar to 9 May, all in single figures, highest 4 at Luqa on 16 Apr and 4 at Comino on 8 May. In autumn, 21 sightings of 1-4 from 24 Aug to 14 Oct, but 9 on 4 Sep and 8 on 5 Sep, both at Buskett.

#### **Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus***

**2000:** 7 sightings of singles on 6 dates from 24 Sep to 5 Oct, all at Buskett except for 1 at B'Kara on 26 Sep and 1 at Hal Far on 28 Sep.

**2001:** 1 at Mellieħa on 27 Sep, and singles on 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 13 Oct, all at Buskett.

**2002:** 1-2 on 12 dates from 13 Sep to 16 Oct, but 3 at Buskett on 28 Sep. All records at Buskett, except for 1 at Simar on first date.

**2003:** 1 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 16 Apr. In autumn 1-3 on 15 days mostly at Buskett from 13 Sep to 9 Nov.

**2004:** One sighting in spring with 1 on Comino on 4 May. In autumn at Buskett in Sep with 2 on 13th and 1 on 27th. Then in Oct with 2 at Dwejra (M) on 1st, singles at Buskett on 2nd and 15th and at Bidnija on 16th; 2 at Buskett on 25th and 1 at Qawra on 31st.

**2005:** In spring, one record: 1 at Dwejra (M) on 5 May. In autumn, 1-2 on 13 dates from 23 Sep to 16 Oct, all from Buskett and Dwejra (M), but 3 at Buskett on 8 Oct.

**Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo***

- 2000:** Singles on 11 dates from 14 Sep to 29 Oct, but 6 at Buskett on 24 Sep and 3 at Tal-Gordan on 20 Oct. 1 **Steppe Buzzard** ssp *vulpinus* at Buskett on 5 Oct.
- 2001:** 1 at Għadira on 22 Apr. Singles recorded on 8 dates from 7 Sep to 13 Oct, and 3 at Buskett on 27 Sep and 4 at Qawra on 4 Oct. 1 at Għadira on 23 Dec. 2 singles belonging to *vulpinus* (**Steppe Buzzard**) were recorded at Buskett on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7 Oct.
- 2002:** 1 at Comino on 22 Mar. In autumn, singles on 7 dates from 16 Sep to 31 Oct. Singles belonging to *vulpinus* (**Steppe Buzzard**) were logged at Victoria on 4 May and at Buskett on 15 Oct.
- 2003:** 2 at Buskett on 9 Oct. Single belonging to *vulpinus* (**Steppe Buzzard**) at Qawra on 27 Sep.
- 2004:** 3 at Buskett and 2 at Dwejra (M) on 23 Sep, then 4 sightings of singles from 29 Sep to 1 Oct. 1 at Għadira on 24 Oct. Singles belonging to *vulpinus* (**Steppe Buzzard**) in Oct at Buskett and Miġra l-Ferħa on 1st and again at Buskett on 2nd.
- 2005:** Singles at Buskett on 28 Sep (ssp. *vulpinus*—**Steppe Buzzard**), on 16 Oct and on 28 Oct.

**Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina***

- 2001:** 5 on 13<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 14 Oct at Buskett.
- 2002:** 2 at Dwejra (M) and singles at Buskett and Mellieħa on 2 Oct and at San Gwann on 3 Oct
- 2005:** 1 at Ta' Pinu on 1 Apr (1st record in spring). In autumn, singles on 14 Oct and 16 Oct, both at Buskett.

**Booted Eagle *Aquila pennata***

- 2000:** Single birds on 24<sup>th</sup> at Buskett, 26<sup>th</sup> at Qawra and 27 Sept at Buskett.
- 2001:** 1 at St Elmo and Dwejra on 30 Sep.
- 2002:** Singles at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 8 Sep, at Buskett on 13 Sep, at Victoria on 17 Sep, and again at Buskett on 28 Sep.
- 2004:** Singles on 13 Sep at Buskett and at Għadira on 29 Nov.
- 2005:** 1 dark morph at Għadira and Mellieħa on 21-22 Jan.

**Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

- 2000:** Singles on 5 dates from 19 Mar to 17 Apr, but 3 at Qawra and 2 at Simar on 9 Apr. Late bird at Għadira on 27 May. In autumn, singles on most days from 27 Aug to 27 Sep, but 2 at Buskett on 12 Sep. Singles on 6 dates from 5-28 Oct.
- 2001:** In spring singles at Għadira on 24 Mar and 1 Apr, at Dwejra on 31 Mar and at B'Kara on 29 Apr. In autumn 1-3 on 25 dates at various localities from 1 Sep to 28 Oct; but 4 on 3rd and on 7 Oct at Buskett.
- 2002:** On 7 dates in spring from 18 Mar to 8 May, all in singles except for 2 at Ċirkewwa on 30 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 26 Aug, then 42 sightings of 1-2 on 22 dates from 4 Sep to 16 Oct, but 5 at Buskett on 13 Sep, 4 at Qawra on 14 and 15 Sep, 3 at Buskett on 16 Sep, and 5 at Victoria on 17 Sep.
- 2003:** 12 sightings on 10 days from 17 Mar to 28 May; 2 at Simar and Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar and at Mellieħa on 4 Apr, otherwise singles. In autumn 41 sightings of 1-3 (but some may refer to the same birds) on 20 days from 22 Aug to 4 Oct; but 4 at Dwejra (M) on 29 Sep. Singles on 7, 11, 16 and 23 Oct. Late bird at Għajn Tuffieħa on 25 Nov.
- 2004:** Singles in spring in Mar at Ċirkewwa on 29th and at Għadira on 30th, then in Apr at Dwejra (M) and Salina on 14th and 6 sightings on 3 dates from 25-27th. Late bird at Għadira on 16 May. Singles in Aug at Qawra on 28th and at Dingli on 30th, then at Buskett on 2 Sep. 13 sightings of singles on 7 dates from 9-22 Sep but 4 at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 10th and 3 at Buskett and 4 at Dwejra (M) on 11th and 2 at Luqa on 16th. Then in Oct with 21 sightings of singles on 12 dates from 1-24th but 3 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 15th and 2 at Buskett on 17th. Late birds at M'scala on 7 Nov and at Qawra on 9 Dec.
- 2005:** On 8 dates in spring from 26 Mar to 15 May, all singles except for 2 at Dwejra (M) on 22 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 28 Aug, then 20 sightings of 1-3 on 14 dates from 29 Aug to 17 Oct, but 4 on 5 Sep, 5 on 6 Sep, 4 on 25 Sep and 6 on 26 Sep, all from Buskett.

**Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni***

- 2000:** Poor spring with only 3 single records: at Luqa on 1 Apr, at Fomm Ir-Riħ on 27 Apr, and at Mosta on 28 Apr. In autumn, up to 6 on most days from 26 Aug to 4 Oct, but 21 at Buskett on 23 Sep. Singles on 3 dates from 16-20 Oct.
- 2001:** In low single figures on 11 dates from 15 Mar to 22 Apr, max. 5 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 18 Mar at Dwejra. Singles on Comino on 1<sup>st</sup> and at Ta' Qali on 6 May. In autumn single figures on 20 dates from 6 Sep to 20 Oct but 11 at Buskett on 14<sup>th</sup> and 21 Sep.
- 2002:** 1 at Qammieħ on 2 Mar, then 34 sightings on 24 dates from 7 Mar to 15 Apr, mostly in single figures but 11 at Marsalforn Valley on 7 Mar and 19 at Burmarrad on 2 Apr. 12 on 25 Apr and 2 on 1 May, both at Comino, and singles at Dingli on 12 May and at San Luċjan on 24 May. In autumn, on 24 dates from 4 Sep to 28 Oct, mostly in single figures, but 12 at San Gwann on 5 Sep, and 28 at Buskett and 17 at Dwejra (M) on 17 Sep.
- 2003:** 26 sightings of 1-5 on 18 days from 5 Mar to 22 Apr, but 17 at Għadira on 15 Mar. In autumn singles on 3 and 5 Sep, then on most days from 13-30 Sep mainly in single figures but double figures on 6 days and 100 at Buskett and 116 at Dwejra (M) on 27 Sep. 8 sightings of 1-2 on 7 days from 5-25 Oct.
- 2004:** Singles on 5 dates from 27 Feb to 9 Mar, mainly at Ċirkewwa. Then 28 sightings on 20 dates from 19 Mar to 28 Apr with most in late Mar and early Apr. Max 45 at Ċirkewwa on 30 Mar, 15 at Dwejra (M) on 3 Apr and 10 at Salina on 25 Mar otherwise in single figures of up to 5 (once of 9). 20 sightings of 1-4 on 17 days in autumn from 5 Sep to 4 Oct, then singles on 4 days in Oct from 10-17 and on 29 Oct.

**2005:** 1 at Qammieħ on 6 Mar, then 19 sightings of 1-2 on 15 dates from 26 Mar to 10 May, but 5 at Targa Gap on 27 Mar, 6 at Bidnija on 3 Apr and 4 at Dwejra (M) on 7 Apr. 2 at Dwejra (M) on 3 Jun and 1 at Daħlet Qorrot on 5 Jun. In autumn, 35 sightings on 25 dates from 30 Aug to 20 Oct, mostly in single figures, but 30 at Buskett and 20 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 13 Sep, and 12 at Dwejra (M) on 7 Oct.

**Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

**2000:** Present all year round with peak numbers in March and again in Sep-Oct. 10 on 28 Mar at Blata l-Bajda highest in spring. Low double figures in autumn with maximum numbers; 33 on 28 Sep and 30 on 15 Oct both at Buskett.

**2001:** 1-2 on 13 dates from 2 Jan to 25 Feb. Then single figures almost daily from 3 Mar to 13 May but 10 at Dwejra on 29 Mar. Singles at Dwejra on 21 May, at Ramla Valley on 19 Jun and at Buskett on 21 July. In autumn in single and low double figures almost daily from 24 Aug to 21 Oct, max. 25 on 28 Sep, and 19 on 3 Oct both at Buskett. Singles recorded on 6 dates in Nov. 1 at Qawra on 12 Dec.

**2002:** 1 at Comino on 13 Jan and singles on 4 dates in Gozo from 16-27 Feb. Then in single or low double figures of up to 16 almost daily from 2 Mar to 3 Jun, but 26 on 29 Mar and 25 on 30 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa, and 30 at Għadira on 2 Apr. Singles at Marsalforn on 10 Jun, at Qawra on 27 Jul, and at Burmarrad on 14 Aug. Then up to 15 almost daily from 9 Sep to 31 Oct, but 25 at Buskett on 3 Oct. 1-2 on 5 dates from 5-19 Nov and singles at Victoria on 27 Nov, at Mtaħleb on 14 Dec, and at Xagħra on 26 Dec.

**2003:** Singles on 4 days in Gozo from 2-26 Jan. 13 sightings of 1-4 on 7 days from 24 Feb to 8 Mar, then daily from 13 Mar to 18 Apr and on most days on to 9 May. Single to low double figures with totals of 47 (10 sites) on 8 Apr and 38 (6 sites) on 9 Apr. In autumn, almost daily from 1 Sep to 15 Nov with peak on 25-28 Sep when medium double figures recorded. Then 31 sightings of 1-3 on 19 days from 19 Nov to 31 Dec.

**2004:** Singles on 14 dates from 4 Jan to 24 Feb but 2 at Nadur, G on 26 Jan and 6 at San Dimitri, G on 10 Feb. Most other sightings also from Gozo. Then 13 sightings of 1-2 on 8 dates from 5-15 Mar and 162 sightings on 36 dates from 19 Mar to 27 Apr. Highest numbers on 30 Mar with max. 100 at Għadira, 40 at Marfa and 40 from 10 sites, on 23 Apr with 30 from 2 sites, on 24 Apr with 91 from 11 sites and 43 from 10 sites on 25 Apr, otherwise 1-10. Then singles on 8 dates from 30 Apr to 8 May and on 6 dates from 22 May to 13 Jun. In autumn singles on 25th and 30 Aug, then 158 sightings on 63 dates (almost daily) from 2 Sep to 19 Nov. Highest numbers in Oct with 34 at Buskett and 20 at Dwejra (M) on 11th, 14 at Dwejra (M) on 14th and 23 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 15th, otherwise 1-10. Singles on 5 dates in Dec from 3-23 but 3 on 11th.

**2005:** Singles on 6 dates in Jan, and 1-2 on 11 dates in Feb. Then in single or low double figures of up to 10 almost daily from 1 Mar to 29 May, but 11 at Dwejra (M) on 25 Mar and 20+ at Għajn Tuffieħa on 3 Apr. Singles on 9 dates from 3 Jun to 15 Jul, but 3 at Dwejra (M) on 3 Jun and 2 (female and immature hunting together) at Salina on 10 Jul. In autumn, 1 at Ta' Gajdoru on 30 Aug, then up to 12 almost daily from 3 Sep to 31 Oct, but 20 at Dwejra (M) on 7 Oct, 20+ on 13 Oct and 16 on 16 Oct, both at Buskett. 1-2 on 26 dates from 2 Nov to 28 Dec, but 3 at Luqa on 19 Nov and 3 at Dwejra (M) on 21 Nov.

**Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus***

**2000:** First sighting; 1 on 10 Apr at Dwejra, (M), then single birds on 7 dates in Apr and 5 dates in May. 3 sightings in Jun which included 3 birds at Dwejra, (M) on 4 Jun. In autumn, singles at Gnejna and Rabat on 24 Sep, at Naxxar on 1 Oct and at Dwejra (M) on 11 Oct.

**2001:** Up to 3 on 8 scattered dates from 8 April to 12 May. The 4 at Xlendi on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 2 at Victoria on 25 Sep.

**2002:** 31 sightings of 1-3 on 25 dates from 15 Apr to 9 Jun, but 5 at Victoria on 1 Jun and 5 Jun. 1 at Qawra on 2 Oct.

**2003:** 17 sightings of 1-8 on 11 days from 13 Apr to 1 Jun, but 70 in B'Kara – San Gwann area on 27 May.

**2004:** 1 at Madliena on 31 Mar. Then daily in Apr from 15-20th with 12 sightings and from 24-27th with 11 sightings. Usually 1-4 but 19 at Wied Qannotta on 15th, 22 at Victoria on 16th and 10 at Għadira on 24th. In May 7 at Salina and 1 at Simar on 9th, and 1 at Dwejra (M) on 15th.

**2005:** 32 sightings of 1-7 on 17 dates from 3 Apr to 2 Jun, but 55 at Blata l-Bajda and 160+ at Comino on 29 Apr. One record in autumn: 1 at Buskett on 13 Oct.

**Merlin *Falco columbarius***

**2000:** Singles on 27 Sep at Buskett and on 15 Oct at Mistra.

**2002:** 1 at Qawra on 16 Nov.

**2003:** Singles at Buskett on 30 Sep and 13 Oct; at San Lucjan on 19 Oct, at Qawra on 31 Oct; and at Targa Gap on 15 Nov.

**2004:** Singles at Bidnija on 26 Sep and at Buskett in Oct on 3rd, 6th, 12th and 17th.

**2005:** Singles at Dwejra (M) on 3 Oct and at Qawra on 27 Nov.

**Hobby *Falco subbuteo***

**2000:** First sigting; 1 at Dwejra, (M) on 30 Mar, then almost daily in single figures from 4 Apr to 28 May. First autumn sighting; 2 at Marsalforn on 25 Aug then almost daily till 28 Oct. Highest numbers: 14 on 23 Sep, 10 on 24 Sep and 13 on 28 Sep, all at Buskett.

**2001:** In single figures almost daily from 5 Apr to 12 May, max . 8 at Simar and 9 at Blata l-Bajda on 26<sup>th</sup> and 9 at Ta' Gajdoru (Xagħra) on 29 Apr. Then 1 at Ta' Gajdoru on 24 May. In autumn almost daily in single figures from 27 Aug to 18 Oct but 12 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 50 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 14 on 29 Sep at Buskett.

**2002:** 1 at Cappuccini Valley on 19 Mar, then 59 sightings of 1-5 on 40 dates from 23 Mar to 7 Jun, but 11 at Victoria on 25 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 16-17 Jun and 20 Jun. In autumn, on 31 dates from 4 Sep to 23 Oct, all in single figures except for 16 at Dwejra (M) on 16 Sep, 11 at Buskett on 19 Sep, 15 at Mellieħa on 20 Sep, and 11 at Buskett on 3 Oct. 1 at Buskett on 30 Oct.

**2003:** Single figures on most days from 2-29 Apr with best day being the 18 Apr when a total of 16 were seen at 4 sites. Then 19 sightings of 1-2 on 12 days from 1 May to 8 Jun. In autumn 1 on 24 Aug, then almost daily from 31 Aug to 17 Oct and less regularly to 31 Oct. Double figures on 4 days with max of 50 at Buskett on 18 Sep. 1 at Rabat on 9 Nov.

**2004:** Singles on 3-4 Apr. Then daily from 13-27 Apr with 37 sightings of 1-8 but 10 at Wied Qannotta on 15th. Followed by 11 sightings of singles on 9 dates from 29 Apr to 21 May but 2 on 18th. Singles in Jun on 5th, 9th and 12th. In autumn 1 at St.Pauls Bay on 17 Aug, then 84 sightings on 48 dates (almost daily) from 25 Aug to 23 Oct with max.19 at Dwejra (M) on 11 Sep, 13 at Dwejra (M) on 12 Sep, and 15 at Buskett on 6 Oct otherwise 1-8. 1 at Buskett on 28 Oct. Most autumn sightings from Buskett.

**2005:** 1 at Luqa on 13 Apr, then 54 sightings of 1-5 on 30 dates from 15 Apr to 6 Jun, but 6 at Dwejra (M) on 15 Apr. Singles at Ras il-Pellegrin on 14 Jun and at Għajn Rihana on 15 Jun. In autumn, on 39 dates from 2 Sep to 28 Oct, all in single figures except for 10 at Buskett on 26 Sep and on 13 Oct.

#### **Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora***

**2000:** Singles at St. Paul's Bay on 15 Apr, at Comino on 20th and 28 Apr, at Filfla on 19 May, at Fungus Rock on 26 May, at Buskett on 28 May, and at Miżieb on 15 Jun. In autumn, up to 3 on 14 dates from 25 Aug to 1 Oct, but 5 at Buskett on 2 Sep.

**2001:** Singles recorded in July, at Għadira on 12<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, at Għar Lapsi on 21<sup>st</sup> and at Dwejra on 30<sup>th</sup>, and in August at Buskett on 15<sup>th</sup> and at Dwejra on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Then 1-3 on 12 scattered dates from 2 Sep to 23 Oct.

**2002:** Singles on 7 dates from 10 May to 24 Jun. In autumn, 1-2 on 18 dates from 15 Aug to 8 Oct, but 3 at Buskett on 10 Sep.

**2003:** Singles on 25 Apr, 3 May, 13 Jun and 27 Jun. Then 34 sightings on 30 days from 13 Jul to 5 Oct when in singles but 2 on 4 days. 1 at Buskett on 27 Oct and 1 on Comino on 27-28 Oct.

**2004:** Singles in Apr on 18th and 25th, then in May on 1st, 5th and at 3 sites on 26th. In Jun on 7th and 12th, 11 Jul and 16 Aug. Then 5 at Buskett on 22 Aug and 15 sightings of 1-3 on 10 dates from 24 Aug to 5 Sep. Followed by 16 sightings of singles on 10 dates from 6-28 Sep except for 2 at Dwejra (M) on 10 Sep; then in Oct with singles again on 2nd and 11th, 2 on 17th and 1 on 22nd. Regular sightings from Buskett.

**2005:** Singles at Nadur on 30 Apr and on 8 dates from 3 May to 21 Jun. In autumn, 1-2 on 21 dates from 14 Aug to 22 Oct, but 3 at Buskett on 28 Aug.

#### **Saker *Falco cherrug***

**2001:** Singles at Comino on 13 Apr and at Ta' Gajdor on 28 Apr. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 30 Sep, at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 3 Oct, and again at Buskett on 14 Oct.

**2002:** 1 at Qawra on 27 Oct.

**2005:** 1 at Mellieħa on 25 Mar.

#### **Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus***

**2000:** 1 at Qawra on 30 Sep.

**2001:** Singles in the Gozo Channel on 16 Mar, at Xlendi on 17 Apr, at Victoria on 10 May, at Dingli on 27 Sep and at Dwejra on 9 Oct.

**2002:** Singles at Xlendi on 28 Feb, at Qala on 20 Apr, and at Comino on 7 May. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 24 Aug, at Qawra on 1 Sep, at Buskett on 23 Sep, at Dingli on 24 Sep, at Qawra on 21 Oct, at Comino on 27-28 Oct and at Għajn Tuffieħa on 10 Nov.

**2003:** Singles at Għadira on 21 May, at Dwejra (M) on 1 Oct, at Targa Gap on 19 Nov, and at Buskett on 19 Dec.

**2004:** Singles in Oct at Dwejra (M) on 6th, at Delimara on 13th and at M'scala on 28th; then in Nov at Qawra on 6th.

**2005:** 1 at Targa Gap on 26 Mar. In autumn, 6 sightings, all of singles: at Għarb on 7 Aug; at Buskett on 19 Sep, 29 Sep and 13 Oct, at Dwejra (M) on 14 Oct, and again at Buskett on 28 Oct.

#### **Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus***

**2000:** Recorded in all months from Simar and Għadira with numbers averaging 15 birds at each of the two reserves. Highest 20+ at Għadira on numerous dates. Only one record away from the 2 NR; 1 at Salina on 24 Feb.

**2001:** Recorded almost daily at Għadira (up to 20) and Simar (up to 5) from 1 Jan to 2 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 16 Jun and 1 at Simar on 11 Jul. 1-5 recorded at Għadira and Simar from 8 Aug to 29 Sep. Recorded almost daily from Għadira (up to 20) and Simar (up to 15) from 1 Oct to 31 Dec.

**2002:** Up to 25 almost daily at Għadira and up to 10 at Simar in Jan - 24 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 30 Jul, then almost daily at Għadira and Simar from 17 Aug till end of year with up to 15 at Għadira and up to 10 at Simar from Oct onwards.

**2003:** At Għadira up to 15 in Jan-Feb down to 10 in first half of Mar and to 5 after 14 Mar; then 1 on 4 days from 1-9 Apr. 2 on 13-14 Jun, 16-17 Jun and 26 Jun, possibly breeding pair with newly-hatched chicks (chick calls heard on these dates). Then 1 on 5 days from 8-27 Jul, 1-3 on most days from 2-31 Aug and on most days in Sep, with up to 15 from 23 Sep. Daily in Oct-Dec with up to 20 in late Oct and Nov and up to 30 in Dec. In smaller numbers at Simar in Jan-early Apr and end-Aug to Dec. No records outside the two reserves.

**2004:** Up to 20 at Għadira and 5-8 at Simar during Jan-Feb but 25 in early Jan at Għadira. Then numbers decreased gradually in Mar with 1-2 at Simar till 26th and 5-10 till 27th. 1-2 in Apr at Għadira till 5th. One sighting elsewhere with 1 at Buskett on 16 Jan. First sighting in autumn at Għadira with 1 on 6 Sep, then 1-2 on a few days from 14 Sep to 9 Oct. 1-2 daily at Simar from 14 Sep increasing gradually in Oct with 5 on 8th and 8 on 14th. At Għadira daily from 13 Oct to end of year with max 25 on 9-11 Nov otherwise 15-20. Up to 5 at Simar till end of year with 8 on a few days.

**2005:** Up to 20 almost daily at Għadira and up to 8 at Simar in Jan - 26 Apr. 1 at Simar on 6 Sep, then almost daily at Għadira and Simar from 19 Sep till end of year with up to 20 at Għadira and 15 at Simar.



**Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana***

**2000:** Single birds seen on five dates at Għadira from 20 Feb to 27 Apr. 1 at Salina on 10 Mar. First autumn migrants on 28 Aug with one at Għadira, then almost daily from 31 Aug to 22 Oct at Għadira and Simar

**2001:** Singles at Simar on 27-28 Feb, at Lunzjata on 18 Mar, again at Simar on 13 dates from 2 Apr to 31 May (but 2 there on 16 Apr), and at Għadira on 10 Apr, and 14<sup>th</sup> and 20-21 May. In autumn singles at Simar on 8 dates from 3 Sep to 30 Oct and at Għadira on 25 Sep.

**2002:** Singles on 5 dates from 12 Mar to 4 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 5 May and at Simar on 23 Sep.

**2003:** Singles at Simar on 20 Mar and at Għadira on 7 days from 23 Mar to 7 Apr. In autumn singles again at Għadira on 23 Sep and 25-26 Sep, and on 11 Nov.

Little Crake: Singles at Simar on 14 May; at Għadira on 20-21 Sep and 24 Sep; at Rabat on 12 Oct; and at Simar on 27 Oct and 3-4 Nov and 12 Nov.

**2004:** Singles in Mar at Lunzjata on 13<sup>th</sup>, at Għadira on 25<sup>th</sup> and at Simar on 29<sup>th</sup>. Then in Apr at Simar with 2 on 5<sup>th</sup> and singles on 7<sup>th</sup> and 26-27<sup>th</sup>. 1 at Comino on 22 Apr. In autumn singles at Għadira in Aug on 7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>; then in Sep on 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 19-20<sup>th</sup>, on 24 Oct and 31 Dec. 1 at Simar on 6 Oct.

**2005:** 1 at Lunzjata on 2 Mar, then 1-2 at Għadira almost daily from 25 Mar to 18 Apr, and singles at Simar on 1 Apr and 4 Apr. In autumn, 3 records: singles on 6-7 Sep and 13 Sep, all at Simar.

**Little Crake *Porzana parva***

**2000:** 2 males at Simar on 15 Apr. Singles (4 sightings) at Simar and Għadira from 15 Apr to 22 May and at Salina on 21 Oct.

**2001:** 1 at Marsalforn Valley on 27 Feb.

**2002:** Singles on 7 dates from 28 Mar to 10 Apr, all at Simar except for 1 at Qormi on 6 Apr. 1 at Simar on 24 Sep.

**2003:** Singles at Simar on 14 May; at Għadira on 20-21 Sep and 24 Sep; at Rabat on 12 Oct; and at Simar on 27 Oct and 3-4 Nov and 12 Nov.

**2004:** Singles at Għadira on 27 Apr and almost daily from 9 Nov to 31 Dec. 1 at Simar on 18 Nov.

**2005:** 1-2 regularly at Għadira on 31 dates from 1 Jan to 8 Apr and 1-2 at Simar on 12 dates from 5 Apr to 10 May.

**Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla***

**2001:** Singles at Simar on 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 25 Apr.

**2005:** 1 male found freshly dead at Simar on 11 Apr.

**Striped Crake *Porzana marginalis***

**2004:** 1 shot at Siġġiewi in April.

**Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***

**2000:** Present all year round in double figures at Għadira and Simar. 40+ counted in each of the two reserves on numerous dates. Figures include breeding populations in the two NR. Very few sightings away from the NR; 1 at Hagar Qim on 9 Apr, 1 at Attard on 23 Apr, 1 at Għajnsielem on 4 and 21 Jun, 2 and 4 at Kirkop on 22 and 26 Jun, 5 at Tas-Salvatur l/o Siġġiewi on 24 Jun, 2 ad and 4 juv at Qrendi on 19 Jul and 19 Aug and 1 at Fgura on 10 Oct.

**2001:** Daily throughout the year at Għadira and Simar, highest counts of 50 at Għadira on 27 Feb and Simar on 29 Nov, otherwise up to 40. Highest numbers from Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec. Outside the reserves singles at Salina on 3 Feb and 5 Apr, Wied L-Arkata on 19 Feb and Għajnsielem on 17 Apr.

**2002:** Daily throughout the year at Għadira and Simar, highest 40 at Għadira from Jan-Mar and 35 at Simar on 12 Jul. 8-10 pairs bred at Simar and Għadira. Outside the reserves, 3 at Lunzjata on 23 Mar, 2 at Għajnsielem on 26 Mar, singles at Lunzjata on 4 Apr, at Buskett on 18 Aug and at Xemxija on 13 Oct.

**2003:** Breeding resident at Għadira and Simar where 8-10 and 10-12 pairs respectively estimated to have bred. Highest numbers in Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec due to presence of migrants and wintering birds with max of 40 and 35 respectively. A few sightings in other areas, mainly in Mar-Apr and end Aug-Nov during migration period.

**2004:** Breeding resident at Simar with about 12 breeding pairs and at Għadira with 10 pairs. Highest numbers at Għadira in Feb-Mar with up to 40 and in Nov-Dec with 40-50, whilst at Simar 40-50 in Nov-Dec but max.60 on 23 Nov. 9 sightings of 1-2 elsewhere but 4 at Kapuccini valley on 26 Jun suggest breeding.

**2005:** Up to 40 daily throughout the year at Għadira and Simar. Between 12-15 pairs bred at Simar and 8-10 pairs at Għadira. Outside Reserves: 1 on 4 dates at Rabat between 12 Jan and 10 Apr, 1 at Lunzjata on 2 Mar, 1-2 at Salina on 8 dates between 13 Mar and 30 Apr, 1 at Għajn Riħana on 19 Mar and 2 Apr, 1 at Comino on 29 Apr, 1 at Xatt l-Aħmar on 14 May, 1 at Għajnsielem on 29 May and 1 at Ramla Valley on 3 Sep.

**Common Coot *Fulica atra***

**2000:** Present all year round in single and low double figures at Għadira and Simar. Up to 12 birds at Għadira during Jan and Feb. Up to 10 birds on various dates in winter and autumn months at Simar.

**2001:** Up to 9 daily at Għadira from 1 Jan to 11 Apr and at Simar from 1 Jan to 26 Mar. Singles at Simar almost daily from 2 Apr to 17 Jul. 1 at Għadira on 30 Apr. Up to 16 almost daily at Simar from 31 Aug to 31 Dec. 1 at Għadira on 7 Oct then 1-5 there from 30 Oct to 31 Dec. Outside of the reserves 1 at Salina on 6-7 Nov and 1 at Xlendi on 23 Sep.

**2002:** Up to 5 at Għadira from Jan to 7 Apr and up to 10 at Simar from Jan to 14 May, but 12 at Simar on 18 Jan. Singles at Simar on 14 Jun and on 19-20 Jun. Then up to 10 almost daily at Simar from 12 Sep till end of year and singles at Għadira on 13 Nov, 14-15 Dec and on most dates from 20-30 Dec.

**2003:** Recorded only at Simar and Għadira: At Simar up to 11 wintered in Jan-mid-Feb, numbers gradually decreasing to 4 by mid-Mar and 1 on to 25 Mar. In autumn singles from 29 Sep, numbers gradually increasing from 13 Oct reaching max of 5 in Dec and 6 on last day of the year. At Għadira 5 in Jan-Feb decreased to 4 on 1 Mar and 2-3 from 14 Mar to 1 Apr, then 1 till 7 Apr. 1 on 13 Nov and from 14 Dec onwards.

**2004:** Up to 6 wintering at Simar in Jan-Mar till 5th but 7 on 10 Feb and 4 Mar, then numbers decreased gradually to 1-2 in Mar till 26th. 1 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 11 Mar. Daily at Simar in autumn/winter with 2-3 from 15 Sep increasing to 5 from mid- Oct, then up to 8 from 23 Nov till end of year but 10 in Dec on 9th and 30th. Singles at Għadira in Nov on 7-9th, 19th and 23-24th; then 2 on 26-27th and 4 from 28 Nov to end of year. One record elsewhere with 1 at M'scala on 26 Oct.

**2005:** Up to 4 at Għadira from Jan to 18 Mar and up to 9 at Simar from Jan to 31 May. 1 at Salina on 27 Mar. Then singles at Simar almost daily from 24 Aug to 20 Sep and up to 10 daily from 22 Sep until end of year. Singles at Għadira on 1 Nov and at Msida Creek on 1 Dec.

#### **Common Crane *Grus grus***

**2000:** 7 sightings in Nov: 1 at Ramla l-Hamra on 19 Nov, 10 at Buġibba and 4 at Għadira on 26 Nov, 6 at Qawra and 8 at San Anton on 27 Nov, 5 at Victoria on 28 Nov, and 7 at Dwejra (M) on 29 Nov.

**2001:** 1 at Lunzjata on 28 Feb, 17 at Victoria on 9<sup>th</sup> and 1 at Qawra on 30 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 27 Oct, 5 at Qawra on 9 Nov, 12 at Pt St Elmo on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 19 Dec both at Qawra.

**2002:** 1 at Comino on 2 Apr, 10 at Comino on 26-27 Oct and 2 at Pt St Elmo on 19 Dec.

**2003:** 19 seen at various sites on 14 Nov and 2 at Buskett on 15 Nov. Then passage in Dec, with 1 on 6 Dec, 43 on 8 Dec, 228 (total for 4 sites) on 9 Dec, 139 (4 sites) on 10 Dec, 11 on 15 Dec and 1 on 17 Dec.

**2004:** 2 at Paradise Bay on 15 Feb and 3 on Comino on 24 Apr. Then in Nov with 11 at Mellieħa and 8 at Airport and in South Comino Channel on 8th; followed by 82 at Airport, 13 at Targa Gap and 6 at Mdina on 9th. 5 at Għadira on 12th, 4 at Pembroke on 14th, 3 at Airport on 16th and 1 at Għadira on 18th.

**2005:** 5 records in spring: 48 at Ċirkewwa on 4 Mar, 12 at Dwejra (M) on 24 Mar, 2 on 25 Mar and 5 on 1 Apr, both at Għajnsielem, and 1 at Ta' Pinu on 1 Apr. 9 records in autumn : 1 at Pt.St. Elmo on 7 Nov, 8 at Għadira and Luqa, 1 at Mellieħa and 13 at Nadur (M), all on 19 Nov, 113 at Luqa on 20 Nov, 4 on 21 Nov and 10 on 22 Nov, both at Luqa, and 5 at Qawra on 25 Nov.

#### **Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus***

**2000:** 8 at Sliema on 8 Jul, 5 on 25 Jul on Gozo-Comino channel, 1 at Buġibba on 5 Aug and 2 at St.Paul's Bay and Għadira on 13 Aug.

**2002:** 9 at San Luċjan on 28 Jul, singles at Ramla L-Hamra on 8 Aug, at Delimara on 11 Aug, and at M'Scala on 13 Aug.

**2003:** 2 on 29 Jul; 1 on 2 Aug, 13 on 3 Aug, 6 on 4 Aug, 2 on 26 Aug and 1 on 28 Aug; and 1 on 13 Sep. All along the east coast.

**2004:** 1 at Għadira on 28 Apr. Then in Aug with 1 at Qawra on 6th, 5 at Qrejtien Pt on 14th and 8 at Għadira on 28th. Singles at Għadira on 8-9 Sep and at Salina on 7 Oct.

**2005:** 7 at Għadira on 8 Aug, 9 at Qawra on 15 Aug, 11 on 17 Aug and 2 on 30 Aug, both at Fra Ben, and 1 at Qawra on 25 Sep.

#### **Black Winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus***

**2000:** 1-3 almost daily at Għadira from 17 Mar to 14 May, but 7 on 24 Mar and 11 on 29 Mar. 1 at Salina on 18 Mar. 1-2 daily at Għadira from 2-9 Jun and up to 4 almost daily at Għadira and Salina from 27 Jun to 19 Jul. 1-2 daily at Għadira and Salina from 31 Jul to 3 Aug and 1 again at Għadira on 25 Aug.

**2001:** Up to 5 on several dates from 25 Mar to 28 May, singles daily until 15 June, and 1-3 from 25 Jun to 2 Aug all at Għadira. Outside Għadira, 4 at San Luċjan on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 1 at Salina on 25 Mar. Then in April, 2 on Comino on 4th, 1 at Simar on 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, and 1 at Salina on 22<sup>nd</sup>. 2 at Simar on 15 Jun and singles at Salina on 26-27 Jun, on 16 Aug and on 5 Sep.

**2002:** 2 at Simar on 5 Mar, then 1-5 on most dates from 26 Mar to 29 Apr, but 7 at Ċirkewwa and 12 at Għadira on 27 Mar, 19 at Qajjenza on 29 Mar, and 12 at Salina on 30 Mar. 1 at Għadira from 13-17 May and 1-3 on most days at Salina and Għadira from 1-20 Jun. Singles at Salina on 24 Jul and at Għadira on 13 Aug. 4 at Għadira on 16 Aug and 1 at Simar on 14 Sep.

**2003:** On most days at Għadira from 15 Mar to 2 May with 11 on 20-21 Apr highest. Also 3 at Hondoq ir-Rummien on 15 Mar, on 6 days at Salina from 19 Mar to 8 Apr with 12 on 5 Apr highest, and 1 at Ċirkewwa on 4 Apr. Then 1 on 13 May and 17 May and 2 on 1 Jun at Għadira, 2 at Salina on 9-11 Jul and 1 at Għadira on 29 Aug.

**2004:** 3 at Għadira on 20 Mar, then 1-3 on 10 dates from 24 Mar to 10 Apr but 6 at Simar on 7 Apr. Singles at Salina on 26 Apr and 11 Jun but 6 at Dwejra, G on 12 Jun. Then at Għadira with singles in Jun on 12-19th and 29th followed by daily sightings from 17 Jul to 2 Aug and from 8-23 Aug; mostly 3-5 but 9 on 16 Aug. Singles at Salina in Jun on 14-16th and 30th, then in Jul from 21-25th. Only 2 sightings elsewhere with 6 in Għadira Bay on 16 Aug and 1 at Delimara on 19 Sep.

**2005:** 1 at Salina on 10 Feb, 2 at Għadira on 2 Mar, then 1-8 on most dates from 13 Mar to 29 Apr, but 30 at Dwejra (G) on 3 Apr and 23 at Għajn Tuffieħa on same date and 12 at Għadira on 25 Mar. 7 at Għadira on 1 May, then 1-2 on 13 dates from 2 May to 12 Jun. 1-2 on most dates at Għadira from 29 Jun to 9 July. In autumn, 1 at Salina on 21 Aug, 14 at Marsalforn on 29 Aug, 1 at Fra Ben on 30 Aug, 5 at Qbajjar on 9 Sep and 4 at Salina on same date, 1 at Salina on 17 Sep and 3 at Għadira on 4 Oct.

#### **Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta***

**2000:** 10 at Qawra on 13 Nov

**2001:** 1 at Qawra on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8 on Comino on 5 Apr. Then all records (but one) at Qawra: 4 on 28 Sep and 1 Oct, 7 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 31 Oct, 11 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 28 Nov, and 3 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 15 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 22 Dec. 1 at Għadira on 17 Dec.

**2002:** 7 at Qawra on 27 Oct.

**2003:** 7 on 27 Sep and 13 on 10 Nov, both at Qawra.

**2004:** During Sep with 11 at Ta' Xbiex on 16th, 1 at Qawra on 19th and 16 at Qawra and Għadira on 22nd. Then 1 at Għadira from 3 Oct to 4 Nov. 11 at Qawra on 11 Nov.

**2005:** 1 on 14 Aug at Salina, 12 on 4 Sep, 10 on 17 Oct, 1 on 29 Oct, 8 on 5 Nov, 16 on 7 Nov and 10 on 13 Nov, all from Qawra, and 10 at Pt. St. Elmo on 27 Nov.

**Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedidnemus***

**2000:** Singles at Qammieħ on 1 Apr and at Buskett on 24 Sept and 4 Oct.

**2001:** Singles on Comino on 12<sup>th</sup> and 14 Apr, and at Pt. St Elmo on 30 Sep.

**2002:** 1 at Ċirkewwa and 3 at l/o Xlendi on 29 Mar, 3 at Comino on 30 Mar, 1 at Comino on 31 Mar, and 1 at St. Paul's Bay on 3 Apr. 1 shot at Mgarr (M) on 13 Nov.

**2003:** Singles at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar; on Comino on 13 Apr and 22 Apr and at Qalet Marku on 29 Apr; and again on Comino on 1 May and 8 May, and on 26-27 Oct.

**2004:** In singles at San Lucjan and Qalet Marku on 23 Mar; then at Ċirkewwa on 30-31 Mar and in Apr at Ta'Gajdoru on 3rd and l/o Gharghur on 11th. In autumn at St.Elmo pt on 31 Oct.

**2005:** Singles at Xrobb l-Għagin on 13 Mar, at Red Tower on 23 Mar, at Wied il-Mielaħ on 24 Mar, at Xagħra on 25 Mar and at Comino on 26 Apr and 1-2 May.

**Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola***

**2002:** 4 over l/o Marsa on 12 Apr.

**2003:** 1 at Għadira on 16 May.

**2004:** 1 at Għadira on 28-29 Mar.

**2005:** 1 at Għadira on 18 Apr.

**Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius***

**2000:** Up to 20 birds daily at Għadira Nature Reserve from 5 March to 8 Nov. Two breeding pairs present at Għadira. Up to 10 on most days at Salina from 10 March to 31 Aug. 1 on 14 Sep and 2 on 8 Oct also at Salina

**2001:** At Għadira present almost daily from 4 Mar to 4 Nov in single or low double figures with a max. of 15 on 17 Sep. 2 pairs bred there. At Salina in single figures on 27 dates from 14 Mar to 11 May (max. 10 on 24<sup>th</sup> and 8 on 27 Mar) and on 23 dates from 12 Jul to 12 Sep (max. 6 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 5 on 30 Jul). Outside Għadira and Salina recorded at 4 other sites with 1-2 on 5 dates from 19 Mar to 4 Apr and on 4 dates from 20 Jul to 16 Sep.

**2002:** Almost daily in single or low double figures of up to 15 from 3 Mar to 6 Oct, but 40+ at Għadira and 30+ at Salina on 18 Mar. 2 pairs bred at Għadira.

**2003:** 1-2 on 3 days from 23-26 Feb, then single figures daily, mostly at Għadira, from 28 Feb and low double figures (max 15) on 14 days from late Mar to mid-Apr. Few, if any migrants, after 20 Apr. 2 pairs bred at Għadira, with first chicks hatching on 19 May and the last on 2 Aug. Up to 8 were present at Għadira in Jun-Jul and included fledged young. Autumn passage from 28 Jun when 5 at Salina – only single figures except for 13 at Salina on 20 Jul and 15 at Għadira and 10 at Salina on 21 Jul. Only 1-3 at Għadira in Sep-Nov and on to 24 Dec.

**2004:** 1 on 26 Feb, then daily from 29 Feb to 27 Aug with highest numbers in Mar-Apr when 10-15 regularly but 20 on 16 Mar. 2-3 pairs incubating between Apr and Jul at Għadira with chicks hatching in May-Jul and present till Aug. Up to 10 on a few days in summer including also migrants. Then 1-7 on most days in Sep and singles daily from 12 Oct to 4 Nov. Elsewhere 13 sightings of 1-3 on 12 dates from 8 Mar to 21 Apr but 12 on 19th and 7 on 22nd both at Salina in Mar. In autumn 23 sightings of singles from 12 Jul to 7 Oct but 5 at Salina on 25 Jul.

**2005:** Almost daily in single or low double figures of up to 15 from 14 Apr to 14 Oct, but 30+ on 20 Mar and 20+ on 17 Mar, both at Għadira. 3 pairs bred at Għadira, but only 5 young fledged (4 on 20 Jul and 1 on 7 Aug).

**Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula***

**2000:** Single birds in spring from 2 Apr to 29 May mainly at Għadira and Salina. First autumn migrant on 22 July at Salina, than 1-4 birds almost daily mostly at Għadira and at Salina. 3 birds at Marsaxlokk on 22 Sept last autumn sighting.

**2001:** 1-6 on 29 dates from 5 Apr to 31 May mainly at Għadira, but a max. of 11 at Qawra on 8 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3 Jun. Then up to 4 on 36 dates from 25 Jul and 30 Sep, mainly at Għadira and Salina, except 1 at San Lucjan on 19 Sep. One late bird at Għadira on 2 Nov.

**2002:** 3 at Luqa on 8 Mar were unusual. 1-3 almost daily from 21 Apr to 25 May, all at Għadira and Salina except for 1 at Comino on 7 May. Singles at Għadira and Salina from 9-12 Jun. In autumn, singles at Għadira and Salina on 6 Aug, then 1-2 on 22 dates from 11 Aug to 1 Oct, mainly at Għadira. Singles at Għadira on 30 Oct and 7 Nov.

**2003:** Singles at Għadira on 5-6 Apr and 3 May, then 1-6 on 6-18 May at Salina, and 1-3 at on 8-24 May at Għadira where singles also on 30 May and 1 Jun. In autumn singles on 12 days from 13 Jul to 21 Aug, but 3 at Salina on 20 Jul; then on most days from 27 Aug to 4 Oct when again singles except for 2 on 6-7 Sep. 1 on 10 Oct.

**2004:** Singles at Għadira from 25-29 Apr and 1-3 almost daily from 7 May to 1 Jun. Then singles from 26-30 Jun and on most days from 11-30 Jul. 1-3 daily from 10 Aug to 29 Sep but 4 on 11 Sep and 1 on 12-14 Oct. Elsewhere, mainly at M'scala, in singles on 28 Apr and 4 May, then on 10 dates from 8 Aug to 11 Sep.

**2005:** 1 at Xrobb l-Għagin on 16 Apr, then 1-3 almost daily from 27 Apr to 8 Jun, all at Għadira and Salina, but 6 at Għadira on 9 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira from 24-26 Jul, at Salina on 6-7 Aug and at Marsascula on 8 Aug, then 1-3 on 16 dates from 15 Aug to 15 Sep, but 6 at Ghajn Tuffieħa on 13 Sep. 1 almost daily at Għadira from 16 Sep to 16 Oct.

**Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus***

**2000:** Five spring sightings of single birds at Salina and Għadira from 18 Mar to 22 May. First autumn bird on 16-17 Jul at Għadira and one at Salina on 19-20 and 27 July and 1 Aug. 1-2 birds at Għadira from 8 - 19 Sept. 1 at Qawra on 11 Sept.

**2001:** Singles on 10 May, 19-20 Jul and 16 Sep, all at Għadira, and on 30 Sep at Pt. St Elmo.

**2002:** 1 at Salina on 18 Mar and 1-2 on 10 dates from 26 Jul to 6 Aug at Għadira and Salina.

**2003:** Recorded from Ghadira and Salina: Singles on 18 days from 11 Feb to 2 Apr and on 31 May. In autumn 1 on 12 Jul, 2 on 27 Jul and 1 on 29 Jul, 1 on 1-2 Aug, and 1 on 1 Nov.

**2004:** Mostly at Ghadira in singles on 4-5 Jul, 26-28 Aug and 31 Oct to 31 Dec. Elsewhere in singles at Pt.St..Elmo on 21-22 Sep and 3 Oct, and at Salina on 5 Aug, but 3 at M'scala on 22 Sep.

**2005:** Singles at Ghadira almost daily from 1 Jan to 27 Mar and singles at Marsascale on 6 Mar, 10 Mar and 14 Apr. Singles at Ghadira on 7-8 Jun, at Xrobb I-Għagin on 5 Jul, at Ghadira on 10-11 Aug, at Salina on 27 Aug, at Ghadira on 30 Aug, at Marsascale on 5 Sep and at Pt.St.. Elmo on 21 Sep.

#### **Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus***

**2000:** Singles at Ta' Gajdoru Xagħra on 1 Sep and at Dwejra (M) on 8 Sep, 2 at Dwejra (M) on 21 Sep, singles at Dwejra (M) on 30 Sep, at Qawra and Mellieħa on 1 Oct, and 3 at Qawra on 8 Oct.

**2001:** Recorded only in autumn: singles at Dwejra on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28 Aug, 15<sup>th</sup> and 18 Sep and 10 Oct, but 2 on 14 Sep. Elsewhere, singles at Buskett on 19<sup>th</sup> and at San Gwann on 24 Sep, and at Ghadira on 19<sup>th</sup> and at Ta' Gajdoru on 22 Oct.

**2002:** Singles on 11 dates from 28 Aug to 5 Oct, but 2 at Buskett on 27 Sep.

**2003:** 1 at Dingli on 25 Aug; 3 at Buskett on 6 Sep, 1 at Pt. St. Elmo on 10 Sep; 1 at Dwejra (M) on 29 Sep and 6 at Buskett on 23 Oct.

**2004:** In singles at Luqa airport on 26 Aug and 20 Sep, at Buskett on 30 Sep and at Dwejra (M) on 2 Oct.

**2005:** 1 at Ghadira on 6 Sep, 2 at Luqa on 7 Sep, 1 at Mellieħa on 21 Sep, 1 at Ghadira on 23 Sep, 1 at Dwejra (M) on 7 Oct and 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 13 Nov.

#### **European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria***

**2000:** Recorded on 9 dates from 27 Nov to 28 Dec. highest numbers include 17 birds on 14 Dec and 7 on 28 Nov both at Qawra.

**2001:** On 5 dates at Qawra: 2 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 5 on 24<sup>th</sup> all in Nov, and 21 on 5 Dec.

**2002:** Recorded on 8 dates from 31 Oct to 29 Dec, all in singles except for 2 at Ghadira on 6 Dec.

**2003:** Singles at Ċirkewwa on 23 Feb and at Ghadira on 19 Sep. Then 18 sightings on 13 days from 28 Oct to 17 Dec when mostly 1-4 but 9 at Burmarrad on 9 Nov, 10 at San Lucjan on 8 Dec, and 41 at Luqa Airport on 9 Dec. Also 1 at Ghadira on 9 days from 11 Nov to 27 Dec.

**2004:** 22 sightings of 1-5 from 3 Nov to 4 Dec but 9 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 26 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, both in Nov and Luqa airport. Then 3 sightings in Dec with 2 on 10<sup>th</sup>, and singles on 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**2005:** 1-10 on 15 days from 29 Oct to 14 Dec, but 16 at Dwejra (M) on 22 Nov, 31 at Luqa on 23 Nov, 18 at Dwejra (M) on 24 Nov and 23 at St Elmo on 26 Nov.

#### **Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola***

**2000:** 2 at Comino on 11 May, then singles at Ghadira on 30-31 Jul, at Simar on 29 Aug and at Buskett on 30 Aug.

**2001:** One at Ghadira from 21<sup>st</sup> to 26 May. Then in autumn 1 on 17 Aug at Ghadira; and 1 on 21 Sep and 4 on 11 Nov at Qawra.

**2002:** Singles at Marsalforn on 8 Aug, and at Qawra on 7 Sep, 18 Oct, 20 Oct and 12 Nov.

**2003:** 1-2 at Ghadira on 6-8 May. In autumn 1 at Ghadira on 26 Aug and singles at Qawra on 12 Sep, 2 Oct and 11 Oct.

**2004:** In singles from 25-28 Apr and 15-21 Aug at Ghadira. In Sep at Qalet Marku on 5<sup>th</sup>, at Simar on 22<sup>nd</sup> and at Għallis on 24<sup>th</sup>, then in Oct at Dwejra (M) on 5<sup>th</sup> and at Delimara on 6<sup>th</sup>. Last sightings on 16 Oct and 4 Nov at Qawra.

**2005:** Singles at Ghadira on 8 days from 1-15 May. In autumn, singles at Xrobb I-Għagin on 5 Aug, at Ghadira on 23 Aug, at Fra Ben on 30 Aug, at Pt. St. Elmo on 18 Sep, and at Qawra on 26 Sep.

#### **Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus***

**2000:** 6+ at Luqa on 14 Jan, then singles on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21 Oct at Ta'Qali and Victoria respectively. 5 at Ta'Qali on 3 Dec, 6 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 1 on 15<sup>th</sup>, and 3 on 25 Dec all at Qawra. 1 at Ghadira from 13-31 Dec.

**2001:** 1 at Ghadira almost daily from 1-23 Jan, 5 at tal-Barrani on 18<sup>th</sup> and 2 at Ta' Lambert on 28 Jan. 1 at Ghadira on 8 Nov and 2 at Qawra on 10 Nov. Then 1-2 at Ghadira almost daily from 30 Nov to 31 Dec. 2 at Ta' Gajdoru on 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 at Mellieħa on 15<sup>th</sup>, and 1 at San Gwann on 21 Dec.

**2002:** Singles at Ghadira from 1-16 Jan and on 6 Feb. 1-6 on 7 dates from 22 Oct to 19 Dec.

**2003:** 20 at Qawra on 18 Oct and 1 on Comino on 25 Oct, then 1-3 at various sites on 13 days from 4 Nov to 27 Dec

**2004:** Singles at Ghadira on 14 Feb and at Miġra l-Ferħa on 4 Oct, then 5 at Luqa Airport and 8 at Simar on 27 Oct. In Nov 15 sightings of 1-5 on 11 dates from 7-25<sup>th</sup> but highest numbers at Luqa Airport with 31 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**2005:** Singles at Ghadira on 30 Jan and 6 Mar. In autumn, 1-9 on 15 dates from 29 Oct to 21 Dec, but 26 at Luqa on 22 Nov.

#### **Red Knot *Calidris canutus***

**2002:** 1 at Ghadira on 13 May, and 19 at M'Scala on 16 Sep.

**2004:** 2 at Salina on 18 Sep.

**2005:** 2 at Xrobb I-Għagin on 12 May.

#### **Sanderling *Calidris alba***

**2000:** Singles at Ghadira on 30 Apr and at Salina on 22 May.

**2001:** Singles at Ghadira on 29-30 Apr and 30 Sep.

**2002:** 1 on 12-15 Apr and 1-2 on 11 dates from 4-16 May, but 3 on 12 May, all at Ghadira. 1 at M'Scala on 30 Sep.

**2003:** 1 at Salina on 6 May.

**2004:** 1 at Qalet Marku on 23 Mar. Then at M'scala with 1 on 28 Apr, 2 on 10 May and singles on 20<sup>th</sup> and 22 Sep.

**2005:** 2 at Marsascala on 25 Apr, 1 at Għadira on 12 May, 1-3 at Salina from 13-15 May, and 1 at same place on 4 Jun. Singles on 7 dates from 6 Aug to 30 Sep, but 2 at Fra Ben on 31 Aug.

**Little Stint *Calidris minuta***

**2000:** First spring migrant on 19 Mar with one at Għadira, then almost daily at Għadira (till 17 Jun) and Salina (till 2 Jun) in single and double figures; highest 40 at Għadira N.R. on 1 May. Single summering (June and early July) birds at Għadira and Salina, with numbers increasing from the second half of July till 17 Oct. Highest being 43 at Salina on 1 Aug.

**2001:** Singles at Għadira on 21 Jan and 3-4 Feb, and single figures on most days from 11 Mar to 7 Apr, max. 7 at Salina on 30 Mar. In single or double figures almost daily from 8 Apr to 12 Jun, max 50 on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30 Apr, 40 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 30 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7 May, all at Għadira. Then almost daily in single or low double figures mostly at Għadira and Salina from 5 Jul till end of year, max 23 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 20 on 24<sup>th</sup> at Salina, and 16 on 29<sup>th</sup> at Għadira, all in July.

**2002:** 1-2 daily at Għadira in Jan and Feb, then seen daily in single or low double figures until 5 Jun, highest 30+ at Salina on 11 May. In autumn, daily in single or low double figures from 17 Jul to 3 Nov, highest 16 at Għadira on 3 Sep. Singles at Għadira and Salina on 8 Dec. Most records were from Għadira and Salina.

**2003:** Daily, mostly at Għadira and Salina, from 23 Mar to 19 May and on most days on to 7 Jun. Highest numbers in May with medium double figures on most days at both sites, with 70 at Salina on 10 May highest. 2 on 22 Jun. In autumn daily from 20 Jul with low double figures (max 40 at Għadira on 29 Jul) on most days till mid-Sep, then 1-5 at Għadira on to 6 Nov, with one staying till 28 Dec (2 present on 16 Dec), and 1 irregularly at Salina in Nov.

**2004:** Mostly at Għadira in spring with 1-5 from 23 Mar to 7 Apr, then in single figures daily from 11 Apr to 16 May but up to 30 from mid-Apr to early May and 40-50 on 24-25 Apr. 2 on 19-20<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 25-26 May. 4 sightings elsewhere with singles at M'scala on 24 Mar and Sarraflu on 25 Apr, then at Salina with 3 on 1 May and 1 on 16 Jun. In autumn mostly at Għadira again from 20 Jul to 1 Oct when usually in single figures but 10-20 regularly from late Jul to late Aug. Then 1-4 from 15 Oct to 6 Nov and singles from 2-5 Dec. 37 sightings elsewhere on 20 dates from 23 Jul to 6 Oct with most at Simar and Salina, usually 1-9 but 18 at Salina on 26 Jul.

**2005:** Singles at Għadira from 22-28 Feb, then seen almost daily in single or low double figures until 7 Jun, highest 25 at Għadira on 5 Apr, 25+ at Salina on 7 May and 25 at Għadira on 15 May. In autumn, daily in single or low double figures (of up to 18 ) from 16 Jul to 20 Sep, and 1-5 daily at Għadira from 21 Sep to end of year.

**Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii***

**2000:** 1-3 at Għadira from 23-29 Apr. Single bird at Salina on 21-22 May and 1-2 birds at Għadira from 8<sup>th</sup> to 18 May. 1 at Simar on 24 -25 July and 1 from 22 July to 22 Sep at Għadira. 1 at Salina on 4 Aug.

**2001:** 1-3 on 18 dates from 18 Apr to 21 May, but 5 at Għadira on 11 May. 1 at Għadira on 8 Jun. Then 1-2 recorded regularly from 15 Jul to 16 Sep, but 8 at Għadira on 17 Sep.

**2002:** 1 on 12 Apr, then 1-2 on 14 dates from 27 Apr to 25 May, but 4 on 28 Apr. In autumn, singles on 9 dates from 19 Jul to 7 Sep, but 2 on 29 Aug. All records at Għadira except for 1 at Simar on 9 Aug.

**2003:** 1-3 daily from 1-12 May; then singles on 4 Aug, 9 Aug and 25 Aug, 1 Sep and 8 Sep. All records at Għadira.

**2004:** All at Għadira with 1-3 from 17-27 Apr but 10 on 27<sup>th</sup>. Then singles in May from 3-7<sup>th</sup> and 19-21<sup>st</sup>, on 13 Jun, on 20 dates from 17 Jul to 23 Aug and on 13-14 Sep.

**2005:** In spring, 1-2 at Għadira on 13 dates from 29 Apr to 4 Jun. In autumn, singles regularly from 17 Jul to 31 Aug, all at Għadira except for 1 at Qawra on 27 Aug.

**Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***

**2000:** Single birds at Salina and Għadira from 24 Apr to 30 May; highest 8 at Għadira on 13 May. 1-2 at Għadira from 06 to 16 June, then 1-2 birds from 21 July to 20 Sep at same place. 1 at Ramla Bay on 23 July and 1-4 at Salina on most days from 22 July to 10 Aug.

**2001:** Recorded at Għadira and Salina in single or low double figures, up to 16, almost daily from 23 Apr to 29 May. Single figures regularly from 11 Jul to 27 Sep but 12 at Salina on 22 Jul. 1 at Għadira on 11 Nov.

**2002:** Only recorded at Għadira and Salina. In spring, on most days from 18 Apr to 29 May, in single or low double figures, highest 18 at Salina on 18 May. Singles from 12-15 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on 12 Jul, then in single figures on most days from 18 Jul to 18 Sep, highest 7 at Salina on 22 Jul.

**2003:** Singles on 19 Apr and 27 Apr, then daily from 4 May to 2 Jun with all sightings from Għadira and Salina and occasionally Simar; low double figures on 9 days, max 25 at Salina on 6 May. 1 on 12-14 Jun. In autumn daily, mostly at same sites, from 17 Jul to 7 Aug when generally low single figures with max of 9 at Qawra on 1 Aug. Then 1-4 on 9 days from 12 Aug to 5 Sep

**2004:** Daily at Għadira from 16 Apr to 1 May and from 5-31 May with peak in early-mid May when 8-15 daily and 19-21 on 9-10<sup>th</sup>, otherwise 1-6. Elsewhere 1 at Simar on 25 Apr and 4 at Salina on 1 May. In autumn mostly at Għadira and Salina when 1-4 daily from 25 Jul to 15 Aug but 7-8 on 4 days. Then 1-3 daily at Għadira from 1-25 Sep but 2 at Delimara on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Singles daily again at Għadira from 28 Sep to 15 Oct and 11-12 Nov but flock of 9 at Qawra on 28 Sep.

**2005:** In spring, recorded in single or low double figures almost daily from 6 Apr to 28 May, highest 25+ at Salina on 15 May. In autumn, 1-5 on 31 dates from 10 Jul to 17 Sep, but 13 at Qawra on 16 Aug.

**Dunlin *Calidris alpina***

**2000:** In spring: Singles at Għadira from 19-25 Mar and at Comino on 31 Mar, 2 at Salina and 1 at M'scala on 2 Apr. 1-5 birds at Salina from 8 Jul to 31 Aug. 1-10 birds at Għadira from 24 Jul to 26 Nov. 2 at Buskett on 8 Sep, 4 at Qawra on 7 Oct and 1 at Qawra and 1 at Għadira on 31 Dec.

**2001:** Singles at Għadira on 1-4 Jan, at Marsascala on 23 Mar and at Simar on 19 Jun. Then up to 5 (but mainly 1-2) on most days from 20 Jul to 13 Nov with singles almost daily from 15 Nov to 15 Dec, mainly at Għadira.

**2002:** 1 at Qawra on 2 Jan. In spring, singles at Ghadira on 28-29 Mar, 16 Apr, 22 May and from 27-30 May. In autumn, 1-5 on most days from 20 Jul to 15 Oct, but 15 at Qawra on 7 Sep. 1 at Salina on 29 Oct, 8 at Qawra on 14 Nov, and 1 at Ghadira on 8 Dec.

**2003:** Singles at Ghadira on 22-26 Mar and 8 May. 1 on 18 Jul, then main autumn passage from 28 Jul to 30 Oct when not daily and always 1-5, mostly at Ghadira. 1 at Salina on 16 Nov and 21 Nov and 1 at Ghadira from 12-23 Dec.

**2004:** Singles at Ghadira on 15-17 Apr. Then daily from 21 Jul to 28 Aug with most sightings at Salina and Ghadira, usually 1-4 but 9 on 15th and 8 on 16 Aug at Ghadira and 7 at M'scala on 17 Aug. Daily at Ghadira from 2 Sep to 18 Nov with highest numbers in mid-late Sep when 6-8 on most days but 10 on 19th, otherwise 1-5. 10 sightings elsewhere of 1-3 from 10 Sep to 13 Oct mainly at Salina and M'scala. Last sightings in late Nov with singles at M'scala on 19th and Ghadira on 24-27th but 6 at Pt. St. Elmo on 21st.

**2005:** Singles at Salina on 19 Jan and 27 Jan, at Pembroke on 30 Jan, at Salina on 3 Feb, at Ghadira on 6 Apr and again on 20-21 May. In autumn, 1 at Salina on 8 Jul, then 1-3 on 5 dates from 15-30 Jul. 1-6 almost daily from 4 Aug to 30 Sep, but 9 at Ghadira on 8 Aug. 1-3 regularly at Ghadira from 1 Oct to 19 Nov, then 1 at Luqa on 23 Nov, and singles at Salina on 16 Dec and 27 Dec.

#### **Broad-Billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus***

**2002:** 1 at Ghadira on 15-16 Jul.

#### **Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***

**2000:** First spring sighting: 4 at Ghadira on 5 Mar, almost daily till 9 June with 1-17 birds counted. Single bird at Ghadira from 10 Jul to 6 Aug 1 on 05th & 06 Aug and again on 11 and 26 Sep. Singles at Salina on various dates in Apr and May with 20 on 15 and 17 May highest. Single birds on four days at Salina in Jul. 10 birds seen in the l/o Żebbuġ (M) on 1 June.

**2001:** 1 at Ghadira on 1 Feb and 25 at Qawra on 25 Feb. Then in single or low double figures (max 17 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 15 on 10 Apr at Ghadira) recorded almost daily from 2 Mar to 22 May, but a major migration on 10 Mar with ca. 1500 birds reported from Ghadira (ca. 1200 also reported from the Gozo Channel). 1 at Ghadira from 12 to 23 Jul. Then on 4 dates in Sep: 12 at Buskett on 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 at Ghadira on 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 at Qawra on 19<sup>th</sup>, and 10 at Qawra and 1 at Ghadira on 22<sup>nd</sup>. 1 late bird at Ghadira on 25 Nov.

**2002:** 1-10 almost daily from 4 Mar to 2 May, but 18-20 at Ghadira on 25-28 Apr. Almost daily from 11 May to 6 Jun, highest 20 at Ghadira on 17 May and on 19 May, and 22 at Salina on 20 May, otherwise up to 19. In autumn, 1-2 on 5 dates from 15-31 Jul, 1 on 19 Aug, and 1-2 on 6 dates from 4-30 Sep.

**2003:** 7 sightings on 5 days from 15 Feb to 4 Mar; singles, but 11 at Ċirkewwa on 23 Feb. Daily from 7 Mar to 19 May with double figures on several days from 31 Mar to 19 Apr, max 40 at Ghadira on first date. Then 1-2, mostly at Ghadira, on 12 days on to 6 Jun. In autumn 18 sightings on 16 days from 16 Jul to 23 Sep; always 1-2 but 9 at Qawra on 16 Sep, 13 over Simar on 17 Sep, and 4 at Qawra on 19 Sep.

**2004:** From 4 Mar to 2 May with 1-4 almost daily at Ghadira and 8 sightings elsewhere of 1-3 but 35 at Ċirkewwa on 12 Mar, 7 at M'xlokk on 23 Mar and 17 at Luqa on 25 Apr. In autumn 1-2 almost daily at Ghadira from 18 Jul to 5 Sep and 4 sightings elsewhere of singles from 17 Jul to 26 Aug but 3 at Salina on 1 Aug. Then 13 sightings of 1-4 at 10 sites on 10 dates from 6 Sep to 16 Oct but 17 at Qawra on 19th and 13 at Luqa on 20th, both in Sep. 1 at Luqa airport on 17 Nov.

**2005:** Singles at 5 locations on 7 dates between 9 and 22 Feb. 1 at Simar on 2 Mar, then in single and low double figures almost daily from 15 Mar to 31 May, highest 30+ at Ghadira on 1 May and 3 May. 2 at Ghadira on 1 Jun. In autumn, singles at Ghadira on 6 Jul and at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 21 Jul, then 1 almost daily at Simar from 26 Jul to 5 Oct. Outside Simar, 4 at Fra Ben on 30 Aug, 1 at Ghadira on 30-31 Aug, 2 at Buskett on 6 Sep and 1 at Ghadira on 8 Sep.

#### **Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus***

**2000:** 2 at Ghadira on 4 and 13 Feb, singles at same locality on 20 Mar and 2 Oct. 1 at Mellieħa on 9 Apr.

**2001:** Singles at Lunzjata on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 28 Feb. Then 1-2 on 4 dates from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16 Apr. Single at Simar regularly from 16 Oct to 28 Dec but 2 on 22 Nov. Singles at Ghadira on 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11 Nov, and at Lunzjata on 12 Dec.

**2002:** 1 at Simar on 1 Jan, then up to 3 almost daily from 19 Feb to 9 Apr, mostly at Simar.

**2003:** 1 at Simar on 9-10 Apr.

**2005:** 1 at Simar on 30 Mar. In autumn, 5 sightings of singles from 28 Oct to 24 Dec at Ghadira, Simar and Rabat.

#### **Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago***

**2000:** Up to 12 mainly at Simar from Jan to 30 Mar, but 13 at Luqa Airport on 13 Feb. Singles on 6 dates from 8-26 Apr. Up to 3 almost daily from 11 Aug till end of year mainly at Simar and Ghadira.

**2001:** 1-3 at Simar almost daily from 1 Jan to 23 Apr. 1 at Ghadira on 7 Mar, 1 at Wied L-Isperanza on 9 Mar and 1 at Lunzjata on 14 Mar. 1-3 at Simar regularly from 22 Aug to 17 Dec. 1 at Ghadira on 28 Aug. 2 at Dwejra on 1 Sep, 1 at Buskett on 21 Sep and 1 at Dwejra on 27 Sep. Singles at Ghadira on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26 Nov and 2 Dec.

**2002:** 1 at Salina on 15 Jan. 1-4 on most days from 15 Feb to 8 May, mostly at Simar. Singles at Simar on 22 May and 30 May. In autumn, 1-2 on 6 dates from 22 Aug to 26 Sep, and singles on 15 dates from 1 Oct to 19 Nov, but 3 at Comino on 31 Oct.

**2003:** Singles on 9 Mar, 26 Apr and 1-2 May, mainly at Ghadira. In autumn 1 at Simar on 5 Aug, then 1-3 on 36 days from 27 Aug to 17 Dec, but 4 at Dwejra (M) on 11 Oct.

**2004:** Mostly at Simar in spring with singles on 19 Feb, 3rd and 7-8 Mar. Then daily from 11-31 Mar with most in mid-Mar when 3-7 on most days otherwise 1-2. Singles in Apr on 4th and 7th. 7 sightings elsewhere of singles between 4 Mar and 9 Apr. Daily at Simar in autumn from 31 Aug to 28 Oct when mostly 1-2 but 3-4 on most days from 13 Sep to 1 Oct. 11 sightings elsewhere in singles between 8 Sep and 23 Oct but 4 at Qawra on 28 Sep. Then 1-2 almost daily

from various sites between 30 Oct and 26 Nov but 3 at Simar on 16 Nov. Singles in Dec at Simar on 9th and at Għadira on 11th.

**2005:** 1 at Salina on 3 Jan and 19 Jan. 1-4 on 27 dates from 6 Feb to 7 Apr. 1 at Ta Qali on 2 May. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 30 Aug, then 1-3 on 42 dates from 8 Sep to 30 Nov, but 4 at Buskett on 17 Oct and 9 at Luqa on 20 Nov. Singles at Simar on 9 Dec, 23 Dec and 27 Dec.

**Great Snipe *Gallinago media***

**2000:** 1 at Għadira on 8 Apr, 1-2 birds at Simar from 12 May to 16 June..

**2001:** 1 at Simar on 11 May.

**2002:** 1 at Għadira on 18 May.

**2005:** Single on 5 dates at Simar from 6-15 May.

**Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola***

**2001:** 16 singles birds on 13 dates from 4 Nov to 25 Dec, and two were recorded on 3 dates: at Għargħur on 14<sup>th</sup> and at Għadira on 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> December.

**2002:** Singles on 18 dates from 6 Jan to 1 Mar, mostly at Simar. Singles at Għadira on 25 Nov, 7 Dec, and 25 Dec.

**2003:** Singles at Għadira on 7 Feb, at Dwejra (Gozo) on 25 Oct and at Targa Gap on 21 Nov.

**2004:** Singles in Nov at Mellieħa on 7th, Għadira on 8th, Ta' Gajdoru on 19th, Red Tower and Ta' Gajdoru on 22nd, Airport on 23rd and Buskett on 30th.

**2005:** Singles on 7 dates at 7 locations from 27 Oct to 29 Nov.

**Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa***

**2001:** 5 on 21 Feb with 80 on 10 Mar both records in the Gozo Channel.

**2002:** 106 on 23 Mar and 80+ on 24 Mar, both at Qammieħ.

**2003:** 19 on 5 Mar, 19 on 7 Mar, 165 on 8 Mar, and 25 on 11 Mar, all at Ċirkewwa. Singles at Għajn Tuffieħa on 15 Mar, 30 at Ċirkewwa on 18 Mar and at Qalet Marku on 28 Aug.

**2004:** Singles at Għadira on 17 Mar and 26-30 Jun.

**2005:** Singles at Għadira on 16-17 Feb, and almost daily from 16 Mar to 9 Apr. 1 at Luqa on 22 Nov.

**Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica***

**2002:** 10 at Ċirkewwa on 23 Mar.

**2005:** 2 at Ċirkewwa on 3 Mar.

**Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus***

**2000:** 12 at Qammieħ on 1 Apr and 2 over Għadira on 14 Jul.

**2001:** 4 at Għadira on 6 Aug.

**2002:** 20 at Qammieħ on 25 Mar and 1 at Qawra on 28 Jun.

**2004:** Flock of 9 on 22nd and 1 on 29th, both in Aug at M'Xlokk. Then 1 at Għadira on 30 Aug and 3 at Qawra on 3 Nov.

**2005:** 1 at Buskett on 21 Aug.

**Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata***

**2000:** 1-4 on 7 dates from 19 Mar to 18 Apr, but 31 at Qammieħ on 1 Apr. 7 on 29 Jun and 1 on 13 Jul, both at Qawra. In autumn, 2 at Buskett on 6 Sep, then 1-4 on 6 dates mainly at Qawra from 21 Oct to 13 Nov, but 10 at same place on 11 Nov.

**2001:** 54 in the Gozo Channel on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 21 from Qammieħ on 27 Mar. The on 4 dates in April: 8 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 20 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 6 on 5<sup>th</sup> in the Gozo channel, and singles at Qammieħ and Qawra on 6<sup>th</sup>. 1 at Tigne on 22 Sep. Then on 6 dates in Nov: 31 at Qawra and 5 at tigne on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 18 at Qawra and 3 at Xgħajra on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 at Ta' Gajdoru on 11<sup>th</sup>, and 1 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 1 on 30<sup>th</sup>, all at Qawra.

**2002:** 2 at Pt St Elmo on 16 Feb, 5 at Ċirkewwa on 22 Mar, 4 at Ċirkewwa on 23 Mar and 1 at Comino on 13 Apr. In autumn, 4 at Qawra on 13 Sep, 8 at Qawra on 27 Oct and singles at Comino on 29 Oct and at Qawra on 19 Nov.

**2003:** Good year for this species. 1 at B'Bugia on 1 Jan. In spring, 40 on 15 Mar, 20 on 16 Mar, 1 on 17 Mar, 83 on 29 Mar, 42 on 31 Mar, 25 on 1 Apr, and 17 on 4 Apr, all at Ċirkewwa, then 1 on Comino on 14 Apr. Singles on 19 Jun and 8 Jul, then on 12 days from 26 Aug to 6 Dec when mostly 1-2 but 18 at Bahar ic-Cagħaq on 4 Nov and 5 at Qawra on 18 Oct.

**2004:** Singles in Mar at Għasri on 8th and at Miġra l-Ferħa on 31st. Then 16 at Ċirkewwa on 3 Apr and 1 at Torri l-Abjad on 15 Jul. 3 sightings in Aug at Qawra with 6 on 15th, 3 on 22nd and 1 on 28th. Then in Nov with 8 at Qawra on 2nd and 1 at same place on 3rd, 1 at Għadira on 9th, 6 at Simar on 16th, 4 at Airport on 23rd and 2 at Red Tower on 24th.

**2005:** 1 at Ċirkewwa on 13 Mar, 11 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 16 Mar, 2+ on 18 Mar, 11 on 19 Mar, 32+ on 20 Mar, 102 on 28 Mar, and 9 on 29 Mar, all at Ċirkewwa, 9 at Għajnsielem on 31 Mar and 1 at Marsascala on 7 Apr. In autumn, singles at Qawra on 19 Oct and at Pt. St. Elmo on 7 Nov.

**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***

**2000:** Present in all months of the year in single or low double figures with 30 at Salina on 9 Apr being the highest. Recorded mainly from Għadira, Simar and Salina but also from various coastal localities.

**2001:** Singles from 1 Jan to 28 Feb with 2 at Salina on 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 23 Jan. 1-6 recorded almost daily from 1 Mar to 30 May. 1 at Għadira on 3-4 Jun and 1 at Ċirkewwa on 30 Jun. 1-10 regularly from 2 Jul to 30 Sep but 21 at Qawra on 26 Jul and 12 at Salina on 5 Aug. 1-3 almost daily from 1 Oct to 10 Nov then single birds daily at Għadira from 12 Nov to 31 Dec with singles at Salina on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15 Dec.

**2002:** Singles at Għadira from 1-11 Jan, at Salina on 16 Feb, and at Għadira on 9 Mar. Then up to 10 on most days from 18 Mar to 16 Sep, but 16 at Baħar l-Ċagħaq on 28 Jul and 15 at St. Paul's Bay on 18 Aug. 1-2 on 14 dates from 22 Sep to 29 Dec, but 7 at Qawra on 2 Oct.

**2003:** 1 on several days at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 22 Feb and 1 at Salina on 3 Jan. 1-4 irregularly at Ghadira and Salina from 5-21 Mar, then 1-7 daily from 24 Mar to 15 May and 1-2 on 13 days from 18 May to 21 Jun. 1-6 on most days from 28 Jun, then daily from 17 Jul to 30 Aug and almost daily on to 19 Sep when always 1-5 but 10 at Salina on 14 Jul, 14 at Marsamxett on 14 Aug and 20 at St. Andrew's on 19 Aug. 1-3 on 14 days from 22 Sep to 12 Dec.

**2004:** Singles at Salina in Jan on 5th and 26th, then 13 sightings of 1-3 from 18 Feb to 4 Apr mostly at Salina. 1-5 daily from 6 Apr to 2 May but 6 at M'scala on 21 Apr, followed by 10 sightings of 1-2 from 5 May to 6 Jun. Singles in Jun on 24th and 30th. Then 1-5 daily from 5 Jul to 28 Sep but 10 at St. Pauls Bay on 12th, 7 at M'scala on 13th and 12 at M'xlokk on 25th all in Aug followed by 10 sightings of 1-5 from 13 Oct to 7 Nov. Spring and autumn sightings from various sites but most at Ghadira, Simar and Salina. 1-3 daily at Ghadira and occasionally at Salina and Pt. St. Elmo from 14 Nov to 31 Dec.

**2005:** Singles on most days from 2-31 Jan, but 2 at Salina on 23 Jan. Then in low single figures on most days from 2 Feb to 17 May, but 12 at Ghadira on 24 Mar and 12 at Marsascale on 29 Apr. Singles at Ghadira on 1-2 Jun, then in low single figures from 26 Jun to 26 Sep, but 10 at Marsascale on 1 Aug. Singles on 4 dates in Oct, then singles regularly from 16 Nov to 26 Dec, but 2 at Ghadira on 16 Nov and 4 at Salina on 26 Dec.

### **Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus***

**2000:** 1 at Pieta' on 4 Mar, then 1-3 on most days from 9 Mar to 29 Apr, but 10 at Ghadira on 31 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Ghadira on 11 Jun, then 1-4 on most days from 23 Jun to 3 Sep, but 6 at Ghadira on 22 Aug. 1 at Ghadira on 17 Sep, 2 at Ghadira on 10 Oct and a late bird at Simar on 17 Nov.

**2001:** Singles at Marsalforn Valley on 26 Feb and at Ghadira on 27 Feb. 1-3 regularly from 10 Mar to 7 May but 8 at Simar on 10 Mar. Recorded in single figures on several dates from 14 Jun to 28 Sep. Then singles at Ghadira on 5 Oct and 26 Nov.

**2002:** Singles at Ghadira on 23 Feb and at Chadwick Lakes on 6 Mar, then in single figures on most days from 11 Mar to 2 May, but 12 at Ghadira on 27 Mar. 1 at Ghadira on 4 Jun, then single figures on most days from 10 Jun to 29 Sep, highest 6 at Ghadira on 31 Aug. Singles at Ghadira on 19 Oct, 21 Oct, 23 Nov, and 21 Dec.

**2003:** 3 on 24 Feb and 1 on 26 Feb, then 41 sightings of 1-4 on 25 days from 11 Mar to 15 Apr, and singles on 21 Apr, 1 May and 4 May. In autumn, 71 sightings on 55 days from 18 Jun to 12 Oct; always 1-5 but 10 at Ghadira on 4 Jul.

**2004:** Daily from 13 Feb to 17 Apr with most sightings at Simar and Ghadira when usually 1-3 but 4-5 from 6-13 Mar. Then singles on 5 days from 19 Apr to 1 May. On autumn migration 1-3 almost daily from 24 Jun to 29 Aug but 4 at Ghadira on 22 Jul and 5 at Buskett on 8th, Ghadira on 12th and Simar on 27th, all in Aug. Then singles on 7 dates from 3 Sep to 3 Oct mostly at Ghadira.

**2005:** 1-3 on 5 dates from 16-28 Feb. Then 1-3 on 35 dates from 2 Mar to 24 Apr, but 5 at Simar on 18 Mar and 4 at Ghadira on 20 Apr. Singles at Ghadira on 3-4 May and 1-3 on 7 dates in June. 1-2 on most dates from 3 Jul to 12 Sep, but 3 at Ghadira on 10 Aug, at Simar on 17 Aug and at Ramla Valley on 3 Sep. Singles at Buskett on 24 Sep, at Ghadira on 14 Oct, at Simar on 3-4 Nov and at Ghadira on 29 Nov.

### **Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus***

**2000:** 1-4 at Ghadira from 21-30 Apr. 2 at Salina on 27 June and single birds at same place on 1st and 14 July. Single bird at Ghadira on 1 Jul, 2 on 20 Aug, and again single birds on 23 Sept, 5th and 16 Oct.

**2001:** Singles at Ghadira on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22 Mar and from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24 Jun. Then singles at Salina on 27 Jun, 4 Jul and 28 Aug.

**2002:** Only recorded at Ghadira. Singles on 3-4 Apr and from 23 Apr to 1 May. 1-2 on 4 dates from 19-24 Jun, and singles on 4 Sep, 4 Oct, 11 Oct, and 12 Nov.

**2003:** 2-3 on 19-23 Mar, singles on 4 Apr and 27 Apr; 1 May; 23-24 Jun; 28 Jun-2 Jul; 4 Sep and 14 Oct. Then 5 on 28 Oct and singles on 10 Nov and 23 Nov. Most at Ghadira.

**2004:** Mostly at Ghadira with singles on 20-21 Apr, 26 May and 19 Sep. Then in Nov with 3 on 3rd and 1 on 9th. 1 sighting elsewhere with flock of 5 at Qawra on 4 Sep.

**2005:** In spring, 1-3 on 7 dates from 12 Mar to 11 Apr. In autumn, singles at Simar from 26-29 Aug and at Ghadira on 27 Aug, 3 at Ghadira on 23 Oct, and singles on 22-23 Dec, also at Ghadira.

### **Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***

**2000:** Single birds at Ghadira and Salina from 4 Apr to 30 May but 14 at Ghadira on 9 Apr. Single birds mainly at same two localities from 29 June to 20 Sep, highest 4 at Salina on 27 Jul.

**2001:** 1 at Ghadira on 24 Mar. 1-2 on 5 dates from 8 Apr to 14 May, all at Ghadira but 1 at Ċirkewwa. 1 also at Ghadira on 26-27 June. Singles regularly from 4 Jul to 6 Sep but 2 at Simar on 11 Jul and at Ghadira on 3 Sep. Then singles at Ghadira on 28 Sep and at Qawra on 3 Oct. 1 late bird at Ghadira on 25 Dec.

**2002:** Singles on 9 dates from 26 Mar to 29 Apr. 1-2 at Ghadira on 15 dates from 10-29 Jul and singles at same place on 10 Sep and 19 Sep.

**2003:** 1-4 at Ghadira on 30 days from 17 Mar to 8 May, then 1 till 30 May. Singles on 9 days at other sites during same period. In autumn 1-2 on 18 days at Ghadira from 29 Jun to 19 Jul then on most days at Ghadira and Simar from 20 Jul to 19 Sep, but 7 at both sites on 15 Sep. 1-2 on 9 days at other sites, mostly Salina, during same period. Singles on 26 Sep, 30 Sep, and 15 Oct.

**2004:** Mostly at Ghadira in both spring and autumn with 1 on 1 Mar, 1-4 daily from 16-29 Apr, 1 from 25-31 May and 1-2 on 15-18 Jul. Then 1-2 almost daily from 29 Jul to 18 Aug with 4 on 7 Aug followed by singles on 30 Aug to 4 Sep. Few sightings elsewhere in spring and autumn with singles in Apr at Comino on 18th and 29th, at Simar on 23-24th and at Salina on 25th. Then 6 sightings of 1-2 mainly at Salina from 31 Jul to 31 Aug and 4 sightings of 1-2 from 5-9 Sep but 3 at Gozo on 19 Sep. Late bird at Ghadira on 11 Nov.



**2005:** 1-3 on 18 dates from 28 Mar to 21 May, but 5 at Ghadira on 6 Apr. 1-2 on 11 dates in July, at Ghadira and Salina. 1-2 on 20 dates from 1 Aug to 12 Sep, but 4 at Ghadira on 31 Aug and 3 at Fra Ben on 9 Sep. Singles at Qawra on 6 Oct and at Ghadira on 2 Dec.

**Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis***

**2000:** Singles at Salina on 9 Apr and at Ghadira from 28 Apr to 10 May, and 2 at Ghadira on 8 Jul.

**2001:** Singles almost daily from 7<sup>th</sup> to 18 Apr; and on 17<sup>th</sup> and 19 Jun and 4 Jul; but 3 on 9 Apr. All records from Ghadira.

**2002:** Only recorded at Ghadira. Singles on 27 Mar and 5 Apr, 2 on 11 Jun, and 1 on 17 Jul.

**2003:** 2 at Simar on 17 Mar; 1-3 daily at Ghadira from 17-25 Mar; 1 at Salina on 29 Mar; then 5 on 31 Mar, 1-3 daily from 1-8 Apr and 1 on 16-17 Apr at Ghadira. In autumn 1 on 27-28 Aug, 20 on 15 Sep and 1 on 2 Oct, also at Ghadira.

**2004:** Singles at Ghadira in Mar on 25-27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, then on 3-28 Apr, 13 Jun, 21-29 Jul, 26 Aug and on 10 Sep. One sighting elsewhere with 1 at Salina on 25 Aug.

**2005:** Singles at Ghadira on most days from 17 Mar to 7 Apr. Outside Ghadira, singles at Ghajn Tuffieha on 3-4 Apr and at Salina on 3 dates from 6-9 Apr. In autumn, singles at Ghadira on 4 Sep and 16 Sep.

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

**2000:** First spring record 1 at Ghadira from 19 Mar, then in single to low double figures recorded up to 16 May mostly from Ghadira, Simar and Salina, highest of 20 at Salina on 11 Apr. 1 at Ćirkewwa on 3 Jun. First autumn returns from early July with a max. of 200 birds at Salina on 20 July. Then on most days till end Sept. Last sighting; 1 at Ghadira on 1 Oct.

**2001:** 1 at Simar on 26 Feb. Recorded in single or low double figures (highest 15 at Ćirkewwa on 14 Mar), almost daily from 10 Mar to 31 May. Then in single figures regularly from 1 Jun 2 30 Sep, but 51 at Salina on 31 Jul. Singles at Ghadira on 3<sup>rd</sup> and at Mosta on 26 Oct.

**2002:** Singles at Simar on 26 Feb, at Mellieħa on 3 Mar, and at Salina on 14 Mar. Then single figures almost daily from 23 Mar to 25 May, but 10 at Ghadira on 21 Apr, 25 at Salina on 22 Apr, and 15 at Simar on 23 Apr. Singles at Salina on 5 Jun and 7 Jun, at Ghadira on 14 Jun, and at Simar on 20 Jun. In autumn, single figures almost daily from 28 Jun to 27 Sep, but 27 at Salina on 21 Jul. Singles at Ghadira on 1 Oct and at Salina on 6 Oct.

**2003:** 1 on 15 Mar, then low single figures on most days from 21 Mar to 9 Apr and daily from 12 Apr to 19 May, mostly at Ghadira, Salina and Simar. 2 on 8 Jun. On autumn passage, singles on 3 days from 23-28 Jun then practically daily from 30 Jun to 6 Sep, with double figures at Salina on 6-8 Jul and 12 Jul, max 42 on first date. Singles on 15 Sep and 22 Sep.

**2004:** 8 on 15 Mar at Qalet Marku then almost daily from 27 Mar to 5 May with most sightings at Ghadira and Simar. Usually 1-5 but 6 at Ghadira on 14<sup>th</sup> and 8 at Simar 27<sup>th</sup>, both in Apr. In Jun singles at Ghadira on 24-25 Jun and 5 at Salina on 27<sup>th</sup>, then 1-4 almost daily from 4 Jul to 10 Sep but 6 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 8 on 29<sup>th</sup>, both in Aug and at Ghadira. Late singles at Ghadira on 18-19 Sep and 14 Oct. Most autumn sightings at Ghadira and Simar, but also at Salina.

**2005:** 1 at Ghadira on 3-5 Mar, then low single figures almost daily from 11 Mar to 24 May, but 13 at Ghajn Tuffieha on 3 Apr, 8 at Ghadira on 16 Apr and 9 at Simar on 12 May. Singles at Ghadira on 14-16 Jun and again on 19 Jun. In autumn, in low single figures on 35 dates from 5 Jul to 26 Sep, but 30 at Salina on 20 Jul and 30+ at Għallis on 24 Aug. Singles at Simar on 7 Oct and at Ghadira on 21 Oct.

**Common Redshank *Tringa totanus***

**2000:** 1 at Ghadira on 19 Mar, 3 at Salina on 11 Apr, and single birds at same on 17-18 Apr and 1 on Comino on 23 Apr. Single birds from 3 June to 23 Aug mostly from Ghadira, Simar and Salina. 7 at Ghadira on 3 July highest. Last bird at Ghadira on 2 Nov.

**2001:** Singles at Ghadira on 9 Mar and at Salina on 17 Apr. Then up to 6 almost daily from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 30 Jun and 1 at on 5 dates in Jul, most records from Ghadira. Singles at Salina on 15<sup>th</sup> and 29 Aug, 1 at Qawra on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 at Ghadira on 11<sup>th</sup> and 1 at Salina on 12 Sep; and singles at Qawra on 7<sup>th</sup>, and at Ghadira on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29 Oct. Then late singles at Ghadira on 23 Nov and 2 Dec.

**2002:** Singles at Delimara and San Luċjan on 21 Mar, at Ćirkewwa on 29 Mar, and at Comino on 30 Mar. 1-2 at Simar and Ghadira on 8 dates from 11-29 Jun. Singles on 8 dates from 5-21 Jul, mainly at Ghadira. Singles on 4 dates from 15-27 Aug. Singles at Ghadira on 12 Oct, at Qawra on 14 Nov, and again at Ghadira on 21 Nov and 24 Nov.

**2003:** 10 sightings on 1-3 on 8 days in spring from 15 Mar to 1 May. In autumn 33 sightings of 1-4 on 24 days (all at Ghadira and Salina) from 14 Jun to 27 Jul, then 4 at Qawra on 8 Oct.

**2004:** Singles at Ghadira on 12 Jan and 14 Mar, then daily from 20-31 Mar. 1 at Simar on 15 Mar. Singles at Ghadira on 6-7 Jun, at Salina on 16 Jun and 1-3 almost daily at Ghadira from 18-25 Jun, then singles in Jul on 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. 1-2 daily at Simar from 26 Jul to 14 Aug and singles daily at Ghadira from 31 Jul to 15 Aug and on 22 Aug but 2 on 31 Jul and 15 Aug. Then 1 at Ghadira from 2 Sep to 31 Dec but 2 on 25-26 Oct and 3 Nov. Singles at Salina on 4 Aug and at Miġra l-Ferħa on 3 Nov only sightings elsewhere.

**2005:** 1 daily at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 14 Mar, and at Salina on 18 Mar. 1-4 almost daily from 2-24 Apr, mainly at Ghadira but also Salina. Singles at Simar and Ghadira between 19 Jun to 2 Jul. 1-3 almost daily from 4 Jul to 29 Aug and 1-3 daily at Ghadira from 30 Aug to 13 Dec, then singles at Simar on 15-16 Dec and at Ghadira on 20 Dec.

**Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***

**2000:** Almost daily at Ghadira from 7-16 May in numbers varying from 2 to 11 birds, 1 to 2 birds at same locality from 21-24 May. 1 on 22 Aug at Ghadira and singles at Qawra on 11 Sep and a late bird on 22 Dec.

**2001:** 1 at Ghadira on 22 Jul.

**2002:** 1 at M'Scala on 13 Aug and 8 at Qawra on 31 Aug.

**2003:** Singles at Ghadira on 27-29 Apr and 8-9 May, and at Qawra on 4 Sep.

**2004:** Singles at M'scala on 1 Mar and 18 Sep.

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**2005:** Singles at Xrobb I-Għagin on 16 Apr and at Marsascala on 14 May. 2-3 recorded at Salina on 4 dates from 13-17 May, and 1 on 21 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 7 Aug and at Qawra on 20 Aug.

### **Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus***

**2001:** 1 at Marsascala on 6 Aug; then 5 records from Qawra: 1 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 30 Aug, and singles on 2 Nov and on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7 Dec.

**2002:** Singles at Għallis on 4 Jul and at Qawra on 28 Nov.

**2003:** 1 at Qawra on 27 Nov.

**2005:** 1 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar.

### **Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus***

**2002:** 1 adult dark morph at Qawra on 3 Feb.

**2005:** 1 juvenile dark morph at Qawra and Pt.St. Elmo on 8 Sep.

### **Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus***

**2000:** 1 at Marsaxlokk on 23 Apr.

**2005:** 1 adult at Marsascala on 16 Aug.

### **Great Skua *Stercorarius skua***

**2000:** Singles at Qammieħ on 18 Mar and at Qawra on 31 Dec.

**2001:** Singles at Qawra on 1 Feb and 9 Dec.

**2002:** 1 at Ċirkewwa on 4 Mar.

**2003:** Singles at Qawra on 24 Jan, at Għar Lapsi on 5 Feb and at Marsascala on 2 Nov.

**2004:** Singles at Qawra on 4 Jan, then in Mar at Ċirkewwa on 12<sup>th</sup> and at Qawra on 13<sup>th</sup>, and in Nov at Qawra on 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla***

**2000:** 1 at Għallis on 2 Jan.

**2001:** Singles at Qawra on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2 Jan, on 17 Nov and on 22 Dec.

**2002:** 1 at Pt.St. Elmo on 9 Nov.

**2003:** Singles at Qawra on 29 Jan and at Sliema on 4 Feb.

**2005:** 1 at Qawra from 22-26 Dec.

### **Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei***

**2000:** 5 spring sightings mainly from Qammieħ with 11 birds on 18 Mar highest, last sighting on 12 Apr where 4 birds were present at B'Bugia. 1 at Salina on 21 Jul, then 1-6 birds on various dates till the end of the year, mainly from Qawra, maxima 11 on 29 Nov.

**2001:** 1 at St Paul's Bay on 31 Jan and 11 at Qawra on 28 Feb. Then up to 7 on 9 dates from 1 Mar to 5 Apr. Recorded on 17 dates from 18 Sep and 17 Nov, mainly in single figures, but 19 on 29 Sep, 11 on 14 Oct and 14 on 17 Nov, all from Qawra.

**2002:** 11 at Ċirkewwa on 21 Feb and 1 at San Luċjan on 24 Feb. 1-7 on 8 dates from 12-31 Mar, but 9 at Qawra on first date. Singles on 3 dates from 8-18 Aug, on 23 Sep and on 30 Sep, then up to 8 on 12 dates from 21 Oct to 28 Nov, but 17 at Qawra on 28 Oct. 1 at Qawra on 15 Dec and 2 at Pt.St. Elmo on 19 Dec.

**2003:** Singles on 18 Jan and 18-19 Feb, 4 at Ċirkewwa on 14 Mar, then 1-4 on 4 days from 19 Mar to 6 Apr. 3 on 5 Aug, then on 22 days from 26 Aug to 18 Nov with most sightings at Qawra. Generally 1-6 but 22 on 11 Oct and 16 on 12 Oct; and 29 on 9 Nov and 15 on 13 Nov.

**2004:** 1 on 10<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> all at Ċirkewwa, then 3 at St.Pauls Bay and 1 at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on 24<sup>th</sup>, all in Mar. Then in Jul with 4 at Għadira Bay on 23<sup>rd</sup> and singles at Għadira on 25-26<sup>th</sup> and at Salina on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. 1 at Qawra on 14 Aug. 18 sightings on 15 dates from 9 Sep to 6 Nov when mostly in singles but 3-6 at 4 sites from 24 Oct to 5 Nov and 8 at Qawra on 5 Oct and 12 at St.Elmo Pt and 11 at Qawra on 11 Nov. 8 at Għallis and 2 at Qawra on 24 Nov and 1 at Qawra on 4 Dec.

**2005:** 22 at Ċirkewwa on 26 Feb, 3 at Ċirkewwa on 11 Mar and 4 at Xrobb I-Għagin on 30 Mar. 1 at Għadira and 2 at Salina on 15 Jul and 1 again at Salina on 16 Jul. 1 at Xrobb I-Għagin on 7 Aug, 2 at Qawra on 15 Aug and 3 at Qawra and Pt. St Elmo on 25 Sep. Up to 7 on 4 dates from 16 Oct to 13 Nov. 3 at Għadira daily from 17-26 Dec and again on 29 Dec. 1 at Qawra on 23 Dec and 2 at Rinella on 26 Dec.

### **Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus***

**2000:** Present on most days from 1 Jan to 18 Mar from single to treble figures, highest 500 at Grand Harbour on 18 Feb, 292 and 125 at Lazzaretto Creek on 28 Jan and 7 Feb respectively, last sighting 1 bird at Salina on 18 Apr. 1 Summer record; a single bird at Marsalforn on 7 Jul. First autumn sighting; 1 at Marsascala and 3 at Qawra on 8 Oct than almost daily in single to low treble figures till end of year. Highest winter counts; 180 at St. Elmo's Pt. on 30 Dec.

**2001:** Almost daily in single or double figures from 1 Jan to 20 Mar, but in treble figures on 8 dates and 1050 in the harbour area on 17 Feb. Singles at Għadira on 7 and 27 Apr. 3 on Comino on 11 May, 2 in Għadira Bay on 15 Jul and 1 at Sliema on 29-30 Sep. In single or double figures on most dates from 13 Oct to 31 Dec but 250 at Pt St Elmo on 8 Dec and 175 at Blata L-Bajda on 25 Dec.

**2002:** Up to 500 on most days from Jan-7 Mar, but 800+ at Pt.St. Elmo on 19 Jan. Up to 4 on 3 dates from 13-27 Mar. Singles at Salina on 2 Jun, at San Luċjan on 15 Jul and 28 Jul, at Qawra on 10-11 Aug, and on 13 Sep, at Tigne' on 18 Sep, and at Manoel Island on 19 Sep. Then up to low treble figures on most days from 29 Sep till end of year, highest 350+ at Pt.St. Elmo on 28 Dec, otherwise up to 200.

**2003:** On most days, often in low treble figures (max 300 at 2 sites on 6 days) in Jan – mid-Feb, then single to

low double figures fill 2 Mar and 1-6 on 5 days to 15 Mar. 2 at Qawra on 3 Aug, 1 at Sliema on 6 Sep and 1-2 on 8 days from 12 Sep to 6 Oct, then on most days from 19 Oct to 31 Dec, with highest numbers from 30 Nov. Max 250 at Qawra on 8 Dec and at Pt. St. Elmo on 14 Dec; otherwise up to 100.

**2004:** Usually in double figures in Jan-Feb but 200-600 on a few days and max.800 in Feb at Qawra on 2nd and at St.Elmo Pt on 14th; then 1-3 occasionally in Mar. Singles in Jun on 26th at Salina and in Aug on 16th at Għadira, on 26th and 29th at Salina. Then 3 at M'xlokk on 29 Aug and 11 sightings of 1-6 on 8 dates from 22 Sep to 17 Oct. Daily from 24 Oct to 31 Dec when up to 60 till mid-Nov, then in treble figures of up to 300 on some days and 400 at Pt.St.Elmo on 27-28 Nov.

**2005:** Up to 350 on most days from Jan-14 Mar, but 420+ at Marsa on 19 Jan, 400+ at Marsa Race Course on 2 Feb and 400+ at Rinella on 6 Feb. Up to 4 on 4 dates from 17-31 Mar. Singles at Salina on 11 Jun and at Għadira on 5 Jul. 1 at Marfa on 9 Aug, 2 at Pembroke on 15 Aug and 1-3 on 7 dates from 24 Aug to 1 Oct. Then up to low treble figures almost daily from 16 Oct till end of year, highest 200+ at Pt.St. Elmo on 6 Nov and 200+ at St Elmo on 11 Dec, otherwise up to 180+.

#### **Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus***

**2000:** Singles at Għadira on 15 and 18 Jan and again on 20 Mar. 1 at Salina on 12 Feb.

**2001:** 1 at Għadira on 6 Jan, 4 at Marsaxlokk on 10 Feb and 1 at Qawra on 22 Apr.

**2002:** 1 at Qawra on 16 Jan, 3 at Pt.St. Elmo on 26 Jan, and singles at Qawra on 6 Feb and at St. Paul's Bay on 5 Apr.

**2003:** 24 sightings of singles (but 2 on 4 occasions) on 18 days from 1 Jan to 16 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 4 Apr. In autumn singles at Qawra on 14 Nov and at St. Julian's and Pt. St. Elmo on 11 Dec.

**2004:** In singles at Qawra on 6th and 9 Jan; then in Mar at Simar on 3rd, Ċirkewwa on 18th, Għadira on 19th and M'xlokk on 23rd. 21 at Delimara on 2 Oct.

**2005:** Singles at Għadira and Simar on 8 Jan, at Simar on 9 Jan, and at B'Bugia on 30 Jan, 2 at Għadira on 9 Feb, then singles at Salina on 10 Feb, at Qawra on 16 Feb, at Simar on 17 Feb and at Għadira on 5 Mar and 6 Apr.

#### **Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus***

**2000:** Single to low double figures from 9 Jan to 9 Apr, max. 40 at the Grand Harbour on 18 Feb. First autumn sighting on 21 Oct with 2 birds at Qawra, then on most days till the end of the year, highest counts included; 130 on 17 Nov, 80 on 20 Nov and 57 on 19 Nov all at Qawra.

**2001:** Up to 25 on 13 dates from 1 Jan to 25 Feb, but 50 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 80 on 3 Jan at Qawra, and 100 in the Gozo Channel on 21 Feb. Single figures regularly from 2 Mar to 15 Apr. 1 at Tigne on 26 Sep. Then single or low double figures (up to 50) from 24 Oct to 30 Dec but 100 at Qawra on 24 Nov.

**2002:** Up to 50 on 25 dates from 1 Jan to 29 Mar, but 120+ at Pt.St. Elmo on 16 Feb, and 300+ at Rinella on 17 Feb. Singles at Tigne' on 7 Jul and at M'Scala on 13 Oct, then in single or double figures almost daily from 18 Oct till end of year, but 100+ at San Luċjan on 7 Dec.

**2003:** On 57 days in Jan-26 Mar, with low treble figures on 6 days in Jan-Feb and single to low double figures in Mar. Monthly max. were 125 at Rinella on 1 Jan; 150 at same place on 2 Feb; and 60 at M'Scala on 2 Mar. 1 on 6 Apr. First autumn sightings on 19 Oct, then almost daily from 26 Oct to 16 Nov and again from 27 Nov to 31 Dec when mostly in low double figures, max 93 at Qawra on 3 Nov.

**2004:** In single to double figures of up to 80 from Jan-Mar till 11th but 100 at Qawra on 31 Jan and 200 at Pt. St. Elmo on 14 Feb. Then 1-4 from 12-21 Mar. Singles on 17 Sep and 10 Oct, then in single to double figures up to 80 from 23 Oct to 31 Dec but 100-200 on a few days in mid-Nov with max.250 on 21st at Pt. St.Elmo.

**2005:** Up to 80 on 45 dates from 1 Jan to 27 Mar, but 200 on 30 Jan and 120+ on 1 Feb, both at Rinella. 1 at Qawra on 4 Sep, then in single or double figures almost daily from 15 Oct till end of year, but 150+ on 26 Nov and 100+ on 4 Dec, both at Pt.St. Elmo.

#### **Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii***

**2000:** 1 on 7 Oct and 2 on 24 Nov, both at Qawra. Singles at Għadira on 30 Nov and at M'Xlokk on 31 Dec.

**2001:** Singles at Qammieħ on 18 Mar, and at Qawra on 14 Oct, 24<sup>th</sup> to 28 Oct, 13 Nov and 22 Dec.

**2002:** Singles at Qawra on 9-10 Feb, off Aħrax on 15 Jul, at Qawra on 1 Sep, 28-29 Sep, 5 Nov and 28 Nov; at San Luċjan on 1 Dec and again at Qawra on 16 Dec and 26 Dec.

**2003:** Singles at Qawra on 11 Feb and 14 Feb; 2 at Għar Lapsi on 26 Feb, and singles at Pt. St. Elmo on 10 Sep and at San Luċjan on 7 Dec.

**2004:** 1 on 5 Jun at Għadira, then 1-4 on 12 dates from 26 Aug to 29 Sep but 5+ at San Luċjan on 1 Sep. Singles in Oct on 10th and 31st; then on 6 dates in Nov from 3 – 19th with max.5 at M'scala on 14th, otherwise in singles. Most sightings along East coast.

**2005:** Singles at Qawra on 5 Jan, at Għadira on 31 Jan, at Ċirkewwa on 19 Feb, at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 12-13 Mar, at Salina on 22 Apr and at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 2 Jul and 21 Jul. 35 sightings of 1-2 on 27 dates from 3 Aug to 30 Sep, but 10 at Qawra on 20 Aug, 6 at Għallis on 24 Aug, 5 at Pembroke on 24 Aug and 4 at Pt.St. Elmo on 18 Sep. Singles at Sliema on 2 Oct and 16 Oct, and at Qawra on 16 Oct.

#### **Common Gull *Larus canus***

**2001:** 1 at Qawra on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30 Dec.

**2002:** Singles at Qawra on 23 Dec and at Pt.St. Elmo on 28 Dec.

**2003:** Singles at Għadira on 4 Feb and at Ċirkewwa on 14 Mar.

**2004:** All sightings in Nov with 2 at M'scala on 14-15th, then singles at same place on 19th and at San Luċjan on 20th. 1-2 at Pt.St. Elmo on 20-21st.

**2005:** Singles at Pt. St Elmo on 2 Jan and Rinella on 30 Jan.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***

**2000:** Single birds at Għadira on 24 Feb, at Qammieħ on 21 Mar, at Qawra on 9-10 Apr and at Comino on 14 Apr. 3 off Pembroke on 19 Apr. First autumn sighting; 2 at Qawra on 24 Sep than six sightings of 1-10 birds throughout Oct, 1 bird in Nov and 6 sightings of 1-6 birds throughout Dec. Most sightings from Qawra.

**2001:** 1-2 on 6 dates from 1 Jan to 11 Feb but 5 at Qawra on 1 Jan. Singles on 10 dates from 1 Mar to 19 Apr. Up to 10 regularly from 1 Sep to 31 Dec with 11 at Qawra on 21<sup>st</sup> and 30 Sep.

**2002:** 1 at Qawra on 1 Jan, then 1-2 on 12 dates from 1 Feb to 12 Mar, but 4 at San Luċjan on 10 Feb. Singles at Ċirkewwa on 21 Mar, at San Luċjan on 18 Apr and at M'Scala on 14 Aug. Up to 6 on 19 dates from 14 Sep to 25 Oct, but 10 at Tigne' on 18 Sep. 1-3 on 15 dates from 17 Nov till end of year.

**2003:** 9 sightings of 1-3 on 7 days in Jan-Feb, then singles on 6 days from 16 Mar to 7 Apr, but 4 at Ċirkewwa on first date. In autumn, 35 sightings of up to 10, but usually 1-3, from 26 Aug to 14 Dec.

**2004:** 1 at Qawra on 4 Jan, then 11 sightings of 1-4 on 9 dates from 10 Feb to 23 Mar but 6 at San Luċjan on 23 Mar. 2 at Comino on 17 Apr and 1 at Għadira on 9 May. 1-5 almost daily from 25 Aug to 29 Sep, then in Oct with 10 on 6th and 1 on 10th, both at Delimara. 1-4 on most days from 24 Oct to 30 Nov, then in Dec with 8 at Għadira on 18th, 5 at Pt.St. Elmo on 19th and singles at 2 sites on 31 Dec.

**2005:** 1 at Qawra on 6 Jan, then 1-2 on 12 dates from 30 Jan to 2 Apr. Single at Għadira on 27 Apr. 3 at Fra Ben on 23 Aug, then up to 3 on 18 dates from 15 Sep to 23 Dec, but 6 at St Elmo on 21 Sep.

**Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis***

**2000:** Resident breeder and winter visitor. Colonies occupied from November to mid-July. 250-300 adults at and around Filfla on 19 May. Single to double figures counted from various locations throughout year.

**2001:** Present all year round with regular counts of up to 100 birds. 150 recorded at Lapsi on 23 Feb and at Qawra on 29 Dec. 300+ adults at breeding colony on Filfla on 18 May.

**2002:** Present all year round in single or double figures but 100+ at Bengħisa on 23 Mar and at Għar Lapsi on 29 May, and 150+ at Qawra on 10 Nov. 400 adults and 87 young were on Filfla on 21 May.

**2003:** Breeding resident, mainly on Filfla. Numbers greatly augmented by wintering birds with double to low treble figures in Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec. Max number 400 at Għar Lapsi on 23 Dec. Very few sightings in Jul.

**2004:** Breeding resident and migrant. Highest count away from breeding season at Għar Lapsi with c.400 on 23 Dec, but also 250 at Pt.St. Elmo on 20 Nov and 200 at M'scala on 21 Nov. Mostly along coast but occasionally flying overland in flocks. Ca. 130 pairs at Filfla on 19 May.

**2005:** Present all year round in single or double figures but 150+ at Qawra on 23 Nov, 25 Nov and 26 Nov. Ca. 150 pairs at Filfla on 24 May.

**Little Tern *Sternula albifrons***

**2000:** Singles at Salina on 18 and 20 Apr.

**2002:** 2 at San Luċjan on 24 May.

**2003:** 1 at Għadira on 17 Apr.

**2005:** Singles at Għadira on 10 Apr, at Salina on 13 May, and again at Għadira on 1 Jun.

**Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica***

**2000:** 10 sightings of 1-6 birds from 22 Jul to 21 Oct, highest 6 at Qawra on 16-17 Sep.

**2001:** Singles at San Luċjan on 8 Apr and at Għadira on 11 Jun. Then 1 at Għadira and Comino on 7 Aug, 1 at Qawra on 12 Aug and 2 at Tigne on 17 Sep. At Qawra 2 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 1 on 22-23 Sep and 2 on 2 Oct. 1 at Simar on 5 Nov.

**2002:** Singles at Għadira on 20 Apr and at Qawra on 21 Apr. 2 at Għadira on 12 May and singles at same place on 15 May and 6 Jul. 1 at Qawra on 27 Jul, 3 at Qawra and Delimara on 31 Aug, and singles at San Luċjan on 26 Sep and at Qawra on 26-27 Sep.

**2003:** 1 on 1 Aug, then 1-2 on 7 days from 6-21 Sep and 2-3 on 3 days on 6-13 Nov, sightings coming from various sites.

**2004:** Singles in Jun at Salina on 7th and 20th, and at Għadira on 19th and 22-23rd. 2 at Qawra on 15 Aug.

**2005:** Singles at Għadira on 5-6 Apr and at Fra Ben and Salina on 24 Aug.

**Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia***

**2000:** 2 at Salina on 16 Apr. 6 sightings of 1-5 from 2 Sep to 9 Oct, but 6 at Simar on 10 Oct.

**2001:** Single figures on 5 dates from 23 Mar to 6 Apr, max 3 at San Luċjan on 23 and 4 at Qawraq on 5 Apr. Up to 4 daily at Għadira from 25<sup>th</sup> to 31 Aug, and 1 at Salina on 31 Aug. 6 at Qawra on 30 Sep. Then on 4 dates in October: 5 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 12<sup>th</sup> at Għadira, and 4 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 6 on 21<sup>st</sup> at Qawra.

**2002:** 1 at San Luċjan on 11 Mar, 2 at Qawra on 7 Apr, singles at Qawra on 18 Apr and at San Luċjan on 20 Apr. In autumn, singles at Qawra on 27 Jul and at M'Scala on 9 Aug, and 2 at Għadira on 24 Aug. Then up to 3 on 14 dates from 7 Sep to 29 Oct, but 5 at Qawra on 12 Oct. Singles at Qawra on 4 Nov and at San Luċjan on 9 Nov.

**2003:** 1 at Salina on 31 Mar. In autumn, 16 sightings of 1-6 on 15 days from 6 Sep to 31 Oct.

**2004:** Singles at Ċirkewwa and Għadira on 29 Mar, at Għadira on 29 Apr, at San Luċjan on 25 Aug and in Sep at Qbajar on 3rd and at Delimara and Qawra on 5th. Then 19 sightings of 2-5 on 13 dates from 8 Sep to 10 Oct but 8 at Pt.St. Elmo on 8 Sep, 7 at Qawra on 12 Sep and 10 at Delimara on 6 Oct. In Nov 5 at Għadira on 2nd and 1 at M'scala on 4th.

**2005:** 2 at Xrobb l-Għagin on 7 Aug, then 1-3 on 11 dates from 15 Aug to 7 Nov, but 6 at Fra Ben on 30 Aug and 9 at Xrobb l-Għagin on 3 Sep.

**Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida***

**2000:** 1 on 29 Apr and 12 on 13 May, both at Għadira. Singles on 22 Jul and 2 on 2 Oct, both at Salina.

**2003:** 3 at Għadira and 1 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 16 Sep.

**2004:** 1 at Għadira on 25 May.

**2005:** Singles at Simar on 27 Apr and at Ghadira on 30 Apr.

**Black Tern *Chlidonias niger***

**2000:** Recorded in double and treble figures throughout Sep with highest numbers reaching 300 at Qawra on 10th and 11 Sept. Late sightings include single birds at Blata l-Bajda on 2 Oct, Ghadira Bay on 4 Oct and at Qawra on 29-30 Dec.

**2001:** Recorded on 24 dates from 11 Aug to 29 Sep mainly double figures but also with 5 triple figure counts, and most from Qawra; max. 200 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 30 Aug and 2 Sep, and 125 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 100 on 6 Sep, all at Qawra.

**2002:** 33 sightings of up to low treble figures on most days from 7 Aug to 30 Sep, highest 300+ at Qawra on 31 Aug, otherwise up to 200. 1 at Qawra on 12 Oct.

**2003:** 19 sightings on 17 days, mostly along the east coast, from 1 Aug to 3 Oct but with most in Aug. Single to low double figures but 150 on 21 Aug.

**2004:** 1 on 15 Aug at Qawra, then in single to double figures of up to 40 at Qawra from 22 Aug to 29 Sep but 150 on 5th and 300 on 8th, both in Sep. Only 3 sightings elsewhere in Sep. 1 at San Luċjan on 20 Nov.

**2005:** 200+ at Ghallis on 23 Aug, 20+ at Ghallis and 15+ at Marsascala on 24 Aug, 20 on 30 Aug and 40+ on 31 Aug, both at Fra Ben, and 20+ on 2 Sep, 10+ on 3 Sep and 12 on 4 Sep, all at Qawra.

**White-Winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus***

**2002:** Singles at Ghadira on 25 Apr, 17-18 May, and 30 May.

**2003:** 2 on 3 May, 3 on 5 May, 2 on 10 May and 1 on 11-12 May at Ghadira.

**2004:** 1 at Ghadira on 11 Sep.

**Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis***

**2000:** 2 at Qawra on 16 Jan then 6 sightings of up to 16 from 17 Mar to 19 Apr. First autumn sighting being 1 at Qawra on 17 Sep then various sightings of up to 7 birds till end of year with most observations from Qawra.

**2001:** Up to 7 on 18 dates from 1 Jan to 12 Apr, but 15 in the Gozo Channel on 20 Mar. 2 at Qawra on 12 Aug. In single figures on 35 dates from 15 Sep to 30 Dec, but 10 on 14 Oct and 20 on 3 Nov at Qawra.

**2002:** 1-5 on 26 dates from 15 Jan to 7 Apr. Singles at Qawra on 11 Jun and on 16 Aug, then recorded on 46 dates from 31 Aug till end of year, all in single figures except for 25 at Qawra on 6 Oct.

**2003:** 35 sightings of 1-5 on 30 days from 4 Jan to 5 Apr. In autumn/winter 50 sightings on 42 days from 29 Jul to 23 Dec, with a marked concentration in late Oct to mid-Nov. Always 1-7, but 10 at Qawra on 5 Nov.

**2004:** Two sightings in Feb at Qawra with 1 on 2nd and 3 on 11th, then in Mar with 1 at San Luċjan on 8th, 12 at Ċirkewwa on 12th and 1 at San Luċjan on 23rd. In Apr 3 at Ċirkewwa and 4 at M'scala on 1st and 1 at Delimara on 4th. In autumn 1 at Qawra on 15 Aug, then almost daily from 21 Aug to 8 Oct with 33 sightings of 1-6 but 8 at San Luċjan on 25 Aug and at Delimara on 22 Sep, and max. 12 at Delimara on 28 Sep. 13 sightings of 1-5 on 9 dates from 24 Oct to 7 Nov but higher numbers at Qawra in late Oct with 8 on 24th, 14 on 27th and 9 on 30th. Then 1-5 regularly from 19 Nov to 31 Dec. Most sightings from along the East coast.

**2005:** 1-4 on 18 dates from 1 Jan to 2 Apr, but 31 on 28 Mar and 11 on 29 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa. 1-4 on 39 dates from 3 Aug to 20 Dec, but 7 at Fra Ben on 30 Aug, 8 at Marsascala on 28 Sep, 7 at Qawra on 29 Oct and 9 at Qawra on 15 Dec.

**Unidentified Auk (Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*/Razorbill *Alca torda*)**

**2002:** 1 off Qawra on 16 Dec

**Stock Dove**

**2000:** 1 at Buskett on 28 Oct.

**2002:** 1 at Buskett on 24 Oct.

**Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus***

**2003:** 1 at Buskett on 29 Mar.

**2004:** 1 at Simar on 7 Jun and 2 at Marsa on 3 Sep.

**2005:** Singles at Ghadira and Red Tower on 19 Oct.

**Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***

**2000:** Singles at Ghadira on 1-2 Jul, at Simar on 13 Oct and at Naxxar on 11 Dec.

**2001:** Singles at Gozo Channel on 21 Mar, at Simar on 1 Jun and 28 Jul, at Ghadira on 15 Aug and at B' Kara on 28 Aug.

**2002:** Singles at Simar on 3 Apr, at Ta' Lambert on 12 May, at Ghadira on 16 May, and at Simar on 3 dates from 4-10 Jun.

**2003:** 1-2 on several days at Ghadira from 27 May to 14 Sep. Also occasional sightings at Dwejra (Malta), Comino, Buskett, Simar, Ghajn Riĥana, Marsa, Tal-Qroqq, Mosta, Hamrun, and Mellieħa (7 on 17 Aug) in Mar-Oct.

**2004:** 1-9 regularly throughout the year mainly at Mellieħa and occasionally at Ghadira but 12 on 26 Dec at Mellieħa. 16 sightings elsewhere of 1-2.

**2005:** 4 at Mellieħa on 9 Jan, 1 at Simar on 18 Mar, 1 at Buskett on 20 Apr and 1-2 on 4 dates from 23-30 Apr on Comino. 1-3 on 10 dates in May, but 12 at Mellieħa on 3 May. Recorded almost daily in Jun-Aug, mainly in low singles, but up to 20 at Mellieħa where bred. 1 at Simar on 19 Sep, 4 at Mellieħa on 25 Sep, 1 on 18 Oct and 5 on 29 Nov, both at Ghajn Zejtuna, and 23+ at Mellieħa on 11 Dec

**Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur***

**2000:** Recorded in all months from Mar to Oct. First sighting 1 at Buskett on 12 Mar than almost daily in single figures almost daily even in summer. Highest numbers include: 30 at Lunzjata Valley on 25 Apr, 33 at Buskett on 27 Aug 35 at same locality on 31 Aug.

**2001:** Singles at Simar on 2 Jan, Mellieħa on 14 Feb and Żabbar on 27 Mar. Then single and low double figure in several localities, up to 20, almost daily from 5 Apr to 31 May, but a max. of 250 at Ta' Gajdor on 26 Apr. 1-4 on most days from 1 Jun to 31 Jul but 6 at Buskett on 8 Jul. Up to 16 almost daily from 1 Aug to 9 Oct but 30 at Buskett on 8 Sep. 1 at Għadira on 18 Nov.

**2002:** Singles at Għadira on 16 Mar, at Buskett on 24 Mar and at Simar on 29 Mar, and 1-3 on 6 dates from 2-12 Apr. Then almost daily from 14 Apr to 20 Jun, in single or low double figures of up to 20, but 50+ at Ta' Gajdor Xgħira on 25 Apr. 1-2 on 16 dates from 25 Jun to 3 Aug, but 3 at Buskett on 7 Jul. In autumn, 3 at Buskett on 17 Aug, then almost daily from 20 Aug to 24 Sep in single or low double figures of up to 25. 1 at Għadira from 27 Sep to 4 Oct, 1 at Dwejra (M) on 4 Oct, and 2 at Buskett on 9 Oct.

**2003:** Singles on 29 Mar and 31 Mar; 6 on 3 Apr and 2 on 8 Apr, and daily from 11 Apr to 10 May then on most days on to 1 Jun. Single to low double figures at all sites with max of 25 at Buskett on 27 Apr. 1-2 at various sites between 3 Jun and 3 Aug probably included slightly injured birds. In autumn 3 on 22 Aug and 25 Aug, then almost daily (mostly at Buskett) from 28 Aug to 28 Sep; mostly single figures, but 150 at Buskett on 15 Sep. Then 9 singles on 8 days from 7-22 Oct.

**2004:** 1 at Għadira during Feb could not fly well, whilst an escapee was at Simar 14 Feb. Singles on a few dates from 20 Mar to 7 Apr but 2 on 30 Mar, then daily at several sites from 9 Apr to 24 May and almost daily 20 Jul. Highest numbers from mid-Apr to mid-May when in low double figures almost daily but 195 from 13 sites (highest 70 at Pieta) on 24 Apr and 84 from 6 sites (highest 40 at Comino) on 30 Apr. 1-4 from late May to late Jun but higher numbers at Simar with 7 on 31 May and 6 on 3 Jun. 1-3 in Jul but 5 at Għajn Rihana on 18th. In autumn 1 on 10 Aug, then daily from 23 Aug to 27 Sep with most from late Aug to early Sep. Highest numbers at Buskett with 17-18 on 29-31 Aug and 36 on 10 Sep, otherwise 1-11 from various sites mainly Buskett. 1-2 on a few dates from 30 Sep to 14 Oct and 1 on 25 Oct.

**2005:** Singles at Rabat on 23 Mar, at Migra L-Ferha on 24 Mar, at Xrobb l-Għagin on 29 Mar, and 1-2 on 4 dates from 4 -9 Apr. Then almost daily from 12 Apr to 31 May, in single or low double figures, but 60+ at Salina on 26 Apr. 1-3 on 26 dates in Jun-Jul from 13 locations. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on 1 Aug and again on 9 Aug, then almost daily from 13 Aug to 2 Oct, in single or low double figures of up to 52, but 90+ on 29 Aug, 1100+ on 30 Aug and 80+ on 31 Aug, all at Buskett.

#### **Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis***

**2001:** 1 at Għadira on 15 Jul.

**2002:** 1 at Għadira on 4 Jul. (could have been an escapee)

#### **Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius***

**2003:** 1 at Qammieħ on 19 Mar.

**2005:** 1 at Għadira on 6 Mar.

#### **Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus***

**2000:** Single birds on various dates from 5 Apr to 3 Jun, highest 3 at Dwejra, (M) on 5 Apr. Two autumn sightings; 1 at Mellieħa on 30 Jul and 1 at Buskett on 1 Oct.

**2001:** 1 at Ta' Lambert on 25 Mar. Singles on 13 dates from 6<sup>th</sup> to 28 Apr, but 3 on Comino on 7<sup>th</sup> and 12 Apr and 2 at Buskett on 16 Apr. Singles at Buskett on 29 July, at Simar on 22 Aug and again at Buskett on 30 Aug.

**2002:** Only recorded in spring. 1-3 on most dates from 26 Mar to 28 Apr. Singles at Buskett and Gudja on 20 May.

**2003:** 47 sightings on 31 days from 25 Mar to 8 May; always 1-2 but 8 at Dwejra (M) on 31 Mar and 4 on Comino on 5-6 Apr. Singles at Chadwick Lakes and Għajn Rihana on 6 Jun, and at Dwejra (Malta) on 13 Jul, then 4 singles on 3 days from 18-28 Sep.

**2004:** On most days from 3-10 Apr, then almost daily from 14-28 Apr. Mostly in singles but 10 at Wied Qannotta on 15th, 5 at Buskett on 28th and 2-3 at 3 sites on 24-25th. Singles in May on 5th and 26th.

**2005:** Only recorded in spring. 1 at Buskett on 25 Mar, then 1-2 on 29 dates from 2 Apr to 20 May, but 5 at Bidnija on 3 Apr and 4 at Buskett on 30 Apr. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 3 Jun.

#### **Barn Owl *Tyto alba***

**2001:** 1 near Ramla Bay on 27 Jun.

#### **Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops***

**2000:** Poor year with just one sighting: 1 at Comino on 31 Mar.

**2001:** 1 at Wied L-Isperanza on 25 Mar. Then singles at Comino on 1-2 Apr and 18-20 Apr, but 3, also at Comino, on 22 Apr.

**2002:** Only recorded in spring at Comino. 1-2 on 8 dates from 19 Mar to 19 Apr.

**2003:** On 11 days from 5 Apr to 9 May; always singles except for 2 at Għadira on first date. In autumn 1-2 on 5 days from 30 Sep to 23 Oct. 1 at Buskett on 7 Nov.

**2004:** 1 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar, then daily at Comino in Apr from 14-19th and 24-28th. Usually 1-3 but 5 on 19th and 4 on 24th. 2 sightings elsewhere in Apr with 2 at Salina on 25th and 1 at Buskett on 28th. Then in Oct with 1 at Buskett on 7th, 1-2 at Comino on 4 days from 16-25th, and singles at Buskett on 29th and Comino on 30th. 1 at Madliena on 1 Dec.

**2005:** 1 at Buskett on 19 Mar and again on 25 Mar. 1-2 on 9 dates from 3 Apr to 7 May. In autumn, three records: 1 at Buskett on 19 Sep and again on 25 Sep, and 1 at Għadira on 9 Oct.

#### **Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus***

**2000:** Singles at Qammieħ on 5 and 11 Mar and at Comino on 6 Apr. 6 sightings of single birds each in autumn, 5 sightings in Oct and 1 on 7 Nov, mostly from Qawra.

**2001:** 5 spring records at Ċirkewwa/Goza Channel: 1 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 19<sup>th</sup>, and singles on 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> all in March, and 1 on 9 Apr. Then singles at Mellieħa on 24 Oct and at Xgħira on 3 Nov.

**2002:** 1 at Simar on 2 Jan and 4 Jan. Singles on 5 dates from 3-29 Mar, but 3 at Qammieh on 16 Mar. In autumn, singles at Qawra on 6 dates from 23 Sep to 24 Nov.

**2003:** Singles at Ta' Qali on 2 Jan, at Ghajn Tuffieha on 1 Mar, at Ċirkewwa on 4 Apr, and in Gozo on 16 Apr. In autumn, 12 sightings of 1-2 on 9 days from 12 Oct to 1 Nov.

**2004:** 1 at Gozo on 2 Feb and 2 at Ċirkewwa on 12 Mar. Then singles in Sep at Delimara on 28th, in Oct at Miġra l-Ferha on 1st and Comino on 28th, and in Nov at Qawra on 1-2nd and M'scala on 4th, 12th and 14th.

**2005:** 1 at Ċirkewwa on 15 Mar, then singles on 5 dates from 22 Mar to 12 Apr. In autumn, singles at Buskett and Comino on 16 Oct, at Qawra on 5 Nov and at Pembroke on 17 Nov.

#### **European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus***

**2000:** 9 sightings of 1-2 from 24 Apr to 19 May. 5 single sightings from 11 Sep to 15 Oct, mainly at Buskett.

**2001:** 2 on Comino on 18 Apr, 2 at Ghadira on 2 May then singles on Comino on 7-8 May, at Buskett on 13<sup>th</sup> and at Ghadira on 29 May. Then 3 records in October: 1 at Dwejra on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 at Buskett on 11<sup>th</sup> and 1 at Lunzjata on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**2002:** Singles on 8 dates from 14 Apr to 20 May and on 4 dates from 16 Sep to 26 Oct.

**2003:** Singles on 6 days from 17 Apr to 18 May. In autumn 1-3 on 8 days mostly at Buskett from 14 Sep to 7 Oct, then singles on 20 Oct and 26 Oct, and on 5 Nov.

**2004:** 1 at Comino on 20 Apr, then daily from 23-28 Apr mostly at Comino. Usually 1-3 but 12 at Dwejra, G on 24th, 20 on 26th and 6 on 27th both on Comino. 6 sightings of 1-2 on 3 dates from 30 Apr to 8 May but 5 on Comino on 3 May. On most days in autumn from 11 Sep to 7 Oct mainly at Buskett. Usually 1-2 but 3 on 18 Sep, 2nd and 6 Oct with max.5 on 7 Oct all at Buskett. Then 2 at Buskett on 16th and at Comino 25th, and 1 at Lunzjata on 29th, all in Oct.

**2005:** In spring, 13 records of 1-2 from 7 Apr to 13 May, but 4 at Comino on 4 May and 3 at Comino on 6 May. In autumn, 20 records of 1-2 from 4 Sep to 20 Oct, but 4 at Buskett on 2 Oct.

#### **Alpine Swift *Apus melba***

**2000:** 11 sightings of 1-3 birds from 30 Mar to 3 May. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 10 Jul, then irregular in single figures, most sightings from Buskett and Dwejra, (M) Highest numbers recorded being 3 birds on four different dates in September and early October. Last sighting 1 at Dwejra, (M), on 17 Oct.

**2001:** 1 at Ta' Gajdoru on 8 Mar. Then 1-3 on 19 dates from 18 Mar to 27 May, and on 4 dates in June: 2 at Rabat on 11<sup>th</sup>, singles at Għarb and Dingli on 12<sup>th</sup> Jun, and 3 at Marsascale on 21 Jun. Then 1 at Howard Gardens on 24 Jul, and 1-5 on 15 dates from 23 Aug to 15 Oct but 7 at Dwejra on 27 Sep.

**2002:** 17 sightings of 1-5 on 14 dates from 9 Mar to 18 Apr, but 25 at Victoria on 30 Mar. 1-2 on 15 dates from 8 May to 22 Jun, but 4 at Marsalforn on 17 Jun. Singles on 4 dates from 1 Jul to 10 Aug. In autumn, 1-5 on 16 dates from 10 Sep to 17 Oct, but 25 at Dwejra (M) on 16 Sep.

**2003:** 1 at Victoria on 10 Jan. 8 sightings of 1-7 on 6 days from 14-24 Mar, then low single figures almost daily at several sites from 1-14 Apr, but 18 at Ghadira and 15 at Salina on 4 Apr. Then 9 sightings of 1-7 on 8 days from 19 Apr to 18 Jun. In autumn, 32 sightings of 1-10 on 28 days from 8 Jul to 1 Nov, mostly in Sep.

**2004:** Singles on 27 Feb and 14 – 15 Mar; then 1 – 7 on most days from 26 Mar to 25 Apr but max. 25 at Dwejra, M on 3 Apr. 1 on 5 May. Singles irregularly between 8 Jun and 19 Jul but 3 on last date. 1 – 2 on a few dates from 15 Aug to 13 Sep then on most days from 16 Sep to 31 Oct; usually 1 – 15 but 59 at Buskett on 16 Sep. Late birds in Nov with 2 on 14th and 1 on 16th.

**2005:** Singles on 22 Feb at Għar il-Qamh and 23 Feb at Marsaxlokk were early birds. 38 sightings of 1-5 from 26 dates from 7 Mar to 29 Apr, but 11 at Mellieħa on 25 Mar and 7 at Tarġa Gap on 26 Mar. 1-2 on 12 dates from 1 May to 23 Jun, but 6 at Comino on 12 Jun. 1-2 on 9 dates from 1 Jul to 10 Aug, but 4 at Salina on 10 Jul and 3 at Ta' Gajdoru on 26 Jul. In autumn, 1-8 on 16 dates from 1 Sep to 17 Oct, but 20 at Dwejra (M) on 27 Sep.

#### **Common Swift *Apus apus***

**2000:** Up to treble figures recorded almost daily from 5 Mar to 19 Oct but 2000+ at Buskett on 12 Sep, otherwise up to 500. 1 at Luqa Airport on 5 Nov.

**2001:** 1 at Simar on 3 Mar and 2 at Tal-Virtu on 7 Mar, then on most days from 10 Mar to 11 Oct; mostly in single to high double figures but triple figure counts on 26 dates, highest ca.1000 at Wied Qannotta and ca. 500 at Salina on 18 Apr, and again ca. 500 on 4 other dates: on 14<sup>th</sup> and 31 May at Dwejra, on 12 June at Dingli and on 22 Jul again at Dwejra. Late singles at Buskett on 17<sup>th</sup> and 23 Oct and 2 at Qawra on 13 Nov.

**2002:** Up to treble figures on most days from 5 Mar to 25 Sep, but 1000+ on 6 dates from 18 May to 21 Jul. 1-2 on 14 dates from 29 Sep to 23 Oct.

**2003:** 1 at Simar on 15 Jan. Single figures, occasionally up to 100, on most days from 5-24 Mar, then daily from 28 Mar to 21 Jun and then on most days on to 29 Sep. Highest count was 1000 at Dingli on 5 Jun and at Dwejra on 8 Jun. Low treble figures frequent, especially in May and Jul-Aug. Then 1-2 on 7 days at Buskett from 5-25 Oct and 1 on Comino on 24 Oct.

**2004:** 1-5 from 8-15 Mar but 13 at Ċirkewwa on 12th, then daily from 21 Mar to 21 Sep when in treble figures of up to 300 regularly from late Apr to late Aug. But 400-600 on 6 dates mainly at Dwejra (M) with the highest numbers in May with 1000 at Buskett on 7th, then 2000 on 17-18th and 1000 on 19th all at Dwejra (M). 1-10 on most days from 23 Sep to 31 Oct but 20 at Buskett on 1 Oct. Last sightings in Nov with 1 at Ta Gajdoru on 14th and 2 at Buskett on 18th.

**2005:** Up to treble figures on most days from 4 Mar to 29 Sep, but 2000+ at Dwejra (M) on 9 May, 1000+ at Ġebel Ċiantar on 14 Aug and 1000+ at Comino and Qawra on 15 Aug. 1-6 on 8 dates from 2 Oct to 17 Oct.

#### **Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus***

**2000:** 3 sightings of single birds at Bahrija on 1 May, at Mtaħleb/Miġra Ferha on 19 Jun and at Ghadira on 11 Jul.

**2001:** Singles on 7 scattered dates in spring from 12 Apr to 31 May, but 2 at Dwejra on 14 May. Then 2 at Dingli Cliffs on 23 Aug.

**2002:** Recorded in single figures on 18 dates from 20 Mar to 7 Jul, highest 4 at Blata L-Bajda on 15 May and 5 at Dwejra (M) on 16 May. 1 at Għadira on 15 Sep.

**2003:** 20 sightings on 1-6 on 19 days from 14 Mar to 19 Jun, then 1-2 on 7 days from 13 Jul to 16 Sep. 2 at Dwejra (M) on 30 Sep.

**2004:** 1 at Ċirkewwa on 9 Mar, then 16 sporadic sightings of 1-2 from 24 Mar to 26 May. Singles in Jun on 8th and 29th followed by 2 on 14th and 1 on 15th in Jul. 9 sightings of 1-2 on 6 dates in Aug from 15-27th but 5 at Buskett on 15th and 4 at Qbajjar on 20th. Then 5 sightings of 1-3 from 20 Sep to 10 Oct and singles on 20-21 Oct, all at Buskett.

**2005:** 1-10 recorded on 26 dates from 13 Mar to 22 Jul, but 15 at Għarghur on 21 May and at Mġiebaħ on 11 Jun. In autumn, 1-5 on 4 dates from 6 Aug to 27 Aug, and single at Buskett on 14 Oct.

#### **Little Swift *Apus affinis***

**2003:** 1 at Buskett on 13 Sep.

#### **Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis***

**2000:** Single birds wintering at Għadira and Simar till 27 Feb. Then again from 29 Jul at Għadira than present almost daily till end of year with 5 on 29 Aug highest. 1-3 birds at Simar from 3 Aug till end of year. Single birds recorded from a few other areas.

**2001:** 1-2 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 28 Mar, and 1 at Simar on 9 Feb. 2 at Simar on 4 Jul. Then singles on most days from 7 Jul to 19 Aug, mainly at Simar. 1-4 on most days from 21 Aug and 31 Oct with 1-2 from 1 Nov to 31 Dec, the vast majority from Għadira and Simar.

**2002:** 1-2 at Għadira and Simar from Jan to 31 Mar. Then up to 3 almost daily from 5 Aug till end of year at Għadira and Simar. Outside the reserves, 1 at Aħrax on 27 Jan and 14 sightings of singles from 3 Aug to 20 Dec, most from Salina.

**2003:** 1-2 daily at Għadira from 1 Jan to 10 Apr and singles at Salina on 9 Mar and 6 Apr. In autumn daily at Għadira and Simar from 3 Aug to 31 Dec, with highest numbers from late Sep to late Oct when max of 6 at Simar on 29 Sep and 5 at Għadira on 14 Oct. At other sites, mainly coastal, singles on 15 days from 17 Aug to 21 Oct.

**2004:** Daily at Għadira with 2 in Jan-Feb then 1 till 14 Mar, whilst singles at Simar on a few dates from 19 Jan to 11 Mar. 1 at Salina on 14 Mar. First sightings in autumn in Jul with singles at Għadira on 11-13th and at Simar on 17-19th. Then daily at Għadira and Simar from 21 Jul to end of year when mostly 1-3 but 4-5 regularly at Simar from 11 Aug to 6 Sep and on 25 Oct, and up to 4 at Għadira on a few dates from 20 Sep to 23 Oct. Lower numbers from mid-Nov with 2 at Għadira and 1 at Simar. Few other sightings elsewhere with 1-2 mostly at Salina between Aug – Dec.

**2005:** 1-2 almost daily from 1 Jan to 1 Apr, all from Simar, Għadira and Salina. In autumn, 1-4 almost daily from 1 Aug to end of year, but 5 on 23 Sep, 6 on 5 Oct, 5 on 12 Oct and 5 on 19 Oct, all at Simar. Outside Reserves and Salina, 2 at St Elmo on 25 Sep, singles at Dwejra (G) on 29 Aug, Marsascala on 20 Aug and 22 Sep, Dwejra (M) on 2 Sep, Buskett on 7 Sep, Marsalforn on 15 Sep, Ramla on 3 dates in Sep, Mizieb on 30 Oct and Comino on 25 Sep and 18 Oct.

#### **European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster***

**2000:** 2 at Kapuċċini Valley, G and 10 at Selmun on 31 Mar were the first spring sightings. Then almost daily from 16 Apr to 13 Jun in single and low double figures but 150 at Ramla Bay on 22 Apr highest. 1 at Xagħra from 23rd to 30 July, then single to low double figures from 5 Aug to 19 Oct with 56 at Buskett on 4 Sept being the highest number.

**2001:** Single and low double figures from 7 Apr to 25 May, max 40 on 15 May (locality not given) and 20 on 6 May at Ta' Gajdoru. Singles on Comino on 9<sup>th</sup> and at Għadira on 24 Jun. Then single or double figures almost daily from 1 Sep to 13 Oct, max 100 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 65 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 52 on 9<sup>th</sup> all in September at Buskett. Late bird at Buskett on 26 Oct.

**2002:** 84 sightings on most days from 6 Apr to 24 Jun, in single or double figures, highest 60+ at Victoria on 25 Apr, otherwise up to 40. Singles at Għadira and Mellieħa on 6 Jul. In autumn, 8 at Buskett and 20 at Ta' Qali on 25 Aug, then up to double figures almost daily from 3 Sep to 18 Oct, highest 90 at Dwejra (M) on 10 Sep, otherwise up to 60.

**2003:** On most days from 10 Apr to 29 May with double figures on 14 days, max 60 at Għadira on 21 Apr. Then 5 sightings on 4 days from 5-29 Jun, with 18 at Mellieħa on first date, otherwise 1-2. In autumn daily on 28-31 Aug, then on most days from 10 Sep to 2 Oct, with largest concentration at Buskett. Max numbers were 130 at Dingli on 31 Aug and 120 at Buskett on 29 Aug. Double figures on 18 other days.

**2004:** Daily from 9 Apr to 9 May mostly in double figures at various sites. Highest numbers on 17 Apr with 235 from 10 sites (highest 52 at Ta' Gajdoru), on 19 Apr with 132 from 5 sites (highest 50 on Comino), on 22 Apr with 244 from 8 Sites (highest 90 at Dwejra,M), on 23 Apr with 154 from 8 sites (highest 50 at Simar), on 25 Apr with 222 from 9 sites (highest 86 at Salina) and on 2 May with 100 from 5 sites (highest 50 at Dwejra,M). Then singles on 6 dates in May from 11-26th, mostly at Simar, and in Jul on 4th at Dingli and on 30th at Mellieħa. Daily in autumn from 24 Aug to 9 Oct with highest numbers from late Aug to mid-Sep with 110 at Mtaħleb on 31 Aug, 150 at Dwejra (M) on 13 Sep, and 125 at Buskett on 14 Sep, otherwise in double figures and occasionally up to 100. 1-2 on a few dates in Oct from 12-23rd at Buskett.

**2005:** 5 at Xewkija on 5 Mar, then in single or low double figures almost daily from 8 Apr to 31 May, highest 200+ at Bidnija on 1 May, otherwise up to 87. Singles at Dwejra (M) and Chadwick Lakes on 20 Jun and 21 Jun respectively, and 2 at Ta' Gajdoru on 28 Jul. In autumn, 30 at Għar Dalam on 26 Aug, then up to double figures daily from 29 Aug to 27 Sep, highest 100 at Buskett on 11 Sep, otherwise up to 80. 2-5 on 4 dates from 29 Sep to 7 Oct.

#### **European Roller *Coracias garrulus***

**2000:** 1 at Dwejra (M) on 21 Sep.

**2002:** 1 at Qortin tax-Xagħra on 3 Apr.

**2003:** 2 at Xagħra on 18 Apr, 1 at Għallis on 21 Apr and 1 at Salina on 27 Apr. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 26 Jun.

**2004:** Singles at Buskett in Apr on 19th and 24th; then in May on 1-2nd at Għadira, at Salina on 2nd and at Dwejra (M) on 7th and 20th. In Jun on 20th at Dwejra (M) then in Sep at Buskett on 14th and at Luqa on 20th.



**2005:** In spring, singles at Salina on 26 Apr, Bidnija on 8 May, Bahrija on 15 May, and at Marsascala and Xrobb I-Għagin on 18 May. In autumn, 9 at Buskett, 1 at Għajn Tuffieha and 3 at Gnejna, all on 13 Sep, and 1 at Xrobb I-Għagin on 15 Sep.

**Hoopoe *Upupa epops***

**2000:** In spring, on various dates from 15 Mar to 25 Apr in single figures, max. 5 at Qammieħ on 25 Mar. In autumn, singles recorded on various occasions from 10 Aug to 28 Sep, but 2 at Dwejra (M) on 19 Aug. 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 1 Oct and 1 at Xagħra on 4 Nov.

**2001:** Single figures on most days from 11 Mar to 13 May, but 15 on Comino on 5 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 2 Jun, and singles on 5 scattered dates in July, but 2 at Dwejra on 30<sup>th</sup>. Then 1-2 on 20 dates from 4 Aug to 27 Sep.

**2002:** 1 at St. Paul's Bay on 28 Feb and 2 at Ċirkewwa on 2 Mar, then 1-5 on most dates from 6 Mar to 28 Apr, but 8 at Comino on 30 Mar. Singles on 5 dates from 14-19 May. In autumn, 1 at Dingli on 21 Jul, then singles on 16 dates from 3 Aug to 19 Sep. 2 at Qawra on 29 Sep and 1 at Simar on 10 Oct.

**2003:** Singles on 4 days from 1-9 Mar, then low to medium single figures at various sites almost daily from 12 Mar to 24 Apr, but 30 at Xagħra on 4 Apr. Singles on 30 Apr and 1 May. In autumn singles at Dwejra (Malta) from 11 Jul to 3 Aug, at Mgarr ix-Xini on 14 Jul, and at Għadira on 25 Jul; then 24 sightings of 1-3 on 16 days from 6 Aug to 28 Sep, but 4 at Qawra on 16 Sep. 1 at Qawra on 8 Oct.

**2004:** Nine sightings of singles on 6 dates from 22 Feb to 3 Mar, then 1-2 almost daily from 13 Mar to 3 May but 5 at Qammieħ on 2 Apr and 3 at Ċirkewwa and Munxar on 31 Mar and at Ċirkewwa on 3 Apr. Singles at 2 sites on 27 May, at Dwejra (M) on 25 Jun, at Ta Lambert on 17 Jul and at Pietà on 2 Aug. Then 2 at Dwejra (M) on 13 Aug, then 23 sightings of singles on 16 dates from 21 Aug to 14 Sep but 2 at Għadira on 28 Aug.

**2005:** Singles at Simar on 11 Feb and at Ta' Gajdoru on 25 Feb, then 1-6 almost daily from 1 Mar to 29 Apr, but 7 at Salina on 6 Apr. Singles on 6 dates from 5 May to 31 Jul. In autumn, 1 at Xrobb I-Għagin on 7 Aug, then 1-3 almost daily from 15 Aug to 18 Sep. 1 at Comino on 16 Oct.

**Wryneck *Jynx torquilla***

**2000:** Daily from 1 Jan to 28 Feb mainly at Buskett and Simar. Single birds from various locations from 5 Mar to 29 Apr, highest being 4 on Comino on 31 Mar. Almost daily at Simar, Għadira and Buskett from 18 Aug till end of year max. 5 at Għadira on 6-7 Oct. Single bird at Għajn Zejtuna on six dates in Oct and Nov. 1 at Wied Qannotta on 2 Nov, 1 at Bahrija on 9 Dec and 1 at Targa Gap on 18 Dec.

**2001:** Singles most days from 5 Jan to 30 Mar but 2 at Għadira on 6 Mar. 1-3 almost daily from 1<sup>st</sup> to 26 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 28 Aug. 1-5 regularly from 2 Sep to 29 Nov. Singles on 8 dates from 6<sup>th</sup> to 26 Dec, but 2 at Simar on 14<sup>th</sup> and 24 Dec.

**2002:** 1-2 on most dates from Jan to 2 May, but 3 at Comino on 6 Apr and at Villa Rundle on 17 Apr. Then 1-3 on most dates from 2 Sep till end of year, but 4 at Buskett on 11 Oct.

**2003:** Single wintering birds at 4 sites in Jan-5 Mar. 1-3 on most days, but 10 on Comino on 13 Apr, from 17 Mar to 28 Apr, then late sighting on 18 May. In autumn 1 on 1 Sep, then 1-4 (but 10 at Buskett on 14 Oct) on most days from 19 Sep to 24 Nov. 1-2 wintering at several sites throughout Dec.

**2004:** Singles on most days in Jan and in Feb on 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, mostly at Simar. Then 10 sightings of singles on 8 dates from 13 Mar to 7 Apr but 2 at Għadira on 2 Apr. Daily in Apr from 14-28<sup>th</sup> with highest numbers on Comino when 5-8 regularly but 20 on 24<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 25<sup>th</sup>, otherwise 1-3 at other sites. 1 at Salina on 2 May. In autumn almost daily from 9 Sep to 31 Dec when usually 1-2 at several sites but 3 at Simar in Sep on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, and in Oct on 1<sup>st</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and also at Buskett on 30 Sep and 6 Oct.

**2005:** Single at Simar on 11 dates from 2 Jan to 7 Feb, then 1-3 on most dates from 11 Feb to 2 May, but 7 at Simar on 7 Apr. 1 at Wardija on 29 Aug and Simar on 1 Sep, then 1-2 on most dates from 7 Sep to end of year, but 3 at Buskett on 12 Oct and 29 Oct.

**Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus***

**2000:** Almost daily in single and low double figures of up to 10 from 14 Apr to 11 June, but 16 at Wied Qannotta on 23 Apr. In autumn, up to 5 at Buskett from 20-31 Aug, and 6 sightings from Buskett, Dwejra, (M) B'Kara, Lunzjata Valley and Għadira between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 11 Sep. Maxima 8 at Buskett on 1 Sep.

**2001:** Single figures almost daily from 12 Apr to 20 May, max 8 at Buskett on 16 Apr. Then singles at Buskett on 30 May and 17 Jun, at Rabat on 25 Aug and 2 Sep, at B' Kara on 4<sup>th</sup>, at Mellieħa on 5<sup>th</sup>, and at Buskett on 9 Sep.

**2002:** Almost daily from 19 Apr to 13 May in single or low double figures, highest 25 at Mellieħa on 24 Apr. 1-2 on 6 dates from 23 May to 2 Jun. In autumn, 1-2 on 6 dates from 20 Aug to 19 Sep.

**2003:** 1-3 on 5 days from 8-15 Apr, then passage on 18 Apr when total of 113 at 4 sites, and daily on to 13 May when mostly in single figures but occasionally up to 20; and then single figures less regularly till 1 Jun. 1 at Għadira on 4 Jul. In autumn 23 sightings of 1-4 on 15 days from 31 Aug to 24 Sep.

**2004:** Daily from 15 Apr to 18 May with peak in late Apr with 40 at Comino and Lunzjata, and 20 at Mellieħa on 25<sup>th</sup>, 50 at Buskett and 20 at Lunzjata on 27<sup>th</sup>, and 25 at Buskett on 28<sup>th</sup>, otherwise 1-15. Then 12 sightings of 1-2 from 23 May to 4 Jul. In autumn 1 on 6 Aug, then 11 sightings of 1-3 from 25 Aug to 13 Sep mainly at Buskett.

**2005:** Singles at Għadira on 7 Apr and Buskett on 9 Apr, then in single and low double figures of up to 18 almost daily from 14 Apr to 31 May, but 30+ on 30 Apr and 20 on 16 May, both at Buskett. Singles on 11 dates from 1-21 Jun, but 3 at Buskett on 1 Jun. In autumn, 1-2 on 12 dates from 14 Aug to 16 Sep, but 3 on 31 Aug and 5 on 1 Sep, both at Buskett.

**Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio***

**2000:** Singles at Dwejra (M) on 29 Aug and on 8 Sep and 1 at Lunzjata Valley on 19 Sep.

**2001:** 1 at Wied Il Luq on 15 Sep.

**2002:** 2 at Comino on 22 Apr and 1 at B'Kara on 15 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 1 Oct, at Ramla Dam on 7 Oct and at Buskett on 11 Oct.

**2003:** 1 on Comino on 5 May; and singles at Mellieħa on 16 Sep and at Għadira on 30 Sep.

**2004:** Singles at Dwejra (M) on 27 May and 11 Sep and at Luqa airport on 23 Sep.

**2005:** Singles at Buskett on 25 Sep and at Comino on 19 Oct.

#### **Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator***

**2000:** Recorded in single figures from 1 Apr to 19 May, but 15 at Comino on 26 Apr and 6 May. 7 single sightings from 4 to 15 Jun, but 3 at Mtaħleb on 4 June. In autumn from 11 Aug at Dwejra (M) and single birds recorded till 26 Sep, highest 3 at Dwejra (M) on 23 Aug. One late bird at Ta' Ċenċ on 20 Oct.

**2001:** Up to 15 almost daily from 5 Apr to 16 May but 20 on Comino on 2 May. 1 at Għadira on 22 May. Then singles on 4 dates in August: at Dwejra (M) on 21<sup>st</sup>, at Buskett on 22<sup>nd</sup>, and at Dwejra on 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**2002:** 5 at Comino on 3 Apr and singles at Salina on 3 Apr and again at Comino on 4 Apr, then in single figures almost daily from 9 Apr to 12 May, but 10+ on 17 Apr and 25+ on 29 Apr, both at Comino. Singles at Għadira on 17 May and at Dwejra (M) on 21 May. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 5 dates from 19-25 Aug.

**2003:** Almost daily from 6 Apr to 14 May; usually single figures but 10-15 on 5 days on Comino. Then 2 singles on 18 May and 1 on 26 May. In autumn 1-4 on 14 days at Dwejra (Malta) from 3-23 Aug, then singles on 6 days from 28 Aug to 22 Sep. Late bird on Comino on 29 Oct.

**2004:** 1 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar, then 7 sightings of singles from 7-12 Apr. Daily from 14 Apr to 9 May with highest numbers from late Apr to early May when in double figures of up to 30 on most days mainly at Comino, otherwise 1-10. But an influx took place on 24 Apr with high numbers at some sites including 200 on Comino, 20 at L-Ahrax and Salina, 18 at Buskett, 12 at Dwejra (M) and Wied Qannotta, and 10 at Pieta. Then 1-2 frequently from 12-25 May. Breeding pair at Buskett seen with fledged young on 20 Jun. Singles at Dwejra (M) on 23rd and 27th Jun, 19 Jul, and 2-6 Aug, then 1-2 on most days from 10 Aug to 4 Sep, mainly at Dwejra (M).

**2005:** 1 at Luqa on 19 Mar, then in single and low double figures of up to 15+ on most dates from 3 Apr to 11 May, but 20 on 24 Apr, 25+ on 26 Apr, 20 on 27 Apr and 20+ on 3 May, all at Comino. Singles at Simar on 11 May and Għadira on 21 May. 1 at Comino on 12 Jun. In autumn, 1-2 on 13 dates from 14 Aug to 15 Sep, mainly from Buskett.

#### **Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix***

**2001:** 1 at Qammieħ on 6 Apr.

**2004:** 1 at Salina on 9 Apr.

#### **Goldcrest *Regulus regulus***

**2000:** Recorded only in autumn and winter from 24 Oct to 29 Dec. Highest count of 5 at Wardija on 29 Nov.

**2001:** 1-3 on 8 dates from 6 Jan to 14 Feb, but 5 at Buskett on 14 Jan. 1-2 on 11 dates at various localities from 18 Oct to 27 Dec.

**2002:** 1-3 on 9 dates from 2 Jan to 10 Mar, but 4 at Buskett on 8 Jan.

**2003:** 1 on 23 Oct, then irregular sightings of 1-4 from 4-15 Nov and from 22 Nov to 29 Dec when in single figures, max 8 at Buskett on 26 Nov.

**2004:** 1-2 frequently in Jan-Feb but 4 at Mdina on 9 Jan and 3 at Buskett in Feb on 13th and 27th. Then singles in Mar on 17th, 22nd and 28th. In autumn 1-2 on 4 dates at Għadira from 9-17 Nov and at Buskett with 3 on 10 Nov, then in Dec with 1 on 21st and 4 on 24th.

**2005:** 1-3 on 12 dates from 4 Jan to 24 Feb, mainly at Buskett, but 6+ on 23 Jan, also at Buskett. In winter, 1-3 on 8 dates from 6 Nov to 24 Dec, but 5 at Buskett on 23 Dec.

#### **Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla***

**2000:** Single birds from 1 Jan to 8 March, mainly at Għadira, highest 3 at Wied Incita on last date. First autumn sighting on 1 Nov at Simar (1 bird), and the last on 29 Dec at Buskett. Highest number at Wardija where 6 birds were seen on 4 Nov.

**2001:** 2 at Għadira on 30 Oct, then up to 4 on 26 dates from 4 Nov to 29 Dec, but 8 at Simar on 6 Dec.

**2002:** 1-2 on 9 dates from 2 Jan to 13 Feb, mostly at Simar. Singles at Mdina on 28 Mar and at Għadira on 1 Apr. 2 at Buskett on 6 Nov and 1 at Għadira on 11-12 Nov.

**2003:** 1-3 regularly from 20 Oct to 25 Dec with sightings at various sites but mostly at Buskett, Rabat, Għadira and Simar.

**2004:** 1-2 frequently from 1 Jan to 8 Mar mainly at Simar, then singles at Targa Gap on 2-3 Apr, at Rabat on 1 May and 17 Nov, and at Red Tower on 18 Nov.

**2005:** Singles at Buskett on 23 Jan and 4 Feb. 1-3 on most dates from 14 Oct to end of year, but 4 at Buskett on 15 Oct and 28 Dec.

#### **Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla***

**2000:** 3 at il-Qortin tal-Mellieħa on 26 Mar than daily in single and low double figures of up to 30 from 1 Apr to 23 Sept, but 100 on 8 Sep and 80 on 9 Sep at Dwejra (M)

**2001:** 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 4 Mar, then up to 20 on most dates from 17 Mar to 28 Jun with 25 at Qawra on 6 Apr and on Comino on 1 May. 3 at Migra Ferha on 1 Jul, 1 near Ta' Qali on 11 Jul and 2 at Dwejra on 22 Jul. Up to 25 seen almost daily from 9 Aug to 23 Sep.

**2002:** 6 at Luqa Airport and singles at Munxar on 12 Mar and at Sarraflu on 15 Mar, then up to 30 on most dates from 29 Mar to 22 Jun. 100+ at Ras Il-Wardija on 12 Jul, then up to 30 on 9 dates from 11 Aug to 19 Sep.

**2003:** First arrivals on 29 Mar then sightings on most days at several sites with spring max of 40 on Comino on 19 Apr. Up to 30 at Ta' Ċenċ during breeding period in Apr-Jun. Most birds had left by mid-Sep, with last sightings on 24 Sep.

**2004:** Breeding migrant. 1-2 on a few dates in Mar from 17-31st but 24 at Ćirkewwa on 31st, then in single to double figures from 3 Apr to 21 Sep. Up to 20 in usual breeding areas but higher numbers on migration mainly in Apr and Aug with max.70 at Wardija, G on 25th and 65 at Mtaħleb on 27th both in Aug. 1-5 on a few dates from 24 Sep to 11 Oct.

**2005:** Singles at Xrobb l-Għagin on 23 Feb and Għadira on 25 Feb, and 1 on 4 dates from 4-17 Mar. Then up to 43 on most dates from 24 Mar to 21 Jun, but 90 on 4 Apr and 70 on 6 Apr, both at Għajn Tuffieha. Then 1-15 on 8 dates from 26 Jun to 17 Aug, and 1-50 on most dates from 28 Aug to 12 Sep, but 100+ at Wardija (G) on 29 Aug. Single at Simar on 21 Sep.

#### **Wood Lark *Lullula arborea***

**2000:** Singles at Mellieħa on 14 Nov and at Xagħra, Gozo on 8 Dec

**2001:** 1 at Dwejra on 10 Oct.

**2003:** 2 at Mellieħa on 27 Oct.

**2004:** 1 at Buskett on 30 Sep.

#### **Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis***

**2000:** Daily sightings of single and low double figures from 1 Jan to 2 Apr, highest 20 at Dwejra (M) on 29 Jan. 2 at Qawra on 23 Sep then almost daily from 1 Oct till end of year. Max. 191 at Buskett on 15 Oct, 340 at Qawra on 22 Oct, and 250 at Qawra on 23 Oct.

**2001:** Single or low double figure counts, up to 17, on most days from 1 Jan to 18 Mar but 55 in the Gozo Channel on 16 Feb. 1 on Comino on 28 Apr. 2 at Qawra on 29 Sep. Single to high double figure counts almost daily from 5 Oct to 30 Nov, with 3 triple figure counts all at Qawra: 160 on 24<sup>th</sup> and 134 on 27 Oct, and 104 on 3 Nov. Single figures on 11 dates from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31 Dec, but 25 at Ta' Ćenċ on 14 Dec.

**2002:** Up to 10 on most days from Jan to 22 Mar, but 20 at Ta' Ćenċ on 10 Feb. Then up to 25 on most dates from 24 Mar to 6 Apr, but 77 at Ćirkewwa on 29 Mar. 1 at Ta' Mrejnu Mġarr on 10 Apr. Autumn passage: 1 at Għadira on 30 Sep, then almost daily from 3 Oct to 28 Nov in single or double figures but 177 at Qawra on 21 Oct and 200+ at Comino on 27 Oct. Up to 8 almost daily from 29 Nov till end of year.

**2003:** Single figures on most days in Jan-24 Mar, but 15-24 on 4 days from 14-19 Mar. Then 9 sightings of 1-3 on 6 days from 7 Apr to 9 May. In autumn daily from 10 Oct to 23 Nov with double to low treble figures between 26 Oct and 8 Nov, max 350 on 3 Nov and 590 on 4 Nov, both at Qawra. Mostly single to low double figures on other days. Single figures on 10 days in Dec.

**2004:** 1-5 in a few places in Jan-Feb but 8 at Simar on 14 Jan and at Pembroke on 15 Feb, then 1-6 more frequently in Mar till 23rd and 2 at Ćirkewwa on 31st. Daily in single to double figures in autumn from 5 Oct to 31 Dec with highest numbers from late Oct to early Nov when in treble figures on a few dates. Max.350 on 21st and 300 on 22nd, both in Oct and on Comino, otherwise up to 131. Up to 15 from mid-Nov but higher numbers at Luqa airport with 20-40 in Nov and up to 20 in Dec.

**2005:** Up to 10 on most days from Jan to 6 Apr, but 20 at Għadira on 14 Feb and 31+ at Luqa Airport on 22 Feb. In autumn, single and double figures on most dates from 2 Oct to end of year, but 300+ on 21 Oct and 100+ on 22 Oct, both at Comino, otherwise up to 80+.

#### **Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

**2000:** First spring sighting 2 at Pwales on 12 Mar, then almost daily in double and low treble figures from 20 Mar till end of May, maxima 200 at Simar on 21 Apr, 150 on 11-13 Apr at Għadira and on 3-4 May at Simar. Single figures on most dates from 1-16 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Simar and 2 at Buskett on 28 Aug, then in single to low double figures throughout Sep and Oct. Last sighting was of 1 at Buskett on 11 Nov.

**2001:** 1 at Marsalforn Valley on 26 Feb. Then in single or double figures on most days from 1 Mar to 1 Jun but 18 triple figure counts, max. ca. 1000 on 30<sup>th</sup> at Simar, 500 on 29 Apr at Dwejra, and 400 on 6 dates from 1<sup>st</sup> to 14 May, all at Simar. In autumn singles at Buskett on 24-25 Aug and then up to 15 almost daily from 3 Sep to 26 Oct.

**2002:** Almost daily from 5 Mar to 13 Jun. Highest numbers from 24 Apr to 17 May, with several sightings of treble figures, highest 400+ at Simar on 14 May. 2 at Aħrax on 22 Jun. In autumn, 8 at Simar on 23 Aug and 1-4 on 3 dates from 3-10 Sep, then on most days from 14 Sep to 16 Oct in single or low double figures, highest 30+ at Buskett on 23 Sep.

**2003:** 4 sightings of 1-3 on 15-16 Mar, and almost daily from 29 Mar to 18 May, with double to low treble figures on several days and a peak on 19-22 Apr when 1000-2000 daily. Then 10 sightings of up to 20 on 6 days from 22 May to 5 Jun. In autumn 1-5 on 4 days from 29 Aug to 5 Sep, then daily from 13-30 Sep when mostly in double figures and 100 at Buskett on 25 Sep. Up to 20 on 6 days from 7-24 Oct.

**2004:** 2 at Għadira on 22 Feb, then singles at Simar on 5 dates from 27 Feb to 18 Mar but 3 on 15th, whilst 1 was at Salina on 29 Feb. Then in single to double figures daily from 23 Mar to 14 May with peak numbers in early-mid-late Apr when in treble figures of up to 200 at some sites. Highest numbers mostly at Simar in Apr with 400 on 2nd and 300 on 5th and 26th, but also at Għajn Rihana with 250 on 14th. Up to 50 till May but 150 at Salina on 9th. 1-20 on most days from 17-30 May but 40 at Mistrà on 30th. In Jun only at Simar with 2 on 8th and singles on 11th and 14-18th. 1 at Simar on 21 Jul. In autumn 1-10 almost daily from 27 Aug to 26 Oct but 20 at Għadira on 14th and 15 at Lunzjata on 15th, both in Sep. Then 3 at Wied Zejta, G on 21 Nov and 1 at Simar on 1 Dec.

**2005:** 1-2 on 4 dates from 27 Feb to 2 Mar, all at Simar. Then in single, double and triple figures almost daily from 19 Mar to 14 Jun, but 1000+ at Simar on 22 Apr and 27 Apr, otherwise up to 800+. In autumn, single at Buskett on 28 Aug, then 1-20 almost daily from 31 Aug to 14 Oct, but 100 at Buskett on 13 Sep. 1-2 on 7 dates from 28 Oct to 29 Nov.

#### **Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris***

**2004:** 2 at Buskett on 29 Nov.

**2005:** 1 at Għadira and Red Tower on 10 Nov.

### **Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

**2000:** First spring migrants from 17 Feb with 1 at Ghadira, other single birds at Xlendi and Ta'Ċenċ on 20th and 22 Feb respectively. Daily sightings in single, double and low treble figures from 5 Mar to 27 Jun. highest numbers include; 500 at Simar on 12th and 21st Apr, 400 on 9th and 11 Apr; 350 on 13 Apr all at Ghadira. A pair was noted at Dingli Cliffs on 26 Jun. Singles on 19 Jul and 21 Jul at Qammieħ and Simar respectively, then almost daily from 21 Jul till 29 Nov in single, double and treble figures, highest count 1800 at Buskett on 11 Oct. Single bird at Simar from 23-29 Dec.

**2001:** 2 at Simar on 6 Jan. Then 1 at Simar on 21 Feb, and in single, double and triple figures on most days from 25 Feb to 30 May, max. 800 at Wied Qannotta on 18<sup>th</sup> and 400 at Simar on 25 Apr, and 200 again at Simar on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12 May. 1-2 on 17 dates from 2 Jun and 18 Jul. In autumn almost daily in double and triple figures from 21 Aug to 16 Nov, with max counts at Buskett: 800 on 27 Sep, 600 on 2 Oct, and 500 on 3 dates 24<sup>th</sup> and 30 Sep and 1 Oct.

**2002:** 1-2 on 5 dates from 15-23 Feb, then up to low treble figures of up to 400 daily from 27 Feb to 10 Jun, but 500+ on 4 dates: at Comino and Ghadira on 14 Apr, at Simar on 16 Apr and 19 Apr, and at Lunzjata on 8 May. 1-2 on 13 dates from 13 Jun to 26 Jul, but 4 at Dingli Cliffs on 22 Jun. In autumn, up to 600 almost daily from 19 Aug to 5 Nov, but 2000+ at Buskett on 17 Sep, 6000+ at Lunzjata on 11 Oct, and 2000+ at Lunzjata on 13 Oct. 1-6 on 6 dates from 11-30 Nov.

**2003:** 1 at Lunzjata on 4 Jan. 1-2 on 7 days from 12 Feb to 1 Mar, then daily from 3 Mar to mid-May and less regularly on to 13 Jun. Peak period from 26 Mar to 21 Apr when often treble figures and up to 3000 each at Salina and Simar on 19 Apr. 6 sightings of 1-2 on 5 days from 19 Jun to 20 Jul. In autumn singles on 5 Aug and 14 Aug, then up to 20 on 3 days from 23 -26 Aug and daily from 28 Aug to 10 Nov. Medium treble figures on several days, especially in Sep – mid-Oct, and with max of 3000 at Tigne' Pt. on 19 Sep. 11 sightings of 1-2 on 8 days from 17 Nov to 26 Dec.

**2004:** Few sightings in Jan with singles at Ramla valley on 3-4th then at San Gwann with 2 on 9th and 1 on 23rd. Singles frequently at Ghadira and Simar from 6-21 Feb but 3 at Simar on 21st. Then present till 16 Dec when mostly in single to double figures in spring but in treble figures on most days from late Mar to early May. Highest numbers on 14 Apr with 700 at Salina, 600 at Simar and 500 at Comino but also on 13th with 500 and on 19th with 400, both at Simar otherwise 100-325 from various sites. In single figures from late May to mid-Aug with a pair nesting at Buskett in Jul-Aug. In double figures from late Aug increasing to treble figures by mid-Sep but higher numbers from late Sep to mid-Oct with 1000-2000 at Buskett on 5 days from 29 Sep to 13 Oct. Then lower numbers after mid-Oct with 100-300 on 20-22nd and 80 on 25th, both at Buskett and Oct, highest. 1-2 from mid-Nov to mid-Dec.

**2005:** 1-2 on 7 dates from 13 Feb to 27 Feb, then treble figures of up to 600 daily from 28 Feb to 31 May, but 1500+ at Simar on 27 Apr. 1-3 on 23 dates from 1 Jun to 10 Jul, but 12 at Dwejra (M) on 5 Jun. In autumn, up to 600 almost daily from 2 Aug to 8 Nov, but 1500+ at Dwejra (M) on 7 Oct and 1200+ at Rabat on 7-8 Oct. Singles on 6 dates from 12-26 Nov.

### **Barn Swallow x House Martin (Hybrid)**

**2005:** Singles at Wied il-Luq on 23 Sep and at Ghadira on 1 Oct.

### **Barn Swallow x Red-Rumped Swallow (Hybrid)**

**2002:** 1 at Wied Qannotta on 11 May.

### **House Martin *Delichon urbicum***

**2000:** 2 on 30 Jan and 3 on 31 Jan at Ghadira, then almost daily from 10 Feb to 9 June in single double and low treble figures, maxima 300 at Simar on 15 May and at Dwejra, (M) on 17 May. 1-5 birds from 1 Jun to 18 Jul mainly from the Dingli area. In autumn, single birds from 28 Aug then almost daily in single and double figures till 25 Nov, highest count 200 at Buskett on 11 Oct. Single bird at Simar from 23-29 Dec.

**2001:** 1 at Simar on 1st and 3 nr Chadwick Lakes on 28 Jan. 1 in the Gozo Channel on 13 Feb, then almost daily in single, double or triple figures from 20 Feb to 13 June, max. 300 at Wied Qannotta on 18 Apr, 300 at Dwejra and 250 at Simar on 21 May, and 200 at Victoria on 28 Apr. Then 2 at Dingli on 24 Jun, and up to 4 on 6 dates from 8 Jul to 2 Aug, again most at Dingli. Autumn migration in single and double figures almost daily from 24 Aug to 20 Oct, but triple figures on 3 dates: 600 at Buskett on 27 Sep, and 100 again at Buskett on 2<sup>nd</sup> and at Rabat on 19 Oct. Late birds: 3 at Lunzjata on 4<sup>th</sup>, 1 at Simar on 12<sup>th</sup> and 1 at Lunzjata on 16 Nov.

**2002:** Singles at Simar on 17-18 Jan and 31 Jan, then single, double or treble figures almost daily from 9 Feb to 17 Jun, highest 600+ at Lunzjata on 24 May. A pair bred at Nadur (G) on 27 Jun. but after the young hatched (at least 2) the adults disappeared and therefore no birds fledged. This is the first breeding record of House Martins in Gozo. 2 at Bingemma on 10 Jul and 1 at Dingli on 11 Aug. In autumn, up to 300 almost daily from 4 Sep to 6 Nov, but 1000+ at Lunzjata on 13 Oct. 1 at Ghadira on 19 Nov.

**2003:** On most days from 10 Feb to 24 Mar with low to medium double figures on 9 days and 100 at Simar on 18 Mar. Daily from 30 Mar to 14 May, then less regularly on to 6 Jun. Low to medium treble figures on several days and maxima of 2000 at San Pawl tat-Tarġa on 8 May and 1000 at Wied Qannotta on 19 Apr. Singles at 3 sites on 5 days from 20 Jun to 21 Jul. In autumn singles on 19-21 Aug, then on most days from 10 Sep to 10 Nov with low treble figures, mostly at Buskett, on several days, max 400 on 22 Sep and on 14 Oct.

**2004:** Singles in Jan on 5th at Salina, on 9th at Ta'Ċenċ, at Ghadira on 20th and at Simar on 21-26th. 1-2 at 2 sites in Feb on 3rd then daily from 7 Feb to 31 May. 20-50 from late Feb at Simar and 60 at Salina on 29 Feb, 100-160 at Simar on 4-5 Mar and 180 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar. Regularly in double figures in Apr at various sites but 15 sightings of 100-300 and 1000 at Dwejra (M) on 27th. In treble figures of up to 250 on most days in May till 29th with max. 500 on 17th at Dwejra (M), otherwise in double figures. Then 1-5 on most days in Jun from 3-23rd. In autumn from 7 Sep to 28 Oct when in single to double figures of up to 30 in Sep, then occasionally in treble figures up to 150 in Oct but 300 at Buskett on 4th and 22nd. In Nov 1 on 2nd and 6 at Lunzjata on 16th, then 6 sightings of 1-3 in Dec from 7-22nd.

**2005:** Singles at Ghadira on 15-16 Jan, then in single, double and treble figures almost daily from 11 Feb to 14 Jun, highest 500+ at Bidnija on 1 May, and Dwejra (M) on 2 May and 5 May. 2 at Ramla Valley on 5 Jul and singles at Simar on 11 Jul and Ghadira on 12 Jul. In autumn, 4 at Buskett on 31 Aug, then up to 150+ on most dates from 1 Sep to 6 Nov, but 200+ at Buskett on 8 Oct. 4 on 4 Dec and 2 on 28 Dec, both at Rabat.

**Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica***

**2000:** Recorded on various dates in spring from 25 Mar to 18 Apr in single figures of 1-5 but 30 birds were present at Capuccini Valley on 9 Apr. 3 autumn sightings; singles at Ta'Gajdoru, Xagħra on 19th and 27 Oct and 1 at Lunzjata Valley on 25 Nov.

**2001:** 3 at San Luċġan and 1 at Salina on 20 Mar. Then singles on Comino and at Wied Qannotta on 15<sup>th</sup>, at Simar on 23<sup>rd</sup> and at Salina on 24 Apr. 1 at Victoria on 12 May. In autumn singles at Dingli Cliffs on 18 Aug and at Buskett on 1 Oct.

**2002:** 1 at San Luċġan and 2 at Simar on 11 Mar, then 45 sightings of single figures on 32 dates from 19 Mar to 15 May, but 10 at Salina and 15 at Wied Qannotta on 13 Apr and 30+ at Marsalforn Valley on 14 Apr. Singles at Bingemma on 2 Jun and at Għadira on 15 Sep.

**2003:** 25 sightings on 21 days from 23 Mar to 4 May; usually 1-8, but 10-14 on 4 days. 2 on 5 Jun and 2 on 2 Jul. In autumn 6 sightings of 1-2 on 5 days from 17-23 Sep.

**2004:** Singles, mostly at Simar, almost daily from 22 Feb to 9 Mar but 2 at Ta Ċenċ on 7th. Then 1-5 daily from 26 Mar to 29 Apr but 7 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar, 15 at Luqa airport on 13 Apr, and 7 at Salina on 14th and at Simar on 16th, both in Apr. 1-2 on 4 dates from 16 May to 8 Jun. Then in Aug with 1 on 6th and 2 on 25th, and in Oct on 7th and 9th. Late bird at St.Pauls Bay on 12 Dec.

**2005:** In spring, 1-2 on 15 dates from 14 Mar to 15 May, but 3+ at Wied Qannotta on 17 Apr and 3 at Santa Margerita on 23 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 1 Sep and 1-2 on 4 dates from 2-15 Oct.

**Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti***

**2000:** Resident breeder; mainly in single figures in various localities, double figures at Għadira mainly in Jun-Jul with 20+ including numerous fledglings on various days in summer.

**2001:** Breeding resident with up to 10 in suitable areas, but 15 at Għadira on 5 dates in May and at Simar on 7 Jul, and 20 at Buskett on 13 May.

**2002:** Breeding resident with up to 10 in suitable areas, but 12 at Chadwick Lakes on 9 Jun, 15 at Buskett on 16 Aug, and 20 at Buskett on 8 Oct.

**2003:** Widespread with single figures in many localities throughout the year and higher numbers at favourite sites. Max count was 50 at Buskett on 26 Jun. First fledglings seen on 5 May. Several sightings outside suitable breeding habitat during autumn/winter, including 1 on Comino on 21 Oct.

**2004:** Breeding resident. In single figures from various places throughout the year but 10-15 at a few places mainly Buskett, Simar and Għadira with max.20 at Simar on 21 Jun.

**2005:** Breeding resident with up to 12 in suitable areas, but 15 at Buskett and Simar on various dates.

**Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides***

**2002:** 1 ringed at Għadira on 9 Dec. (1st record for Malta).

**Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus***

**2000:** Singles at Għadira on 17 Oct, at Simar on 19 Oct, and at Mellieħa on 21 Oct.

**2003:** Singles at Simar on 9 days from 11 Oct to 3 Nov; at Għadira on 18, 21 and 31 Oct; at Mellieħa on 7 and 9 Nov; and at Qawra on 10 and 16 Nov.

**2004:** Singles at Simar on 20-21 Jan and at Targa Gap on 19 Nov.

**2005:** Singles at Buskett on 15 Oct, at Comino on 18 Oct, at Għadira on 27 Oct, at Buskett on 31 Oct and at Għadira on 4 Nov.

**Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus***

**2000:** 1 at Għadira from 29 Jan to 5 May.

**2004:** 1 at Simar from 6 Jan to 6 Apr.

**Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli***

**2000:** 3 sightings at Manoel Island in Apr, 2 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 8<sup>th</sup> and again on the 11<sup>th</sup>; 3 single birds at Għadira; 1 on 11 Apr and single birds in autumn on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4 Sep.

**2001:** 1 at Simar on 24 Apr.

**2002:** Singles at Comino on 10 Apr and at Għadira on 21 Apr.

**2004:** Singles at Għajnsielem on 19 Mar, at Simar on 2 Apr, at Buskett on 21 Apr and at Simar on 28 Oct

**2005:** 1 at Simar on 14 Apr.

**Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis***

**2000:** 4 at Simar on 8 Apr, 2 at Comino on 19 Apr and 1 at Simar on 30 Apr.

**2001:** Singles on 10 dates in April: at Comino on 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> and on 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, at Lunzjata on 21<sup>st</sup>, at Simar on 24<sup>th</sup>, and at Għadira on 27<sup>th</sup>. Then 1 at Għadira on 12 May.

**2002:** 1 at Simar on 31 Mar.

**2003:** Singles at Għajn Tuffieħa on 8 Apr, at Għadira on 10 Apr and at Simar on 21 Apr. In autumn 1 at Simar on 28 Sep.

**2004:** Only in Apr with singles at Għadira on 1-3rd and 6-8th but 3 on 3rd, then singles at Comino on 14-15th

**2005:** 1-3 almost daily at Għadira on 26 Mar to 14 Apr. Singles at Simar on 3-4 Apr and 7 Apr.

**Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix***

**2000:** 2 at Simar on 1 Apr, then almost daily from various localities up to 20 May, max. 40+ on various dates mainly at Għadira and Simar. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 20 Aug, then 1-5 on various dates throughout Sep. Single birds at Simar on 3 dates in Oct, last record of 3 on 9 Oct.

**2001:** In single or low double figures on most days from 1 Apr to 20 May, max. 30 on 5 dates from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, and 35 on 14<sup>th</sup> all, but one, at Simar in May. Then 1 at Ghadira on 5 Jun, and up to 4 on 12 dates from 4<sup>th</sup> to 20 Oct at Ghadira or Simar.

**2002:** Singles at Comino on 20 Mar and at Lunzjata on 23 Mar, then almost daily from 29 Mar to 30 May, in single or double figures, but 100+ at Simar on 23 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 21 Aug, then 1-2 on 5 dates from 18-26 Sep, but 5 at Simar on 20 Sep.

**2003:** 1 on 22 Mar, then daily from 25 Mar to 1 May with low double figures at most sites between 2-26 Apr and 60 on Comino on 13 Apr and 50 at Ghadira on 19 Apr. Singles on 4 days from 8-28 May. In autumn daily from 15 Sep to 9 Oct when always single figures but 15 at Ghadira on 19 Sep. Then 5 singles on 4 days from 18 Oct to 1 Nov.

**2004:** Singles in Mar on 12<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, then from 1 Apr to 16 May with highest numbers from mid-Apr to early May at Simar with 70 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 100 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 100-120 on 25-26<sup>th</sup> and 70 on 28<sup>th</sup>, all in Apr then 60 on 4 May. 1-40 elsewhere. Late singles in May on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and on 5 Jun. In autumn 10 sightings of 1-2 from 17 Aug to 22 Sep mainly at Simar and Ghadira. Late bird at Rabat on 11 Nov.

**2005:** 1 at Wied ir-Rihan on 20 Mar, then in single and double figures of up to 50+ almost daily from 25 Mar to 18 May, but 70+ on 20 Apr and 80+ on 21 Apr, both at Simar. In autumn, 1-2 on 11 dates from 30 Aug to 9 Oct

#### **Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita***

**2000:** Single to double figures from 1 Jan to 25 Apr with 60+ recorded at Ghadira on 4 dates in Feb and on 3 Mar. 1 at Lunzjata on 29 Aug. 1 at Ghadira on 5 Oct, then almost daily from various localities till end of year, max. 60 at Simar on 6 Dec.

**2001:** Up to 50 on most dates from 1 Jan to 31 Mar but 100 at Lunzjata on 3 Feb. Singles on 9 dates from 1 Apr to 22 May with 2 at Ghadira on 2 Apr and 3 on Comino on 5 Apr. Singles at Buskett on 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29 Jul and 15<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 26 Aug. 1 at Lunzjata on 4 Oct, then single and double figures on most dates from 14 Oct to 31 Dec, but 100 at Lunzjata on 9<sup>th</sup> and 12 Dec.

**2002:** Daily in single or low double figures of up to 30 from Jan to 10 Apr. Singles on 10 dates from 17 Apr to 16 Jun. Then almost daily from 13 Oct till end of year in single or low double figures of up to 30.

**2003:** Low double figures in most areas in Jan-Feb, then slightly higher numbers in Mar when up to 30 at both Ghadira and Simar on several days. Single figures on most days on to 11 Apr, then singles on Comino on 19, 25 and 28 Apr. 1 at Buskett on 22 Jun and 1 at Xaghra on 22 Sep. Again daily from 18 Oct on to year end with medium to high double figures in late Oct – mid-Nov, max 100 at Simar on 7 Nov. Smaller numbers in all areas after mid-Nov.

**2004:** Up to 30 mainly at Ghadira and Simar in Jan but 40 at both sites on 16<sup>th</sup> and at Salina on 19<sup>th</sup>, then an increase in numbers from Feb to late Mar when 20-50 almost daily but 60 at Simar on 18<sup>th</sup> and at Ghadira on 26<sup>th</sup>, both in Feb, then in Mar with 70 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 60 on 22<sup>nd</sup> at Simar and 60-70 at Ghadira on 3-4 Mar. 1-5 in Apr till 7<sup>th</sup> and singles on 3 dates from 22-30<sup>th</sup>. 1 at Ghadira irregularly from 30 Jun to 30 Sep, then 1-2 on most dates in Oct from 2-20<sup>th</sup>. In single to double figures of up to 50 from 22 Oct to end of year with highest numbers at Ghadira and Simar.

**2005:** In single and double figures almost daily from Jan to 19 Apr, highest 60 at Lunzjata on 2 Mar, otherwise up to 50+. Singles on 11 dates from 8 May to 22 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Lunzjata on 11 Oct, then in single and double figures of up to 25+ almost daily from 12 Oct to end of year.

#### **Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*:**

**2005:** 1 at Buskett from 20 May to 20 Jul. (1<sup>st</sup> record for Malta).

#### **Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus***

**2000:** 1 at Floriana on 16 Mar, then daily in single and double figures from 25 Mar to 13 May, but 100+ at Simar on 8 Apr. 1 at Buskett on 28 May. Smaller numbers in autumn with the first autumn migrant on 18 Aug with 1 bird at Ghadira, then almost daily till 24 Oct. Maximum 25 at Ghadira on 16 Sept. Late bird at Ghadira on 7 Nov.

**2001:** 2 at Ghadira on 5 Mar then up to 20 most dates from 9 Mar to 14 May but 40 on Comino on 24 Apr. 1 at Simar on 31 May. Singles at Ghadira on 17 and 21 Aug, then 1-5 almost daily from 25 Aug to 25 Oct but 10 at Ghadira on 4 Oct.

**2002:** Almost daily from 11 Mar to 15 May, in single or low double figures of up to 15 but higher numbers from 13-19 Apr, highest 50+ at Comino on 14 Apr, at Ghadira on 16-17 Apr, at Comino on 17 Apr, and at Villa Rundle on 17 Apr, otherwise up to 40. In autumn, 1 at Ghadira on 7 Aug, then up to 10 almost daily from 18 Aug to 17 Oct, but 15 at Ghadira on 17 Sep. 1 at Lunzjata on 26 Oct.

**2003:** Daily from 27 Mar to 29 Apr when usually in single figures, but 60 on Comino on 13 Apr and 10-15 on 9 other days. Then 1-2 irregularly from 3-16 May. In autumn 1-2 on 3 days from 13-16 Aug, then almost daily from 20 Aug to 24 Oct; single figures, but 10-25 on 4 days at Ghadira and on 3 days at Simar between 19-30 Sep. 1 on 29 Oct.

**2004:** Daily from 9 Mar to 11 May with highest numbers in Apr with 30-35 on 12-15<sup>th</sup> at Simar and 25-30 on 1-3<sup>rd</sup> at Ghadira, otherwise 1-20. Late bird on 18 May at Simar. In autumn singles on 6 dates from 17 Aug to 6 Sep then 1-5 from 10 Sep to 22 Oct but

10 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 8-10 on 22-23<sup>rd</sup> and 10-15 on 27-28<sup>th</sup>, all in Sep at Simar. Late singles in Oct on 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**2005:** In single and low double figures of up to 15+ almost daily from 18 Mar to 14 May, and singles on three dates between 23 and 28 May. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 14 Aug, then in single and low double figures of up to 15+ almost daily from 17 Aug to 23 Oct.

#### **Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla***

**2000:** Present in single, double and low treble figures from 1 Jan till the end of Apr with highest numbers at Buskett with 200+ recorded on 3 days on 07<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 17 March. Single birds recorded in early Apr with 10 at Simar on 1<sup>st</sup> being the highest count. Singles at Buskett on 28 May and 4 Jun. 1 at Lunzjata Valley on 5 Sep, then almost daily in single and low double figures till end of year, max. 40 at Buskett on 29 Dec.

**2001:** Up to 50 almost daily from 1 Jan to 30 Apr, but 100 on 21 Jan and 8 Feb, and 200 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19 Feb all at Buskett. Singles at Ghadira on 7 and 10 May. Singles at Wied II Luq on 19<sup>th</sup> and at Ghadira on 27 Sep. Then up to 15 on most days from 4 Oct to 31 Dec but 20 at Buskett on 28-29 Dec.

**2002:** Almost daily from Jan to 30 Apr in single to low double figures, highest 50+ at Buskett on 16 Jan. Singles at Comino on 4 May and 8-9 May; and 2 at Buskett on 26 May. Singles at Buskett and Ghadira on 17 Sep and at Buskett on 23 Sep, then almost daily in single to low double figures from 3 Oct till end of year, highest 50+ at Buskett on 21 Dec.

**2003:** Single figures in most areas in Jan-Feb but up to 50 in areas like Buskett, Girgenti and Rabat/Mtarfa. Increase in migrants in Mar- 14 Apr with up to 15 at Ghadira and Simar on several days, then singles on 4 days from 18 Apr to 3 May. First in autumn on 21 Sep, reaching low double figures (max 25) at Buskett from 12 Oct and up to 40 there from late Oct. Only single figures in other areas in Oct-Dec.

**2004:** In single to double figures from 1 Jan to 18 Apr with highest numbers at Buskett in Jan-Feb when 35-60 on a few days but 80 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 150 on 28<sup>th</sup>, both in Feb. 1-20 elsewhere. Lower numbers in Mar-Apr with 1-10 from various sites but 10-20 regularly at Ghadira and 25 at Buskett on 8 Mar. 4 sightings of singles from 28 Apr to 11 May. In autumn 5 sightings of 1-2 from 15-27 Sep, then from 30 Sep to 31 Dec. In single to double figures up to 50 but 100-120 at Buskett on 13-15 Dec.

**2005:** In single and double figures of up to 80+ almost daily from Jan to 22 Apr, but 100+ on 23 Jan and 100+ on 28 Jan, both at Buskett. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 3 Aug, then in single and double figures of up to 40+ almost daily from 22 Sep to end of year.

#### **Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin***

**2000:** Recorded mainly in single and low double figures on most dates from 12 Apr till the end of May, but max. of 150+ on Comino on 10 and 11 May. 1 at Chadwick Lakes on 4 Jun. In autumn from 14 Aug to 6 Nov in single and low double figures with up to 14 birds at Lunzjata Valley on 10 Sep. highest. 1 late bird at Ghadira on 21 Nov.

**2001:** In single or double figures of up to 60 almost daily from 7 Apr to 2 Jun, but max. of 80 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 100 on 11 May at Comino. 1 at Ghadira 12 Jun. Then 1-5 on most dates from 25 Aug to 19 Oct but 30 at Bingemma on 20 Sep. Singles at Ghadira on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct and at Simar on 31 Oct.

**2002:** Singles on 3 dates from 1-9 Apr, then in single or double figures almost daily from 13 Apr to 2 Jun, highest 60+ at Lunzjata on 9 May. In autumn, in single or low double figures on most days from 16 Aug to 23 Oct, highest 30+ at Buskett on 5 Sep.

**2003:** 1 on 6 Apr and 3 on 8 Apr, then daily from 11 Apr to 21 May with peak in first half of May when double figures at Comino and Buskett on 6 days, max 45 on Comino on 12 May. Singles on 4 days from 23-29 May. In autumn 1 on 13 Aug and 2 on 18 Aug, then on most days from 22 Aug to 28 Oct with peak in late Aug-Sep when low double figures on 9 days, max 25 at Buskett on 29 Aug. 1 on 5 Nov.

**2004:** Daily from 14 Apr to 1 Jun with higher numbers from mid-Apr to early May. Mostly 1-30 but highest at Comino in May with 40 on 5-6<sup>th</sup> and 100 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and at Lunzjata with 40-60 on 25-27 Apr. Singles in Jun on 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. In autumn singles at Buskett on 13-19 Aug, then from 25 Aug to 29 Oct. Mostly 1-15 but 20 on 30-31 Aug and 6 Sep, and 30 on 6 Oct all at Buskett. Singles at Buskett in Nov on 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**2005:** 1 at Simar on 7 Apr, then in single and double figures of up to 65+ almost daily from 13 Apr to 26 May, but 100+ on 4 May, 150+ on 5 May and 100+ on 9 May, all at Comino. Singles at Ghadira on 2 Jun and Buskett on 4 Jun. In autumn, in single and double figures of up to 75 almost daily from 20 Aug to 1 Nov, but 100 at Buskett on 6 Sep. Singles at Buskett on 12 Nov and Ghadira on 3 Dec.

#### **Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria***

**2003:** 1 ringed at Comino on 12 May.

#### **Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca***

**2000:** Singles at Ghadira on 11 Apr and 4 Sep

**2003:** Singles on Comino on 6 Apr, 3 May and 27 Oct.

**2004:** Singles at Comino on 24 Oct and at Ghadira on 17 Nov and 1 Dec.

**2005:** 1 at Buskett on 31 Aug.

#### **Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis***

**2000:** Recorded almost daily from 30 Mar to 20 May in single and double figures, max. 100+ on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26 Apr and 10 May and 50 on 25 Apr all at Comino. In autumn, singles at Ghadira on 26 Aug, at Simar on 12 Sep and at Mosta on 22 Sep.

**2001:** Almost daily from 1 Apr to 23 May in single or double figures of up to 30, but 50 on Comino on 17 Apr, and 200 on 7 May. Singles at Ghadira and Simar on 31 May. No records in autumn.

**2002:** Almost daily in single or double figures from 1 Apr to 19 May, but 150+ at Comino on 4 May. Singles at Ghadira on 31 May and at Buskett on 9 Jun. Only 1 record in autumn: 1 at Ghadira on 17 Sep.

**2003:** 1 on 31 Mar, then on most days from 8 Apr to 3 May and then less regularly on to 27 May. Low double figures on several days but 40 on 13 Apr and 80 on 28 Apr on Comino. In autumn 1 on 22 Aug, then 10 sightings on 6 days from 18-30 Sep, with 5 at Buskett on 21 Sep, otherwise singles.

**2004:** 1-3 from 5-9 Apr, then daily from 14 Apr to 11 May with highest numbers mainly at Comino when 15-40 almost daily but 50 on 24 Apr and 70 on 8 May. High numbers also at Lunzjata with 40-60 on 25-27 Apr. 1-20 elsewhere. Then 10 sightings of 1-2 from 14-31 May. In autumn 7 sightings of 1-2 from 31 Aug to 19 Sep and 1 on 5 Oct.

**2005:** Only recorded in spring. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 24 Mar, then in single and double figures of up to 60+ almost daily from 25 Mar to 15 May, but 100+ on 26 Apr, 65+ on 3 May and 80+ on 5 May, all at Comino. Singles on 6 dates from 24 May to 12 Jun.

**Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata***

**2000:** Resident in small numbers, no records from the south of Malta. Highest numbers mainly reported from Gozo with 12 at Wardija and 10 at Ta' Ċenċ on 22 Feb and 3 Jun, respectively. Highest count in Malta was of 10 at Migra Ferha / il-Qaws on 4 Jun.

**2001:** Resident and breeding in small numbers in several places. Single figure counts on several dates but 25 at Xlendi on 17 Apr, 20 at Dwejra/San Dimitri area on 18 Apr and 15 at Qala on 14 Jun.

**2002:** Present and breeding in small numbers in several places in Malta and Gozo throughout the year, highest 15 at Dwejra (G)/San Dimitri on 21 May, 10-12 at Sarraflu/Dwejra Bay on 3 Jun and 22 Jun, otherwise in single figures. At Comino: 3 on 26 Mar and singles on 28 Mar, 10 May, 9 Aug and 27 Oct.

**2003:** Breeding resident with single figures present at several sites throughout the year. Males in song from early Jan. Highest counts were 10 in Hagar Qim area on 2 May and at Ta' Ċenċ on 7 Jun. Nest with young as late as 7 Jul.

**2004:** Breeding resident. In single figures from various sites but a total of 30 from 7 sites in Gozo on 10 Feb.

**2005:** Present and breeding in small numbers in several places in Malta and Gozo throughout the year, highest 10 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 13 Mar, 20 at Ras il-Qammieħ on 15 Apr and 10 at Mġiebaħ on 12 Jun, otherwise in single figures. At Comino recorded on 19 dates, highest 7 on 29 Oct, otherwise 1-3.

**Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata***

**2000:** 1 at Mellieħa on 4 Dec.

**2001:** Singles at Mellieħa on 23 Jan, and at Qawra on 9<sup>th</sup> and at Mellieħa on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18 Nov.

**2002:** 1 at Mellieħa on 12 Jan.

**Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans***

**2000:** 1 on 20 Mar at Għadira, then almost daily in single and low double figures till 27 Apr, max. 10 on three dates from three localities in Mar and Apr. In autumn, singles on 10 and 12 Jul, then in single and low double figures on most days from 23 Jul to 6 Oct max. 20+ at Għadira on 7 Sep, 15 at Lunzjata Valley on 2 Sep and at Comino on 8<sup>th</sup> and 10 Sep.

**2001:** 1 on 22 Feb at Wied iż-Żurriq. In single or low double figures of up to 35 almost daily from 9 Mar to 13 May, but 100 on Comino on 5 Apr. 1 at Ta' Gajdoru on 4 Jul then up to 10 on most days from 13 Jul to 10 Oct but 15 at Buskett on 29 Jul and 30 Aug, at Dwejra on 24 Aug and at Għadira on 12 Sep.

**2002:** Singles on 5 dates from 8-14 Mar, then almost daily from 16 Mar to 5 May, in single or low double figures of up to 25, but 50+ on 30 Mar, 40+ on 3 Apr, and 48 on 14 Apr, all at Comino. In autumn, almost daily from 24 Jul to 19 Oct in single or low double figures of up to 20, but 30+ at Buskett on 20-21 Aug. 1 at Comino on 29 Oct.

**2003:** 1-2 on 3 days from 6-10 Mar, then on most days from 17 Mar to 21 Apr with 12 sightings running into double figures, max 60 on Comino on 13 Apr. Singles on 23 and 25 Apr. In autumn 1 on 14 Jul, then on most days from 19 Jul and daily from end Jul to 6 Oct when commonly in low double figures, max 30. 1-2 on 9 days from 9-28 Oct.

**2004:** Singles on 4 dates from 28 Feb to 9 Mar and 2 on 14 Mar. Then 1-6 daily from 20 Mar to 9 Apr but 10 at Għadira on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 12 at Ċirkewwa on 31<sup>st</sup>, both in Mar. 1-4 on most days from 13 Apr to 6 May. In autumn from 17 Jul to 22 Oct with highest numbers from early Aug to mid-Sep, max. 40 at Dwejra (M)/Binġemma on 21<sup>st</sup>, 30 at Buskett on 1<sup>st</sup> and 20 at Binġemma on 1<sup>st</sup> and at Buskett on 30<sup>th</sup>, all in Aug. Otherwise 1-15. Late birds on 28 Oct and 17 Nov.

**2005:** 1 at Lunzjata on 8 Mar, then 1-15 on most dates from 12 Mar to 6 May, but 20 on 29 Mar and 25+ on 8 Apr, both at Comino. 1 at Għadira on 11 Jun. In autumn, present in single or low double figures of up to 25 on most dates from 21 Jul to 11 Oct, but 50 on 3 Aug and 30 on 6 dates from 8-29 Aug, all at Buskett. Singles at Buskett and Comino on 19 Oct.

**Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala***

**2000:** Resident breeder present in all types of habitats in low to medium sized concentrations, highest count 40 at Comino on 31 Mar and on 2 dates at Buskett on 22 Jan and 20 Jun.

**2001:** Common and widespread breeding resident, single or low double figures on many dates, but 50 at Buskett on 5 Feb and 40 on Comino on 11 Apr.

**2002:** Common and widespread breeding resident on the three main islands, in single or low double figures highest 40+ at Buskett on 1-2 Feb.

**2003:** Common resident all over islands, including urban areas. Birds in flight song from 5 Jan. Nests with eggs were found between early Mar and mid-Jun. Some migrants present in late Oct.

**2004:** Common & widespread breeding resident. In single to low double figures from various sites with the highest numbers in May-Sep.

**2005:** Common and widespread breeding resident on the three main islands, in single or low double figures, highest 56 at Comino on 26 Apr.

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida***

**2001:** 1 at Għadira on 20-21 May.

**Western Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais opaca***

**2002:** 1 at Comino on 8 May.

**2004:** 1 ringed at Lunzjata on 5 May

**Western/Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais opaca/pallida***

**2005:** 1 at Simar on 23 May.

**Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina***

**2000:** Singles at Comino on 25-27 Apr and at Wied Qannotta on 29 Apr. Single birds from 1<sup>st</sup> to 20 May from various



localities, but 75 were reported on 10 May and 20 on the 9 May both from Comino. In autumn, 1 at Dwejra (M) on 19 Aug then 8 sightings of single birds each from 13 Sep to 3 Oct. mostly at Simar, Għadira, Lunzjata and Dwejra, (M)

**2001:** 1 on Comino on 17 Apr, then single and low double figure counts, up to 25, on most days from 24 Apr to 29 May, but 80 on Comino on 11 May. 3 at Buskett? Wied il-Luq on 26 Aug, then singles at Għadira on 4 Sep and 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6 Oct, and at Buskett on 10 Oct.

**2002:** 1 at Għadira on 6 Apr, then in single or low double figures from 28 Apr to 26 May, highest 25+ at Comino on 5 May. 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 2 Jun. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 10-11 Aug and at Rabat on 22 Sep.

**2003:** In spring most frequently sighted on Comino: 1-10 on 5 days from 18 Apr to 3 May, and on most days from 7-19 May; then 7 sightings of 1-2 on 6 days from 24 May to 6 Jun. All autumn sightings were of single birds: 1 on 13 Aug, then 13 sightings on 9 days from 7-30 Sep.

**2004:** 1 at Comino on 19 Apr, then 1-10 from 24 Apr to 11 May but 25 at Comino on 8 May. 5 sightings of singles from 23-30 May. In autumn singles on 21 Aug and at Għadira on 20th and 23-24 Sep.

**2005:** In spring, in single or low double figures daily from 26 Apr to 13 May, highest 40+ at Comino on 4-5 May. 1-3 on 4 dates from 16-29 May. In autumn, singles at Rabat on 21 Aug and 31 Aug, at Buskett on 1 Sep, at Simar on 2 Sep, at Ramla Valley on 5 Sep and at Għadira on 21 Oct.

#### **Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta***

**2001:** 1 on Comino on 1 May

**2002:** 1 at Comino on 8 May.

#### **Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia***

**2000:** Singles ringed at Comino on 11 May and at Għadira on 19 Aug.

#### **River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis***

**2004:** 1 at Rabat on 21 Sep.

#### **Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides***

**2000:** Singles at Simar on 28 Sep and at Wied il-Luq on 18 Oct.

**2001:** 1 at Simar on 4 dates in August: 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**2002:** 1 at Simar on 17 Sep.

**2003:** Singles at Mellieħa on 30 Sep and at Għadira on 20 Oct.

#### **Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus malanopogon***

**2000:** 1-2 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 28 Feb. Single birds at Simar from 26 Oct to 23 Dec.

**2001:** Singles at Simar almost daily from 9 Jan to 8 Feb, but 2 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 16 Jan. Then singles on 32 dates from 16 Oct to 31 Dec, mainly from Simar and Għadira, but 2 on 28 Nov at Għadira, and 2 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 13 Dec at Lunzjata.

**2002:** 1-2 at Simar almost daily from 1 Jan to 27 Feb and 1 at Għadira on 10 dates from 3 Jan to 16 Feb. 1 at Lunzjata on 2 Nov and 1-2 at Simar on most days from 11 Nov to 24 Dec, but 3 on 11 Dec.

**2003:** Moustached Warbler: Recorded only from Simar: 1 regularly in Jan- 6 Mar, but 2 on 6 Feb. Then singles on 19 days from 20 Nov to 30 Dec.

**2004:** 1 at Simar in Jan-Feb but 2 on 18 Feb, then in Mar with 2 on 1st and 1 on 16th. In autumn 1 at Simar on 25 Oct, then singles at Għadira on 5 dates in Nov from 9-26th and on 4 Dec but 2 on 10 Nov. 1 at Simar from 24 Nov to 31 Dec with 2 on 29 Nov and in Dec on 10th and 14th.

**2005:** 1-2 at Simar on 23 dates from 5 Jan-3 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Qawra on 13 Nov and 1 at Simar regularly from 6-22 Dec.

#### **Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***

**2000:** 1 at Għadira on 18 Mar, then almost daily till 29 May in single and low double figures mainly from Għadira and Simar and few sightings from Comino, Salina and Lunzjata Valley, max. 20 at Simar on 1 Apr. 1 at Simar on 2 Jun was the last spring record. In autumn, single birds at Simar on most days from 28 Aug to 28 Oct. and 8 sightings of single birds at Għadira from 25 Aug to 18 Oct. 2 at Lunzjata Valley on 15 Sep was the only autumn record away from the reserves.

**2001:** Singles at Simar on 7 and 10 Mar. Then almost daily in single figures from 17 Mar to 19 Apr and in single and low double figures from 20 Apr to 6 June, max. nos at Simar: 25 on 30 Apr, 30 on 4 dates (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12 May), and 40 on 7 May. Then 2 on 12 Jul, singles on 15<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28 Aug and 1 Sep, and 2 on 22 Sep, all at Simar.

**2002:** Singles at Lunzjata and Simar on 22 Feb, then in single or low double figures almost daily from 25 Feb to 27 May, highest 40+ at Simar on 6 May. In autumn, singles on 12 dates from 31 Jul to 10 Oct, all at Simar except for 1 at Għadira on 2 Sep.

**2003:** Single figures on most days mostly at Simar and Għadira (but 15 at Simar on 19 Apr) from 3 Mar to 4 May, then daily from 12 May to 1 Jun with max counts of 80 on 18 May and 30 on 19 May, and up to 20 on 3 other days, at Simar. 4 singles on 3 days from 9-20 Jun. In autumn, 1 on 19 Aug, then on several days from 17 Sep to 13 Oct when mostly singles but occasionally up to 5. Singles on 24 Oct and 27-28 Oct at Simar. Late bird at Għadira on 18 Dec.

**2004:** Daily from 15 Mar to 14 May with highest numbers at Simar when 10-20 on most days but 25 on 12th and 21st, both in Apr. Otherwise 1-5 elsewhere mostly at Għadira but 10 on 15 Apr. Then 1-3 on 20-24 May and 1 on 3 Jun, all at Simar. In autumn 2 on 23 Aug, then singles on 18-19 Sep and on 4 dates from 23 Sep to 8 Oct. All autumn sightings at Simar except 1 at Għadira on 28 Sep.

**2005:** Singles at Simar on 21 Feb, 24 Feb and 28 Feb then in single and low double figures on most days from 3 Mar to 28 May, highest 20+ at Simar on 5 dates in April and May. 1 at Simar on 21 Jun. In autumn, singles on 9 dates from 9 Aug to 14 Oct, but 2 at Għadira on 14 Oct.

**Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus***

**2000:** 1 at Simar on 22 Apr, then almost daily at same locality from 24 Apr to 30 Oct with up to 10 birds in June and July. and 12 on 5 Aug. 3-4 pairs bred at Simar. Single birds at Ghadira on 12th and 16 May, and 1-5 on several days from 13 Aug to 20 Oct. 1 to 4 birds recorded at Lunzjata Valley from 5th to 15 Sept, and at Buskett on 8th and 23 Sept and on 18 Oct.

**2001:** 1 on Comino on 6 Apr, then up to 15 almost daily from 16 Apr to 22 Oct but 20 at Simar (where a few pairs bred) on 17 dates from 14 Jul to 10 Aug. 1 at Ghadira on 28 Oct.

**2002:** Up to 10 on most days from 9 Apr to 26 May, mostly at Simar and Ghadira. Up to 15 present at Simar in Jun and Jul where at least 5 pairs bred. 1-2 on 4 dates at Ghadira from 16-31 Jul. Up to 10 on most days from Aug to 3 Nov, mostly from Simar and Ghadira. Singles at Simar on 12 Nov and at Ghadira on 2 Dec.

**2003:** Singles at different sites on 12, 23 and 27 Apr. First breeding birds arrived at Simar on 26 Apr and 5 pairs are estimated to have bred there, with first fledged young seen on 31 May. Up to 15 birds then regularly seen from early Jun to mid-Aug. Singing males were at Ghadira on 1 and 9 Jun, and on 13 and 22 Jul. Autumn migrants on several days in several areas throughout Aug-Oct; all sightings of 1-5 birds. Singles on 5 and 10 Nov.

**2004:** Breeding migrant. First spring sightings in Apr with 2 at Ghadira on 8th and singles at Simar on 17th and 20th. Then daily from 24 Apr to 20 Oct with highest numbers at Simar where up to 8 pairs bred. Usually 15-20 between mid-May and mid-Sep but up to 25 from 1-16 Jul. A few sightings elsewhere of 1-2 in Apr-Jun and 1-4 in Jul-Sep, mainly at Ghadira. Singles in Oct on 22nd and 28th then 5 sightings of 1-2 in Nov from 9-18th, mostly at Ghadira.

**2005:** Up to 10 on most dates from 8 Apr to 29 May, all from Ghadira and Simar. Up to 25 present at Simar in Jun and Jul where at least 8 pairs holding territories. Outside Simar, single at Chadwick Lakes on 12 Jun, Rabat on 17 Jul and Ghadira on 4 Jul and 29 Jul. In autumn, up to 20 on most dates from 1 Aug to 17 Oct, mostly from Simar and Ghadira. Single at Ghajn Rihana on 23 Oct.

**Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris***

**2000:** Singles at Lunzjata Valley (G) on 15 and 26 Sept.

**2001:** 1 at Wied Il-Luq on 26 Aug.

**2004:** 1 at Mellieħa on 9 Sep.

**2005:** Singles at Buskett on 31 Aug and at Rabat on 8 Sep.

**Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola***

**2000:** 1 ringed at Ghadira on 11 Sep.

**Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus***

**2000:** 1 at Salina on 25 Mar, then almost daily from 1 Apr to 28 June with most records from Simar and Ghadira. Highest counts being 6 at Simar on 8 Apr and at Lunzjata Valley on 22 Apr. In autumn 1 on 13 Aug at Wied il-Luq, then single birds at Simar and Ghadira on 13 dates in Sep and Oct, last being of 2 at Ghadira on 18 Oct.

**2001:** In single figures on most days from 30 Mar to 5 June, (mostly at Is-Simar and Ghadira) but 10 on 4 dates at Simar from 30 Apr to 13 May. 1 at Ghadira on 13 Jun, then 1-2 on 20 dates from 6 Jul to 5 Sep, but 3 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 18 Aug at Simar. Latest records - singles on 5 dates (at 6 sites) from 29 Sep to 6 October, but 2 at Simar on last date.

**2002:** Almost daily in single figures from 30 Mar to 11 Jun, highest 6 at Ghadira on 24 Apr. 1 at same place from 18-20 Jun. In autumn, singles at Ghadira on 16 Jul and on 29 Jul, and at Simar on 2 Aug, then on 11 dates from 22 Aug to 1 Oct, all in singles except for 2 at Simar on 28 Aug. Singles at Simar on 16 Oct and 18 Oct.

**2003:** Daily from 28 Mar to 30 Apr, with most at Ghadira and Simar; often medium to high single figures and 15 at Wied Qannotta on 20 Apr. Then 14 sightings of 1-5 on 13 days from 2 May to 1 Jun, and singles on 8, 16 and 22 Jun. In autumn singles at Ghadira on 7-8 Aug and 12-14 Aug, then 63 sightings of 1-5 on 37 days from 30 Aug to 29 Oct. Late bird at Ghadira on 12 Dec.

**2004:** 1-3 almost daily from 22 Mar to 30 Apr but 4-5 on a few dates at Ghadira and Simar and 6 at Simar on 30 Apr. Then from 3-21 May with highest numbers at Simar with max.8 on 11th and 3-6 on 6 dates. In late May 5 at Simar on 24th and 1 at Lunzjata on 29th and singles in Jun at Simar on 10-11th and Ghadira on 17-20th and 23-28th. Singles in Aug on 6th, 16-17th and 25th, then on most days from 6 Sep to 20 Oct but 3 at Rabat on 21 Sep and 2 in Oct at Simar on 8th, 15th and 19th. Singles in Nov on 4th, 17th and 23rd.

**2005:** 1 on 23 Mar and 3 on 31 Mar, both at Simar. Then 1-8 on most dates from 7 Apr to 28 May, but 20+ at Simar on 9 May. Singles at Rabat on 11 Jun, Simar on 24 Jun, Ġnejna Valley on 23 Jul (where singing) and Rabat on 24 Jul. 1 at Ghadira on 11 Aug then 1-4 on 20 dates from 27 Aug to 29 Oct.

**Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis***

**2000:** Resident breeder; recorded in single and double figures, the latter during the summer months. Recorded daily at Ghadira and Simar and from other localities on various days, max. 40+ at Ghadira on 17 Jul.

**2001:** Widespread and breeding resident, in single or low double figures of up to 30 at various sites, but 57 at Simar on 10 Mar.

**2002:** Widespread and breeding in single or low double figures of up to 20 at various sites.

**2003:** Widespread with singing males heard almost everywhere. Higher numbers in post-breeding period with 30 at Chadwick lakes on 30 June highest count. Less in evidence in Jan-Feb and in Dec.

**2004:** Breeding resident. Usually 1-15 but slightly higher numbers in Apr-Aug with 25-30 at a few sites.

**2005:** Widespread and breeding in single or low double figures of up to 30 at various sites.

**Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

**2002:** 1 at Ghadira on 14-15 Oct.

**Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

**2000:** Recorded almost daily in single to high treble figures from 1 Jan to 30 Apr, 600 at Simar throughout Jan. 800 at Buskett on 30 Jan, 700 at Luqa Airport on 25 Feb. A single bird at Simar on several days between May and Jul. Daily sightings on Comino from 31 Mar to 30 Apr with 12 on 1 Apr highest. Single to low double figures throughout Sep but numbers started to increase from 3 Oct onwards with treble figures reported on various dates till end of year. Max. 5000 at Luqa Airport on 5 Nov and 30 Dec, 1,500 at Victoria on 17 Nov, 2,000 at Qawra on 24 Nov, 2000 at Luqa Airport on 3 Dec, and 2,500 at St. Paul's Bay on 24 Dec.

**2001:** Single to treble figures almost daily from 1 Jan to 27 Mar but in quadruple figures on 11 dates, max 3000 at Qammieh on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4000 on Comino on 17 Feb. Up to 12 almost daily from 1 Apr to 12 May, mainly at Comino. 5 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 9 Jun also at Comino. 1 at Simar on 7 Jul, and up to 25 almost daily from 15 Jul to 29 Sep. Then daily from single up to low quadruple figures (up to 2000) from 1 Oct till end of year, but 10,000 at Qawra on 2 Nov and 2 Dec and at St Paul's Bay on 4 Nov.

**2002:** Up to 1000 almost daily from Jan to 2 Apr, but 2500+ at Luqa Airport on 25 Feb. Up to 10 on most days from 3 Apr to 11 Sep, mainly at Comino and Simar. Singles at Dingli on 16 Sep, at Blata L-Bajda on 17 Sep, then almost daily from 18 Sep till end of year, highest 3000+ at Simar on 10 Dec, otherwise up to 2000.

**2003:** Up to 500 in some areas in Jan- 7 Mar but higher numbers flying towards roosts and 3000 over Simar on 28 Feb. Small breeding population on Comino where up to 15 throughout period Mar-Sep and first juv bird seen on 27 Apr. Low single figures regularly at Simar and 1-2 sporadically in other areas during same period. First autumn migrants from 15 Sep, reaching treble figures on 10 Oct and quadruple figures from 19 Oct with max of 5000 at Dingli on 16 Nov and at Luqa airfield on 9 Dec.

**2004:** Double to treble figures in Jan-Feb but 1000-2000 on a few dates mainly at Comino but 3000 at Għadira on 7<sup>th</sup> and 2500 at Simar on 12<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, both in Feb. Numbers decreased rapidly in Mar with max.200 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 10 on 15<sup>th</sup>, then in single figures from a few sites in Apr-Aug but 17 at Comino on 5 Jun and 15 at Simar on 27 Jul. Most summer sightings at Simar. Main autumn migration from 1 Oct with 245 at Miġra l-Ferħa, then in double to treble figures till end of year but up to 5000 at Comino in mid-late Oct, 15000 at Qawra on 27 Oct and 10000 at Luqa airport on 28 Oct. Then 10000-15000 regularly at Luqa airport in Nov reaching 20000 on 25<sup>th</sup>. Lower numbers in Dec with max.4000 at Simar on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**2005:** Up to 1000 on most dates from Jan to 31 May, but 2000 at Luqa on 9 Jan, 2000+ at Għansielem on 16 Jan and 1500 at Luqa on 14 Feb. 1-15 on most dates in Jun and July, mainly from Simar and Comino, but 4 at Dingli on 7 Jun. In autumn, 1-4 on 26 dates from 1 Aug to 28 Sep, then up to 3000+ on most dates from 29 Sep to end of year, but 5000+ at Buskett on 30 Oct, 6000+ at Luqa on 11 Nov and 4500 at Għansielem on 19 Nov.

**Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus***

**2003:** Singles on Comino on 6 dates from 23-29 Oct and at Buskett on 23 Nov.

**2005:** 2 at Buskett on 19<sup>th</sup> and singles at Comino on 28<sup>th</sup> and at Buskett on 29<sup>th</sup>, all in October.

**Blackbird *Turdus merula***

**2000:** Up to 3 birds on four dates at Buskett from 1 Jan to 27 Feb. Single birds mainly at Buskett and Simar from 18 Oct to 13 Dec, but 3 at Buskett on 28 Oct.

**2001:** Singles on 3 dates in January (at Qbajjar on 5<sup>th</sup> and at Buskett on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>) and on 5 Feb at Buskett. 1 at Victoria on 3 Oct, then 1-2 on several dates from 23 Oct to 29 Dec with 5 at Buskett on last date.

**2002:** 1-2 on most days from 2 Jan to 9 Mar. Singles at Comino on 15 Mar, at Aħrax on 24 Mar, and at Għadira on 4 Apr. Singles at Mellieħa on 9 Oct and at Buskett on 13 Oct, then 1-2 on most days from 25 Oct to 21 Dec, but 5 at Buskett on 12 Nov.

**2003:** 1-2 on 13 days in Jan-Feb, but 10 at Buskett on 14 Jan; and singles on 12 Mar and 31 Mar. 1 on 11 Oct, then 27 sightings of 1-2 on 24 days from 25 Oct to 30 Dec, with most frequent sightings at Buskett.

**2004:** Singles at Buskett on 2 Jan and in Feb on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and at San Dimitri on 10 Feb. In autumn singles in Oct on 16<sup>th</sup> and 23-26<sup>th</sup>, then 1-2 on most days from 9 Nov to end of year but 4 at Buskett on 17 Nov. Most autumn sightings at Buskett and Għadira.

**2005:** 1-4 on most days from 2 Jan to 11 Mar, but 5 at Red Tower on 10 Jan and 5 at Buskett on 4 Feb. Singles at Buskett on 21 Mar and Targa Gap on 23 Mar. In autumn, 1-3 on most dates from 29 Oct to end of year, but 4 at Buskett on 28 Dec.

**Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris***

**2000:** Singles at Għadira on 1 Jan, at Binġemma on 30 Jan, 19<sup>th</sup> and 27 Feb and at Marsa on 11 Feb. 1 at Comino on 2 Dec.

**2002:** Singles at Buskett, San Martin, and Simar on 8 Jan, at Buskett on 31 Oct, and at Blata L-Bajda on 19 Nov.

**2003:** Singles at Targa Gap on 20 Nov and at Buskett on 30 Nov.

**2004:** Nine sightings of 1-4 on 7 dates from 17 Nov to 3 Dec but 5 at Buskett on 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 at Simar on 18<sup>th</sup> and 6 at Ramla Valley on 21<sup>st</sup>. 1 at Buskett on 23 Dec

**2005:** 1-2 on 15 dates from 4 Jan to 23 Mar, but 3 at Marsa Sports Ground on 10 Feb. In autumn, singles on 7 dates from 25 Oct to 26 Dec, but 4 at Buskett on 24 Dec and 7 at Blata L-Bajda on 25 Dec.

**Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos***

**2000:** Recorded almost all year round except in June and July. 30 at Buskett on 22 Jan highest winter count. Return passage from mid Feb with 50 at Buskett on 27 Feb highest. Single birds from 20 Mar to 28 May, single birds on 13 and 21 Aug at Buskett and Lunzjata respectively. First autumn migrant from 23 Sep and 1 on 4 Oct than almost daily till end of year; max. 75 at Mellieħa on 22 Oct and 70 at Buskett on 29 Oct.

**2001:** In single figures almost daily from 1 Jan to 8 Apr, but 10 on Buskett on 3 dates (21<sup>st</sup> and 29 Jan and 5 Feb) and max. 30 at Buskett on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 20 at Bingemma on 16<sup>th</sup> both in January. Singles at Ghadira on 18 Apr, 4 May and 21 Jul and at Buskett and Wied Il Luq on 26 Aug and at Victoria on 27 Sep. Then almost daily in single to high double figures from 4 Oct till end of the year, but triple figures on 4 dates, max. 110 at Buskett on 14th and 150 at Dwejra on 15 Oct.

**2002:** Up to 25 wintering at several sites from Jan-Feb. Present throughout Mar until 10 Apr with an evident increase in numbers due to return passage from 26 Mar to 2 Apr. Max. 70+ at Ċirkewwa, 20+ at Comino, 35+ at Mellieħa, and 25+ at Nadur (G) on 30 Mar. Singles on 8 dates from 15 Apr to 9 Jun, but 2 at Buskett on 24 Apr. In autumn, 1-3 on 11 dates from 23 Sep to 11 Oct, then up to 25 daily from 13 Oct till end of year, but 75+ at Buskett on 30 Oct.

**2003:** On most days in Jan but only on 6 days in Feb, when up to 15 at some sites, mainly Buskett. Then on several days in Mar- 13 Apr but only sightings of 1-5. Singles on 3 days on Comino from 23 Apr to 4 May; and at Buskett on 6 Jul and 29 Aug. In autumn almost daily from 10 Oct, with highest numbers between late Oct and mid-Nov, max 80 at Buskett on 5 Nov. Generally only single figures, but occasionally up to 15 from late Nov to end Dec.

**2004:** 1-6 in Jan-Feb but 10 at Buskett on 27 Jan, then singles regularly from 5 Mar to 7 Apr but 4 on 6th and 3 on 13th at Lunzjata. Singles at Comino on 22 Apr and 2 May, and at Marsa on 5 Jul. 1 on 3 dates at Ghadira from 23-28 Sep and 1-8 from 4-20 Oct. Then in double figures of up to 60 on most days from 21-31 Oct but 100-120 at Buskett on 22-23rd. Up to 10 in most places in Nov-Dec but higher numbers at Buskett when regularly 15-30 but 120 on 17 Nov.

**2005:** Up to 25 almost daily from Jan to 8 Apr, but 40+ on 5 Jan and 30+ on 2 Mar, both at Buskett. Singles at Comino on 17 Apr and Wied il-Luq on 2 May. In autumn, 1 at Rabat on 17 Sep, then in single and double figures of up to 50+ almost daily from 2 Oct to end of year, but 60 at Buskett on 28 Oct.

### **Redwing *Turdus iliacus***

**2000:** Sightings mainly from Buskett from 2 Jan to 17 Mar of 1 to 5 birds, 1 at Blata l-Bajda on 24 Mar.

**2001:** 1 at Ghadira on 11 Jan. Then on 9 dates in December: at Ghadira 6 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, and singles on 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>, and at Buskett 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 6 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**2002:** 1-5 at Buskett on 10 dates from 7 Jan to 16 Feb, but 10 on first date. 1 at same place on 2 Mar.

**2003:** 1 on 8 Feb at Buskett and 2 at same place and 2 at Tal-Handaq on 14 Feb. 1 again at Buskett on 30 Nov.

**2004:** Singles at Buskett on 4 dates in Jan from 8-28th and at Simar on 6 Mar. In autumn only at Buskett with 1 on 17 Nov and then in Dec with 2 on 13-15th and singles on 23-24th.

**2005:** 1-2 on 15 dates from 4 Jan to 12 Mar, mainly from Buskett. In winter, singles on 6 dates from 10-29 Dec but 2 at Buskett on 26 Dec.

### **Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus***

**2000:** Three sightings; 1 l/o Xaghra on 20 Oct, 2 at Mellieħa on 28 Oct and 1 at same place on 14 Nov.

**2002:** Singles at Buskett on 8 Oct and on 30 Oct.

**2003:** 3 at Buskett on 25 Oct and 1 at Mellieħa on 23 Nov.

**2004:** 2 at Buskett on 17-18th, 1 at Targa Gap on 19th, 2 at Luqa airport on 25th and 1 at Targa Gap on 26th, all in Nov.

**2005:** Singles at Buskett on 13 Feb and 2 Mar. In autumn, singles at Ghadira and Red Tower on 10 Oct and at Buskett on 28 Dec.

### **Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata***

**2000:** 1 at Ghadira on 17 Apr, then daily in single and low double figures till end of May with highest counts being 50 at Comino on 10 May. Breeding in Buskett and Addolorata Cemetery with up to 15 birds (including juvs) at Buskett on 6 Aug. Single birds in autumn mainly at Buskett throughout Sept and Oct. Birds away from Buskett include 1 at Simar on 27 Sep, 1 at Lunzjata Valley on 1 Oct and 1 at Mdina on 2 Oct. Single birds at Ghadira on 12th and 16 Sep and 02nd and 07th Oct. 1 at Buskett on 28 Oct. last sighting.

**2001:** Almost daily from 7 Apr to 30 May in single or double figures but 100 at Dwejra on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 28 Apr. Recorded on 22 dates from 3 Jun to 5 Aug in single figures, but in double figures of up to 20 on 6 dates at Buskett. Then in single figures almost daily from 15 Aug to 6 Oct. 1 at Dwejra on 22 Oct.

**2002:** 1 at Pieta' on 17 Apr, then almost daily from 20 Apr to 9 Jun, in single or low double figures of up to 30, but 50+ at Dwejra (M) on 17 May. 1-4 on 6 dates from 14-30 Jun. Up to 10 present at Buskett from Jul to 10 Sep (where at least 3 pairs bred) and up to 3 (at least 1 pair) at Addolorata Cemetery in Jul. Singles at Ghadira on 17 Sep and on 20 Sep; at Buskett on 21 Sep, and at Dwejra (M) on 25 Sep.

**2003:** Almost daily on spring passage from 12 Apr to 5 Jun, frequently in low double figures and max of 50 at Buskett on 28 Apr and at Bingemma on 23 May. Present throughout period Jun-early Sep at Buskett and Addolorata Cemetery with at least 2 pairs breeding at each site. On autumn passage 1 on 19 Aug, then 24 sightings of 1-4 on 17 days from 13 Sep to 11 Oct, but 20 at Dwejra (M) on 20 Sep.

**2004:** From 14 Apr to 24 Sep with most during spring between late Apr and late May when 10-15 on most days but max. 25 in May on 3rd at Ta'Qali and 20 at Dwejra (M) on 21st, otherwise 1-10. 2-3 pairs nested at Buskett. In autumn 1-3 on a few days in Sep.

**2005:** 1 at Comino on 18 Apr, then in single and double figures of up to 50+ almost daily from 20 Apr to 31 May, but 60 at Dwejra on 6 May and 80+ at Buskett on 9 May. 1-10 almost daily in Jun and July, mainly from Buskett but also Addolorata, Argotti Gardens, Foresta, Ghadira and Mosta. In autumn, in single and low double figures of up to 7 almost daily from 6 Aug to 21 Sep, but 10+ at Buskett on 10 Aug. Singles on 4 dates from 28 Sep to 22 Oct

### **Rufous Bush Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes***

**2000:** 1 ringed at Lunzjata Valley, (G), on 18 May.

**2001:** 1 on Comino on 26 Apr.

**2004:** Singles at Dwejra (M) on 27 May and at Mellieħa on 7 Sep.

**2005:** Singles at Comino on 21 Apr and 23-25 Apr.

**Robin *Erithacus rubecula***

**2000:** Present all year round in single and double figures. Treble figures recorded from Buskett in Jan-Mar highest 250 on 11 Mar. 1-2 birds at Ghadira and up to 8 birds at Buskett throughout the summer months (Jul-Sep). Autumn migration from early October and numbers started increasing with birds present throughout the islands. Highest numbers were reported from Buskett with a maxima of over 200 birds on 29 Oct; 200 at Wied Qannotta on 2 Nov highest count away from Buskett.

**2001:** Daily in single or double figures from 1 Jan to 31 Mar, max 100 on 29 Jan and 125 on 5 Feb at Buskett. 1-5 recorded on many dates from 1 Apr to 30 Sep. Then daily in single or double figures in many localities from 1 Oct till end of year, but in treble figures on 2 dates in October (100 at Ghadira on 29<sup>th</sup> and at Wied Qannotta on 31<sup>st</sup>) and on 3 dates in November (200 at Buskett on 10<sup>th</sup>, and 100 at Selmun on 12<sup>th</sup> and at Buskett on 21<sup>st</sup>).

**2002:** Daily in single to double figures from Jan to 7 Apr, but 100+ at Buskett on 16 Jan. Up to 4 almost daily from 9 Apr to 8 May. Up to 5 on most days from 16 May to 4 Aug but 7 at Buskett on 2 Jun. Then daily in single figures from 9 Aug to 8 Sep, but 10 at Buskett on 16-17 Aug. Up to 5 on a few dates from 10-26 Sep. Then daily in single or double figures from 28 Sep till end of year but 100-150 on 10 dates at Buskett from 8 Oct to 23 Nov.

**2003:** Low to medium double figures at most sites in Jan-Feb, then generally single to very low double figures in Mar- 18 Apr and 1-4 in several areas throughout rest of Apr and in May-Sep. First migrants from 24 Sep, with up to 20 already at Buskett by 29 Sep. Low treble figures frequent at some sites in Oct-early Nov with max 150 at Buskett on 2 days. Then smaller numbers till end of year but up to 80 on some days at Buskett.

**2004:** Mostly in single to double figures of up to 25 in Jan-Feb but up to 80 at a few sites mainly at Buskett and max.180 on 28 Jan. Numbers decreased gradually in Mar with up to 10 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 1-3 till 7 Apr. Then 1-2 at a few sites regularly in Apr-Sep but 3-5 at Buskett. First autumn migrants from late Sep when up to 20 at Buskett, then in single to high double figures in Oct-Nov but 100-250 in Oct from 23-28<sup>th</sup>, mainly at Comino, Ghadira and Buskett. Then in Nov with 100-200 at Buskett. Lower numbers in Dec but up to 120 at Buskett till mid-Dec, otherwise 1-30 elsewhere.

**2005:** Daily in single to double figures from Jan to 8 Apr, but 100 at on 8 Jan, 120+ on 23 Jan and 100+ on 28 Jan, all at Buskett. Up to 3 on most days from 11 Apr to 31 May. Up to 5 on most days from 1 Jun to 2 Sep, then daily from 4 Sep to end of year, highest 350+ at Buskett on 30 Oct, otherwise up to 300+.

**Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos***

**2000:** 1 at Buskett on 25 Mar, then almost daily in single figures from 30 Mar to 29 Apr. Singles at Hagar Qim on 3 May and at Ghadira from 6-11 May. In autumn, 1 on 11 Aug at Ghadira, then in single figures throughout Sep from various localities. Late birds include 1 at Buskett on 1 Oct and 1 at Wied Qanotta on 2 Nov.

**2001:** Single figures on most dates from 22 Mar to 12 May but 10 on 4 dates in April: at Comino on 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and at Buskett on 13<sup>th</sup>. Singles at Bingemma on 27 May, at Buskett on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29 Jul and at Wied Il Luq on 5 Aug. Then 1-3 on 28 dates from 21 Aug to 13 Oct. 1 at Ghadira on 22 Oct.

**2002:** 1-3 on 5 dates from 11-24 Mar, then in single or low double figures almost daily from 29 Mar to 3 May, highest 30+ at Comino on 30 Mar, otherwise up to 20. Singles on 6 dates from 9 May to 9 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Ghadira on 26 Aug, then in single figures on most days from 3 Sep to 11 Oct, but 10 at Buskett on 23 Sep.

**2003:** Single figures, and 10-15 on nine occasions, almost daily at several sites from 17 Mar to 28 Apr, then singles on 6 days from 1-31 May. In autumn 2 on 18 Aug, then on most days, mostly at Buskett, from 22 Aug to 4 Oct. Low double figures on 4 days, max 30 on 20 Sep. Then 4 sightings of 1-2 on 3 days from 12-21 Oct.

**2004:** Six sightings of singles on 4 dates from 14-27 Mar. Then 1-4 daily from 30 Mar to 11 Apr and 1-10 daily from 14 Apr to 4 May with peak in mid-late Apr. Max.15-20 on 17-18<sup>th</sup> and 20 on 24<sup>th</sup>, both on Comino, and 20 at Buskett on 27<sup>th</sup>. Singles at Buskett on 11 May and at Imġiebaħ on 23 Jun. 1-5 almost daily in autumn from 10 Aug to 24 Sep but 10 at Buskett on 12 Sep. Then singles on most days from 26 Sep to 26 Oct.

**2005:** Up to 20 almost daily from 20 Mar to 9 May, highest 25+ at Buskett on 7 Apr and 25+ at Comino on 8 Apr. 1 singing at Chadwick Lakes on 5 Jun. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 3 Aug and 12 Aug, then 1-5 on most days from 29 Aug to 12 Oct, but 10 at Buskett on 31 Aug and 7 Sep.

**Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope***

**2004:** 1 at Rabat on 25 Jan. (1st record for Malta).

**Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica***

**2000:** 1 at Ghadira on 22 Feb. 2 at Simar on 16 Sep then singles on 4 dates at same place from 25 Sep to 2 Oct. Singles at Qawra on 15 Oct and at Rabat on 5 Nov. singles at Ghadira on 5 dates from 16 Nov to 25 Dec.

**2001:** Singles at Simar on 18<sup>th</sup> and 20 Jan and at Ghadira on 28 Jan and 7<sup>th</sup> and 15 Feb. Then singles at Simar on 13 scattered dates from 2 Oct to 14 Dec, but 2 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 14 Nov. Singles at Lunzjata on 10 Oct and at Ghadira on 19 Oct and 5 Nov.

**2002:** Singles at Simar on 11 dates from 17 Jan to 26 Feb, and at Lunzjata (G) on 30 Mar. 1 again at Simar on 20 dates from 20 Oct to 24 Dec, but 2 on 7 Nov, 11 Nov, and 18 Nov. Singles at Ghadira on 1 Nov and 5 Nov.

**2003:** 2 at Simar on 4 Jan, then 1 seen there on 8 days from 5 Jan-13 Feb. In autumn singles at Ghadira on 16 Oct and at Lunzjata on 17 Oct, and on 7 days at Simar from 22 Oct to 24 Dec.

**2004:** Singles almost daily at Simar from 19 Jan to 16 Mar but 3 on 9 Mar. 1 at Ghadira on 4 dates from 28 Feb to 10 Mar. Singles again in autumn at Simar on 20 Sep, in Oct at Rabat on 13<sup>th</sup>, at Simar on 18-20<sup>th</sup> and at Ghadira on 31<sup>st</sup>. Then at Simar on 19 Nov and in Dec on 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**2005:** Singles at Simar on 25 Jan and on 15 dates from 28 Feb to 1 Apr, all at Simar and Ghadira. In autumn, singles at Ghadira on 23 Sep and at Ramla Valley on 6-7 Oct.

**Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros***

**2000:** Single birds from 1 Jan to 31 Mar, max. 12 at Fomm ir-Riĥ on 8 Jan. In autumn, 2 at Bombi on 10 Oct, then almost daily till end of year from various localities, max. 25 at Mellieħa on 24 Oct and 50 at Manoel Island on 20 Nov.

**2001:** 1-10 almost daily from 1 Jan to 28 Mar but 15 at Manoel Island on 12 Jan. 7 on Comino on 6<sup>th</sup> and 1 on Manoel Island on 9 Apr. Then 1 at Dingli on 7 Oct, and 1-10 on most days from 13 Oct to 31 Dec but 15 on Manoel Island on 9 Nov and 40 at Dingli Cliffs on 17 Nov.

**2002:** Wintering in single figures of up to 10 from Jan to 30 Mar, but 15 at Ta' Żuta on 16 Jan and at Ċumnija on 3 Mar. 1 at Buskett on 18 Oct, then up to 15 almost daily from 21 Oct till end of year, but 20 at Harraġ on 11 Dec.

**2003:** 1-3 in several localities in Jan-Feb, then a marked increase in Mar with last sighting on 30 Mar. 20 were at Ta' Ċenċ on 5 Mar. First in autumn on 19 Oct, then from 26 Oct on to year end. Peak on 4-9 Nov when 7 sightings of low double figures, max 25 at Mellieħa on 5 Nov. 10-20 also at some sites during rest of Nov and Dec.

**2004:** 1-8 in Jan-Feb but up to 10 in Jan at Dingli on 3rd, Selmun on 14th and Pt.St. Elmo on 17th and in Feb at San Dimitri on 10th. 1-4 in Mar till 30th but 5 at Qammieħ on 6th and 21st, and at Mellieħa on 19th. Late bird at Wied il-Mielah on 5 Jun. In autumn 1-3 on 4 dates from 8-17 Oct then daily from 22 Oct to end of year. Mostly in single figures but 10-15 on a few dates mainly in Nov and max. 25 at Mellieħa on 28 Nov.

**2005:** Wintering in single figures of up to 15 from Jan to 23 Mar, but 48 at Dingli Cliffs on 5 Feb, 30 at Wied il-Ghasel on 23 Feb, 20 at Mosta Valley on 24 Feb and 25 at Ċirkewwa on 8 Mar. 1 at Luqa on 17 Oct, then up to 15 almost daily from 18 Oct till end of year, but 30 at Pt.St. Elmo on 7 Nov and 20 at Sliema on 17 Dec.

**Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

**2000:** Single birds from three localities on 31 Mar, then few sightings of single birds from 6 Apr to 13 May, highest 5 at Comino on 25 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Bingemma on 17 Aug, then single birds on various dates till 23 Oct, highest 5 at Buskett on 4 Oct. 2 at Għadira on 1 Nov.

**2001:** 1 at Għadira on 31 Mar then single figures almost daily from 1 Apr to 20 May but 10 on Comino on 20<sup>th</sup> and 24 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 1 Jun and 1 at Ta' Gajdor on 26 Aug. Then 1-4 on most days from 21 Sep to 23 Oct.

**2002:** Singles on 7 dates from 9-26 Mar, then up to 10 almost daily from 30 Mar to 12 May, but 18 at Comino on 17 Apr. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 18 May. In autumn, singles on 10 Sep and 13 Sep, then 1-3 on most days from 17 Sep to 31 Oct. Singles at Ġebel Ċiantar and Miġra L-Ferħa on 6 Nov.

**2003:** Singles on 29 and 31 Mar, then on most days from 2 Apr to 1 May with 1-6 at various sites and max of 7 on Comino on 28 Apr. 2 on 10 May and 1 on 19 May. In autumn 1-3 at several localities on most days from 19 Sep to 29 Oct.

**2004:** 1 at St.Venera on 7 Jan. From 24 Mar to 5 May with highest numbers in mid-late Apr when 3-8 on most days but 20 at Comino on 24th, otherwise 1-2. In autumn 1 at Buskett on 6 Sep, followed by 1-2 from 13 Sep to 31 Oct but 3 at Buskett on 6th, then on Comino with 5 on 17th and 4 on 18th all in Oct.

**2005:** Singles at Għadira on 15 Mar, and on 8 dates from 21 Mar to 4 Apr. Then 1-5 on most days from 6 Apr to 14 May. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 29 Aug, then 1-5 on most days from 12 Sep to 27 Oct, but 10 at Buskett on 1 Oct.

**Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri***

**2000:** 4+ at Dwejra (G) on 9 Apr.

**2005:** 1 at Żebbuġ (G) on 15 Mar.

**Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra***

**2000:** Singles on 3 and 6 Apr, then in single or low double figures of up to 30 on most days from 10 Apr to 13 May, but 40 at Comino on 23 Apr and 40 at Wied Qannotta on 6 May. Singles at Dwejra (M) and Mtaħleb and 2 at Buskett on 4 Jun. In autumn, 7 sightings of singles on 5 dates from 12-24 Sep.

**2001:** 3 on Comino on 5 Apr, then in single or low double figures, up to 40, on most days from 9 Apr to 13 May but 50 on Comino on 26 Apr. In autumn, 1 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 30 Sep at Buskett and singles at Simar on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and at Buskett on 16 Oct.

**2002:** 1 at Qammieħ on 2 Mar, then almost daily from 30 Mar to 21 May, in single or low double figures of up to 30, but 100+ at Comino on 29 Apr. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 14 Sep and at Għadira on 5 Oct and 7 Oct.

**2003:** 5 on 31 Mar, then on most days from 8 Apr to 8 May; mainly in single figures except for Comino where 350 on 13 Apr and up to 40 on several other days. Exceptions at other sites were 200 at Buskett on 28 Apr and 100 at Wied il-Mielah on 20 Apr. 5 on 13 May and late bird at Bahrija on 1 Jun. In autumn, 5 on 3 Sep, then 13 sightings of 1-6 on 6 days from 15-28 Sep.

**2004:** Singles in Apr on 1st (2 sites) and on 2nd, then daily from 10 Apr to 10 May. Mostly in double figures with peak totals in Apr of 232 from 15 sites on 17 Apr (highest 85 at Gozo), 243 from 11 sites on 22nd (highest 50 at Luqa) and 402 from 14 sites on 24 Apr (highest 150 at Comino and Aħrax). Fewer sightings in May but 30-50 on Comino on 2-3rd. Then singles on 12th and 15 May. In autumn singles mostly at Luqa airport on 23 Aug, 7 Sep (2 sites) and 7 sightings from 20 Sep to 14 Oct but 2 on 30 Sep.

**2005:** 1 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 29 Mar, then in single and double figures on most days from 4 Apr to 12 May, highest 100+ at Comino on 26 Apr, otherwise up to 60. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 31 Aug, and on 7 dates from 7 Sep to 12 Oct.

**Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus***

**2000:** Present from 1 Jan to 23 Mar in single and low double figures, max. 10 at Simar on 15-17th and 28 Feb. In autumn, 1 on 5 Oct at Rabat then almost daily in single and double figures of up to 20 till end of year, but 40 at Għadira on 1 Nov.

**2001:** Up to 10 daily at various sites from 1 Jan to 10 Mar. Daily from 3 Oct to 31 Dec in single or low double figures of up to 30 but 40 at Għadira on 29<sup>th</sup> and 31 Oct.

**2002:** Up to 10 almost daily at various sites from Jan to 14 Mar, but 15 at Simar on 7 Feb. 2 on 27 Mar and 1 on 30 Mar, both at Comino. Then daily in single or low double figures from 7 Oct till end of year, highest 50+ at Għadira on 17 Oct, otherwise up to 40.

**2003:** Single figures, occasionally up to 10, at most sites in Jan-Feb, then slight increase in Mar to 22<sup>nd</sup>, with max of 15 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 16 Mar. 1 on 27 Mar. In autumn 1 on 6 Oct then daily from 11 Oct, with low double figures and max of 50 on Comino on 26 Oct. Only single figures after 24 Nov.

**2004:** 1-8 in Jan with 10 on 31st, then up to 10 regularly at Ġhadira in Feb but 15 at Simar on 18th, otherwise 1-5 elsewhere. Lower numbers in Mar with 1-5 till 13th but 7 at Simar on 1st, then 1-2 on most days till 29th. In single to low double figures of up to 25 in autumn from 6 Oct to end of year but higher numbers mainly on Comino in late Oct with 30-50 almost daily but 75 on 26th. 15-20 regularly in Nov-Dec, mainly at Ġhadira but 25 on 1st, otherwise 1-10.

**2005:** In single and low double figures on most days from Jan to 21 Mar, highest 25+ at Marsa Sports Ground on 10 Feb, otherwise up to 20+. Then almost daily in single and low double figures from 7 Oct to end of year, highest 50+ on 18 Oct and 50 on 19 Oct, both at Comino, otherwise up to 40.

#### **Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina***

**2000:** 1 at Qawra on 26 Mar.

**2001:** Singles at Qawra on 24-25 Mar and 5 Apr.

**2002:** Good year for this species with 15 sightings of 1-2 on 11 dates from 2-17 Mar.

**2003:** Singles at Ċirkewwa on 2 Mar, at Marfa and Ċirkewwa on 16 Mar, and at Salina on 29 Mar and at Mosta on 10 Apr.

**2004:** Singles in Mar on 13th at Miġra l-Ferħa and 19th at Ta Ċenċ but 2 at Delimara also on 19th. 1 at Ċirkewwa on 10 Apr.

**2005:** Singles at Miġra l-Ferħa on 9 Apr and Comino on 8 May.

#### **Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***

**2000:** 1 at Qammieħ on 16 Mar, then almost daily in single and low double figures till 30 Apr, highest 25 on Comino on 22 Apr and 15 at Qammieħ on 22 Mar. In autumn, 4 at Dwejra (M), 2 at Mellieħa and 1 at Dingli Cliffs on 13 Aug, then almost daily till 15 Oct. 1 late bird on 19 Nov at Xlendi.

**2001:** 1 at Qammieħ on 9 Mar, then in single or double figures of up to 24 on most days from 18 Mar to 10 May but 100 on Comino on 5 Apr. In autumn 1-6 almost daily from 22 Aug to 14 Oct. 1 at Ġhadira on 21 Oct.

**2002:** In single or low double figures of up to 17 almost daily from 3 Mar to 1 May, but 40+ at Ċirkewwa on 29 Mar. 2 at Dingli on 12 May and 1 at Mellieħa on 22 May. In autumn, up to 10 almost daily from 20 Aug to 14 Oct, but 20+ at Luqa on 18 Sep. 1 at Luqa on 24 Oct.

**2003:** 1-2 on 1-3 Mar, then on most days from 13 Mar to mid-Apr and then less regularly till 3 May. Mostly single figures, but 30 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 2 Apr, 70 (total of 4 sites) on 8 Apr and 25 on Comino on 13 Apr. In autumn singles on 8 Aug and 18 Aug, then low single figures daily at most sites from 21 Aug to 29 Sep, but 45 (total of 5 sites) on 14 Sep and 10 at Qawra on 18 Sep. In Oct 1-2 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

**2004:** 1 at Bidnija on 28 Feb, then 1-10 from 13 Mar to 4 May but 12 at Ċirkewwa and 25 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 31 Mar, and 25 at Qammieħ on 2 Apr. Singles in May at Dwejra, G on 18th and at Dwejra (M) on 23rd. In autumn singles on 3-4 Aug, then 1-4 on 15-17 Aug and in single to low double figures of up to 20 from 20 Aug to 15 Oct but higher numbers in Aug with 30 on 23rd and 34 on 26th, both at Luqa airport, then 29 at Delimara on 6 Oct. Late bird at Buskett on 10 Nov.

**2005:** Singles at Hekka Point (G) on 22 Feb and Marsascala on 2 Mar. The in single and low double figures almost daily from 17 Mar to 5 May, highest 35 at Wied il-Mielaħ on 24 Mar. 1 at Ġhargħur on 21 May and 2 at Gebel Ċiantar on 5 Jun. In autumn, 2 at Marsascala on 18 Aug, then 1-7 almost daily from 21 Aug to 16 Oct, but 10+ at Wardija (G) on 29 Aug.

#### **Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica***

**2000:** 15 sightings of 1-3 from 25 Mar to 22 Apr. 1 at Comino on 5th and 9 May. One autumn record: 1 at Buskett on 9 Sep.

**2001:** 1-3 almost daily from 4 Apr to 9 May but 10 on Comino on 5 Apr. 1 at Buskett on 10 Sep.

**2002:** Only in spring: 1 at Luqa on 8 Mar, then 1-2 on 12 dates from 29 Mar to 25 Apr, but 3 at Ċirkewwa on first date.

**2003:** 10 sightings on 7 days from 2-14 Apr, with max of 8 on Comino on 13 Apr. 1 at Dingli on 18 Jun. In autumn 6 sightings of 1-2 on 5 days from 13-20 Sep and 4 at Dwejra (M) on 24 Sep.

**2004:** Singles at 2 sites on 26 Mar, then 6 sightings of singles on 4 dates from 30 Mar to 3 Apr and 1-2 almost daily from 17 Apr to 4 May, mostly at Comino. In autumn 8 sightings of singles on 7 dates from 6 Sep to 3 Oct, mainly at Mtaħleb, and in Oct on 3rd at Luqa airport and at Comino on 20th.

**2005:** Both races recorded. Singles at 3 locations on 25 Mar, and Comino on 26 Mar. Then 1-3 daily from 6 Apr to 29 Apr. 1 at Ġhargħur on 21 May. In autumn, singles on 4 dates from 27 Aug to 8 Sep.

#### **Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti***

**2001:** 1 at San Luċjan on 13 Dec.

**2005:** 1 at Miġra l-Ferħa from 11-25 Dec.

#### **Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis***

**2000:** 2 at Qammieħ on 25 Mar and 1 at Sta Lucia on 30 Mar.

**2001:** Singles on 4 dates in April: at Comino on 6<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and at Mellieħa on 26<sup>th</sup>. In autumn singles at Dwejra on 4<sup>th</sup> and at Dingli Cliffs on 18 Sep.

**2002:** Singles at Comino on 19 Mar, 6 May, and on 24 Sep.

**2003:** Singles on Comino on 5 Apr, at Ġirgenti on 12 Apr, and again on Comino on 30 Apr. In autumn 1 at Mellieħa on 28 Sep.

**2004:** Only in singles on 28 Mar at Miġra l-Ferħa, then mostly in Apr at Mellieħa on 5th and 7th, Ta' Ġajdor on 17th, on Comino on 18th and 22nd, and on 24th at Buskett and Aħrax. In autumn at Ġirgenti on 9-11 Sep.

**2005:** Singles at Xagħra on 25 Mar and 9 Apr, 3 at Nadur (M) on 23 Apr and singles at Dwejra (M) and Fomm ir-Riħ on 8 May.

**Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius***

**2000:** Resident breeder, recorded from all rocky (cliffs) coastal areas during breeding season, highest 10 at Ta'Ċenċ and il-Qaws. Single birds sighted inland during autumn and winter.

**2001:** Breeding resident at suitable areas. Single figures on most dates but 10 at Dwejra on 18 Apr, at Migra Ferha on 1 Jul and at Marsalforn on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26 Aug. Most 15 at Xlendi area on 17 Apr.

**2002:** Breeding resident at suitable areas. Always in single figures but 10 at Ċirkewwa/Qammieħ on 9 Mar, 12 at Dwejra (G)/San Dimitri on 21 May, 13 at Ta' Ċenċ on 2 Jun, and 10 at Comino on 2 Oct.

**2003:** 1-3 in several areas in Jan-Feb then more in evidence in Mar when males singing with more intensity. Adults carrying food were seen from 26 Apr and newly fledged young seen on 13 Jun. Highest counts were 25 at Ċumnija on 4 May and 15 at Ta' Ċenċ on 7 Jun. In Sep-Dec up to 5 at several sites but occasionally up to 10 in some areas.

**2004:** Breeding resident with most sightings from around the coast. Highest counts at Qammieħ with 8 on 21 Mar, 7 at Mistra on 17 Apr and 10 at Migra l-Ferħa on 7 Sep, otherwise 1-6.

**2005:** Breeding resident in suitable areas. Always in single figures and low double figures up to 15, but 20 between Ta' Ċenċ and Mgarr ix-Xini on 29 May

**Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva***

**2000:** Singles at Għadira on 9 Sep, at Buskett on 26 Oct, and at Simar on 7 Dec.

**2001:** Singles at Għadira on 13<sup>th</sup> and 21 Sep and 14 Oct.

**2002:** Singles at Għadira on 22 Sep, at Simar on 14 Oct, at Chadwick Lakes on 20 Oct, and at Lunzjata on 21 Oct.

**2003:** 1 at Dingli on 1 Apr. 1 at Rabat on 8 Sep, then 17 sightings of 1-2 on 15 days from 18 Sep to 25 Oct, and 1 at Buskett on 5 Nov.

**2004:** Singles at Buskett on 23 and 30 Sep

**2005:** Singles at Għadira on 15 Sep and Buskett on 2 Oct, 1-3 at Simar on 5-7 Oct, 1 at Ta' Gajdoru on 8 Oct, 1-2 at Simar on 9-13 Oct and 1-3 at Buskett on 15 Oct, 30 Oct and 1 Nov.

**Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata***

**2001:** 1 at Salina on 12 Apr.

**2002:** Singles at Salina on 13 Apr, at Comino on 19 Apr, at Wied il-Mielħ on 24 Apr, and at Lunzjata on 25 Apr.

**2003:** Singles at Għadira on 15-16 Apr.

**2004:** Singles at Comino on 14 Apr and at Buskett on 7 Oct.

**2005:** Singles at Għajn Rihana on 19-21 Mar, at Għadira on 23 Mar and 29 Apr and at Simar on 4 May.

**Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis***

**2000:** A very poor year with 1-2 on most days from 1-30 Apr.

**2001:** 1-2 almost daily from 31 Mar to 28 Apr, and on 4 dates in May 4<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, most from Comino.

**2002:** 30 sightings of 1-3 almost daily from 30 Mar to 28 Apr, but 5 at Għadira on 24 Apr. 1 at Simar on 10 May.

**2003:** Almost daily from 2-28 Apr with low double figures on 7 days, max 30 at Simar on 15 Apr. Singles on 8 May and 14 May. 1 at Simar on 22 Sep.

**2004:** 1 at Rabat on 9 Apr, then from 14 Apr to 1 May with several sightings in single figures from various sites but 10-15 almost daily mainly at Għadira, Comino and Simar. Highest numbers at Simar with 35 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 30 on 16<sup>th</sup>, and at Comino with 30 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

**2005:** Singles on 5 dates from 19-25 Mar, then in single and low double figures of up to 15+ almost daily from 4 Apr to 10 May, but 30+ on 29 Apr and 25+ on 30 Apr, both at Comino. Singles at Chadwick Lakes on 21 Jun, at Buskett on 8 Sep and at Wied il-Luq on 15 Sep.

**Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca***

**2000:** In single and low double figures from 2 Apr to 6 May with the last bird at Buskett on 11 May; max. 30 on 26 Apr, 20 on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25 Apr at Comino. In autumn, 2 at Rabat on 10 Sep and singles at Għadira on 13 Sep and at Simar on 16 Sep.

**2001:** In single or low double figures (up to 40) almost daily from 4 Apr to 30 May but 50 at Comino on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26 Apr. Then singles on 5 dates in August (5<sup>th</sup>, 23-24<sup>th</sup>, and 27-28<sup>th</sup>) and on 2 dates at Dwejra in September (1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>).

**2002:** Almost daily from 30 Mar to 15 May in single or low double figures of up to 40, but 100+ at Comino on 23 Apr. 1 at Simar on 24 May. In autumn, 2 at Buskett on 5 Sep and singles at Dwejra (M) on 16 Sep, at Wied Għajn Żejtuna and Dwejra (M) on 20 Sep and at Mellieħa on 21 Sep.

**2003:** Daily from 2-29 Apr with up to 40 at some sites on a few days and 120 on Comino on 13 Apr. Then 8 sightings of 1-2 on 7 days from 2-28 May. Only autumn sightings were of singles at Buskett on 18 Sep and at Rabat on 21 Sep.

**2004:** 10 sightings of 1-2 from 2-12 Apr, then 1-10 daily from several sites between 14 Apr and 8 May with higher numbers from mid-late Apr when 15-30 daily at various sites but 40 at Buskett on 16<sup>th</sup>, at Wied Qannotta on 17<sup>th</sup> and at Comino on 18<sup>th</sup>, with max.50 at Comino on 17<sup>th</sup>. Then 7 sightings of singles from 10-23 May. In autumn 2 sightings at Buskett in Sep with 1 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**2005:** In single and low double figures of up to 25 almost daily from 6 Apr to 14 May, but 40+ at Comino on 29 Apr. One record in autumn: 1 at Buskett on 19 Sep.

**Dunnock *Prunella modularis***

**2000:** Single to double figures from 1 Jan to 27 Mar mainly at Buskett, Simar and Għadira with up to 15 birds on several days. 1 at Buskett on 27 Aug was unusual. Single to double figures daily from 5 Oct till end of year with up to 10 birds on various dates at Għadira and Buskett, max. 25 at Għadira on 3 Nov.



**2001:** Single or low double figures, up to 15, on most days from 1 Jan to 20 Mar but 40 at Buskett on 3 Jan. 1 at Ghadira on 28 May. Up to 25 almost daily from 12 Oct to 31 Dec with 30 at Ghadira on 6 Nov.

**2002:** Up to 15 daily in Jan to 14 Mar. Singles on 4 dates from 21-29 Mar. 1-5 on 9 dates from 6-23 Oct, then up to 10 almost daily from 28 Oct till end of year.

**2003:** Single figures, and up to 10 at Buskett, wintering in Jan-22 Mar. In autumn very early bird at Ghadira on 25 Sep, followed by 2 on 12 Oct and singles on 29 Oct and 31 Oct and 2 Nov. Then daily from 4 Nov onwards when generally single figures but up to 20 frequently at Buskett.

**2004:** In single figures during Jan-Feb at various sites but 15-20 at Buskett in Jan and up to 10 at Ghadira in Jan-Feb. Then 1-4 in Mar till 10th and singles on 14th and 16th. Singles in Oct on 13-14th and 20th, then 1-8 from 22 Oct to end of year but 10 at Comino on 30 Oct and at Ghadira on a few dates in Nov. Most autumn sightings at Ghadira, Simar and Buskett.

**2005:** Up to 10 regularly from 1 Jan to 23 Mar, but 15 at Buskett on 25 Jan. Up to 20 most days from 16 Oct to end of year, but 25+ at Buskett on 1 Nov.

### **Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis***

**2000:** Common resident, recorded on all dates from most localities. Highest count 500 at Comino on 31 Mar. 150+ present all year round at Ghadira. First nests recorded in late January and the last by the middle of August.

**2001:** Abundant and breeding resident on the three main islands. Maximum count of c1000 at Simar on 25-26 Sep.

**2002:** Abundant and breeding resident on the three main islands.

**2003:** Abundant resident everywhere. First birds carrying nesting material seen on 25 Feb. 2 flocks of 80 and 50 respectively over Ghadira on 20 Feb suggested return migrants. In Oct passage birds sighted from 22-27 Oct with several migrating flocks seen, mostly at Ghadira but also on Comino and Buskett; highest numbers were 180+ on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 150+ on 27<sup>th</sup> at Ghadira. 2500+ were counted roosting at Simar on 6 Aug.

**2004:** Common and widespread breeding resident.

**2005:** Abundant and breeding resident on the three main islands.

### **Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus***

**2000:** No records in Jan-Feb. Very few sightings before May with 1-2 birds at Buskett on 3 days in March and 1 day in Apr, 1-2 birds at Simar on 1st and 24 Apr. Then almost daily in single and low double figures from 3 May to end of year, max. 100+ at Ghadira on 19 Oct, 30 at Chadwick Lakes on 4th and 18 June, 30 at Simar on 2 Oct. and 35 at Simar on 31 Oct.

**2001:** Resident and breeding in small numbers in isolated areas. Recorded in single or low double figures with max 30 to 35 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18 Mar nr Chadwick Lakes, and 25 on 17 October at Buskett.

**2002:** Breeding at usual sites. In single or low double figures of up to 30, but 80+ at Wied Il-Luq on 6 Sep. Numbers increased in Oct due to migrants highest being of 40+ at Ghadira on 16 Oct, 70+ at Mellieħa on 18 Oct, 102 at Qawra on 20 Oct and 22 Oct, and 55 at Mellieħa on 27 Oct.

**2003:** During breeding season recorded from Dingli, Buskett, Rabat, Chadwick Lakes, Ghajn Riħana, Wied Qannotta and Mellieħa, the max count being 30 at Chadwick lakes on 15 Jun. In autumn numbers augmented by migrants; 100 were at Buskett on 2 Oct and a flock of 100 on Comino on 26 Oct. Very few sightings and only in very small numbers in Jan-Feb and Dec.

**2004:** Breeding resident in small numbers at a few sites. Highest counts at Buskett from Jul to Nov when usually up to 50 but 100 on 15 Aug, 100-150 on 17-21 Sep and 200 on 29 Sep. Also up to 57 at Simar in Aug-Sep and 60 at Rabat on 17 Nov. Smaller numbers in other areas.

**2005:** Breeding at usual sites. In single or low double figures of up to 60+, but 95+ at Salina on 27 Mar, 75 at Buskett on 15 Jul, 100+ on 25 Aug and 80+ on 8 Sep, both at Rabat, and 70+ at Ghadira on 7 Nov.

### **Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***

**2000:** 1 at Salina on 21 Jan. 1 at Marsalforn on 11 Mar, then daily in single, double and treble figures till end of May, max. 350 at Munxar, G. 200 at Manoel Island on 9 Apr, 200 at Simar on 8 Apr. Single birds on 7 dates in June, latest 1 at Ghadira on 27th. First autumn migrant on 6 Aug with 1 bird at Ghadira, then daily in single, double and treble figures till 29 Oct. max. 400 on 9 Sep, 350 on 30 Aug and 320 on 28 Sep all at Simar.

**2001:** 1 at Marsalforn Valley on 27 Feb. Then in single or double figures of up to 50 almost daily from 11 Mar to 30 May, but 100 at Simar on 1 May. 1 at Ghadira on 16 Jun. In autumn in single and double figures, recorded almost daily from 12 Aug to 27 Oct, but treble figures on 8 dates, max. 200 at Lunzjata on 10<sup>th</sup> and 12 Oct. Late singles at Victoria on 19 Nov and at Lunzjata on 8 Dec.

**2002:** Almost daily from 6 Mar to 16 May, in single or double figures, but 100+ at Ghadira on 3 Apr and at Simar on 16-17 Apr. Singles at Simar on 21 May, at Mistra on 25 May, and at Ghadira on 7 Jun. In autumn, almost daily from 11 Aug to 20 Oct in single or double figures, but 100+ on 9 Sep, 150+ on 10 Sep, both at Simar; and 170+ at Buskett on 17 Sep. 1 on 31 Oct and 2 on 1 Nov at Ghadira and 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 5 Nov.

**2003:** 1-5 at Ghadira on 14-18 Mar, then daily from 22 Mar to 19 May and irregular sightings at various sites till 11 Jun. Peak in Apr when low treble figures on 8 days, max 400 at Simar on 2 days. Mostly single figures in May. Singles at Ghadira and Salina on 3 days from 21-27 Jun. First in autumn on 9 Aug and practically daily until 24 Oct followed by 1-2, mostly at Simar, on several days until 2 Dec. Peak passage in Sep – early Oct, with max of 750 on 1 Oct and 650 on 30 Sep at Buskett. 1 at Luqa Airport on 9 Dec.

**2004:** 1-5 mainly at Ghadira from 24 Feb to 20 Mar but 10 on 10th and 17th, then daily sightings at various sites from 22 Mar to 10 May with most in mid-late Apr. Highest numbers at Luqa airport in Apr with 100-400 on 6 dates from 12-21st and 500 on 25th, 400 at Ghadira and 200 at Marsa on 24th, and 300 at Ghadira, 125 at Salina and 100 at Simar on 16th. Then singles on most days at Ghadira and Simar from 12-21 May and on 7 dates from 7 Jun to 20 Jul mostly

at Simar and Ghajn Rihana. Then 1-5 regularly from 11-18 Aug and daily in single to double figures from 22 Aug to 22 Oct but treble figures on a few days in Sep with 155 at Mtahleb on 7th, 100-200 at Buskett on 9-11th, 250-350 at Lunzjata on 13-15th and 100 at Buskett on 30th; then in Oct at Buskett with 150 on 2nd and at Lunzjata with 200 on 4th and 150 on 9th. Then 1-5 on 4 dates from 26 Oct to 3 Nov.

**2005:** 1 at Ghadira on 12 Feb, then in single and double figures almost daily from 2 Mar to 12 Jun, but 500+ at Ghadira and 100+ at Simar on 4 Apr, and 100+ on 7 Apr, again at Simar. In autumn, 1 at Ghadira on 2 Aug, then single to low triple figures almost daily from 11 Aug to 30 Oct, highest 200+ at Buskett on 7 Sep and 200 at Dingli on 11 Sep, otherwise up to 150.

#### **Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

**2000:** Single birds at beginning of year at Ghadira on 4 Jan and at Simar on 10 Jan. Single birds mainly at Ghadira throughout Feb, latest 1 on 3 Mar also at Ghadira. First autumn migrants with single birds at Ghadira and Lunzjata Valley on 10 Sep. Then almost daily in single figures till end of year. Max. 5 at Simar on 27 Oct and at Rabat on 5 Nov.

**2001:** 1-2 on 20 dates from 1 Jan to 28 Feb. Singles at Ghadira on 15<sup>th</sup> and at Lunzjata on 18 Mar. 1-4 almost daily from 27 Sep to 24 Dec.

**2002:** 1-4 on most days from Jan to 21 Feb. Singles at Blata L-Bajda on 7 Mar and at Lunzjata on 23 Mar. 1 at Simar on 17-18 Sep, then almost daily from 26 Sep till end of year, all in single figures except for 10 at Buskett on 15 Oct.

**2003:** 1-3 wintering at various sites in Jan-4 Mar, then 1 at Mellieħa on 20 Mar. In autumn 5 singles on 4 days from 18-29 Sep, then daily in Oct when occasionally up to 6 at some sites. Less regular in Nov-Dec and mostly 1-2, but 8 at Buskett on 5 Nov.

**2004:** 1-2 from 1-17 Jan, then singles almost daily till 23 Feb but 2 at Pt.St. Elmo on 14 Feb. 4 sightings of singles in Mar from 1-13th. In autumn 1 at Simar on 9 Sep, then singles on 21-23rd and 1-5 daily from 27 Sep to end of year but 6 at Ghadira on 14th, 6 at Targa Gap on 23rd and 8 at Pt.St. Elmo on 24th, all in Oct. 1-2 after 22 Nov.

**2005:** 1-2 on 36 dates from 1 Jan to 9 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 17 Sep, then 1-4 on most days from 23 Sep till end of year.

#### **White Wagtail *Motacilla alba***

**2000:** Daily from 1 Jan to 23 Mar, highest count 200 at Valletta roost on 10 Jan. 1 at Salina on 24 Apr First autumn birds on 27 Sep at Buskett then daily in single, double and treble figures till end of year, max. 1000 at Valletta roost on 15 Nov and 200 at Victoria, G. on 17 Nov highest count for Gozo.

**2001:** In single or double figures from 1 Jan to 31 Mar but triple figure counts on 6 dates and 2235 roosting in the Valletta on 13 Jan. Singles almost daily from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6 Apr with 3 at Ghadira on 3 Apr. Then singles on Comino on 4<sup>th</sup> and at Ghadira on 24 May, at Ghajn Tuffieħa on 15<sup>th</sup> and 25 Jul and at Victoria on 26 Sep. Single or double figures on most days from 7 Oct to 31 Dec, but in triple figures on 16 dates, max. 800 at Lunzjata on 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 31 Oct and 2 Nov.

**2002:** Up to 200 daily from Jan to 1 Apr, but 2768 on 12 Jan at Valletta Roost. 1-2 at Ghadira on 5 dates from 8-20 Apr. 2 at Blata L-Bajda on 27 Sep, then almost daily from 7 Oct till end of year, mostly in single or double figures, but 200+ at Lunzjata on 2 Nov, 300+ on 12 Nov and 500+ on 14 Nov, both at Valletta roost.

**2003:** Low single figures at most sites in Jan-Feb with a slight increase in Mar when up to 10 at Ghadira on some days. 15 sightings of 1-2 (but 6 at Simar on 9 Apr) on 10 days from 2-19 Apr. 1 at Ghadira on 3-4 Jul. In autumn 2 on 7 Oct, then daily from 10 Oct; usually low double figures at most sites but up to 50 on some days. Only up to 10 after mid-Nov but 2000 were counted roosting in Valletta on 18 Nov.

**2004:** Present in single to double figures in Jan-Mar but 4324 counted at the Valletta roost on 17 Jan. Then singles in Apr at Salina on 4th and at Ghadira on 13th and 24th. In autumn from 2 Oct with 400 at Lunzjata already on 9 Oct otherwise in single to double figures. Highest numbers from the roosting sites with 800-1200 at Lunzjata in late Oct to early Nov then up to 300 in mid-Nov, and up to 2000 at Valletta in Dec.

**2005:** Up to 500 almost daily from 1 Jan to 9 Apr, but 5,335 on 15 Jan at Valletta Roost. Singles at Marsascala on 1 May, Salina on 27 May, Qawra on 30 May and male in breeding plumage at Salina on 12 Jun. Male in full breeding plumage at Salina again on 7 Aug. In autumn, up to 300 almost daily from 2 Oct to end of year, but 3,000 at Valletta Roost on 10 Nov.

#### **Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris***

**2000:** Singles at Gharghur on 30 Mar and at Comino on 31 Mar and 7 May. Sightings on most days from 1st to 29 Apr, maxima 15 birds at Birkirkara and at Xagħra ta'Biskra (Ghadira) on 4th and 9 Apr respectively, 10 at Ċirkewwa on 11 Apr. Single birds at Salina on 7 May and at Cumnija on 28 May. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 30 Aug then single birds on most days till 27 Sept, highest 8 at Għar Lapsi on 17 Sep.

**2001:** 1 at Lapsi on 23 Feb. Then in single figures recorded on 21 dates from 26 Mar to 13 May, but 12 on 30 Mar and 20 at Qawra on 6 Apr, and 15 at Mellieħa on 12 Apr. In autumn singles at Buskett on 26 Aug and Ghadira on 29 Aug, and single figures on 14 dates from 4<sup>th</sup> to 29 Sep, but 15 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 17 Sep at Ghadira. Latest bird, 1 at Buskett on 7 Oct.

**2002:** Singles at Għar Lapsi on 8 Mar and at Migra L-Ferħa on 8-9 Mar, then single figures on 14 dates from 29 Mar to 26 Apr, but 19 at Comino on 3 Apr. 2 at Comino on 10-11 May. In autumn, in single figures on most dates from 3 Sep to 11 Oct, but 32 at Buskett on 9 Sep and 11 at San Luċjan on 15 Sep. 1 at Qawra on 22 Oct.

**2003:** 25 sightings on 18 days from 30 Mar to 6 May; 50 at Wied il-Mielah on 20 Apr and 25 at Migra L-Ferħa on 8 Apr, otherwise 1-5. In autumn 1-5 daily at several sites from 30 Aug to 7 Sep and again from 12-24 Sep; then 6 at Ghadira on 27 Sep, and singles on 4 days from 4-12 Oct.

**2004:** 2 at Ahrax on 21 Mar, then several sightings almost daily from 28 Mar to 1 May. Mostly 1-7 but 20 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar, 25 at Gozo on 17 Apr and 10 at Buskett on 24 Apr. 1 at Ta Zuta on 5 Jun. Almost daily in autumn from 26 Aug to 11 Oct with highest numbers being of 12 at Dwejra (M) on 14 Sep and at Luqa airport with 7 on 30 Sep and 40 on 3 Oct, otherwise 1-5 from various sites. 5 at Comino on 27 Oct.

**2005:** 1-5 almost daily from 17 Mar to 29 Apr, but 20 between Nadur (G) and Sannat and 15 at Migra l-Ferha on 4 Apr, 10 at Xrobb l-Għagin on 5 Apr and 20 at Comino on 27 Apr. 2 at Ta Ċenċ on 29 May and 1 at Manikata 14-15 Jun. In autumn, 1-2 on most days from 29 Aug to 11 Sep, but 6 at Xagħra l-Hamra on 10 Sep. Then 1-4 on most days from 18 Sep to 12 Oct. Single at Għadira on 3 Nov.

**Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni***

**2003:** 1 ringed at Buskett on 30 Nov.

**2005:** 1 ringed at Buskett on 12 Dec.

**Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

**2000:** 1 at Qammieħ on 25 Mar, then on most days till 11 May in single, double and low treble figures, max. 250 at Bla-ta l-Bajda on 12 Apr, 200 at Qawra and Manoel island on 9 Apr. Singles at Mtaħleb and Cumnija on 23rd and 28 May respectively. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 19 August, then almost daily till 29 Oct in single and low double figures, max. 15 at Mellieħa on 22 Oct. 2 at Għadira on 7 Nov.

**2001:** 1 at Cumnija on 11 Mar, then almost daily from 17 Mar to 13 May, mostly in single or low double figures of up to 50, but 130 on 29 Mar at Dwejra and a good influx on 12 Apr with max of 500 in Gozo, 300 at Mellieħa, 200 at Comino and 100 at Ċirkewwa. Singles at Mellieħa on 24 May and Chadwick Lakes on 30 Jul. Then up to 4 on 17 dates from 24 Aug to 1 Oct. 4 late birds at Lunzjata on 4 Nov.

**2002:** Singles at Mellieħa on 26-27 Jan and on 9 Feb were unusual. 1-3 on most dates from 9-24 Mar, then almost daily from 27 Mar to 11 May in single or double figures, but 140+ on 29 Mar and 150+ on 30 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa. Singles at Wied L-Isperanza on 29 May and at Għadira on 20 Jun. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 18 Aug, at Għadira on 8 Sep, and at Buskett on 10 Sep, then up to 7 on most dates from 13 Sep to 10 Oct. Singles at Għadira on 19 Oct, 22 Oct, and 5 Nov.

**2003:** 1-2 on 14-15 Mar, then daily from 19 Mar to 5 May with medium treble figures on several days in Apr, highest 650 (total 3 sites) on 8 Apr and 570 at Mellieħa on 2 Apr. Only single figures during most of Mar and after 25 Apr. 1 on 9 May and 3 on 18 May. Singles at Chadwick Lakes on 15 Jun and at Buskett on 27 Jul. In autumn singles on 24 Aug and on 4 days from 4-9 Sep, then daily from 14-30 Sep and on most days in Oct to 30<sup>th</sup>. 50 at Buskett on 20 Sep and 30 at Mellieħa on 28 Sep, otherwise single figures. Late bird on 30 Nov.

**2004:** Daily from 24 Mar to 5 May with peak migration from mid-late Apr. Usually in single to double figures but occasionally in treble figures with 120 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar and in Apr with 312 from 12 sites on 14th (highest 150 on Comino), 362 from 12 sites on 16th (highest 150 at Victoria), 510 from 16 sites on 17th (highest 200 on Comino) and 320 from 12 sites on 19th (highest 100 at Mellieħa). Then 5 sightings of 1-3 from 7-18 May. Singles on Comino on 5 Jun and at Mellieħa on 1 Aug. 1-6 almost daily in autumn from 6 Sep to 28 Oct but 10 at Simar on 22 Sep and 40 at Buskett on 14 Oct. 1-3 in Nov on 3-5th and 1 on 23rd. Late bird at Għadira on 9 Dec.

**2005:** 1 at Għadira on 18 Feb was unusual. In single and double figures almost daily from 15 Mar to 10 May, but 100 at Xagħra on 19 Mar, 300+ at Għadira and 100 at Nadur (G) on 4 Apr and 100 at Comino on 27 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 31 Aug then 1-3 on most days from 4 Sep to 28 Oct, highest 4 at Buskett on 13 Oct.

**Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

**2000:** Present in winter from 1 Jan to 12 Apr in single and double figures, highest 30 at Luqa Airport on 24 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 17 Oct, then daily in single and double figures till end of year. Highest count 150 at Dwejra, (M) on 25 Oct.

**2001:** In single or low double figures, up to 30, from 1 Jan to 8 Apr. 1 on Manoel Island on 16 Apr. Almost daily from 12 Oct to end of year in single or low double figures, max. 50 at Ta' Ċenċ on 14 Dec.

**2002:** In single or low double figures of up to 30 from Jan to 10 Apr. Then 1-3 on 5 dates from 13-22 Oct, then in single or double figures daily from 25 Oct till end of year, but 100+ at Comino on 30 Oct.

**2003:** Up to 10 at most sites in Jan-Feb, then 15-20 on several days in Mar. 1-2 daily at many sites till 11 Apr and singles on 21-22 Apr. In autumn singles on 12 Oct and 20 Oct, then daily from 26 Oct to 31 Dec. Double figures, max 80 on Comino on 26 Oct, between late Oct and late Nov, then smaller numbers – usually up to 20 at some sites.

**2004:** Up to 20 wintering in various places in Jan-Feb, then higher numbers in Mar with max. 240 at Ċirkewwa on 30th and 60 at Luqa airport on 24th, otherwise up to 45. 1-15 in Apr till 7th and 1 at Ċirkewwa on 19 Apr. First sighting in autumn on 16 Oct, then daily from 21 Oct to 31 Dec with most in late Oct and mid-late Nov. Usually in double figures but treble figures on Comino in Oct with 100 on 23rd and 150 on 28th, and also at Luqa airport with 200 on 27 Oct and 9 Nov, and 150 on 16 Nov. Only up to 20 after mid-Dec.

**2005:** In single or low double figures from Jan to 10 Apr, highest 40+ at Għadira on 21 Mar, otherwise up to 30. Then, in single or low double figures from 13 Oct to end of year, highest 120+ at Dwejra (M) on 1 Dec, otherwise up to 100+.

**Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus***

**2000:** Single birds on 13 dates from 11 Feb to 8 May; highest 3 at Għadira on 16 Apr. 5 autumn sightings of single birds from 4 Sep to 29 Oct.

**2001:** 1 at Ta' Lambert on 30 Mar, and up to 3 on 8 dates from 18 Apr to 10 May. Singles on 6 dates between 1 Oct and 24 Nov but 2 at Dingli Cliffs on 8 Oct.

**2002:** Singles on 11 dates from 30 Mar to 6 May except for 2 at Wied Qannotta on 9 Apr. 1 at Buskett on 23 Oct was the only record in autumn.

**2003:** 16 sightings of 1-2 on 13 days from 23 Mar to 20 May. In autumn again 1-2 on 8 days from 3 Oct to 15 Nov.

**2004:** 1 at Bidnija on 14 Feb, then 16 sightings on 14 dates from 26 Mar to 2 May. Mostly in singles but 3 at Munxar on 27 Mar, 7 on 14th and 10 on 17th both at Comino in Apr, and 4 at Għadira on 17 Apr. In autumn from Sep with 2 on 15th at Salina and singles on 29-30th. Then singles in Oct on 6 dates from 14-30th but 2 on 30th at Comino. Singles in Nov at Luqa airport on 8-9th and on most days from 18-29th and in Dec on 4th and 7th.

**2005:** 1 at Salina on 4 Feb, then 1-2 on 6 dates from 15 Mar to 5 May. In autumn, singles on 10 dates from 7 Oct to 21 Nov, but 2 at Ghajn Rihana on 5 Nov.

**Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta***

**2000:** 1 at Ghadira on 15 Nov.

**2001:** 1 at Ghadira on 24 Nov.

**2002:** 1 at Ghadira on 24 Mar.

**2003:** 1 at Ghadira on 28 Oct.

**2004:** Singles at Ghadira in Mar on 6-7th and 10th, and on 6 Nov.

**2005:** Singles at Ghadira on 28 Mar and on 9 Nov, at Luqa on 14 Nov and again at Ghadira on 1 Dec.

**Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

**2000:** Recorded daily from 1 Jan to 24 Mar in single and double figures with 63 at Dwejra (M) on 20 Mar highest count followed by 36 on 22 Mar at same locality. 4 sightings of singles in Apr, 1 at Wied Qannotta on 13 May and 2 at Buskett on 28 May. Single birds on various dates throughout Jul and Sep. Recorded daily from 1 Oct till end of year in single, double and low treble figures with highest counts being 142 at Buskett on 28 Oct, 120 at Mellieħa on 25 Oct and 115 again at Buskett on 29 Oct.

**2001:** In single or low double figures almost daily from 2 Jan to 30 Apr, max. 22 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 15 on 18<sup>th</sup>, both in March at Dwejra. 1-4 recorded on 41 scattered dates from 16 May 30 Sep. Singles on 8 dates in Sep. 1 at Mellieħa on 5-6 Oct, then in single or low double figures on most days from 12 Oct to end of year, max. 50 at Buskett on 10 Nov and at Ghadira on 8 Dec, and 30 at Mellieħa on 6 Nov.

**2002:** In single or low double figures on most dates from Jan to 28 Apr, highest 60 at Dwejra (M) on 15 Mar. 1-3 on 25 dates from 5 May to 3 Aug and 1-4 almost daily at Buskett from 14 Aug to 10 Sep. 1 at Ghadira on 20 Aug, then on most days in single or low double figures from 21 Sep till end of year, highest 20+ at Buskett on 21 Dec, otherwise up to 15.

**2003:** Low single figures in Jan- 12 Apr but up to 10 at Buskett where present also throughout summer months and at least 1 pair bred – a pair accompanied by 3 juveniles was seen on 3 Aug. Single birds were also regularly seen at Ghadira and occasionally at 5 other sites during same period. Autumn passage from 11 Oct with medium double figures recorded on 6 days between 26 Oct and 18 Nov, max 65 at Dingli/Buskett on 6 Nov. Up to 10 at Buskett in Dec.

**2004:** In single figures during Jan-Mar but 10-15 at Buskett on a few days from 12 Jan to 4 Feb, then 1-3 on a few days in Apr. 3-4 at Buskett during May-Sep but 5 on 29 Sep, otherwise 1-2 from a few other sites mainly Ghadira. 1-8 in Oct but 15 at Comino on 28th, then in single figures in Nov-Dec but 10 at Simar on 18 Nov and 10-15 on a few days at Buskett.

**2005:** In single and low double figures on most dates from 3 Jan to 2 Apr, highest 15+ at Buskett on 21 Feb, otherwise up to 11. 1 at Rabat on 14 Apr, then 1-2 on 9 dates in May. 1-2 on 14 dates from 3 Jun to 3 Jul, mainly at Buskett. 1-3 on 20 dates from 17 Jul to 7 Oct, but 4 on 17 Sep and 5 on 7 Oct, both at Buskett. Then 1-20 on most dates from 16 Oct to end of year, but 25+ on 29 Nov and 30-31 Nov, all at Buskett.

**Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***

**2000:** 5 at Mellieħa on 25 Oct and 1 at Buskett on 28 Oct.

**European Serin *Serinus serinus***

**2000:** Very few sighting, first being of 3 birds at Buskett on 1 Jan. Single birds at Buskett and Ghadira from Jan to Mar. Singles at Ghadira on 22 May, at Buskett on 10 Jun, and almost daily at Ghadira from 27 Jun to 22 Jul. 9 autumn sightings 31 Oct to 12 Dec, all in singles except for 2 on 7-8 Dec, mainly from Ghadira.

**2001:** 2 at Buskett on 3 Jan, and singles at Qawra on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26 Mar. Singles on 7 dates from 19 Jul to 9 Aug. In single or double figures recorded on most dates from 25 Aug till end of the year, max 88 at Qawra on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 40 at Buskett on 28<sup>th</sup> both in December, and 25 at Buskett on 10 Nov.

**2002:** On most days from Jan to 6 Apr in single or low double figures, highest 30+ at Buskett on 19 Jan, otherwise up to 15. 1-4 on 6 dates from 14-28 Apr and 1-3 on 33 dates from 12 May to 22 Aug, but 4 at Buskett on 2 Jun when breeding was confirmed where 2 young were heard doing contact calls. Singles on 10 dates from 21 Sep to 9 Dec.

**2003:** 1-2 at various sites on 11 days from 14 Jan to 22 Apr, then singles on 7 days between 4 May and 16 Jul. In autumn 1 at Buskett on 4 Oct, then 23 sightings on 20 days from 26 Oct to 27 Dec; always 1-5 but 18 at Dingli on 2 Nov and 10 at Buskett on 21 Dec.

**2004:** 1-2 in Jan-Feb at various sites but 4-5 at Buskett in Jan, then 9 sightings of 1-3 from 2 Mar to 26 Apr. Singles on 6 dates from 17 Jun to 27 Jul and on 19 Sep. In autumn 1 on 26 Oct, then 1-3 on 4 dates from 5-18 Nov and 1 on 23 Dec.

**2005:** 1 at Buskett on 25 Mar, then 1-2 on 13 dates from 21 Apr to 29 May. 1-2 on 13 dates from 1 Jun to 10 Jul, mainly from Buskett, but 3 on 6 Jun at Wied il-Luq. 1 at Ghadira on 12 Aug. Singles on 6 dates from 15 Aug to 27 Sep, then 1-5 on 20 dates from 28 Oct to 31 Dec, but 8 at Mizieb on 26 Dec, 12 at Buskett on 28 Dec and 8+ on 31 Dec, also at Buskett.

**Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris***

**2000:** Recorded in all months in single and low double figures, some summer sightings may involve escapees. Single bird at Buskett on 3 dates in Jan, and again on 12 Feb. An increase in numbers noted from 14 Mar with 11 at Blata l-Bajda highest with single birds recorded up to 18 Jun; 2 at Chadwick lakes on last date, 1 at Ghadira on 20 Jun. Single bird recorded on various dates in same locality from 10th Jul to 22 Aug. Autumn migration from early Oct to 20 Dec mainly in single and low double figures but 72 counted on 28 Oct and 36 on 29th both at Buskett.

**2001:** Up to 12 on most dates from 2 Jan to 30 Mar, but 41 on 8 Feb and 33 on 27 Mar at Blata L-Bajda. Then 1-2 on 24 dates from 4 Apr to 27 Sep, mainly from Għadira. 5 at Buskett on 4 Oct, then 1-3 on most dates from 9 Oct till end of year, but 30 at Blata L-Bajda on 5 Nov and 20 at B' Kara on 24 Dec.

**2002:** Singles at Għadira on 13 Jan and 21 Jan, then on 11 dates from 24 Feb to 6 Apr, all in singles except for 3 at Ċirkewwa on 29 Mar. Singles on 9 dates from 12 Apr to 25 May and 1-3 almost daily from 14 Jun to 9 Oct, mostly at Għadira. Then up to 10 almost daily from 11 Oct till end of year, but 20+ at Buskett on 20 Oct, 25 at Qawra on 25 Oct, and 30+ at Ramla Valley on 26 Oct.

**2003:** 1-9 on most days at Għadira in Jan- 11 Apr; also singles on 3 days from 19 Jan to 4 Feb at other sites, then 11 sightings on 10 days from 21 Mar to 19 Apr with 50 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 8 Apr and 30 on Comino on 13 Apr, otherwise 1-5. Occasional singles between late Apr and late Sep, and 1-2 on most days at Għadira from 1 Jul to 16 Aug. Autumn passage from 20 Oct and almost daily to 1 Dec; mostly single figures but double figures, max 45 at Buskett on 6 Nov, on 4 occasions. The 1-5 on 12 days from 9-31 Dec.

**2004:** 2-3 on 3 dates from 6-12 Jan, then singles on most days from 23 Jan to 28 Mar and 2 at Ċirkewwa on 30-31 Mar. 1-3 frequently from 31 Mar to 6 May with most at Għadira and singles in May on 21st, in Jun on 2nd, 4th and 16th, on 14-15 Jul, 1 Aug and 11 Sep. 1-7 on most days from 5 Oct to 23 Dec but 20 at Comino on 28 Oct.

**2005:** 2 at Simar on 11 Jan, then 1-2 on 16 dates from 15 Jan to 25 Apr, but 6 at Calypso on 2 Apr. 1 at Xrobb l-Għagin on 20 May. 1-2 on 4 dates from 18 Jun to 5 Jul at Buskett, Għadira and Chadwick Lakes. 1 at Tarġa Gap on 18 Aug and Buskett on 5 Oct, then single figures of up to 7 regularly from 21 Oct to end of year, but 10 at Buskett on 22 Oct and 12 at Għadira on 29 Dec.

### Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

**2000:** 2 at Għadira on 1 Feb, and at Ramla Valley, Gozo on 21 Feb. Singles at Qammieħ on 26 Mar and at Għadira on 8 Apr. In autumn, singles at Għadira from 21-28 Sep, at B'Kara on 1 Oct, at Għadira on 10 Oct, at Dwejra (M) on 24 Oct, at Qawra on 28 Oct, at Pietà' on 31 Oct and at Chadwick Lakes on 2 Dec.

**2001:** Singles on Comino on 26 Apr and at Għadira on 28 Jun. Then 1-2 on 7 scattered dates (at 9 localities) from 21 Oct to 15 Dec, but 3 at Buskett on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4 at Qawra on 25<sup>th</sup>, both in November.

**2002:** 1-2 on 12 dates from 15 Jan to 10 Apr, but 15 at Qawra on 7 Apr. Singles at Simar on 14 May, at Ta' Gajdoru Xagħra on 9 Jul, and at Għadira on 24 Sep. On 9 dates from 5 Oct to 14 Dec, all in singles except for 2 at Għadira on 8 Dec.

**2003:** Singles on 4 days at Għadira from 4 Jul to 7 Sep and 1 at Qawra on 21 Sep. Then sightings of 1-4 on 3 days from 5 Nov to 1 Dec.

**2004:** Singles on 5 dates from 7-16 Jan, on 2 Mar and 2 Jul. Then 4 at Pt.St. Elmo on 24 Oct and singles again in Nov on 19th and 27th.

**2005:** Singles on 6 dates from 6 Feb to 29 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 19 May. In autumn, singles on 13 dates from 9 Sep to 10 Dec, but 2 at Dingli on 18 Sep.

### Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

**2000:** 15 on 14 Oct and 1 on 11 Nov both at Qawra.

**2001:** 1 at Mellieħa on 31 Oct, then on 4 dates in November: 1 again at Mellieħa on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 24 at Xagħra on 4<sup>th</sup>, singles at Għadira on 6<sup>th</sup> and at Qawra on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**2002:** 1 on 1 Jul and 2 on 30 Oct, both at Simar. 1 at Għadira on 2 Dec.

**2003:** 1 at Għadira on 22 Feb.

**2004:** Singles on 17 Jan at Bidnija, on 17 Jul at Għadira, at Mellieħa on 23 Oct and at Tarġa Gap on 9 Nov.

**2005:** 4 at Simar on 15 Dec.

### Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

**2000:** Very scarce in the first half of the year with 1-2 on 11 dates till 6 Apr. 1 at Żebbuġ (G) on 11 Jun and 1 at Għadira on 17 Jul. In autumn, from 14 Oct till 12 Nov in single and low double figures, max. 30 on 27th and 25 on 28 Oct at Mellieħa and 20 at Buskett on 2nd and 5 Nov. 1 at Manoel Island on 23 Nov, 3 at Għadira on 6 Dec, 2 at Mellieħa on 19-20 Dec and 5 at Għadira on 28 Dec.

**2001:** 6 at Wied l-Għasri on 4<sup>th</sup> and 15 at Floriana on 17 Jan. In spring 1-2 on 14 dates from 7 Mar to 15 Apr, but 35 at Qawra on 26 Mar. Singles at Għadira on 23 Jul, and on 2 dates in August: at Buskett on 22<sup>nd</sup> and at Għadira on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Then in single or double figures almost daily from 13 Oct till end of year, max. 74 at Qawra on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 60 at Ta' Gajdoru on 15<sup>th</sup> both in Dec, and 40 at Għadira on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 32 at Qawra on 27<sup>th</sup> both in Oct.

**2002:** Up to 7 on 18 dates from 3 Jan to 28 Feb. In single or low double figures on 15 dates from 3 Mar to 14 Apr, highest 50+ at Simar on 22 Mar and at Aħrax on 30 Mar, otherwise up to 25. 1-2 on 8 dates from 26 Apr to 31 Aug. In autumn, up to 25 almost daily from 16 Oct to 26 Nov, but 60+ at Comino on 27 Oct. 1 at Għadira on 9 Dec.

**2003:** 9 sightings of 1-3 on 8 days from 22 Feb to 3 Apr. 1 on 10 Jun and 29 Jul at Simar, and 1 on 17 Jul and 2 on 14 Sep at Mellieħa. In autumn on most days from 20 Oct to 15 Nov with max of 100 each on Comino and at Xagħra on 26 Oct and double figures on 6 other days. Then 1-4 on 8 days from 28 Nov to 21 Dec.

**2004:** 1-2 on 4 dates in Jan from 2-25th, then 1 on 28 Feb and 8 sightings of 1-4 from 13 Mar to 3 Apr. Singles on 4 dates in Apr from 15-24th and at Għadira on 11-13 May. In autumn 1 on 4 Oct, then 1-11 almost daily from 13 Oct to 29 Nov but 20 at Qawra on 28th and on Comino on 30th, both in Oct. Singles on 4 dates in Dec from 3-22nd.

**2005:** Up to 4 on 5 dates from 6 Jan to 13 Feb, then up to 8 on 7 dates from 15-30 Mar. 1-4 at Comino on 3 dates from 24-28 Apr, 8 at Wardija Point (G) on 29 Apr, 6 at Peter's Pool on 1 May and 2 at Comino on 2 May. 1-2 at Għadira on 6 dates from 2 Jun to 6 Jul. In autumn, up to 9 on most dates from 19 Oct to 18 Nov, but 10 at Comino on 19 Oct and again on 30-31 Oct. 1-2 on 7 dates from 26 Nov to 26 Dec.

**Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra***

**2002:** 10 at M'Scala on 2 Aug, then 1-9 on most days from 15 Aug to 9 Oct, all at Buskett except for 2 at San Anton on 31 Aug and 8 Sep. 2 at Buskett on 1 Nov and 4 Nov.

**2004:** Five sightings in Sep at Buskett with singles on 8-9th, 11 on 13th, 19 on 21st and 13 on 30th, then 2 sightings at Luqa airport also in Sep with 9 on 23rd and 21 on 26th. 4 sightings in Oct with 1 at Simar on 1st, 5 at Buskett on 2nd and 2 at Targa Gap on 13-14th.

**Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus***

**2005:** Singles at Belliegħa l/o Victoria on 21 Jun and Rinella on 11 Dec.

**Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus***

**2002:** 1 ringed at Simar on 16 Oct.

**Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

**2000:** 1 male at Qawra on 23 Sep.

**Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes***

**2000:** 1 at Għadira on 27 Jan. Singles at Għadira on 20 Oct, at Ta' Lambert (G) on 3 Nov, at B'Kara on 7 Nov, and at Għadira on 10 Nov.

**2001:** Singles at Salina on 12 Apr and at Lunzjata on 12 Oct.

**2002:** Singles at Dingli on 9 Oct, at Ramla Valley on 25-26 Oct, and at Buskett on 4 Nov.

**2003:** 15 at Xagħra on 4 Apr.

**2004:** Only in singles at Sruġ on 22nd and at Comino on 28th, both in Oct, then in Nov at Ramla Valley on 5th, at Ta' Gajdoru on 6th and at Targa Gap on 9th.

**2005:** 1 at Targa Gap on 5 Mar. In autumn, singles at Rabat on 9 Oct, at Xagħra on 20-21 and 24 Oct, at Għadira on 21 Oct and at Ramla on 27 Oct. 7 on 29 Oct and 2 on 30 Oct, both at Ramla, then singles on 5 dates from 31 Oct to 18 Nov.

**Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis***

**2001:** 1 at Il-Mielħa (Xagħra) on 18-19 Nov.

**Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus***

**2003:** 1 on Comino on 23 Oct.

**Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia***

**2003:** A first year male at Nadur (G) on 6 Nov.

**Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana***

**2000:** Singles at is-Sellum, Xagħra on 5 Apr and at Fomm ir-Riħ on 4 May.

**2001:** 3 records in April: 1 on Comino on 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, and 3 at Nadur on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**2002:** Singles at Żebbuġ (G) on 6 Mar and at Comino on 31 Mar.

**Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus***

**2000:** Recorded only from the two nature reserves, single bird present at Simar from 5 Jan to 28 Feb, but up to 2 birds between 18-26 Feb. 1 at same place on 29 Mar. Singles at Għadira on 13 Feb and 23 Mar. Autumn sightings at Simar from 28 Oct, with 1-2 birds on most days till end of year; but 4 birds were present on 23 Nov and 11 Dec. Up to 4 at Għadira from 1 Nov till end of year.

**2001:** 1-2 recorded on most dates from Simar and Għadira from 1 Jan to 4 Mar but 4 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 6 on 10-11<sup>th</sup> all in Jan at Simar. 2 at Simar on 20 Oct, then 1-2 almost daily from 24 Oct to 6 Dec, but 6 at Lunzjata on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5 at Simar on 15<sup>th</sup> and 4 again at Lunzjata on 17<sup>th</sup> all in Nov. 1 at Simar on 17 Dec.

**2002:** 1-3 on most days at Simar from 5 Jan to 7 Apr, but 5 on 7 Feb. 1 at Għadira on 4 dates from 20-30 Mar. 1 at Simar on 10-11 Jul was unusual. 1-3 almost daily at Simar and Għadira from 23 Oct to 24 Dec, but 4 at Simar on 25 Nov.

**2003:** On most days at Simar from 9 Jan to 5 Mar when usually 1-3 but 4 on 21 Jan. Singles at Għadira on 20 Feb and 17 Mar, and again at Simar on 31 Mar and 11 Apr. In autumn single figures almost daily at Simar and Għadira from 3 Nov to 5 Dec with max of 10 at Simar on 25 Nov. Then mostly 1-2 less frequently from 14-31 Dec.

**2004:** From 1 Jan to 23 Mar at Simar with up to 6 in Jan-Feb and 1-3 in Mar, whilst singles at Għadira on a few dates from 6 Jan to 25 Mar. 1 at Simar on 3 Jun. 1-2 at Għadira and Simar in autumn from 1 Nov to 21 Dec but 3 at Għadira on 18 Nov.

**2005:** Singles at Simar on 8 dates from 13 Jan to 25 Mar, and at Għadira on 13 Mar. 1-2 almost daily from 28 Oct to 26 Dec, all at Simar and Għadira.

**Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala***

**2004:** 1 male at Ċirkewwa on 3 Apr.

**Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra***

**2000:** Scarce resident breeder recorded mainly from the northern part of Malta and on Gozo. In the south it was only present at Luqa Airport with a singles on 24 Mar and 10 Apr. Throughout most of the year it is recorded in single figures of 1-5 but an increase in numbers was noted in Oct-Nov with a max. 40 at Ta' Ċenċ on 20 Oct and 25 at Dwejra, (M) on 18 Nov.

**2001:** Resident and breeding at a few sites. Single figures recorded throughout the year with highest counts of 10 on 31 Jan, 25 on 11 Feb and 12 on 3 Mar from Qammieħ and 14 at Dwejra on 29 Mar.

**2002:** Breeding uncommonly at a few sites. Always seen in single figures, highest being of 8 at Dwejra (M) on 15 Mar and 9 at Mellieħa on 24 Dec, otherwise up to 5.

**2003:** 1 at Ġhadira on 26 Jan, then 30 sightings of 1-3 on 25 days from 2 Mar to 13 Jul, indicating low breeding population, but 20 at Dwejra (M) on 25 Mar. 1 on 15 Sep and 6 on 23 Sep, and 1 on 1 Oct; then 27 sightings on 19 days from 13 Oct to 24 Nov. Mostly single figures but low double figures on 4 days, max 18 at Ċirkewwa on 26 Oct. Singles on 8 and 10 Dec.

**2004:** 1-3 on 3 dates in Jan, then 1-9 at a few sites in Feb-May but 12 at Mellieħa on 8 Feb and 25 at Dwejra (M) on 27 Mar. A few pairs bred with 1-3 on a few dates in Jun-Sep and 1-6 in Oct-Dec.

**2005:** Breeding uncommonly at a few sites. Recorded in single figures of up to 9, but 13 at Mellieħa on 3 Apr, 15 at Red Tower and Ġhadira on 31 Oct and 37 at Dwejra on 7 Dec.