

~~the female had already laid a second clutch of 4 eggs which hatched on 4 July. Unfortunately none of these succeeded to fledge as they were taken either by stray cats or other predators.~~

References

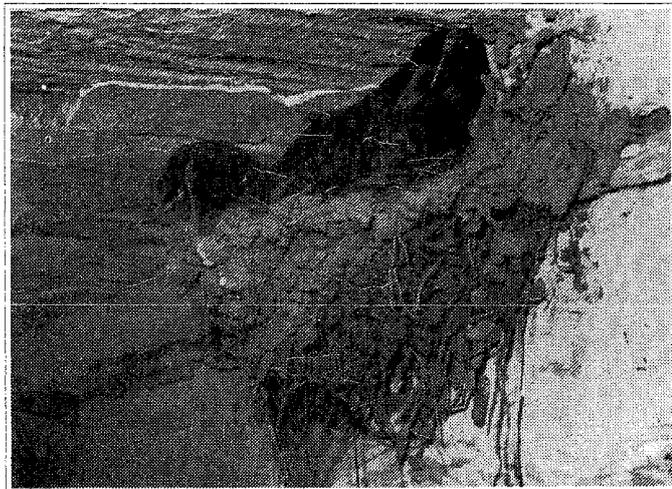
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Second breeding record of Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

The Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* is a very common passage migrant in spring and autumn. There has been only one documented breeding record in the Maltese Islands; a pair bred at Mqabba in July 1974 and raised a brood of 4 which fledged on 2 August (Sultana & Gauci 1975).

In July 1995 a pair nested in an old, derelict farmhouse limits of Bidnija. Most of the doors and windows were either broken or missing. The nest was built of mud and dry grass, and located near the middle of a wooden beam very close to the ceiling, in a small room at groundfloor level. It was about 3m above the ground. A farmer informed the writer that the birds had collected the mud from the edge of a small water hole in nearby fields. On 28 July the nest contained 4 young which were ready to fledge. They must have fledged the following day as the nest was empty on 30 July.



Raymond Galea

Fig 1. The nest of *H.rustica* at Bidnija.

Reference

Sultana, J. & Gauci, C. 1975. Eight Ornithological Notes - 1974-1975. *II-Merill* 15: 2-4.

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~~Breeding records of Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* 1995-1998~~

~~The Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* is a fairly common migrant in autumn from late July to October. In spring it is generally very scarce from late March to early June (Sultana & Gauci 1982). It was first recorded breeding in Malta in July 1977 when 4 newly fledged young accompanied by an adult were observed at Salina (Cachia-Zammit & Testa 1977-78). From 1995 to 1998 the species has been recorded breeding a number of times at Salina and Is Simar. Following is a compilation of these records.~~

Breeding records at Salina

~~Salina consists of a network of salt pans fringed by ditches overgrown with the Common Reed *Phragmites australis*.~~

1995

~~Two adult birds were observed singing on 12 June. A nest with 4 eggs was located in the Common Reed on 21 June. The nest was 1.5m above dry ground and 2m away from the water's edge. On 30 June both adults were feeding four pulli of c.7 days. On 8 July the nest was empty and the fledged young and the adults were heard calling in the vicinity.~~