



Fig 1. Nest of *A. scirpaceus* at Salina in 1995

young fledged successfully in the second week of July. Adults and young were frequently observed foraging together in the area up to 17 August.

1997

At least 3 pairs bred. Territorial singing by males was heard frequently from different areas of the reserve in June and July. No search for nests was carried out. Several fledged birds were handled for ringing during July and early August.

1998

Two to three pairs bred successfully in June and July. No nests were located but several fledged young were trapped for ringing during July and early August.

Some of the ringed birds have been retrapped in the following breeding seasons. A pullus ringed in the nest at Salina on 30 June 1995 was retrapped as a breeding adult at Is-Simar on 19 July 1998.

References

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Breeding records of Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

The Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* is a common autumn migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. It is also recorded in single numbers in late spring and summer. Several of the latter are probably escaped birds, as the species is very popular with bird trappers and many are kept in captivity from year to year and used as decoys.

There have been few documented breeding records. A nest with 4 eggs was located in an Olive tree *Olea europaea* at St. George's Bay in May 1910 (Despott 1916). Two pairs nested at Rundle Gardens, Gozo in June 1965 and a pair was seen with fledged young in July 1977 below Chambray, Gozo (Sultana & Gauci 1982). Five birds (probably family parties) have been recorded at Lunzjata on 6 August 1983 and at Ghadira on 9 June 1984 (Gauci

1986-87). A pair was seen with 3 young at Victoria on 3 August 1985 (Coleiro 1988). 1-2 birds were present almost daily at Ghadira from July to September 1989 and five birds (probably a family party) were observed there on 4 August (Coleiro 1990-91). Up to 5 were recorded in summer 1991 from a few suitable sites suggesting breeding (Coleiro & Attard Montalto 1992-94) and 4-5 were seen on 10-11 July 1995 at Addolorata Cemetery where a pair raised 3 young (Mercieca et al. 1995-98).

One other record has not been documented. A pair bred at Ramla Bay, Gozo in 1992. The nest was found in an Orange tree *Citrus sinensis* orchard on 22 April. It contained 4 young about 7 days old and was built 1.5m above the ground in a small tree.

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~~Breeding record of Common Swift *Apus apus*~~

~~The Common Swift *Apus apus* is a common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor (Sultana & Gauci 1982). Schembri (1843) and Wright (1864) both stated that it bred, nesting in fortifications and sea cliffs. Despott (1916) assumed that it was a common breeder and mentioned procuring a nest in May 1909. In 1992, a pair was noted presumably mating at Dingli Cliffs (Coleiro 1992-1994).~~

~~It is an abundant and widespread breeder in Sicily, Pantelleria, and on some of the Egadi and Aeolian Islands (Iapichino & Massa 1989).~~

~~A pair of Common Swifts bred and managed to raise at least 1, possibly 2, young at Marsascala in 1997. The nest, a shallow cup, was located in a ventilator of a fourth floor apartment, facing south; it was positioned about 15-20cm from the entrance. On 25 July, using a hand mirror, two chicks were seen to be occupying the nest. On 5 August 3 birds including one in dark fresh plumage were seen flying along the facade of the building. The birds were seen until the second week of August.~~

~~This is the first confirmed local breeding record of the Common Swift for this century.~~

References

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