

~~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.~~

References

- ~~Coleiro, C. 1988. Systematic List for 1985-86. *II-Merill*, 25: 19-40.
 Coleiro, C. 1990-91. Systematic List for 1989. *II-Merill*, 27: 30-46.
 Coleiro, C. & Attard-Montalto, J. 1992-94. Systematic List for 1990-1992. *II-Merill*, 18: 38-64.
 Despott, G. The breeding birds of Malta. *Zoologist*, (4) 20: 161-181.
 Gauci, C. 1986-87. Systematic List for 1983-84. *II-Merill*, 24: 21-38.
 Mercieca, C., Mallia, M. & Sultana, J. Systematic List 1993-95. *II-Merill*, this issue.
 Sultana, J. & Gauci, C. 1982. *A New Guide to the Birds of Malta*. The Ornithological Society, Valletta.~~

~~Raymond Galea & Joe Sultana~~

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

- Coleiro, C. 1992-94. Swifts *Apus apus* presumably mating. *II-Merill*, 28: 30.
 Despott, G. 1916. The breeding birds of Malta. *Zoologist*, 4 (20): 161-181.
 Iapichino, C. & Massa, B. 1989. The Birds of Sicily. *B.O.U. Checklist* No.11.
 Schembri, A. 1843. *Catalogo Ornitologico del gruppo di Malta*. Anglo-Maltese.
 Sultana, J. & Gauci, C. 1982. *A New Guide to the Birds of Malta*. The Ornithological Society, Valletta.
 Wright, C.A. 1864. List of the Birds Observed in the Islands of Malta and Gozo. *Ibis*, 1 (6): 42-73, 137-157.

John J. Borg

