

## Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* breeding in November

The Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* is a common resident in Malta. Locally the breeding season extends from February to August (Sultana & Gauci 1982); the same holds throughout its breeding range, the latest breeding record being one fledgling reported in mid-October (Cramp 1992).

While birdwatching at Wied Dalam, Birżebbuġa on 16 November 1997, a female Zitting Cisticola was observed carrying larvae of a *Pieris* sp. butterfly to two recently-fledged young, perched close to their nest.

During 1997, conspecifics as well as Sardinian Warblers *Sylvia melanocephala* continued to display territorial behaviour late into the season. Males of both species were frequently seen chasing females throughout October and early November. This late breeding may have been the result of an abundance of food, especially larvae of many Lepidoptera species. Warm weather conditions prevailed throughout autumn, with temperatures averaging 20°C persisting well into November.

### References

Sultana, J. & Gauci, C. 1982. *A New Guide to the Birds of Malta*. The Ornithological Society, Valletta.  
Cramp, S. (ed.). 1992. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*, Vol VI. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

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## ~~Unusual singing perch of Sardinian Warbler~~ ~~*Sylvia melanocephala*~~

~~The Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* may be found in a diversity of habitats such as maquis, tree groves, low shrubs in garigue areas, and gardens, even in towns. It is known in Mallorca to perch on artefacts such as electricity pylons. The male sings mostly from an elevated perch, usually from the top of a bush, but also (on Corfu) from the top of trees and overhead wires (Cramp 1992).~~

~~A male Sardinian Warbler was noted singing on 5 dates from 17 February to 2 April (1995), at different times of the day, on a washing line which was on the roof of a three-storey house at Fleur-de-Lys, a densely built suburban town with some scattered gardens. On one occasion the line was full of hanging clothes.~~

### Reference

~~Cramp, S. (ed.). 1992. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*, Vol VI. Oxford University Press, Oxford.~~

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