

the bird still retains some juvenile greater coverts or tertials which indicate a 2nd year bird. Svensson (1984) states that Swedish 1st year birds do not undergo a complete moult while the South European ones may undertake a complete moult. This also supports the view mentioned earlier that the birds of passage in the Mediterranean originate from the species' extended northern range.

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BREEDING OF SPOTTED FLYCATCHERS AT BUSKETT IN 1991

The last breeding records of Spotted Flycatchers *Muscicapa striata* in the Maltese Islands were in 1986 and documented by the author (il-Merill 24:18).

Buskett woods were visited every summer from 1987 to 1990, mainly in June and July, but no birds were found breeding during this period, although single birds were present on 22 June 1987 and 12 June 1988. During June and July of 1991 two pairs of Spotted Flycatchers successfully raised a brood each at Buskett. The first pair was located inside the boundary wall of the Verdala Castle Gardens and built the nest on a lower lateral branch of mature Aleppo Pine *P. halepensis*, about 8 m. above the ground. Three eggs were laid in the last days of June. All three eggs hatched and the young fledged successfully in the third week of July.

The second pair also nested on the lower lateral branch of an Aleppo Pine about 3 m. above the ground. On 6 July the female was brooding two eggs, which hatched on 16th July. Two fledged young were observed in the vicinity of the nest on 29 July. Both nests were built well away from the main trunk and were very well concealed. They were both constructed of thin twigs, grass, lichens and plant down and lined with small feathers and hair.

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