

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1989

compiled by
CHARLES COLEIRO

The regular contributors to the daily log kept by the Ringing and Research Committee of the Malta Ornithological Society during the year under review were: John Attard Montalto, John Borg, Richard Cachia Zammit, Alex Casha, Charles Coleiro, Mark Anthony Falzon, Raymond Galea, Charles Gauci, Manuel Mallia, Joseph M. Mangion, Michael Sammut and Joe Sultana. Other contributors were: Mario Bosio, Simon Busuttil, Denis Cachia, Jackie Cremona, Peter J. Dunn, Joseph Dunlop, Max Farrugia, Natalino Fennech, Morten M. Hansen, J.C. Le Gassich, Caldon Mercieca, Paul Portelli, Jurgen Rudder, Silvio Scicluna, Martin Thake and Louis Vella. Other members may have contributed to the daily log kept at the Ghadira Nature Reserve, which records were subsequently added to the national daily and species log.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Blongun Zghir
2 at Ghadira from 2 Jan to 15 Mar, then 1 till 25th. Again 1 at same place from 26-28 Oct, 2 on 4-5 Dec and singles on 7th and 22nd.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* Blongun Prim
1 at Ghadira from 20 Nov to 1 Dec WHEN FOUND DEAD, then singles at Ghallis on 4th, 6th, and 8 Dec.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* Blongun Sekond
Up to 20 present at Ghadira from Jan to mid. Mar. Gradually decreasing to 1 till 27th. 1 released at same place on 20 Sep and 1 from 22-26 Oct; then again from 18 Nov increasing to 20 by 16 Dec and 18-20 till year end. Outside Ghadira 6 records of 1-2 from 19 Nov to 15 Dec.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* Ciefa
First sightings on 19 Feb then regularly observed offshore till 21 Oct, mostly on windy days. Highest count up to 1000 off Ghallis on 2 Aug and off San Blass on 2 Sep. Late singles on 6 Nov and 23 Dec. Stable numbers in colonies.

MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER *Puffinus yelkouan* Garnija
Mostly recorded at colonies from Jan to mid. Jun with a few offshore sightings from Feb to May, 1 on 29 Jul. Breeding numbers as usual. Again recorded offshore in low single figures on 17 days from 8 Nov to end of year.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* Kangu ta' Filfla
Only recorded from Filfla on visits in Jun-Jul.

GANNET *Sula bassana* Sula
1 off Gammieh on 18 Mar; then 10 sightings of 1-2 from 8 Nov to 30 Dec, mostly off the east coast of Malta.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* Margun
2 on 2 Jan, 3 on 1 Feb and 1 on 5 Mar. In autumn on 27 dates from 14 Oct to 19 Dec with most in Nov when almost daily. Highest were parties of 13 at Cumnija on 26 Nov and 8 on 27 Oct and 7 on 2 Nov both at Ghallis. Otherwise 1-3 mostly off the east coast of Malta.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus* Russett tas-Sigar
Only recorded in May: singles at Ghadira on 6th and 10-12th and at Bingemma on 21st.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* Kwakka
In spring 5 on 14 Mar, then on 11 dates from 27 Mar to 31 May; mostly 1-2 but 50+ over Comino on 2 Apr and 18 at Ghadira on 13 May. Autumn

migration from 14 Aug to 7 Oct with 20 sightings on 15 dates, mostly in single figures but a few flocks were observed, highest 47 at Sliema on 5 Sep.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides* Agrett Isfar
3 sightings in Apr: 20 at B'Bugia and 4 at Ramla Bay on 19th and 2 at Ghadira on 22nd. 1-2 at same place on 13-14 May. Again 1 at Ghadira (died) on 13th and 6 at Sliema on 27th, both in Sep.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* Agrett Abjad
2 on 8 Feb and 1 on 16-17 Mar. Then 28 sightings on 19 dates from 25 Mar to 28 Apr (1-2 daily at Ghadira from 17-28 Apr). Mostly 1-13 but 33 on 1st, 30 on 17th and 20 on 19th. 1-2 at Ghadira on 3 dates in May from 4-23rd. 8 at Galet Marku on 21st and 1 at Ghadira on 25th, both in Jul. Then 23 sightings on 17 dates from 24 Aug to 14 Oct, mostly 1-4 but 13 at Bahar ic-Caghaq on 2 Oct. 1 on 17 Dec at Qammieh.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* Russett Griz
1 on 27 Feb, then 16 sightings on 10 days from 5-29 Mar, mostly 1-12 but 33+ at Qammieh on 11th and 21 at B'Bugia on 14th. Singles on 4 dates in Apr from 13-28th. 1 at Ghadira on 8-9 Jul. In autumn 51 sightings on 30 days from 6 Aug to 26 Oct (most in Sep to mid Oct). Single to low double figures but 104+ (2 sites) on 14th and 94+ at B'Bugia on 15th, both in Sep. 1-4 on 3 dates in Nov from 3-15, 5 sightings of 1-2 from 3-6 and 1 on 27 in Dec.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* Russett Ahmar
Only recorded in singles: In Apr at Qammieh on 8th and at Zabbug, Gozo on 24th, at Burmarrad on 5 Aug, at Ghadira and M'Xlokk on 2 Oct.

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* Cikonja Sewda
2 at Salib ta' L-Ghojja on 7th and 1 at Mgarr Ix-Xini on 14th, both in Apr; 2 over Comino on 8 Oct.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* Cikonja Bajda
13 at M'Scala on 7 Apr. In Aug, 2 at Luqa on 11-12th, then up to 11 sighted daily from various areas from 21-24th and 1 at Dwejra, Malta on 28th. 1 at Nadur, Malta on 2 Oct.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* Velleran
17+ over Qammieh on 31 Mar and 1 at Ghadira on 18 Aug.

GREATER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus ruber* Fjamingu
Flock of 36 reported as sighted in Malta on 7 Apr.

GREY LAG GOOSE *Anser anser* Wizza Griza
6 off Ghallis on 4 Dec.

"GREY" GEESE *Anser sp.*
2 at B'Bugia on 2 Jan.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* Kuluvert tas-Salib
2 at Ghadira from 21 Jan to 19 Feb. 4 sightings in Nov with flock of 25+ at Ghallis on 17th, 8 at Delimara and 7 at Cirkewwa on 23rd and 1 at Ghallis on 25th. Again 4 sightings of 1-5 in Dec from 2-4th.

WIGEON *Anas penelope* Silfjun Ewropew
Singles at Ghadira from 4-27 Jan, then at Ghallis on 14th and at Ghadira on 16-20 Oct. In Nov singles again at Ghadira on 8-9th and 13th, and 2 at Cirkewwa on 22nd. Daily from 2-31 Dec with 4 sightings only outside Ghadira. Singles except for 5 at Qawra on 3rd.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* Kuluvert Griz
5 at Ghallis on 20th and 1 male at Ghadira from 20-28th, all in Dec.

TEAL *Anas crecca* Sarsella
1 from 1 Jan to 12 Mar and 1-3 from 17-29 Aug, all at Ghadira. Singles on 6th and 15th and 2 on 26 Oct; then 1 on 15th, 10+ at Ghallis and 1 at

Ghadira on 28 Nov. Daily at Ghadira in Dec with up to 6 on 16th and at least 4 till end of year. 3 sightings outside Ghadira in Dec: 28+ at Qawra on 3rd, 7 at Ghallis and 1 at Ghajn Znuber on 4th.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* Kuluvert
4 at B'Bugia on 1 Feb, then up to 4 in Dec at Ghadira decreasing to 1 by end of year. 3 sightings outside Ghadira in Dec. 7 at Ghajn Znuber on 2nd, 5 at Qawra on 3rd and 6 at Ghallis on 13th. Feral birds present at Ghadira all the year.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* Silfjun
7 sightings of 1-3 from 14 Oct to 23 Nov, but 7 on 21st and 13 on 22 Oct, both at Ghallis. Singles daily at Ghadira in Dec from 3-27th and at Delimara and Qawra on 3rd.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* Sarsella Hamra
Two sightings at Qammieh in Mar: 2 on 12th and 15+ on 25th. Then singles at Ghadira on 26th and 29 Jun and 9 Sep.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* Palettuna
2 on 4-6 May and 8 on 16 Oct at Ghadira. 7 at Ghallis and 1 at Ghadira on 19 Nov, 11 at Qawra and singles at Ghadira and Delimara on 3 Dec.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* Brajmila
2 from 1 Jan to 12 Mar; singles on 25 Oct, 8 Nov, and from 5-14th and 24-31 Dec, but with 2 on 28th all at Ghadira.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* Brajmila t'Ghajinha Bajda
Singles at Ghadira on 14-15 Apr and 19 Nov.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* Serra
6 sightings from 21 Nov to 16 Dec; all singles except for 6 at Ghallis on 25 Nov. All sightings at Ghallis except for one at M'Xlokk on 25 Nov.

"DUCK sp." *Anas sp.*
7 on 4th and 4 on 16 Feb; on 7 dates in Mar from 12-29th, single to low double figures but 55+ at Qammieh on 12th. 1 on 25 Aug. In autumn, 2 on 8th then on most days from 14 Oct to 13 Dec; single to double figures of up to 50 but 160+ (2 sites) on 14 Oct. 1 on 26 Dec. Most autumn records off the East coast of Malta.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* Kuccarda
In spring 1 on 11th, then 10 sightings from 22 Apr to 17 May; mostly 1-3 but 11 over B'Kara on 5 May and 7 at Dwejra, Malta on 27 Apr. On most days in autumn from 24 Aug to 6 Oct (daily from 9 Sep to 2 Oct) with a peak from 19-23 Sep. Single to double figures of up to 45+, but 160+ (3 sites) on 21st, 140+ (3 sites) on 22nd, and 94+ (3 sites) on 23 Sep. 1 on 14 Oct. Most autumn records from Buskett, Nadur (Malta) and Dwejra (Malta).

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* Astun Iswed
1 on 24 Mar and 7 sightings of 1-3 on 5 dates from 1-29 Apr. In autumn 1 on 28 Aug, then 6 sightings on 4 dates in Sep from 9-23 Sep, highest 5 at Nadur/Dwejra (Malta) on 21st, otherwise 1-2.

SHORT-TOED EAGLE *Circus gallicus* Ajkla Bajda
All sightings in Sep: 1 at Dwejra, Malta and Girgenti on 17th and 2 at Dwejra, Malta and Buskett on 20th were probably same birds. 2 at Buskett on 22nd and 1 at Dwejra, Malta on 23rd.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* Bughadam Ahmar
1 on 16th and 3 on 19 Feb, then on most days from 6 Mar to 28 Apr (mostly from late Mar to early Apr and in late Apr). Up to 15 on most days but 20+ at Ramla valley and 16+ at Dwejra, Malta on 21 Apr. 1-2 on 5 dates in May from 3-21st. Autumn migration from 24 Aug to 7 Oct with most from 15 Sep to 3 Oct, when daily. Single to double figures of up to 40 but 120+ (3 sites) on 22nd, 90+ (3 sites) on 23rd and 104+ at Buskett on 27th.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* Bughadam Abjad Prim
1 male at Dwejra, Malta on 11 Apr and 1 at Ghadira on 3 Dec.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus* Bughadam Abjad
Single males at Mriehel on 19 Mar, at Ghadira on 23 Sep and at Bahar ic-Caghaq (shot) on 23 Oct.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* Bughadam Griz
c15 at M'Forn on 28 Mar, then 13 sightings on 11 dates in Apr from 1-26th, mostly 1-3 but 12 at Ghadira on 22nd. Singles in May on 5th and 13th. 1 at Filfla on 23 Oct.

HARRIER Sp. *Circus sp.*
18 sightings on 13 dates from 9 Mar to 25 Apr, mainly 1-4 but 8 at Ghadira on 22 Apr and a passage (no numbers given) on the west coast of Gozo on 25 Apr. 1 on 28 Aug, 5 sightings of 1-2 from 4-12 Sep and 1 on 4 Nov. Most sightings refer to RING-TAIL HARRIERS.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* Sparvier
Recorded in singles: in Sep at Buskett on 17th and 21st and at Xemxija on 27th; in Oct at Nadur, Malta on 3rd and at Fomm Ir-Rih and Rabat on 14th.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* Kuccarda Prima
1 was shot at M'Xlokk on 21 Apr. Singles in Sep at Nadur, Malta on 21st and at Buskett and again at Nadur, Malta on 22nd.

LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila pomarina* Ajkla tat-Tikki
Singles over Grand Harbour on 9th and at Buskett on 22 Sep.

BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraetus pennatus* Ajkla tal-Kalzetti
1 light phase, at Nadur, Malta on 23 Sep.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* Arpa
Singles in Apr on 10-12th and 22nd and in May on 21st. 1 on 28 Aug, then 7 sightings in Sep: on 13th, 19-22nd and 27th, all singles but 4 at Nadur/Dwejra, Malta on 22nd. Most autumn sightings at Buskett.

"BROADWINGS"
Singles on 3rd and 6 Apr. In autumn almost daily from 10-30 Sep; up to 17 on most occasions but 34 on 21st and 32 on 22nd at Buskett highest. In Oct 3 on 2nd and 1 on 7th.

LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni* Spanjulett Sekond
Singles on 8th and 10 Apr and 21 May. In autumn daily sightings of 1-4 from 16-27 Sep, then 4 sightings of singles on 29-30 Sep. 2 on 2 Oct. Most autumn sightings from Buskett.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* Spanjulett
1 on 13th and 2 on 31 Jan, and singles on 8th and 24 Feb. In spring almost daily sightings from 9 Mar to 17 Apr; mostly 1-6 but 10+ on Gozo on 20 Mar. Then 12 sightings from 21 Apr to 20 May; mainly 1-2 but 4 at Comino on 23 Apr. 4 sightings of singles from 22 Jul to 5 Aug. Again on most days in autumn from 2 Sep to 29 Oct (daily from 15-24 Sep and 6-15 Oct); in single figures but 20+ at Zurrieq on 2 Oct. Singles on 4 dates in Nov from 2-26th and on 3 dates in Dec from 1-26th.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* Zumbrell
Recorded only on spring migration: singles on 23 Apr, 8th and 14th; and daily at Ghajn Rihana from 30 May to 2 Jun.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* Segeq tal-Hannieqa
In spring 1-2 on 10 dates from 19 Apr to 16 May. In autumn 27 sightings on 15 dates in Sep from 7-27th (daily 15-24th); mostly 1-6 but c10 at Buskett on 23rd. 1 on 2nd and 2 on 6 Oct; and 1 on 12 Nov. Most sightings at Buskett, Nadur (Malta) and Dwejra (Malta).

ELEONORA'S FALCON *Falco eleonora* Bies tar-Regina
Singles at Bingemma on 18 May and at Mosta on 2 Jun. Then singles on

24th and 28th and 2 on 30 Aug; and 10 sightings of 1-2 in Sep from 5-23rd. Most autumn records from Buskett and Dwejra (Malta).

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* Bies
Singles at Wied il-Mielah on 24 Apr, at is-Sanab, Gozo on 24 Jun, and at Wardija Pt on 19th. and at Buskett on 23 Sep.

Unidentified FALCONS *Falco sp.*
2 on 9th and 1 on 29 Apr, and singles on 3rd and 12 May. In autumn 30 sightings of 1-6 from 5 Sep to 8 Oct. Most records refer to Kestrel sp.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* Summiena
1 at Has-Saptan on 13 Feb, then 22 sightings from 2 Apr to 13 May; mostly 1-4 but 20+ at Ghajn Tuffieha on 13th and 30+ at Dingli Cliffs on 14 Apr. Most sightings in Gozo. Singles on 29 Jun and 27 Sep, 3 on 9 Oct and singles again on 7 Nov and 17 Dec.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* Gallozz tax-Xitwa
Up to 10 at Ghadira in Jan-Feb but with max of 15 on 7-9 Jan and 2 Feb; then 1-5 in Mar to 30th. 1 on 20 Sep, then 1-2 on most days from 14 Oct to 10 Nov; 1 on 17th then up to 5 from 21 Nov to end of year. Outside Ghadira, singles on 27 Jan, 8th and 10 Feb, 20 Sep, 2nd and 17 Nov and 9 Dec, mostly at Lunzjata and Ramla Valley.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* Gallozz tat-Tikki
Singles at Ghadira on 22nd and 25 Mar; in Apr 1 at Comino on 2nd, 2 on 14th and singles on 6 dates from 15-26th at Ghadira, 1 on 7 May. In autumn only in singles: on 4 Sep and 12 sightings from 22 Sep to 16 Oct; all at Ghadira, except for 5 sightings at Xemxija. 1 again at Ghadira on 16 Nov.

LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva* Gallozz Zghir
Singles at Lunzjata on 16 Feb, at Ghadira and Comino (found dead) on 26 Mar and at Ghadira on 8 May.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Gallozz Iswed
Daily at Ghadira from Jan to 2 May; mostly up to 15 but 20+ on a few dates in Mar. 15 sightings outside Ghadira, mainly in Apr, with max. of 12 at Ghajnsielem, 4 sightings till end of May. On 9 scattered dates in summer from 20 Jun to 28 Aug from 3 different sites (indicating breeding), max 10 at Ghajnsielem on 2 dates. In single figures daily at Ghadira from 1 Sep, with 10-15 on most days from late Oct to end of year. 12 sightings outside Ghadira in Sep, Nov-Dec at Ghajnsielem and Xemxija.

COOT *Fulica atra* Tigiega tal-Bahar
Daily at Ghadira from Jan-Mar where up to 31 wintered. Numbers decreased gradually after 11 Mar. Occasional sightings from Ghajnsielem with up to 5 in Jan. Singles regularly in Apr and occasionally from May-Sep at above two sites. Again daily at Ghadira from 24 Oct onwards, numbers gradually increasing from 3 to 27 by mid Dec. 4 sightings of singles outside Ghadira: at Ghajnsielem on 5th and 25 Nov, at Bahar ic-Caghaq on 4th and Msida on 5 Dec.

CRANE *Grus grus* Grawwa
Two sightings in Jan with 5 at Dingli on 15th and 4 seen from various sites in Malta on 22nd. In Feb 5 on 1st and 17 on 15th at B'Bugia. 3 at Ghajn Rihana on 28 Mar. In autumn, 4 at Ghadira on 20 Oct, 4 at M'Xlokk on 28 Nov and 2 at Xaghra, Gozo on 13 Dec.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* Gallina tal-Bahar
1 at Hal-Far on 20 May; then flock of 30+ at Bahar ic-Caghaq on 21 Jul and 5 sightings of 1-6 from 27 Jul to 1 Aug, all at Ghallis except for 1 at Hal-Far on 1 Aug.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus* Fras-servjent
Usual bird at Ghadira present daily from Jan-Dec, otherwise 1 from 27 Mar to 13 Apr; 5 on 21 Apr, 4 on 4 Jun; 1 on 18th and flock of 25+ on 26

Aug; 8 on 2nd and 3 on 3-4 Sep, all at Ghadira. Two other sightings; 1 at Selmun on 1 Apr and 3 at Ta'Qali on 27 Jun.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* Xifa
1 at Ghadira on 25 Apr and 6 at Ghallis on 14 Oct.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedipnemus* Tallerita
Singles at Bahar ic-Caghaq on 31 Mar and at Mrlehel on 2 Apr.

PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola* Pernicjotta
1 at St.Elmo Pt. on 9 Sep.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* Monakella
Daily at Ghadira from 1 Mar to 20 May; up to 8 but 10+ on 16 Mar. 3 sightings outside Ghadira from 9-16 Apr. Then singles on 5 days from 27 May to 26 Jun. 1-9 almost daily in autumn from 1 Jul to 4 Oct, with most in Aug. 2 on 11 Oct. Most sightings at Ghadira with a few from Salina.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* Monakella Prima
1-3 almost daily from 7-28 May; singles on 1 Jun; 7th and 29 Jul. 1-4 almost daily from 9 Aug to 4 Oct. All records at Ghadira except for 6 sightings of 1-2 from 13 Aug to 10 Sep mostly at Salina. 1 at Ghallis on 5 Dec.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* Monakella Saqajha Suwed
Singles on 6 Mar and 10-11th and 14-15 Apr at Ghadira. Then singles at Salina on 31 Jul and 2 Aug and at Ghadira on 26 Aug. 2 on 25th, then singles daily from 28 Sep to 2 Oct at Ghadira with 1 sighting at Salina on 28th.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* Birwina
1 at Ta'Cenc on 27 Mar. 8 at Ghallis on 29 Aug, then 1-4 on 5 dates from 22 Sep to 12 Oct mainly at Nadur, Malta. 3 at Ghallis on 1 Nov.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* Pluviera
2 shot on 24 Oct, then 5 sightings from 18-26 Nov; mainly 1-4 but 30+ at Ta'Qali on 19th.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* Pluviera Pastarda
Singles at Ghadira on 10-12th and at M'Xlokk (shot) on 15 May. In autumn 1 at Ghallis on 8th, 1 at Ghadira on 11-13th and 2 at Ghallis on 29 Aug.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* Venewwa
3 on 1st and 1 on 2-4 Jan at Ghadira and 45 at B'Bugia on 16 Feb. 3 sightings in Nov. 1 at Ghadira on 7th, 17 at Luqa on 21st and 1 at Delimara on 23rd; then in Dec, 7 at Ghajn Zhuber on 2nd and singles at Xemxija on 16th and Ghadira on 31st.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* Girwiel Saqajh Gosra
2 at Ghadira on 4 May.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Pispisella Bajda
1 at Ghadira from 2-8 May.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* Tertuxa
Daily at Ghadira from 2 Mar to 12 Jun with most in May; up to 35 but 40+ on 16 May. 5 other sightings outside Ghadira in Apr-May and 6 sightings at Salina from 31 May to 13 Jun with 50+ on 1 Jun highest. 1 on 26 Jun, then daily from 15 Jul to 15 Oct; mainly up to 25 but 30+ at Salina on 3 Aug. Mostly at Ghadira and Salina. 1 at Ghadira from 5-10 Nov.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* Tertuxa Griza
1-3 almost daily at Ghadira from 22 Apr to 21 May and 1 on 4 Jun. In autumn singles at Ghadira on 19-20th, at Salina on 28th and again at Ghadira on 29 Jul; 7th and 9th and 2 on 24 Aug. 1-2 at Salina from 8-12 Sep and singles on 16th and 18 Oct.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* Beggazzina Hamra
Singles on 21-22 Mar, 1-4 on 9 dates from 1-27 Apr and up to 19 daily

from 5-29 May, all at Ghadira. In autumn 1 on 21st, then 1-5 daily from 27 Jul to 3 Aug and singles on 6th and 13 Aug, and on 10 Sep. Most records from Ghadira and Salina.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* Beggazzina tat-Tizz
1-5 almost daily from 21 Jul to 5 Aug, mostly at Salina; then daily at Ghadira from 6 Aug to 13 Oct; mostly up to 11 but 14 on 16 Aug. 12 sightings of 1-7 outside Ghadira, mostly in Aug. 1-2 daily at Ghadira from 24 Oct to 10 Nov, and 3 at Ghallis on 5 Nov. 1 on 4 Dec.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* Girwiel
1 from 11-19 Feb; then 1-10 almost daily from 8 Mar to 18 Apr and 1-3 on most days from 1 May to 2 Jun. All at Ghadira except for 3 sightings with c15 at Luqa on 18-20 Apr highest. In autumn singles daily from 9-17th, on 19th, 28th and 30 Jul; on 6th, 26th, 30th and on 31st. 2 autumn sightings from Ghadira and Salina.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyrtus minimus* Cinkonja
1 at Ghadira on 1 Jan; 2 there on 12th and 1 at Comino on 26 Mar, and at Dwejra, (Malta) on 26 Nov.

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago* Bekkacc
Daily from 1 Jan to 2 Apr; usually 1-5 but up to 11 in Mar. 2 on 22 Apr and singles on 12 Jul, 23 Aug and on 5 days from 1-17 Sep. In autumn 1-3 almost daily from 5 Oct to 28 Dec. All at Ghadira except for 10 sightings mostly in Oct-Nov.

GREAT SNIFE *Gallinago media* Bekkacc ta' Mejju
Singles at Ghadira on 8th and at Msida on 17 Apr.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticula* Gallina
1-2 on 11 days from 18 Oct to 21 Nov, mostly at Bingemma.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* Girwiel Prim
1 at Ghadira from 13-21 Mar.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* Gurlin Zghir
Singles over Wied il-Luq on 29 Jul, at Delimara on 1st, and at Ghadira 14th and 27-28 Aug.

CURLEW *Nemienus arquata* Gurlin
1 at Qammieh on 7 Apr and 10 at Ta'Qali on 27 Jun; 5 sightings from Ghallis with 1 on 10th and 4 on 11 Aug; 1 on 14 Oct; 4 on 18th and 1 on 24 Nov. Singles at Qawra on 3rd and Ghajn Zhuber on 4 Dec.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* Cuvett
Only in singles: at Ghadira on 20-21 Mar, 8th and 22 Apr; then at Salina on 17 Jul and again at Ghadira on 11 Sep.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* Pluverott
Singles on 12 Feb and 21-27 Mar, and 1-2 from 31 Mar to 5 Apr, all at Ghadira. In autumn 2 on 15th and 1-5 daily from 21 Jun to 12 Jul; 5 sightings of 1-3 in Aug from 9-21st, 1 on 29 Oct, and 6 sightings of 1-2 in Nov from 6-28th. All at Ghadira, except for 10 sightings mostly at Salina in Jun-Jul. 1 daily at Ghadira from 3-31 Dec.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* Cewcewwa Zghira
1 at Ghadira on 16 Feb; then 2 sightings in Aug: 2 at Ghadira on 16th and flock of 18 at Ghallis on 29th.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* Cewcewwa
1 (dead) at B'Bugia on 5 Feb; then 1 on 21-27 Mar, 1-4 daily from 3 Apr to 11 May, and from 4-7 Jun. All at Ghadira except for 2 sightings. 1-2 on most days at Ghadira from 5 Jul to 7 Aug with 5 sightings from other sites. Singles on 16th and 29 Aug, 26 Sep and 12 Nov at Ghadira.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* Swajda
1-4 on 19 days, mostly at Ghadira from 3 Mar to 23 Apr (daily 9-18 Mar), then singles on 19 May, 18th, 21st and 25 Jun. In autumn on most days

from 17 Jul to 9 Sep; mostly 1-2 but 5 at Ghadira on 16 Aug; singles on 4 days from 25 Sep to 14 Oct and on 12 Nov. Most autumn records at Ghadira.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Pespus tal-Bahar
1 on 27 Feb, then 1-4 on most days from 7 Mar to 4 Apr and daily from 8 Apr to 11 May when mostly up to 6, but 15+ on 14 May; singles from 19-22 May. All at Ghadira except for 6 sightings. In autumn almost daily from 1 Jul to 2 Sep; mostly up to 8 but 22 on 17th and 40+ on 19 Jul and 70+ on 20 Aug, all at Salina. 1-2 on 7 days from 17-29 Sep and 1 on 21 Oct. Most autumn records at Ghadira and Salina.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* Beggazzina tar-Rokka
1 at Salina on 22 Feb; then 1-6 almost daily from 30 Mar to 16 May, mostly at Ghadira. Singles on 4 days from 10-22 Jun and almost daily from 2 Jul to 6 Oct, with a peak in Aug. Mostly in single to low double figures of up to 25, but 40+ at Ghallis on 4th and 30+ at Salina on 20th, both in Aug. Single on 4 days in Nov from 4-29th. Most autumn sightings at Ghadira, Salina and around the coast.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* Monakella Imperjali
3 sightings in May: 4 at Wied il-Ghajn on 15th and singles at M'Xlokk on 16th and at Ghadira on 19th.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* Gawwiija Rasha Sewda
1 released at Ghadira on 26 Feb remained till end of year and another released on 4 Apr stayed till 8 Jun; otherwise on 16 dates from 2 Jan to 6 Apr, mostly up to 6 but 100+ at Zonqor Pt. on 5th and 50+ at Rinella on 26th, both in Mar. 1 on 2nd, then on 14 days from 15 Oct to 6 Dec; mostly 1-8 off the coast.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* Gawwiija Zghira
2 on 2 Jan and 3 on 1 Feb at B'Bugia, then daily at Ghadira from 8 Feb to 2 Apr mostly 1-2 with 3 on 11 Feb. 7 sightings outside Ghadira with singles at Msida from 8-10 Feb and 16-18 Mar, and 2 at Gozo on 30 Mar. 5 sightings in Dec from 2-31st; mostly 1-2 but 5 at Ghadira on 31st.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* Gawwiija Rasha Kannella
Wintering in double to low treble figures of up to 150 in Jan-Mar, mostly in harbours and around the coasts. 1-2 at Ghadira from 15-17 May, singles on 13 Jun, 18th and 27 Jul and 3 Aug. Then 2 at Ghallis on 16 Sep and from 8 Oct onwards where mostly in double figures. Highest numbers from late Nov to mid Dec with, treble figures (Highest 500+ at Rinella on 10 Dec) on a few days.

SLENDER-BILLED GULL *Larus genei* Gawwiija Geddumha Rqiq
Singles at Ghadira on 4 Jun, at Ghallis on 14 Aug and again at Ghadira on 6 Sep. 3 sightings of singles in Oct: at Ghallis on 21st and 28th, and at St.Elmo Pt on 30th. Two sightings in Nov at Ghallis with 2 on 4th and 1 on 17th.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* Gawwiija Sekonda
A first winter bird at Cirkewwa on 4 Dec.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* Gawwiija Dahra Iswed
Two sightings in Mar: 2 at Ghadira on 19th and 3 at Qammieh on 24th. Again 2 at Ghadira on 16 Apr and 1 at Blue Grotto on 8 May. Then 2 on 14th and 1 on 22 Sep, 1 on 14th and 3 on 23 Oct and 6 sightings of 1-3 from 3-27 Dec mostly off the east coast of Malta.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans* Gawwiija Prima
Present all the year with fewer sightings in Jul-Aug. Highest numbers away from colonies during Jan-May and Oct-Dec: mostly up to 40. Highest numbers at Filfla colony where 250+ estimated in Jun.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* Gawwiija Prima Saqajha Roza
1 at Sliema on 17 Oct.

GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica* Cirlewwa Geddumha Ohxon
Singles at Comino on 21 May, at Ghadira on 13th and 21 Jun at Salina on
6 Jul, and at Ghallis on 29 Aug and 28 Sep; 2 in Gozo channel on 18th
and 4 at St. Andrews on 22 Oct; 1 at Armier on 27 Nov; and 2 at Ghadira
on 2nd and 1 at Ghallis on 13 Dec.

CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia* Cirlewwa Prima
1 at Ghadira on 8 Jun; 2 at Ghallis on 26 Aug. 1 also at Ghallis on 23-
24th and 2 at Ghadira on 30 Sep.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* Cirlewwa Tax-Xitwa
1 on 12 Feb and 2 on 19 Mar at Qammieh. Singles at Delimara on 1 Aug and
in Grand Harbour on 9 Sep, followed by 12 sightings of 1-5 from 15 Oct
to 11 Dec, mostly at Ghallis.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* Cirlewwa Zghira
One daily from 28 Apr to 2 May but 2 on 30 Apr; then singles at two
sites on 5 May, 2 on 1 Jun and singles on 27 Jul, 12th and 15 Aug. All
at Ghadira except for two sightings: at St. Thomas Bay on 5 May and at
Salina on 27 Jul.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* Cirlewwa Sewda
2 at Ghallis on 2 Aug; then on 3 dates in Sep with 4 at St. Thomas Bay on
3rd, and singles at M'Scala on 4th and at Ghallis on 15th.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* Cirlewwa tal-Gewnah Abjad
1 at Ghadira on 17-18 May.

"MARSH TERNS"

Two sightings in Oct with 4 off St. Andrews on 22nd and 8 off St. Elmo Pt
on 30th.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* Tudun tal-Gebel
2 at Xlendi on 18 Sep.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* Gammiema tal-Kullar
1 at Xlendi on 9 Sep.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* Tudun tas-Sigar
Singles reported shot at Siggiewi on 12th and 19 Oct.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Gammiema
2 on 3rd and 1 on 9th, then daily from 14 Apr to 11 May, with regular
sightings till 26th. Mostly in single to double figures of up to 40, but
70+ in Gozo on 19th and 100+ at Zebbug, Gozo on 22nd. A few birds on
most days from 1 Jun to 5 Aug, mostly 1-3 but 4 at Gircanti on 9 Jul. In
autumn, almost daily from 31 Aug to 24 Sep (most in early Sep); in
single to double figures of up to 50, but 100+ at Dwejra, Gozo on 7th
and 300+ at Wied il-Luq on 9 Sep. Then 5 on 1st and 4 on 2 Oct. Most
autumn records from Buskett.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* Daqquqa Kahla
Recorded on 10th and 21 Mar; 11 sightings from 15 Apr to 8 May; 10 Jun,
29 Jul and 4-5 Aug. Always singles.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* Barbagann
1 at Dwejra, Gozo on 14 Sep.

SCOPS OWL *Otus scops* Kokka
Singles on 10th and 13th and 5 at Zebbug, Gozo on 22 Apr. 1 on 22 Sep,
then 3 sightings in Oct with 10+ at Bingemma on 1st and singles on 6th
and 18th.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* Kokka tax-Xaghri
1 at Gozo on 30 Mar. Singles at Bingemma and at Wied Znuber on 1st, 3 at
Ghallis on 22nd and 1 at Filfla on 23 Oct; and 1 off Rinella on 16 Nov.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* Qattus
1 reported shot at Il-Qaws in mid-Nov.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* Buqrajq

Singles at Bingemma on 7 Apr and 8 May. In autumn 13 sightings on 11 dates from 15 Sep to 6 Oct; mostly 1-2 but 3+ at Wied il-Luq on 1 Oct and c4 at Lunzjata on 15 Sep. Most sightings at Buskett and Dwejra, Malta.

SWIFT *Apus apus* Rundun

Almost daily from 16 Mar to 27 Sep; mostly in double figures but treble figures on a few dates with 300+ at Dwejra, Malta on 21 Jul and at Ghallis on 14 Aug, 250+ at Bingemma on 7 Apr and 200+ at Dingli on 16 Sep highest counts. Four sightings of singles in Oct: on 1st, 6th, 12th and 21st.

PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus* Rundun Kannelli

Singles at Siggiewi on 31 Mar, at Ghadira on 7th and at Comino on 23 Apr. 8 at Wied il-Mielah on 15 Jun.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* Rundun Zaqqu Bajda

3 on 28 Mar, then 8 sightings from 1 Apr to 21 May: in singles, but 2 at Zebbug, Gozo on 24 Apr. Singles on 20 Jun and on 15th and 31 Aug, then 10 sightings of 1-2 in Sep from 9-30th mostly at Buskett. 4 at Buskett and 3 at Bingemma on 10 Oct.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* Ghasfur ta' San Martin

1-2 daily at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 5 Apr, with only 1 sighting outside Ghadira on 31 Jan. In autumn singles on 24th and 30 Jul, then 1-2 daily at Ghadira from 6 Aug to 10 Nov and 23 other sightings outside Ghadira mostly in Sep and in singles but 2 in Gozo on 8th. Most sightings at Xemxija. Then again at Ghadira with 1 from 20 Nov to end of year.

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster* Qerd in-Nahal

In Apr, singles on 5th and 18th and 50+ at Gozo at the beginning of the month (no date given). Then 4 on 12th and 1 on 26 May, and singles at Ghadira on 2nd and 9 Jun. In autumn 10 sightings on 5 dates from 2-24 Sep; mostly 1-3 but c24 at Buskett on 16th.

ROLLER *Coracias garrulus* Farrug

Singles at Zebbug and Dabrani, both in Gozo, on 24 Apr, and at B'Bugia (shot) in late Sep.

HOODED UPUPA *Upupa epops* Daquqa tat-Toppu

In spring 32 sightings on 21 days from 5 Mar to 19 Apr; mostly 1-3 but 12+ at Gammieh on 28th and 9 in Gozo on 30 Mar. Then singles on 8th and 12 May and on 10 Jul. In autumn, 17 sightings, on 14 dates from 12 Aug to 10 Sep; usually 1-3 but 4 at Is-Sannab on 19 Aug. Singles on 1st, 3rd and 7 Oct.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* Bulebbiet

1-2 on several days in Jan to mid Mar at 5 sites, then 25 sightings of 1-2 on 19 dates from 20 Mar to 24 Apr. In autumn 1 on 7th, then almost daily from 13 Sep to end of year from various localities. Peak between late Sep and mid Nov. Usually 1-3 but 4+ at Wied il-Luq on a few days in Oct-Nov.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* Bilbla

1 on 20th, then present at various breeding sites in the islands from 26 Mar to 20 Sep with a few irregularly till the end of month. Migrants most evident during Apr-May and Aug-Sep; usually up to 50 but treble figures from Gozo on 4 dates 1 in Jun, 3 in Sep, highest 500+ at Sarraflu on 7 Sep, otherwise 100-150. Late bird on 13 Oct.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* Cuqlajta

5 on Filfla on 23 Oct.

SKYLARK *Aldaia arvensis* Alwetta

Wintering in small numbers (highest sightings of 13) in Jan-Feb but 50+ at Wied il-Mielah on 12 Feb. Migration not very evident in Mar when in single figures but 50+ on 9th and 22 on 12th. 2 on 2nd and singles on a

few days from 14 Apr to 22 May. Autumn migration from 2 Oct when almost daily till 23 Nov; highest numbers in Oct when mostly in double figures of up to 80, but 120+ at Ghallis on 13th and 200+ at Filfla on 23rd. In single figures till end of year.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* Hawwiefat tax-Xtut
1 on 26th and 10 on 31 Mar, then almost daily from 8 Apr to 20 May when mostly in double figures, but treble figures on a few dates, highest 500+ at Ramla Valley on 19 Apr and at Ghajn Rihana on 4-5 May. 5 from 2 sites on 31 May and singles on 13th and 20 Jun. In autumn 1 on 18th and 2 on 30 Aug, then almost daily from 2 Sep to 12 Oct with a peak in mid Sep. Single to double figures with max of 60+ at Buskett on 12 Sep. 2 on 15th and 1 on 22 Oct, and on 3 dates in Nov with 1 on 2nd, 4 on 19th and 1 on 25th.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* Huttat
Singles on 7-8th, 10th and 2 on 15th, then daily from 18 Mar to 15 May and with regular sightings till 21 Jun. Peak from mid Apr to early May when mostly in treble figures, max 600, but 1500+ at Ramla Valley on 29-30 Apr. 1-2 at Marsa on 23 Jul and 1-5 on 10 dates from 21 Aug to 7 Sep, then daily from 9 Sep to 29 Oct with a peak from mid Sep to early Oct, when mostly in treble figures, max 500 on 15 Sep and 6 Oct and 800+ at Nadur/Dwejra, Malta on 23 Sep. In Nov, 8 sightings of 1-5 from 3-19th and 1 on 3 Dec.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* Regina tal-Huttat
Singles at Gammieh on 19-20th and 4 at Marsalforn on 23 Mar. In Apr, 1 on 10th and 5 sightings from 4 sites on 14-16th, mainly 1-4 but up to 50 at Ramla Valley on 14-15th, then singles on 23rd and 29th at Gozo.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* Hawwiefat
1 on 12 Jan. Singles on 15th and 20th, then almost daily from 23 Feb to 1 Jun with most from early Apr to early May. In single to double figures but 150+ at Bingemma on 7th and 100 at Ramla Valley on 15 Apr, and at Dwejra, Malta on 4 May. 1 on 8th, 3 on 13th and 1 on 20 Jun. In autumn singles on 5th and 9th, then almost daily from 12 Sep to 20 Oct when in single to double figures of up to 50+ but 150+ on 23rd and 100 on 24 Sep at Buskett and 100+ at Nadur, Malta on 6 Oct. 5 on 28 Oct, 2 on 4th and 5 on 19th. Singles at Ghadira on 3-4 Dec.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris* Bilblun
In spring 1 on 20th, then 18 sightings from 28 Mar to 1 May; mostly 1-2 but 5 at Ta'Cenc on 10 Apr. In autumn 21 sightings from 31 Aug to 2 Oct; mostly 1-6 but 20+ at Zurriek on 2 Oct.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* Dizz
Singles on 6th, 11th and 17th, then daily from 19 Mar to 5 May; mostly in single to medium double figures, but 400+ on 11th and 150+ on 12 Apr, both at Dwejra, Malta. Singles on 5 dates from 10-21 May. In autumn, singles on 24th and 26th, then almost daily from 31 Aug to 30 Oct with most in Sep. Usually up to 11, but 50+ at Dwejra, Gozo on 7 Sep and up to 35 on 1-2 Oct. 1 on 21 Nov.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* Pespup
Mostly in low single figures in Jan-Feb with max of 50+ on 3 dates. Return passage evident in Mar with an increase in sightings but only max of 35 on 20th. A few till 10 Apr and 1 on 11 Jun. Singles from 12-15th, then daily from 17 Oct onwards with a peak from late Oct to late Nov; occasionally in high double figures, max 100+ at Ghallis on 4 Nov. Usually in low double figures in Dec, but 50+ on 24th.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* Dizz Ahmar
On most days in Apr from 4-29th, usually 1-3 but 10+ at Ghajn Rihana on 14th. Mostly at Ghadira. Six sightings of 1-3 from 2-24 Oct and 1 on 19 Nov.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* Dizz ta' L-Ilma
At Ghadira 1-2 daily in Jan-Feb to 17th and 1 on 26th. Again singles on 20-21st and 29 Nov. At Ghallis singles on 5th, 8th, and 16 Dec.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Isfar
1 on 27 Feb, and 1-2 on 4 dates from 4-15th, then daily from 18 Mar to 5 May with most in Apr. Mostly in double figures, max 80, but 400+ on 11th and 150+ on 15 Apr, both at Ghajn Rihana. 1-3 on most days from 8-31 May. 10 sightings of singles in Jun-Jul, mostly at Ghadira. In autumn 1 on 2nd, then daily from 10 Aug to 8 Oct, with most from early Sep to early Oct when in low treble figures on most days. Max 200+ at Ghadira on 25 Sep. 1-20 almost daily from 10-26 Oct.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* Zakak tad-Dell
Wintering birds frequently sighted from a few areas in Jan-Mar to 15th, usually 1-2 but 5 at Wied il-Mielah on 12 Feb. In autumn daily from 22 Sep with a peak from early Oct to early Nov; in single figures with max of 6 at Bingemma on 6 Oct. Less frequent in Dec with 1-2 from a few sites.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* Zakak Abjad
Single to low double figures with max of 30 in Jan-Mar, but c.600 at Valletta on 24 Jan were roosting birds (no proper counts). An increase in sightings in Mar due to migrants. 1-2 on a few days in Apr to 15th. In autumn, 1 on 26 Sep, then daily from 4 Oct, with most from mid Oct to mid Dec; usually single to double figures of up to 50, but 300+ on Filfla on 23rd, and 200+ at Valletta (roosting birds) on 24-26 Oct. Smaller numbers till end of year.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* Bumistur
1 at Wied l-Isperanza on 13th and 25 Dec.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* Ziemel
Up to 10 daily at several sites in Jan-Mar to 22nd with most in Jan. 1 on 16 Jul. In autumn, 2 on 11th, then daily from 16 Oct to end of year with a peak from late Oct to late Nov when usually up to 20.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* Pitirross
Single to double figures (max 80) in Jan-Mar but 100+ at Bingemma on 18 Feb and at Buskett on 6 Mar. Almost daily in Apr with max of 10 on 7th, otherwise 1-3. Singles on 12 dates in May-Jun and on most days in Jul-Aug when usually 1-3 but c.5 at Buskett on 23 Aug. Other sightings mostly from Bingemma. Single figures from 1 Sep reaching double figures from the 19th when daily till end of year. Highest numbers between early Oct and late Nov with max of 100 on several dates, mostly at Bingemma but 300+ on Filfla on 23 Oct. Smaller numbers in Dec, max 60.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* Rozinjol
Daily from 29 Mar to 17 Apr with max of 15 at Bingemma on 11 Apr, otherwise 1-10. Then 1-4 on 13 dates from 22 Apr to 21 May. In autumn on most days from 15 Aug to 7 Oct - daily from 7-25 Sep and 30 Sep-7 Oct. Mostly in low double figures, with max of 20 at Bingemma on 18 Sep.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* Kudirross Blu
In spring singles at Xemxija on 26 Feb, and at Ghadira on 2nd and at Xemxija on 5th and 14 Mar. In autumn singles at Ghadira on 15th and 18 Sep; then 11 sightings of 1-2 on 9 dates from 17 Oct and 22 Nov, all at Ghadira except for singles at Xemxija on 17 Oct and 1 Nov and 2 at Lunzjata on 21 Oct. 1 daily at Ghadira in Dec from 7-31st.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus* Kudirross Iswed
Wintering in suitable areas in Jan-Mar to 26th, highest 25+ on 4th and 15+ on 19 Feb at Cumnija, otherwise up to 12. Smaller numbers in Mar. In autumn 1 on 17th, then daily from 19 Oct; mostly in single figures but 10-15 on a few dates from late Oct to late Nov. An exceptional fall took place on Filfla on 23 Oct with 150+ counted. Smaller numbers in Dec.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Kudirross
2 on 26 Mar, then 25 sightings of 1-3 on 19 dates from 6 Apr to 21 May (most in Apr). In autumn singles on 5 dates from 19 Aug to 10 Sep, then daily from 15 Sep to 7 Oct with max of 20 at Wied il-Luq on 21 Sep, otherwise 1-15. On 7 dates from 12-23 Oct; mostly 1-2 but 10+ on Filfla on 23rd. 1 on 7 Nov.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Bucagq tas-Silla

Almost daily sightings in spring from 2 Apr to 21 May with peak between late Apr and early May. Mostly 1-10 but 25+ at Ta'Genc on 29 Apr and 20+ at Gnejna on 7 May. In autumn, 12 sightings of 1-3 on 8 dates from 7-24 Sep, and 2 on 1st and 1 on 16 Oct.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* Bucagq tax-Xitwa

Up to 10 at various sites in Jan-Mar to 20th. Autumn migration from 3 Oct, with highest numbers between early Oct and late Nov. Usually up to 30 but an exceptional fall took place on Filfla on 23 Oct with 200+ counted. In single figures in Dec.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* Kuda

Almost daily in spring from 11 Mar to 25 Apr with a peak in late Mar: Max of 30 at Gammieh on 27th and in Gozo (2 sites) on 29th, otherwise 1-15. 1 on 10 May. In autumn almost daily sightings from 12 Aug to 7 Oct, with most in Sep; highest 35+ in Gozo (3 sites) on 19 Sep otherwise 1-12. 1-2 on 4 dates in Oct from 14-20th and 1 on 3 Nov.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica* Kuda Dumnikana

1 on 18th, then 9 sightings of 1-2 from 30 Mar to 10 Apr and 1 on 23 Apr. In autumn 5 from Sarraflu area and 1 at Tal-Gordan on 19 Sep, and 1 on 7 Oct.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina* Kuda Izabellina

1 at Ghajn Barrani on 28 Mar.

ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis* Ganbublu

On 3 dates in Apr with 1-3 from 4-16th, then 1 on 6 May all at Dwejra, Malta and Ic-Cumnija. In Sep 2 at Gozo on 8th and 1 at Nadur, Malta on 23rd.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius* Merrill

Present and breeding along sea cliffs. Usually up to 10 at any one locality. Higher numbers in Aug-Nov with max of 20 at Is-Sanab, Gozo on 19 Aug. A few also inland at this time.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* Malvizz Iswed

Daily sightings, mostly at Ghadira, in Jan-Feb to 21st where max of 4 on 10 Jan and 5 at Buskett on 26 Jan. Singles on 3rd and 11 Mar. In autumn frequent sightings of 1-3 from 19 Oct to 26 Dec, mostly at Bingemma and Buskett.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* Malvizzun tal-Qtajja'

4 at Dwejra, Malta on 1st and 1-2 on 5 days from 13-31 Jan; then 1 on 1st and 4 at Buskett on 10 Feb. 1 at Ghadira on 5 Dec.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* Malvizz

Up to 10 wintering in suitable areas in Jan-Mar to 29th but 50+ at Buskett on 26 Feb and 15+ at Comino on 26 Mar. More frequent sightings in Mar due to migrants. 1-2 on 3 dates till 14 Apr. 10 sightings of singles in Jun-Jul mostly at Buskett and Bingemma and 1-2 on 4 dates from 26 Aug to 30 Sep. In autumn, daily from 4 Oct to end of year with most from mid Oct to mid Nov, max 250+ on Filfla on 23 Oct and a passage (no numbers given) at Dwejra, Malta on 19 Oct otherwise up to 50. Smaller numbers in Dec, with up to 15 at Bingemma.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* Malvizz Ahmar

18 sightings of 1-4 from 4 Jan to 8 Feb but 8 at Lunzjata on last date; then 1 on 19 Feb. Most sightings at Ghadira. In autumn singles on 16 Oct, 11 Nov, 4-6th and 17 Dec.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* Malvizzun Prim

Few (no numbers given) reported at various sites on 15 Nov.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* Baghal ta' L-Gholliq

Breeding as usual in suitable areas. An increase in numbers after Jun with max of 15 at San Martin Valley on 6th and 12 at Wied il-Luq on 15 Jul.

FAN-TAILED WARBLER *Cisticola juncidis* Baghal ta' L-Imrewha
Widespread and commonly breeding. Higher numbers between May and Oct when mostly in low double figures of up to 30. Smaller numbers in Jan and Dec.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* Baghal tal-Gurati
1 at Xemxija on 5 Oct.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides* Baghal Ahmar
Singles at Xemxija on 29th and 31 Oct and 1 Nov and at Wied il-Luq on 4th, the latter being released at Ghadira where still present on 16th.

MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Acrocephalus melanopogon* Baghal Qastni
Singles at Lunzjata on 3 Feb and at Xemxija on 16 Mar. Again singles at Lunzjata on 21 Oct and at Ghadira on 21-22 Nov and on 4 dates in Dec from 9-15th.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Baghal tas-Simar
Almost daily in spring from 4 Mar to 21 May with most from early Apr to early May. Highest c.30 at Xemxija on 22 Apr, otherwise 1-10. In autumn singles on 8th and 22 Sep and 1-2 on 6 dates from 1-26 Oct, mostly at Ghadira.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* Baghal ta' l-Aghdajjar
1 at xemxija on 26 Oct.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* Baghal tal-Qasab
Only two sightings in spring: singles at Xemxija on 9 Apr and 3 May. In autumn singles on 7 days from 22 Jul to 15 Aug, then almost daily from 19 Aug to 21 Oct, with most sightings in Sep. In single figures but c.10 at Wied il-Luq on 27 Aug. Singles at Xemxija on 5 dates from 27 Oct to 22 Nov.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* Baghal Prim
1-3 almost daily in spring from 3 Apr to 10 May and 1-2 on most days from 18 May to 5 Jun. Most spring sightings at Ghadira and Xemxija. 1 at Wied il-Luq on 1 Jul, then singles on 11 dates from 20 Aug to 20 Sep and on 4 dates in Oct to 31st.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* Bekkafik Isfar
Almost daily in May from 7-22nd with 26 sightings of 1-5, but 40+ at Comino on 21st and 15+ at 2 other sites on 20-21st. In autumn 1-2 on 17 days from 12 Aug to 26 Sep, mostly at Bingemma and Wied il-Luq.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata* Baghal tax-Xaghri
Singles at Qammieh on 30 Jan, at St.Elmo Pt.(breakwater) on 23 Oct and at Ghallis on 27 Dec.

SPECTACLED WARBLER *Sylvia conspicillata* Bufula Hamra
A slight increase in sightings evident over recent years with most from Mar-Apr and Sep-Dec. Mostly in single figures but 10+ at Munxar on 14 May. More commonly sighted in Gozo.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* Bufula Passajra
2 on 3rd, then almost daily from 18 Mar to 15 Apr; mostly 1-3 but 35+ from 2 sites in Gozo on 28th and 15+ at Dwejra, Gozo on 29 Mar and at Comino on 2 Apr. 3 on 27 Apr. In autumn almost daily from 8 Jul to 18 Oct with a peak from early Aug to late Sep, when daily. In single to low double figures of up to 35+, with 40 at Wied il-Luq on 2 Sep highest.

SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala* Bufula Sewda
Commonly breeding resident in the three islands.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* Bekkafik Irmiedi
Singles at Ghadira on 8th and at Xemxija on 27 Sep and again at Xemxija on 21 Oct.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* Bekkafik Ahmar
Almost daily in spring from 8 Apr to 21 May; mostly 1-15, but 25+ on 9

Apr and 40+ on 21 May at Comino. In autumn 1 on 20 Aug, then 7 sightings of 1-2 from 2 Sep to 1 Oct, mostly at Wied il-Luq.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* Bekkafik

Spring migration from 18 Apr when almost daily till 4 Jun. Highest numbers in May when mostly in double figures of up to 50+ but 70-80 on 21-22nd at Bingemma. Singles at two sites on 24 Jun and 1 Jul. In autumn, almost daily from 13 Aug to 19 Oct with most from late Aug to early Oct when mostly in double figures of up to 50, but c.150 on 9th and c.100 on 2nd in Sep and 70+ on 1 Oct all at Wied il-Luq, singles on 25th and 29 Oct, 3 on 2nd and 1 on 15 Nov.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* Kapinera

Daily in Jan-Mar when mostly in high double figures from a few sites mainly Buskett, Bingemma and Has-Saptan. Highest 100+ at Bingemma on 4th and 18 Feb and at Buskett on 26 Feb and 6 Mar. 1-3 on a few days in Apr till 22nd and singles at two sites on 7 May. First autumn sighting on 8 Sep, when in single figures till 30th, after which on most days in Oct-Dec; highest 25+ on 1 Oct and 20-30 on 26-31 Dec at Wied il-Luq; otherwise 1-10.

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis* Vjolin ta' L-Artiku

1 caught and ringed at Zebbug, Gozo on 4 Nov.

BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* Vjolin Bajdani

1 at Wied il-Luq on 10 Sep.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Vjolin Hadrani

Daily sightings in spring from 7 Apr to 11 May with most in mid-late Apr; highest 20 at Xemxija on 22nd, otherwise 1-15. 10 sightings of 1-5 from 14-29 May and 1 on 3 Jun. In autumn singles on 3rd, 23rd and 27 Aug, then 19 sightings of 1-3 from 2 Sep to 7 Oct with most from 17-24 Sep. On 6 days from 17-29 Oct, mostly 1-2 but 10+ on Filfla on 23rd.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* Vjolin tax-Xitwa

In low treble figures on a few dates in Jan-Feb with max 200 at Chadwick Lake on 19 Jan and 100-150 on 4 dates in Feb, otherwise up to 60 elsewhere. High double figures in early Mar reducing gradually with last sightings on 31st. In autumn 1-5 on 5 dates from 4-12th, then daily from 17 Oct to end of year. Higher numbers from late Oct, with max of 150 on Filfla on 23 Oct, otherwise in single to medium double figures of up to 50 on 3 dates in Dec.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* Vjolin Pastard

Almost daily sightings in spring from 18 Mar to 17 May with highest numbers in Apr, max 20 at Ghadira and Xemxija on 7-8th, otherwise 1-15. 2 singing at Ghar Lapsi on 11 Jun. In autumn 4 on 20th, then daily from 26 Aug to 17 Oct with a peak from late Sep to early Oct. Mostly 1-10 but 20+ at Salina on 27th and 15 at Xemxija on 30 Sep. Then 1-5 on 6 dates from 20-29 Oct but 10+ on Filfla on 23rd. 1 on 4 Nov.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* Bufula tal-Qamar

Singles on 11th and 20-21 Jan; 1-6 on 5 dates from 7-24 Feb and 1 on 5 Mar. On most days in autumn from 15 Oct to end of year with most from late Oct-mid Dec. Mostly 1-6 but 15+ on Filfla on 23 Oct. Most sightings at Ghadira.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus* Bufula tat-Toppu Ahmar

Singles on 2nd and 28 Jan; 1 on 7th and 2 on 10 Feb; and on 14 Mar. On most days from 18 Oct-14 Dec; mostly 1-3 but 5 at Ta'Pinu on 20 Oct.

GOLDCREST/FIRECREST *Regulus regulus/ignicapillus*

9 sightings from 16 Jan to 11 Mar; mostly in singles but 4 at Buskett on 21 Jan. In autumn from 12 Oct to 29 Dec; mostly 1-5 but 6-10 at Buskett on 25-26 Dec.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* Zanzarell tat-Tikki

1 on 23rd, then almost daily from 26 Apr to 22 May, mostly 1-5 but 20+ at Comino and Bingemma on 21 May. Singles on 4 dates from 1-17 Jun. In autumn 1 on 21st, then 1-3 on most days from 25 Aug to 7 Oct. 1-2 at Ghadira from 24-30 Oct.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* Zanzarell Sidru Ahmar
Singles at Ghadira on 12th, 17th and 19 Oct and at Bingemma on 3 Nov.

SEMI-COLLARED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula semitorquata* Zanzarell tal-Lvant
1 male at Gnejna Bay on 7 May.

COLLARED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula albicollis* Zanzarell tal-Kullar.
10 sightings from 2 Apr to 7 May: singles but 2 at Pieta on 26 Apr. 1 at Bingemma on 25 Oct.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* Zanzarell Iswed
Almost daily in spring from 9 Apr to 10 May when in single figures, max 8 at Pieta on 27th, 1 on 22 May. In autumn, 1-3 on 20 dates from 20 Aug to 29 Sep, with most from 10-24 Sep.

PENDULINE TIT *Remiz pendulinus* Pendulin
Singles on 16 days from 2 Jan to 22 Feb, then 1-3 on 3 days from 1-8 Mar, all at Ghadira. In autumn, 5 on 28 Oct then almost daily sightings in Nov-Dec; usually 1-6 but 15+ at Xemxija on 15 Nov and 8-10 at Ramla Bay on 7-8 Dec. Other sightings mostly at Ghadira and Lunzjata. Also single sightings at Ghajn Barrani and Ghajn Rihana.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* Tajra Safra
Almost daily in spring from 21 Apr to 23 May with peak in early May. In single figures of up to 6 but 10+ at Zebbug, Gozo on 3 May, then 3 sightings of singles on 3-4 Jun. In autumn 5 sightings of 1-2 on 4 dates from 27 Aug to 10 Sep.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* Kaccamendula Hamra
Singles at Bingemma on 3rd and at Wied Dalam on 11 Jun. In autumn singles at Wied il-Luq on 20th and at Bingemma on 26-27 Aug, six sightings on 5 dates in Sep from 19-25th, and at Wied il-Luq on 5 Oct.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* Kaccamendula
1 on 29 Mar, then on most days from 2-27 Apr; mostly 1-3 but 5+ at Comino on 9th and at Pieta' on 17th. In May 5 sightings of singles on 7-8th and 5 at Comino on 21st. In autumn singles on 27th at Salina and on 31 Jul and 1 Aug at Dwejra, Malta; then 1-4 almost daily from 12-28 Aug (daily 17-25th) with most sightings at Dwejra, Malta and Bingemma. Singles on 5 dates from 7-25 Sep.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* Sturnell
Wintering in double to treble figures in Jan-Feb: up to 600 but 1000-2000 on 5 dates in Jan, mostly at Ghadira. On most days in Mar to 27th; mainly in single to low double figures but 100 at Marsa on 11th. 2 on 27th and 6 on 28 Jul, and 2 on 5 Aug. In autumn from 3 Sep, then increasing regularly with low treble figures from 6 Oct. Over 1000 on 13 Occasions between late Oct and Dec with max of 3000 at Luqa on 17 Dec.

SPANISH SPARROW *Passer hispaniolensis* Ghammiel tal-Bejt
Abundant breeding resident

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* Ghammiel tas-Sigar
Breeding resident with sightings from usual sites. Highest numbers between late Jul and Dec with 40-50 at Chadwick Lake and Xemxija on a few dates from Jul-Oct and up to 30 at Bingemma in Nov-Dec.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* Sponsun
Single to low double figures in Jan-Mar; max 25 on 10 Feb but c.100 at Floriana (at roost) on 23 Jan. 1-6 almost daily in Apr-Jun from various sites and frequent sightings in Jul-Sep, with up to 10 at Buskett on two dates. Other sightings in summer mostly at Bingemma and Ghadira. In autumn in single figures from 1st, then daily from 16 Oct to end of year with most from mid Oct to mid Nov and in late Dec. Mostly in low double figures of up to 30, but 60+ at Bingemma on 17 Oct, and 50+ on 11 Nov and c.45 on 26 Dec at Buskett.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* Sponsun Selvagg
1 in Gozo on 29 Oct and 2 at Valletta Market (seen up for sale) on 19 Nov.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* Apparell

Single figures (up to 6) in Jan-Mar but 10+ at Has-Saptan on 22 Jan and at Buskett on 10 Feb; then 12 sightings of 1-2 in Apr-Jul, mostly at Ghadira except for two sightings at Bingemma and Buskett. 3 on 9 Sep, then singles on 12th and 28-29 Oct and on 20 dates from 10 Nov to 31 Dec; in single figures but 10 at Buskett on 11th and at Has-Saptan on 21 Nov, and at Ghallis on 13 Dec.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* Verdun

3 sightings of 2-10 on 21-22 Jan and 1 on 22 Feb; then 1-6 on 8 dates from 11-30 Mar. Singles on 6th and 24 Apr, 9th and 22 May and 5th and 30 Jun. Then almost daily from Jul to Sep with max of 5 on 4 Aug; all at Ghadira except for 6 sightings. In autumn almost daily in Oct-Nov; mostly 1-5 but 30+ at Ghallis on 10-11th, and 'hundreds' reported in south of Malta and at Fomm ir-Rih on 29-30 Nov. On most days in Dec with max of 100 at Xaghra, Gozo on 13th, otherwise 1-10.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* Gardell

On 4 dates from 22 Jan to 19 Feb, mostly 1-2 but 5 at Has-Saptan on 28 Jan. Singles on 14th and 30 Mar; 3rd, 9th and 16 Apr, 3rd and 24 May, 10th, 16-20th and 29 Jul; 5-6th and 19 Aug; 14th and 19-20 Sep. In autumn 7 sightings on 6 dates from 17 Oct to 23 Nov, mostly 1-3 but 5 at Dingli on 17 Oct. Up to 16 roosting at Hamrun from 28 Nov to 9 Dec and singles on 17th and 30 of the same month.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* Ekru

1 at Buskett on 25 Mar, 2 at Il-Qaws and 1 at B'Bugia on 18 Oct. 'Some' reported in Malta on 21 Nov, 3 at Xaghra on 6th and 1 at Buskett on 26 Dec.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* Gojjin

Single to medium double figures of up to 50 in Jan-Mar but 100+ at Dwejra on 27th and at Qbajjar/Ramla on 29 Mar. 1-4 on a few dates till 17 Apr and 9 sightings of 1-3 in Jun-Aug. In autumn almost daily from 17 Oct to end of year with most from mid Oct to late Nov when mostly in double figures of up to 35 but 50+ on Filfla on 23 Oct. Smaller numbers in Dec but 150+ at Floriana (roost), on 20th.

TRUMPETER FINCH *Bucanetes githaginea* Trumbettier

1 male at Gharb on 15 Nov (reported trapped).

SCARLET ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrins* Bumunqar

1 juvenile ringed at Mtahleb on 18 Oct.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Taz-Zebbug

4 sightings on 17-18 Oct, max of 5 at Buskett on 18th otherwise 1-2.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* Durrajsa Safra

1 on Filfla on 23 Oct.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* Ortolan

Singles at Dwejra on 10th and 14 Apr; then 2 in mid Sep and 1 on 1 Oct both at Zurrieq (trapped).

CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING *Emberiza caesia* Ortolan Rasu Blu

1 juvenile male ringed at Ghadira on 26 Aug.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* Durrajsa tal-Qasab

Singles at Ghadira on 12 Feb, 11-14th and 29 Mar. In autumn almost daily again at Ghadira from 16 Oct to 29 Dec; mostly 1-4, but 5 on 1 Dec. Peak from early Nov to early Dec when also sighted elsewhere with 1-3 on 13 dates, mostly at Xemxija.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra* Durrajsa

Breeding in small numbers at various sites. Numbers mostly in Jul-Oct with max of 50 in early Sep at Dwejra, Gozo. Higher numbers in same period indicates post-moult flocking at drinking holes and migration.