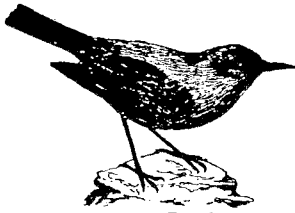




# IL-MERILL

BULLETIN OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



MOS

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1989

No. 26

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# THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 498,

VALLETTA, MALTA

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*The aim of Il-Merill is to serve as a medium for the publication of the annual systematic list of birds recorded in the Maltese Islands and the annual ringing report, both produced by the Ringing & Research Committee of the MOS, as well as for the publication of papers and short notes primary relating to the study of birds in the Maltese Islands. Accordingly the editorial board welcomes contributions treating any aspect of the ornithology of the Maltese Islands and the Mediterranean for publication in this journal.*

*For the sake of uniformity, authors submitting papers for consideration for publication are requested to follow the following sequence : Title; the name (s) of author (s), an abstract (summarizing the main results) and the address (s) of the author (s); introduction; methods; results; discussion; acknowledgements; and references. Tables and figures should be presented on separate sheets with their desired position indicated in the manuscript margin. Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side of the paper only, with a wide margin.*

*The Ornithological Society was founded in 1962 to promote the scientific study of ornithology and bird conservation in the Maltese Islands. It organises a variety of scientific and social activities. It runs the Valletta Ringing Scheme and has a young members' section.*

*The Ornithological Society consists of Life Members, Ordinary Members, Young Members (under the age of 18 or receiving full-time education), Group Membership and Hon. Life Members. All members are entitled to receive the MOS bulletins gratis and to participate in the activities. Anyone wishing to apply for membership is welcome to write to the Members Secretary - THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 498, VALLETTA, MALTA.*

## SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1987 - 88

compiled by  
CHARLES COLEIRO

The regular contributors to the daily log kept by the Ringing and Research Committee of the Ornithological Society during the two year period under review were: John Attard Montalto, John Borg, Alex Casha, Charles Coleiro, Mark Falzon, Raymond Galea, Charles Gauci, Manuel Mallia, Joseph M. Mangion, Michael Sammut and Joe Sultana. Other contributors were: Denis Aspland, Alfred E. Baldacchino, Charles Galea Bonavia, Hugh Butcher, Denis Cachia, Richard Cachia Zammit, Victor Falzon, Mario Farrugia, Max Farrugia, Natalino Fenech, John Grech, Hanna and John Middleton, Ian Mifsud, Richard Ferry, Paul Portelli, Silvio Scicluna, Martin A. Thake, Paul Varney 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 logs.

Where only one of the two years is given in the systematic list, it is only because there were no records in the other year.

The records for this two year period were entered into the daily log by Charles Coleiro and then transferred to the species logs by Alex Casha and Manuel Mallia. The systematic list has been compiled by Charles Coleiro.

- LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Blongun Zghir  
1987 : 2 at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 12 Mar, then 1 till 19th. Late bird at same place from 19-25 Apr.  
1988 : 2 present at Ghadira from 10 Nov to end of year.
- GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* Blongun Prim  
1987 : 1 at Mgarr, Gozo on 29 Nov.
- BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* Blongun Sekond  
1987 : 1-2 at Ghadira from 4 Jan to 8 Mar, then 2 at same place from 12 Sep increasing to 4 from 17-21 Oct and gradually decreasing to 1 on 3 Dec. Increased up to 10 again from 12 Dec and present till end of year. 3 other records of singles outside Ghadira : between 14 Oct and 10 Dec.  
1988 : Up to 11 present at Ghadira in Jan gradually decreased to 1 present till 5 Apr. 1 found dead at same place on 30 Aug, then 4 on 21 Sep, increasing to 20+ from 3-13 Dec with at least 16 remaining till end of year. 8 records outside Ghadira between 17 Nov and 26 Dec; mostly singles but 4 at Delimara on 27 Nov and 3 at Xemxija on 3 Dec.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* Ciefra  
1987 : First sighting on 18 Feb then regular to 31 Oct. Highest count c.900 off Dwejra, Gozo on 26 Mar but thousands were seen off Marsalforn on 1 Aug. Bred in usual colonies.  
1988 : First sighted on 20 Feb then regularly recorded offshore, mostly from Mar-Sep with last individual seen on 2 Nov. Highest counts were of 300 on various dates in Jun-Jul. Bred as usual.
- MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* Garnija  
1987 : Most offshore sightings from Jan to Apr, with 40+ off Qamieh on 13 Mar highest. Recorded ashore at colonies till end of Jun. Two singles in Jul and 2 on 15 Oct. Recorded offshore again in Dec; 4 on 16th and 2 on 20th.  
1988 : Recorded mostly at colonies (from Jan) where bred as usual but also some offshore sightings from Feb to May. Highest count c.40 off Filfla on 29 May. Offshore sightings of singles on 26 Nov, 3rd and 16 Dec.
- STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* Kangu ta' Filfla  
1987-88 : Recorded only from Filfla in May-Jun when islet was visited. Bred as usual.

GANNET *Sula bassana* Sula

- 1987 : On 14 dates from 1 Jan to 7 Mar with most sightings off the NW and E coasts of Malta; mostly 1-3 but 6 were seen off Qamieh on 3 Jan. In autumn on 8 dates in Nov from 5-27th; mainly 1-3 but 4 off Delimara on 18th and 6+ off Ghallis on 27th
- 1988 : On 14 dates from 2 Jan to 27 Feb, mostly off the NW coast of Malta; mainly 1-2 but 6 off Qamieh on 2nd and 4 off L-Ahrax Pt. on 23 Jan. 1-3 on 12 dates from 22 Oct to 16 Dec, most off Ghallis.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* Margun

- 1987 : 4 off Ghallis on 28 Feb, then singles on 3-4 Mar. 1 on 23 Sep and singles on 3 dates in Oct from 4-24th. Then 23 sightings on 17 dates in Nov from 1-28th with daily sightings from 17-25th. Most sightings of 1-5 but 11 on 1st and 7 on 7 Nov off Ghallis. Singles on 10th and 19 Dec.
- 1988 : 1 at Ghadira on 21 Apr. 1 on 9 Oct; then 32 sightings on 25 dates from 20 Oct to 28 Nov. Mostly singles or in parties of up to 9 but 30 on 29 Oct and 25 on 3 Nov off Ghallis. Singles almost daily from 1-10 Dec and on 21 Dec mostly at Ghadira.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* Kappun

- 1987 : 1 shot in Rabat on 2 May; then 3 singles in Nov: 1 shot at Xrobb l-Ghagin on 2nd, at Ghadira (injured) on 3rd and 1 caught in Gozo on 20th.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus* Russett tas-Sigar

- 1987 : 6 sightings of singles on 4 dates in Apr from 8-30th, then 1-4 almost daily at Ghadira in May from 1-27th and 1 on 1 Jun.
- 1988 : Singles on 6 dates in Apr from 9-28th; then 1-2 on 8 dates from 7 May to 5 Jun. Most records from Ghadira. One autumn sighting in Gozo on 20 Sep.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* Kwakka

- 1987 : On 17 dates from 14 Mar to 27 May; mostly in parties of up to 9 but 15 on 7 Apr and a flock of 26 over Ghadira on 4 May. In autumn up to 11 on 13 dates from 31 Aug to 7 Oct and late singles on 3 dates from 25-29 Oct.
- 1988 : In spring 22 sightings on 17 dates from 20 Mar to 13 May (most in Apr). Mainly in small flocks of up to 11 but 24 on 3rd and c.30 on 23 Apr. 2 on 31 Jul. In autumn 30 sightings on 19 dates from 18 Aug to 29 Sep when usually seen in flocks, the highest being of 43 over Lunzjata on 30 Aug. 1-2 on 7 dates in Oct from 4-24th.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides* Agrett Isfar

- 1987 : 1-2 almost daily at Ghadira from 15 Apr to 27 May, otherwise 2 at Ta' Cenc on 1st and 1 at B'Bugia on 5 May. In autumn 1 at Dahlet Qorrot on 11th and an injured bird on 19 Sep, and 1 at Ghadira from 7-13 Oct.
- 1988 : 1 present at Ghadira from 10 Apr to 20 May. In autumn singles at Ghadira on 20th and at Ghallis on 21 Sep.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* Agrett tal-Bhejjem

- 1987 : 1 at Marsalforn on 16 Jan and 6-15 shot along east coast in early Dec.
- 1988 : 2 shot at Marsaxlokk on 14th and 2 shot in Gozo on 15 May.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* Agrett Abjad

- 1987 : In spring, 1-4 on 4 dates from 13 Mar to 5 Apr, then daily at Ghadira from 10 Apr to 14 May. Mostly 1-10 but 24 flew over on 3 May. 11 sightings outside Ghadira with 20 on 3 May highest. 1-3 again daily at Ghadira from 24 May to 11 Jun. Singles on 23-24 Jul and on 4 Aug, then 16 sightings on 13 dates from 19 Aug to 11 Oct. Usually in small flocks but 50+ over Marsamxett on 16 Sep. 4 sightings of 1-3 on 24-28 Nov.
- 1988 : 1 on 4 Mar, then 1-3 on 19-20th and almost daily from 30 Mar to 12 May (daily at Ghadira from 12 Apr to 12 May). Mostly 1-10 but 25+ at id-Delli on 30 Mar and c.18 at Ghadira on 24 Apr. In autumn 18 sightings on 13 dates from 11 Aug to 21 Sep; mostly 1-5 but 15 on 20th and 22 on 30 Aug highest. 1 on 8th and 3 on 15 Oct at Ghadira, then up to 2 there daily till 11 Nov. 1 on 21st and 2 again at Ghadira from 25 Nov to 5 Dec with 1 remaining till 19th. Only 3 sightings outside Ghadira.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* Russett Griz

- 1987 : 1 present at Ghadira from 4 Jan to 13 May. Spring passage from 28 Feb when 6 at Ghallis, then 36 sightings on 27 dates from 5 Mar to 8 May (most in Mar); mostly in single to low double figures but c.70 on 6th and 338+ from 3 localities on 14 Mar. Again daily from 23 May to 30 Jun, highest 13 at Ghadira on 24 May, otherwise 1-3, most at Ghadira. In autumn 22 sightings on 19 dates from 13 Aug to 18 Oct (most in Oct); single to low double figures but 142+ (2 sites) on 1 Oct. Singles

- on 30 Oct and 20 Nov; then 1 (occasionally 2) present at Ghadira from 28 Nov to end of year.
- 1988 : 1 at Ghadira from 1-19 Jan. First in spring on 28 Feb, then 1-7 on 13 scattered dates from 9 Mar to 21 May, 7 at B'Bugia on 12 Jun and 1 on 9 Jul. In autumn 57 sightings on 35 days from 18 Aug to 1 Nov (most in Sep) with flocks of over 20 recorded 6 times, highest 42 over Sagħġtar on 30th and 38 over Dwejra, Malta on 26 Sep. 1 at Ghadira on 19 Dec. Most sightings from Ghadira and along the coast.
- PURPLE HERON** *Ardea purpurea* Russett Ahmar  
 1987 : On 10 dates in spring from 7 Apr to 7 May; mostly 1-4 but 10 at Ghadira on 5 May. 6 at Ghadira on 23 Aug, then 8 sightings from 3 Sep to 16 Oct with 6 at Xemxija on 5th and 20+ at Sliema on 16 Oct highest, otherwise 1-2. 1 on 26 Oct. Most records from Ghadira.  
 1988 : 3 at Comino on 10th, then on 6 days from 21-29 Apr; mostly 1-3 but a flock of 27 at Ghadira on 21st. 1 at Ghadira on 12-13 Jun. On 7 dates in autumn from 28 Aug to 21 Sep; mainly 1-3 but a flock of c.30 at Bugibba on 28 Aug. Most at Ghadira.
- BLACK STORK** *Ciconia nigra* Cikonja Sewda  
 1987 : 1 over Qammieh on 14 Mar; 1 shot at B'Bugia on 2nd and 1 seen over Dwejra, Malta and Naxxar on 15 Apr.
- WHITE STORK** *Ciconia ciconia* Cikonja Bajda  
 1987 : 1 over Dwejra, Malta on 1 Sep.
- 'STORK sp'. *Ciconia sp.*  
 1988 : 1 over Buskett on 9 Oct.
- GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus* Velleran  
 1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 14th and 16-17th, and 6 at Lunzjaġa on 24th, all in Mar. Flock of 50+ over Qammieh on 12th, and 2 at Ghadira and 20+ at Comino on 26 Apr. One sighting in autumn: 1 over Marfa on 6 Oct.  
 1988 : Only two sightings: 5 at M'Xlokk on 5 Apr and 1 at Ghadira on 24 Sep.
- SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia* Paletta  
 1987 : 1 over Ghadira on 13 Mar and 8 at Kalafra on 8 May.  
 1988 : 1 shot at Delimara on 26 Feb and 1 at Ghadira on 20 Sep.
- GREATER FLAMINGO** *Phoenicopterus ruber* Flamingu  
 1987 : 3 at St Paul's Isle on 14 Jan, 2 at B'Bugia on 18 Jun and a flock of c.150 reported off Delimara on 14 Nov.  
 1988 : Two sightings over Xemxija: 2 on 18 Sep and 1 on 12 Oct.
- GREY LAG GOOSE** *Anser anser* Wizza Griza  
 1988 : 1 at Ghallis on 21 Nov and a flock of 9 seen over Ghadira and Ta' Qali on 2 Dec. 4 at Ta' Qali the following day were probably remnants of this flock as all birds were reported subsequently shot.
- 'GREY' GEESE *Anser sp.*  
 1987 : 3 off Ghallis on 25 Oct.  
 1988 : 2 over Floriana on 7 Nov.
- WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons* Wizza tal-Maskra Bajda  
 1988 : 4 reported shot from Obajjar on 27 Nov.
- MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor* Cinju Mutu  
 1988 : Singles reported shot in Dec: at Marsaxlokk on 3rd and at Delimara on 6th.
- RUDDY SHELDUCK** *Tadorna ferruginea* Kuluvert Ahmar  
 1988 : 1 shot at White Rocks in Dec.
- SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna* Kuluvert tas-Salib  
 1987 : 6 off Qammieh on 11 Jan; then 3 on 1st and 1 on 27 Nov at Ghallis and 1 at Ghadira on 1 Dec.  
 1988 : 2 at Sliema on 18 Sep; 15 at Qawra on 15th, and 54+ (4 flocks) off Ghallis on 16th and 1 at Ta' Qali on 22nd, all in Nov. On 7 dates in Dec with 19 at White Rocks during the month, 5 at Qammieh and 3 at Ghadira on 3rd, and 9 at Ghallis on 7th, otherwise singles.

WIGEON *Anas penelope* Silfjun Ewropew

- 1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 1-12 Jan, 16 Feb, 13 Oct and 1 Nov. 10+ at Ghallis on 6 Nov. Singles at Ghadira in Dec from 2-14th, then 2 from 18-26th and 1 on 28-30th 3 at Luqa on 22 Dec.
- 1988 : Singles at Ghadira on 29-30 Oct; 11 on 6th and 7 on 13th at Ghallis, then 1-6 daily at Ghadira from 16 Nov to 29 Dec. Outside Ghadira singles on 18th and 28 Nov.

TEAL *Anas crecca* Sarsella

- 1987 : 6 on 12th and 1-2 from 13-15 Mar. 2 on 15-16th and 1 on 4 days from 18-24 Sep; 1 on 2nd and 1-2 on 7-13 Oct, all at Ghadira. 7 at Ghallis on 6 Nov, then 1-2 again at Ghadira from 2-31 Dec but 7 on 19th.
- 1988 : 2 daily on 1-5 Jan then till 25 Feb. Singles on 10 Sep, 3rd, 13th and 15 Oct, then daily from 13 Nov to end of year with 2-5 from 10-25 Dec. Except for 3 sightings: 3 at Ghallis and 1 at 'la' Qali on 12th and 15 again at Ghallis on 13 Nov. all records from Ghadira.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* Kuluvert

- 1987 : 2 daily at Ghadira from 29 Aug to 2 Nov, then only 1 present till end of year.
- 1988 : Daily at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 25 Mar with a max of 3 from 30 Jan to 25 Feb, then singles at same place on 27-29 May. On 3 dates in Aug: 4 offshore on 14th, 2 at Delimara on 18th and 11 offshore on 27th. 1 at Ghadira on 18 Nov.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* Silfjun

- 1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 18 Jan and 19 Feb. On 5 dates in Mar from 7-14th with a flock of 219+ at Hal Far highest. in autumn 51+ on 12th, 5 on 13th and 7 on 14th, all at Ghadira; then 18 at Ghallis on 24 Oct. Daily from 31 Oct to 15 Nov; mostly 1-6 but 70+ at Ghadira on 2nd and 23 at Ghallis on 15th, 8 on 27 Nov and 1 on 5 Dec.
- 1988 : 5 at Qammieh on 28 Feb, then 2 on 5th and 5 on 28 Mar at Ghadira. 1 at M'Xlokk on 4 Apr. In autumn, 1 on 25th; then on 10 dates from 29 Oct to 28 Nov; mostly 1-8 but 18 on 29 Oct and 30+ on 26 Nov, both at Ghallis. Daily at Ghadira from 30 Nov to 18 Dec with max of 4 on 3 Dec.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* Sarsella Hamra

- 1987 : 3 at Ghadira on 13th and 35 + off Qammieh on 15 Mar. 4 sightings in Apr: 2 on 1st and 12 on 15th at Ghadira, and 20 on 11th and 16 on 12th off Qammieh. On 7 dates at Ghadira from 26 Aug to 7 Oct; mainly 12 but 6 on 31 Aug.
- 1988 : 1 at Ghadira on 29 Jan. 14 sightings on 11 dates in Mar from 10-31st when mainly in double figures on 6 dates highest 110+ on 30th, 85+ on 24th, 32+ on 31st and 30+ on 27th all at Qammieh. Also 50+ at Ghadira on 10th. On two dates in Apr: 4 at M'Xlokk on 4th and 1 at Ghadira on 19th. One autumn record of 4 off Ghallis on 10 Sep.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* Palettuna

- 1987 : 3 at Ghajnsiclem on 1st and 3 at Ghadira on 18 Jan. 45+ off Cirkewa on 12 Oct and singles at Ghadira on 5-6 Dec.
- 1988 : Singles at Ghadira on 2-3 Feb. On 4 dates in Nov from 12-27th with 9 off Ghallis on 12th and 7 at M'Xlokk on 17th highest, otherwise singles. 2 at Ghadira on 17 Dec.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* Brajmila

- 1987 : 1 at Ghadira from 17 Feb to 15 Mar and 11 off Cirkewa on 12 Oct.
- 1988 : 1 daily at Ghadira from 7 Jan to 23 Feb with 2 present from 13-20 Feb. 1 at Ghallis on 13th and 2 at 'la' Qali on 29th, then 2 daily at Ghadira from 30 Nov to 31 Dec but 3 from 14-21st.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* Brajmila t'Ghajnja Bajda

- 1987 : 1 on 10 Mar and 2 on 8 Apr at Ghadira; 6 off Qammieh on 10 Apr, then singles on 10th and daily from 19 May to 3 Jun at Ghadira.
- 1988 : 2 shot on 11th and 3 shot on 12 Mar both at M'Xlokk. Singles at Ghadira on 1 Apr and 19 May.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* Brajmila tat-Toppu

- 1988 : A first year female at Manoel Isle on 25 Nov.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* Serra

- 1987 : 2 off Qammieh on 4 Jan; then singles at Ghallis on 8 Nov and at Ghadira on 11 Dec.

1988 : On 4 dates in Nov: singles at Bahar Ic-Caghaq on 17th, at M'Xlokk on 18th and 27th, and 2 at Ghallis on 30th. 1 at Msida on 9 Dec.

'DUCK sp.' *Anas sp.*

1987 : 1 on 17 Jan; on 6 dates in Mar from 1-15th with highest numbers off Qammieh: 560+ on 13th, 85+ on 14th and 270+ on 15th; otherwise in double figures. 2 sightings on 10 Apr with 20+ at Qammieh. In autumn 1 on 8 Sep then 6 on 11th and on most days from 25 Oct to 18 Nov with most off Ghallis in Nov: 130+ on 1st and 110+ on 7th, otherwise up to 20. 12 on 6th and 1 on 19 Dec.

1988 : On 7 days in Mar from 13-31st with 50+ off Qammieh on 30th highest, otherwise up to 15. Then 120+ again off Qammieh on 2 Apr. On 3 dates in Sep: 1 on 8th, 2 on 18th and 5 on 21st. On 16 dates from 21 Oct to 27 Nov, mostly in single to low double figures of up to 30 but a flock of 200+ off Ghadira on 27 Oct. On 3 dates in Dec: 1 on 7th, 6 on 11th and 9 on 19th. Most autumn records from Ghallis.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* Kuccarda

1987 : Singles on 20 Mar, and on 3rd, 9th and 26 Apr; then 1-3 on 10 dates from 5-29 May with no clear peak. 1 on 10th and 15+ at B'Bugia on 18 Jun. Then two sightings at Has-Saptan in Jul: 15+ on 15th and 7 on 17th. In autumn 3 on 23rd and 5 on 31 Aug, then almost daily throughout Sep with a peak from 11-24th. In single to low double figures, but 64 (2 sites) on 24th and 53 (3 sites) on 22nd. 1-6 on 10 dates from 1-26 Oct. Most autumn sightings at Buskett and Dwejra, Malta.

1988 : 1 at Ghadira on 21 Apr; then on 5 dates in May from 6-17th, highest 6 over Bingenma on 15th, otherwise singles. In autumn 8 on 10 Aug; then almost daily from 8 Sep to 9 Oct with no clear peak. In single to low double figures of up to 20, but 46 (3 sites) on 12 Sep. Singles on 11th and 17 Oct. Most records from Buskett and Dwejra, Malta.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* Astun iswed

1987 : On 3 dates in Mar: 3 on 17th, 7 at Irga Gap on 22nd and 2 on 24th. Then singles in Apr on 4th, 6th, 12-13th and 29th. Singles on 5 dates from 2-29 May. 1 on 6 Jun. In autumn 2 at Bingenma on 26 Aug and singles at Dwejra, Malta on 9th and 17 Sep.

1988 : Singles on 5th and 10 Apr were the only records for spring. In autumn on 7 dates from 25 Aug to 5 Oct; mostly 1-2 but 6 on 8th and 5+ on 12 Sep, both sightings at Buskett.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* Astun Ahmar

1988 : Singles at Buskett on 24th and 29 Sep.

EGYPTIAN VULTURE *Neophron percnopterus* Avultun Abjad

1987 : 1 immature over Buskett on 24 Sep.

SHORT-TOED EAGLE *Circetus gallicus* Ajkla Bajda

1987 : 1 over Buskett on 19 Sep and 3 reported shot on 2 Nov: 2 at Hal Far and 1 at Rabat.

1988 : Singles over Dwejra, Malta on 19 Sep and on 4 Oct.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* Bughadam Ahmar

1987 : 1 on 6th, then 43 sightings on 25 dates from 13 Mar to 25 Apr (almost daily from 13-30 Mar). Mostly 1-6 but 15 at Dwejra, Malta on 22 Mar. 1-2 on 3 dates from 19-28 May. Main autumn passage from 30 Aug to 29 Sep with a peak from 17-25 Sep when daily. Highest totals were of 52 (4 sites) on 19th, 53 (3 sites) on 20th, 44 (3 sites) on 22nd and 43 (2 sites) on 24th; otherwise up to 16. 1-2 on 6 dates from 2-17 Oct. 1 at Bingenma on 7 Nov. Most autumn records from Buskett and Dwejra, Malta.

1988 : In spring almost daily from 9 Mar to 1 May with no clear peak. Mostly 1-10 but 12 at Dwejra, Malta on 10th and 30 at Wied is-Sewda on 24 Apr. On 6 days in May from 6-28th with 6 at Bingenma on 8th highest, otherwise 1-3. 1 on 3 Jun. 1 on 24 Aug, then main autumn migration from 28 Aug to 11 Oct (daily from 7-25 Sep), with two main passages in Sep: 100+ over Dwejra, Malta and Buskett on 9th and 112+ (3 sites) on 21st. Also 60+ (3 sites) on 11 Sep. Otherwise in single to low double figures of up to 20. Singles daily on 19-21 Oct. Almost all autumn records from Dwejra, Malta and Buskett.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus* Bughadam Abjad

1987 : Single males at Buskett on 15th and at Sarraflu on 21 Mar.

1988 : Singles at Mriehel on 25th and at Marsaxlokk (shot) on 31 Mar.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* Bughadam Abjad Prim  
1988 : 2 males at Dwejra, Malta on 9 Sep.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* Bughadam Griz  
1987 : A female found injured on 6th and a male on 28 Apr, both at Dwejra, Malta.  
1988 : On 4 dates in Apr: 1 at Paradise Bay on 12th, 2 at Bingemma on 13th, 1 (shot) on 18th and 2 (shot) on 27th, at Marsaxlokk. Singles on 1 May at Ramla and on 12 Nov at Gammieh.

'RINGTAIL' HARRIERS *Circus sp.*  
1987 : 6 at Dwejra, Malta on 4th and singles at Bingemma on 11th and 24 Apr. In autumn singles on 31 Aug, 7th, 11th and 21 Sep.  
1988 : 1 on 29 Mar; then 1-3 on 7 dates from 3-24 Apr. 1 on 17 May. In autumn, 5 at Dwejra, Malta and 1 at Rabat on 9 Sep, and 1 on 11 Oct.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* Sparvier  
1987 : Recorded only in Oct: 2 at Fomm ir-Rih on 5th, singles at Ghallis and Mosta on 11th, and at Buskett on 16th.  
1988 : Singles at Buskett on 29 Sep and 4 Oct.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* Kuccarda Prima  
1988 : 1 over Buskett on 4 Oct.

LESSER-SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila pomarina* Ajkla tat-Tikki  
1988 : 1 at Buskett on 30 Sep.

BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraaetus pennatus* Ajkla tal-Kalzetti  
1988 : 1, light phase, over Bingemma on 15 May.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* Arpa  
1987 : 1 at 'la' Cenc on 22 Mar; then singles on 1st, 9th, and 12 Apr; on 29th and 31 May; and at Delimara (shot) on 2 Jun. Singles in Sep on 11th, 20th, 26th and 29th, then 1 reported shot at Xrobb l-Ghagin on 2nd and 1 at Marsaxlokk on 3 Nov.  
1988 : Singles at Ghadira on 23 Mar and at Dwejra, Gozo on 30 Apr. In autumn 12 sightings on 10 dates from 9 Sep to 13 Oct; all singles, except for 2 at Dwejra, Malta (where most sighted) on 9th. 1 at B'Bugia on 1 Nov.

#### 'BROADWINGS'

1987 : 4 on 25 Mar and 1 on 5 Apr. 1-4 on 3 dates from 5-17 May. On 15 dates from 10 Sep to 14 Oct with 40 (2 sites) on 21st and 29 at Dwejra, Malta highest; otherwise 1-13.  
1988 : 3 on 23rd and 1 on 28 Apr. In autumn on 22 dates from 5 Sep to 11 Oct, mostly 1-8 but 12+ at Dwejra, Malta on 11 Sep.

LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni* Spanjulett Sekond  
1987 : Singles at Sta. Lucia on 18 Mar and at Dwejra, Gozo on 13 Apr. 1 at Dingli on 19th, then on 5 dates at Buskett from 20-25 Sep; singles except for 2 on last date. 1 at Dwejra, Malta on 7 Oct.  
1988 : Recorded only in autumn with 13 sightings on 10 dates from 16 Sep to 5 Oct. Mostly 1-2 but 3 flocks were recorded: 11 at Buskett and 6 at Dwejra, Malta on 16th and 12 again at Dwejra on 20 Sep. All records from Buskett and Dwejra, Malta. 1 at Wied il-Ghasel on 16 Oct.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* Spanjulett  
1987 : On 15 dates from 1 Jan to 18 Feb; mostly singles but 3 at Gammieh on 10 Feb, with most sightings at Bingemma. Singles on 4th and 7th, then almost daily from 13-29 Mar; in single figures, but 28+ (4 sites) on 22nd. 1-2 on 10 days in Apr from 2-25th and on 5 days in May from 8-30th. 1 on 7th and 2 on 18 Jun. Singles on 3 Jul and on 31 Aug, then 2 on 5th and 1 on 7th; and on most days from 17 Sep to 25 Oct (daily from 19 Sep to 7 Oct and 10-19 Oct). Mostly 1-7 but a small influx occurred on 11 Oct with a total of 60+ at 3 sites. Singles on 5 dates in Nov from 2-26th and 3 sightings in Dec: 3 and 1 on 2nd and 1 on 28th.  
1988 : 1-2 on 4 dates from 13-30 Jan. In spring 1 on 16th then on most days from 26 Mar to 17 Apr; mostly 1-5 but 60+ at Dwejra, Gozo on 3rd and 10+ at Dwejra, Malta on 4th. Singles on 4 dates from 26 Apr to 7 May. Autumn passage from 27 Aug, with 8 sightings of 1-4 to 11 Sep, then almost daily from 16 Sep to 24 Oct with max of 6 at Dwejra, Malta on 9 Oct, otherwise 1-3. Subsequently 16 sightings on 11 scattered dates from 29 Oct to 28 Dec mostly of 1-2.



RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* Zumbrell

- 1987 : 14 on 3rd and 1 on 5th, then daily from 25-30 May (mostly 1-18) but a large influx occurred on 29th when 'hundreds' were sighted over Malta. Max totals given were c.100 at B'Bugia, 36 at Ghadira and 35+ at Luqa. Then on 4 days in Jun from 1-12th with 22 at Hal-Far on 3rd and c.8 at Gawra on 12th, otherwise singles. 1, probably an escapee, at Mizieb on 21 Jul. In autumn singles at Dwejra, Malta on 5 Oct and 1 reported shot at the beginning of Oct.
- 1988 : Singles at Dwejra, Gozo on 3 Apr and Dwejra, Malta on 28 Sep.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* Seger ta' Denbu

- 1987 : 1 at Wied il-Luq on 16 Oct.
- 1988 : 1 over Buskett on 8 Sep.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* Seger tal-Hannieqa

- 1987 : On 11 dates from 13 Apr to 8 May when 1-3 on most days but max of 5 at Ramla Valley on 2 May, then singles on 4 dates from 21-29 May. In autumn almost daily from 7-30 Sep with 8 at Dwejra, Malta on 11th highest, otherwise 1-5. On 4 dates in Oct from 1-19th when except for 3 on 6th, always singly.
- 1988 : On 5 dates in Apr from 16-30th; singles but 4 on 21st and 6 on 24th. Then singles in May at Dwejra, Malta on 21st and 28th. 1 on 31 Aug, then 34 sightings on 18 dates from 8 Sep to 14 Oct (daily from 8-13 Sep). Mostly 1-6 but 7 at Buskett on 11 Sep.

ELEONORA'S FALCON *Falco eleonorae* Bies tar-Regina

- 1987 : 3 singles in May: at Lunzjata on 1st, at Dwejra, Malta on 26th and over B'Kara on 28th. 1 at Dwejra, Malta on 15 Aug then singles on 4 dates in Sep: at Dwejra, Malta on 8th, at Ghadira on 13th and at Buskett on 19th and 25th.
- 1988 : Singles at Dwejra, Malta on 9th, at Bingemma on 13th and at Gammieh on 30 Apr, and at Bingemma on 7 May. 3 at la' Gali/Rabat on 27 Jul. Good autumn passage, with 1-3 on 11 dates from 6-27 Sep and singles on 1st and 12 Oct. Most autumn records from Buskett and Dwejra, Malta.

SAKER *Falco cherrug* Bies Rasu Bajda

- 1987 : 1 over San Anton on 7 Oct.
- 1988 : Singles at Dwejra, Malta on 27-28 Aug and at Wied Gannotta on 17 Nov.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* Bies

- 1987 : Singles at Wardija Pt. on 1 May and Dwejra, Malta on 24 Jul. 3 singles in Sep: at Buskett on 25th, at San Anton on 26th and at Luqa on 28th.
- 1988 : Singles at Gammieh on 20th and 27 Feb and on Comino on 10 Apr.

Unidentified FALCONS *Falco sp.*

- 1987 : Singles at 2 sites on 22 Mar, on 13-15th, 26-28th and 31 May. 2 on 1st and singles on 5th and 10 Jun. 1 on 15th and 7 at Dwejra, Malta on 30 Aug. 1-6 on 7 dates from 11 Sep to 8 Oct. Most autumn records refer to Kestrel sp.
- 1988 : Singles on 12th and 21 Apr. Singles on 3 dates in May from 7-25th but 4 over B'Kara on 20th. On 24 dates from 14 Aug to 12 Oct; mostly 1-6 but 8 on 19th and 7 on 20 Sep at Buskett. Autumn records from Buskett and Dwejra, Malta.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* Summienna

- 1987 : Singles on 4 dates from 14-26 Apr. Influx on 11 Oct with a 'few hundreds' reported especially along the eastern coast where 50+ were counted at Ghallis. 2 at Buskett on 12 Oct.
- 1988 : 2 at Nadur, Gozo on 5 Mar; then on 8 dates in Apr from 4-30th with 2 at Zebbug, Gozo on 30th, otherwise singles. In singles on 5 dates from 1-27 May. 2 at Marsaxlokk on 20th and 1 at Dwejra, Malta on 21 Sep, then singles at Bingemma on 2nd and at Ghallis on 30 Oct.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* Gallozz tax-Xitwa

- 1987 : Up to 10 at Ghadira during Jan-Mar to 30th but with a max of 15 on 27 Feb; then 1-3 till 9 Apr. 1 on 2 Sep followed by singles on 7 dates to 7 Oct, thereafter increasing to up to 10+ from 3 Nov to year end. All records at Ghadira except for singles at Lunzjata on 1st and 14 Nov.
- 1988 : Present at Ghadira from Jan-Mar, mostly up to 10 but max of 15 on 2 Jan. Then 1-2 on 8 dates till 23 Apr. Singles on 28 Jun and 28 Jul. 1 seen on most days from 3 Aug, then 2 on 1st and 1-5 almost daily from 12 Sep to 13 Nov after which date up to 15 counted on several days till end of year. All records at Ghadira except for singles on 16-17 Sep, 28 Oct, 3rd, 9th, 19-20 and 24 Nov.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* Gallozz tat-Tikki

- 1987 : Singles on 12 Mar and on 7 dates from 4-25 Apr. 1 on 24th and 2 on 30 May. Again singles on 12 Aug, 25th and 28 Sep, and 7 Nov. All at Ghadira except 1 at Xemxija on 16 Apr.
- 1988 : Singles at Ghadira on 29 Feb and at Xemxija on 17th and 26 Mar, and 2 Apr; at Ghadira on 11th and again at Xemxija on 14 Apr; at Kirkop on 19 Jun; at Ghadira on 9 Aug; at Xemxija on 11 Sep; at Ghadira on 26-27 Nov and at Lunzjata on 12 Dec.

LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva* Gallozz Zghir

- 1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 12th and 17 Mar, at Xemxija on 2nd and Mgarr, Gozo on 18 Apr.
- 1988 : 2 at Ghajnsielem on 19 May.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex* Gallozz Ahmar

- 1988 : 1 at Lunzjata on 15 May.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Gallozz Iswed

- 1987 : Daily at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 5 May; mainly up to 15, but 30+ on 25 Apr and 20+ on 3 other dates in Apr; then 1-4 on most days till 4 Jun. 16 sightings outside Ghadira, mostly in Apr with max of 10 at Ghajnsielem on 18 Apr. 1-2 on 7 scattered dates from 21 Jun to 5 Aug, but 5 on 29 Jun and 8 on 26 Jul at Ghajnsielem. In autumn 1-2 on most days at Ghadira from 30 Aug to 30 Sep, then up to 8 daily from 5 Oct and up to 15 after 3 Nov on to end of year. 5 sightings outside Ghadira with 5 at Ghajnsielem on 18 Oct highest.

- 1988 : Daily at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 2 May; mainly up to 10 but max 15 on 3 dates in Jan-Feb. Only 8 sightings outside Ghadira during this period, mostly in Apr, with up to 9 at Ghajnsielem. Then on 16 dates from 6 May to 25 Jun. Usually 1-2 but up to 10 at Ghajnsielem. 10 sightings from 6 Jul to 28 Aug - singles at Ghadira but up to 20, including juveniles at Ghajnsielem. In autumn, daily at Ghadira from 10 Oct onwards; mainly up to 15 but up to 20 counted on 4 dates in Nov-Dec. 10 sightings outside Ghadira in Nov and Dec with 8 at Ghajnsielem on 20 Nov and 29 Dec.

C001 *Fulica atra* Igiiega tal-Bahar

- 1987 : Daily at Ghadira from Jan-Apr; mainly up to 9 but 10 on 24 Jan then decreasing gradually after 5 Mar with 1-2 remaining from 19 Mar to 27 Apr. Singles on 8-9 May and 1 sighted occasionally in Jun-Aug but seen more frequently from 4 Sep when on most days to 21 Oct. Then 2 daily from 27 Oct onwards, but 3 in late Oct and on 9 Nov. Only 2 sightings outside Ghadira; singles at Ghajnsielem on 1 Jan and 8 Feb.
- 1988 : 1-3 daily at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 22 Mar, then 1 sighted occasionally between Apr-Oct but 2 on 12th and 31 Oct. Again daily from 1 Nov onwards with 2 gradually increasing to 30 by late Dec. 10 sightings outside Ghadira: singles at Ghajnsielem on 21st and 26 May; on 7 dates in Nov, with singles at Bahar ic-Caghaq (dead) on 9th, at Msida on 14th, at Ta' Gali on 22nd and at Pieta' on 27th, 2-4 at Ghajnsielem in Nov-Dec.

CRANE *Grus grus* Grawwa

- 1987 : Singles at Marsa on 13 Jan and 12 Feb. Then 14 sightings on 6 days from 6-23 Mar (most from 6-13th); mainly 1-4 but 255+ from 5 sites on 8th (c.120 over Ghadira and a flock of 71 over Valletta). Also 13 at Luqa on 6 Mar. 1 at Salina on 10 Apr. In autumn 3 over Ghadira on 7 Oct, 2 over Ghallis on 7 Nov and 15 at Ta' Gali on 17 Dec.
- 1988 : c.100 over Gozo on 10 Mar; 2 at Marsa on 12 Sep; and on 3 dates in Nov: 2 at Dwejra, Gozo on 7th, and singles at Xemxija on 13th and at Marsaxlokk (shot) on 16th.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* Gallina tal-Bahar

- 1987 : 1 in the South Comino Channel on 2 Apr. Then 2 at Xemxija on 1st and 2 shot at Tas-Safra on 6 Aug.
- 1988 : 8 off L-Ahrax on 2 Aug and 2 sightings at Ghallis in Sep: 2 on 3rd and 4 on 18th.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus* Fras-servjenti

- 1987 : 6 on 14th and 1 on 15 Mar; 3 on 3rd, 15 on 23rd and 1 on 24 Apr; 12 on 9 May and 1 on 23 Jul; at Ghadira. Also 3 shot at B'Bugia on 5 Apr.
- 1988 : At Ghadira 1 on 17-22 Mar, then 1-2 from 13 Apr to 9 May, 1 on 19 May, 3 on 12 Jun and 1 Jul, then singles on 2 Jul, 7 Aug and 1 Nov. A bird with a slightly injured wing released in early May stayed on till end of year. 3 sightings outside Ghadira: 2 at Salina on 11 Jul; and 5 on 14th and 32 on 27 Aug offshore.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avoetia* Xifa

1988 : Singles at B'Bugia on 18th and daily at Ghadira from 25 Aug to 6 Sep. 10 in Ghadira Bay on 6 Dec.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* Tellerita

1987 : Singles at Xemxija on 17 Apr and at Delimara on 25 Jun.  
1988 : Singles at Comino on 24 Apr and at 1a' Cenc on 23 Jun.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* Monakella

1987 : In spring singles on 6th and 8th, then 1-6 daily at Ghadira from 11 Mar to 23 Apr but 11 on 22 Mar. Singles again at Ghadira on 8 dates from 29 Apr to 26 May. On most days from 3 Jul to 17 Aug; mainly up to 4 but 7 at Ghadira on 9 Aug; then 19 sightings of 1-7 birds from 26 Aug to 3 Oct and 14 at Ghadira on 11 Oct. Singles on 26 Oct and 2 Nov. Most autumn records from Ghadira and Salina.  
1988 : 1-2 from 2-6th, then up to 15 daily from 13 Mar to 30 Apr and singles on 12 days from 1 May to 10 Jun. In autumn 1-8 almost daily from 5 Jul to 28 Sep and 1-2 daily from 8-15 Oct. 1 on 26 Oct. Most records at Ghadira.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* Monakella Prima

1987 : 1 at Ghadira on 21 Apr, then 18 sightings from 4 May to 4 Jun with 1-4 at Ghadira on most days and 5 at Salina on 7 May. 1 on 13 Jun. In autumn singles on 4 days in Aug from 1-20th and on 7 Sep, then almost daily from 14 Sep to 17 Oct when mainly 1-2 but 3 on 15 Oct. Singles from 6-12th and 25 Nov to 2 Dec. 2 sightings outside Ghadira in autumn: 2 at Luqa on 8th and 6 at Ghallis on 11 Oct.  
1988 : 1-2 from 25-30 Apr and 8-14 May. Singles on 26-28 May, 20 Jul, and 27th and 29-31 Aug. 1-3 daily from 3 Sep to 1 Oct. All records at Ghadira except for two: 3 at Delimara on 5th and 1 at B'bugia on 30 Sep.

KENISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* Monakella Saqajha Suwed

1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 16-18 Mar and at Hal Far on 10 Apr.  
1988 : 1 on 11 Mar, then 1 on 16th and 1-2 on 18-20 Apr. Singles from 29 May to 2 Jun and 17 JUL. 1-2 from 28 Aug to 3 Sep and singles on 6th and 18 Sep; on 2nd, from 14-17th and on 24 Oct. All records at Ghadira except for 1 at Salina on 29 Jul.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* Birwina

1987 : 2 on 7th and 1 on 11 Sep. Then on 6 days from 3-12 Oct; mainly 1-2 but 5 at Dwejra, Malta on 11 Oct. Singles at Ghallis on 8th and at Bingemma on 27 Nov.  
1988 : 2 at Il-Qaws on 3 Apr. 11 sightings from 3-25 Sep; mainly 1-2 but 4 at Marsaxlokk on 3 Sep. Singles in Oct on 10th, 13th and 16th; and in Nov on 13th and 17th

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* Pluviera

1987 : c.25 at Marsascala on 1st and 4-6 on 3 dates from 6-16 Mar. Early birds on 18 Sep and 6 on 11 Oct, then 6 sightings on 4 dates from 1-18 Nov; mainly 1-2 but c.10 at Luqa on 11 Nov. 1 on 9 Dec.  
1988 : 1 on 28th and 2 on 29 Oct, then 12 sightings on 9 dates from 3-28 Nov; mainly 1-3 but 4 at Mriehel on 28 Nov. 1 on 17 Dec.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* Pluviera Pastarda

1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 24-25th and at Salina on 26 May.  
1988 : Singles on 20-21 May; 25 Sep - 1 Oct, and on 11 Nov, all at Ghadira.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* Venewwa

1987 : On 6 days in Jan from 15-24th with up to 7 at Luqa on 19th. On 6 days in Mar from 5-25th; mostly 1-6 but 7 at Ghadira on 5th. Singles at Ghadira on 8 Apr and 6 Jul. 17 sightings on 14 dates from 1 Nov to 29 Dec when in single to low double figures of up to 25, but 78+ over Ghadira on 12 Dec.  
1988 : 4 at Hal Far on 19 Sep and 17 over Bingemma on 29 Oct. 12 sightings on 8 days from 12-28 Nov; mostly 1-8 but 20 at Mriehel on 28 Nov, then 1-2 daily at Ghadira from 30 Nov to 11 Dec. 2 on 13th, 7 on 14th and 1 daily again at Ghadira from 23-30 Dec.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Pispisella Bajda

1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 5th, 7th and 9 May; and on 15 Oct.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* Tertuxa

1987 : 2-4 at Ghadira from 14-20 Mar and singles there on 4th and 6th, then daily from 11 Apr to 2 Jun; in single to low double figures of up to 25, but max of 35 on 5 May. Only 8 sightings outside Ghadira with 17 at Salina on 10 May highest. Singles on

- 6th and 23-24 Jun, 9th, 13-14th and 27 Jul. Then daily at Ghadira from 29 Jul to 4 Dec; in single figures but 10 on 31 Jul and 15+ on 4 Aug. 8 sightings outside Ghadira, mostly at Salina with 11 there on 3rd and 15+ at Xemxija on 31 Aug.
- 1988 : Single to low double figures, max 35, daily at Ghadira from 24 Mar to 1 Jun. 1 sighting outside Ghadira. Then 2 at Salina on 2nd and at Ghadira on 9-10 Jun. In autumn daily from 21 Jul to 6 Nov (mostly at Ghadira); double figures in Jul-Sep with 18+ at Salina on 27 Jul and 17 at Ghadira on 23 Aug highest. 1-7 after 28 Sep.
- JEMMINCK'S STINI** *Calidris temminckii* Tertuxa Griza
- 1987 : 1 on 26 Apr and 1-2 on most days from 4-22 May, at Ghadira. In autumn singles on 29 Jul, on 2nd and on 30 Aug - 1 Sep, 2 on 5 Sep and 1 on 25 Oct. Most at Ghadira.
- 1988 : 1-2 at Ghadira on 7 days from 22 Apr to 12 May. In autumn singles on 17th, 22nd, 25th and 2 on 26th, all at Salina, and 1 on 27 Jul, 2 on 2nd and singles on 3rd and 28 Aug, 8th, 15th and 29 Sep, and 2 on 6 Oct, all at Ghadira. Also 2 at Salina on 15 Sep.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea* Beggazzina Hamra
- 1987 : 2 on 7th and daily from 20 Apr to 30 May; in single to low double figures of up to 35 but 50+ on 5 May. All at Ghadira except for 2 at Comino on 26 Apr. In autumn, at Salina 4-6 on 5 days from 27 Jul to 3 Aug, and at Ghadira 6 on 31 Jul, 3 on 4th and singles on 11 Aug, 10th and 14 Sep.
- 1988 : Singles on 4-5th and 12th, then 1-6 almost daily from 23 Apr to 25 May. All at Ghadira except for 1 at Salina on 23 Apr. In autumn 9 sightings of 1-3 from 18-23 Jul from Ghadira and Salina, then 1 on 8th and 1-5 at Ghadira daily from 22 Aug to 25 Sep, with 3 other sightings outside Ghadira.
- DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina* Beggazzina fat-lizz
- 1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 1st, 4th and 12 Apr, and on 5 May. In autumn 15 sightings on 12 days from 30 Jul to 19 Aug, mostly 1-5 but 6 at Salina on 3 Aug. Then singles at Ghadira on 8-10 Sep and 1-2 on most days there from 2-12 Oct. 2 at Salina on 27 Oct and 3 at Ghallis on 13 Nov. 1-2 at Ghadira on most days from 14 Nov to 2 Dec and 1 again at Ghallis on 27 Nov.
- 1988 : Singles in spring at la' Gali on 25 Apr and at Ghadira on 8 May. In autumn almost daily at Ghadira from 21 Jul to 10 Dec; in single figures, max 10 on 19 Sep. 11 sightings outside Ghadira, mostly at Ghallis in Sep and Nov, with 14 there on 18 Sep highest.
- RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax* Girwiel
- 1987 : Daily at Ghadira from 20 Feb to 30 May; in single to low double figures with max of 23 on 3 Apr. Highest numbers in Apr. 6 sightings outside Ghadira with 8 at Luqa on 18 Mar highest. Then singles at Salina on 7th and at Ghadira from 8-12 Jun. In autumn 1-2 at Salina on 2-3rd and singles at Ghadira on 4th and 9 Aug, and on 3 Sep.
- 1988 : 2 on 20th and 1 on 28 Feb. Then daily from 4 Mar to 6 Jun when in single to low double figures with max of 26 on 22 Apr. Highest numbers from late Mar - late Apr. All at Ghadira except for 3 sightings with 6 at Luqa on 28 Mar highest. On several days, mostly at Ghadira from 21 Jun to 29 Oct with most in Jul-Aug; mainly 1-2 but 3 at Ghadira on 22 Aug and at Ghallis on 15 Sep.
- JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyptes minimus* Cirkonja
- 1987 : Singles at Dwejra, Malta on 14 Mar and at Ghadira on 4 Nov.
- 1988 : Only in singles: at Ghadira on 1 Apr; at Xemxija on 9 Nov; and on 5 dates in Dec: at Ghadira on 2-3rd, 15th, 18th and 30th and at Bingenma on 31st.
- SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago* Bekkacc
- 1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 16 Jan and on 10 days from 23 Feb to 15 Mar. Then singles at Xemxija on 18 Mar, and at Ghajn Rihana on 1st and on 5 days at Ghadira from 24-30 Apr. In autumn singles at Ghadira on 12th and at Dwejra, Malta on 26th and 30 Sep; and again at Ghadira on 30-31 Oct.
- 1988 : Singles at Ghadira from 22-25th and 2 shot at Marsaxlokk on 31 Mar. Then on 7 days mostly at Ghadira, from 11-26 Apr; singles but 2 on 25th. Late singles at Ghadira on 6th and 9-10 Jun. In autumn, 1-3 on 15 days from 22 Aug to 26 Sep, singles on 4 dates in Oct from 3-31st and on 4th and 13 Nov. Mostly at Ghadira. Then 1-4 almost daily again at Ghadira from 5-31 Dec. 7 autumn sightings outside Ghadira.
- GREAT SNIPE** *Gallinago media* Bekkacc ta' Mejju
- 1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 17th and 27 Apr, and on 27 May.
- 1988 : 1 at Ghadira on 18-19 Apr and 1 shot in Sep.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* Gallina

1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 20th, at Bingemma on 21st and 2 near Mosta on 24 Jan. Then again singles at Bingemma on 10 Oct, at Mgarr ix-Xini on 7 Nov and at Pwales on 18 Dec.

1988 : 13 sightings on 11 dates from 27 Oct to 25 Nov (daily from 27 Oct to 1 Nov); mostly 1-3 but 20+ shot in early Nov at Bingemma.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* Girviel Prim

1987 : In spring only recorded at Ghadira with 1 on 28 Feb and 3-7 daily from 6-16 Mar. Then a from 9-19 Jul again at Ghadira and a flock of 31 off Ghallis on 29 Aug.

1988 : Singles at Ghadira on 27 Feb, and daily from 24 Mar to 1 Apr.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* Girviel Denbu bl-Istrixxi

1988 : 1 at Ghadira on 6 Oct.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* Gurlin Zghir

1988 : Flock of 9 (2 shot) at Qammieh on 25 Mar, 1 shot at Marsaxlokk on 19 Aug and 1 at Ghadira on 1 Sep.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* Gurlin

1988 : 1 at Qammieh on 16 Apr, 2 off Ghallis on 30 Oct, and on 25 Nov and 1 at Marsaxlokk on 7 Dec.

'CURLEW sp.' *Numenius sp.*

1987 : 3 over Ghallis on 13 Nov.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* Cuvett

1987 : All sightings at Ghadira: singles daily from 8-15 Mar, 1-5 almost daily from 1-18th and 1 on 27 Apr. Then singles on 5th and 8 May, on 26 Jun and 3 Nov. 1 record outside Ghadira: 1 at Comino on 26 Apr.

1988 : Singles on 18-19th and 24 Apr, on 16 Jun, 25th and 2 on 28 Aug; then 1 on 1 Sep, 2 on 16 Oct and 1 on 23 Nov. All at Ghadira except for 1 at Salina on 23 Aug.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* Pluverott

1987 : All sightings from Ghadira. 1 on 28 Feb; 1-2 from 13-16th and 1 on 26 Mar; singles on 11th and 19 Apr; 1-2 daily from 17-27 May; 1-3 on 17 days from 20 Jun to 25 Jul; singles on 8th and 27 Aug; 7th and from 17-24 Oct. Only 2 sightings outside Ghadira: singles at Salina on 26 Jun and 9 Jul.

1988 : In spring 1-2 at Ghadira on 14 days from 1-20 Apr, then up to 7 daily at same place from 9 Jun to 23 Jul, when also a few sightings from Salina. Then 1 at St. Julians on 1st, and at Ghadira again 2-3 on 3-4th, singles on 6th and from 19-24 Aug, and on 14 Nov.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* Cewcewa Zghira

1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 2-3rd and 5-7 Apr.

1988 : Singles at Ghadira on 31 Mar and 3-5 Apr.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* Cewcewa

1987 : Daily from 30 Mar to 27 Apr, mostly up to 5 but 7 on 16th and 9 on 17th. Then 1-2 on 4-5th and 1 on 23 May. Singles on 9th and 11-13 Jul; 13th, 27th and 31 Aug; and on 5 Sep. All at Ghadira except for the 9 Jul bird sighted at Salina.

1988 : 2+ at Hal Far on 8th and 1-2 almost daily at Ghadira from 13-27 Apr. On most days from 20 Jul to 22 Sep (daily from 30 Jul to 24 Aug), mostly 1-3 but 4 at Ghadira on 10 Aug. Only 4 sightings outside Ghadira in autumn.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* Swejda

1987 : 1 at Ghadira on 28 Feb, then 1-2 on 12 dates from 9 Mar to 23 Apr. In autumn on 8 dates from 25 Jun to 24 Jul, when in singles except for 6 on 12 Jul, then 1-2 on 11 dates from 2-31 Aug, 2 on 13th and 1 on 16 Sep; 5 on 11th and singles on 15th, 16th and 28 Oct. Most autumn records at Ghadira.

1988 : 1-2 on 23 dates, mostly at Ghadira from 13 Mar to 29 Apr. On most days from 16 Jun to 9 Sep with 44 sightings, mostly from Ghadira. Usually 1-5 but 6 at Ghadira on 10 Jul and at Comino on 15 Aug.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Pespup tal-Bahar

1987 : In spring, 1 on 13th and 1-3 on 18-19 Mar. Then almost daily at Ghadira from 2 Apr to 24 May; mostly 1-10 but 25 on 14 Apr. Only 6 sightings outside Ghadira. In autumn on 25 days from 7 Jul to 30 Aug, with max of 8 at Salina on 29 Jul.

otherwise 1-5: mostly at Ghadira and Salina. Then 4 on 1st and singles on 7 dates from 5-25 Sep, all at Ghadira.

1988 : Singles on 4th, 22-23rd and 29 Mar. Then almost daily sightings from 3 Apr to 25 May (daily at Ghadira from 13 Apr to 5 May), with 20+ at Xenxija on 3 Apr highest, otherwise 1-10. Singles at Ghadira on 5 days in Jun from 14-28th; then on most days from 3 Jul to 8 Sep, mostly in single to low double figures of up to 29, but flocks of c.173 at Salina on 11 Jul, 80+ on 31 Jul, 50+ on 1 Aug and 39 on 16 Aug at Ghadira. Singles on 11 days at Ghadira from 10 Sep to 11 Oct.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* Beggazzina tar-Rokka

1987 : 1-2 on 4 days from 14-18th, then on most days from 29 Mar to 26 May with daily sightings from 9 Apr to 10 May. Mostly up to 10 but 20 at Ghadira on 25 Apr and 12 on Gozo on 3 May. Then 1-2 on 17 days from 23 Jun to 21 Jul and almost daily from 26 Jul to 6 Sep with max of 12-14 at Salina on 28-29 Jul; otherwise 1-10 mostly at Ghadira and along coasts. Singles on 9th, 12-13th and 19 Sep and on 11 Oct.

1988 : In spring, almost daily sightings from 31 Mar to 14 May with a peak in late Apr, with 90+ at Ghallis on 24 Apr highest, otherwise 1-10, mostly at Ghadira. Singles on 5 days in Jun from 2-24th but 4 at Salina on last day. Main autumn migration from 3 Jul with almost daily sightings till 22 Sep. Highest numbers from mid-Jul to mid-Aug. Mostly in single figures but 14 at Ghallis on 22 Jul and max of 10 at Salina on 5 days in Jul. Most sightings at Ghadira and Salina. Then singles on 28 Sep; 17 Oct; on 6 days from 5-30 Nov and on 15 Dec.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* Monakella Imperjali

1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 11 May and at Bugibba on 4 Jun.

1988 : 1-2 daily at Ghadira from 10-14 May.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* Ciefa ta' Denbha

1988 : 1 off Qammieh on 1 Apr (light phase).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* Gawwija Rasha Sewda

1987 : On 27 dates from 2 Jan to 25 Mar; mostly in single to low double figures but 50+ on 8 Jan and 30+ on 19 Feb in Grand Harbour. Then 3-4 on 18-20th and 2 on 25 Apr at Sliema; and singles on 2-4th, 17-18th, 20th and 23 May. 2 on 15 Oct; singles on 4th and 6th, two sightings of 1-2 on 21st and 20+ off Ghallis on 22 Nov. 1 released at Ghadira on 8 Dec, present till end of year.

1988 : The bird at Ghadira present daily from Jan to 2 Dec; otherwise on 9 dates from 1 Jan to 26 Mar; mostly up to 14 but 35+ at Sliema on 1 Jan. Singles on 23-24 Oct and on 9 dates from 1 Nov to 3 Dec with 15 at Ghallis on 16 Nov highest. Almost all sightings at Ghallis. 6 at Ghadira on 8 Dec.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* Gawwija Zghira

1987 : Singles at Ghallis on 15th and at Valletta on 19 Jan.

1988 : Singles at Qammieh on 9 Jan and at Ghadira on 16 Feb; then 4 on 1st, 5 on 10th, 1 on 11th and 2 on 16 Nov. 11 sightings on 8 days in Dec from 3-22nd, mainly 1-2 but 3 at Ghadira on 22 Dec.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* Gawwija Rasha Kannella

1987 : Recorded frequently from Jan to mid-Mar mostly from the Grand Harbour where 200-400 on several days but 500+ on 8 Jan and 19 Feb. 50+ at same place on 25th and 3 on 28 Mar. 2 on 1st and singles on 6th and 18 Apr, 28th and 30 Jul, and 18-19 Aug. 1 on 25 Oct, then 1-30 almost daily from 4-24 Nov but 70+ off Ghallis on 6th. Up to 30 on most days in Dec but 50+ at St.Elmo Pt. on 25th. Most records from harbours and along the coast.

1988 : Wintering mostly in harbours in Jan-Feb; mainly 200-500 but 1000+ at Manoel Iste on 8 Jan and in Grand Harbour on 26 Feb. On 11 dates in Mar to 22nd, with 100+ on 8th highest. Singles on 3 Apr and 9 Jun. Singles on 5 days at Ghadira and Salina 12-31 Jul and on 8 Aug. Then 2 on 22nd and 10 on 29 Oct and almost daily from 2 Nov to end of year in harbours and along the coast with max of 200+ at Marsa on 22 Nov.

SLENDER-BILLED GULL *Larus genei* Gawwija Geddumha Rqiq

1987 : 1 at Qammieh on 21 Nov.

1988 : 3 at Qammieh on 19 Mar. 2-6 from 31 Jul to 2 Aug, then daily from 25 Aug to 5 Sep; mostly 1-2 but 5 on 27 Aug, all at Ghadira. 1 on 15th and 2 on 31 Oct, and 1 on 2 Nov at Ghallis.

- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* Gawwiġa Dahrha Iswed  
 1987 : Singles on 20th and 23 Mar, then daily at Ghadira from 10 Apr to 15 May; 9-10th and 14 Jun; 25-26 Oct and 2 on 4 Nov.  
 1988 : 1 at Ghallis on 16 Nov.
- YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans* Gawwiġa Prima  
 1987 : Present all the year except for a period between late Jun-mid Oct when only sporadic sightings. Highest numbers at the Filfla breeding colony where 200+ in early Jun, otherwise in single to double figures of up to 30 during the winter months, but 100+ at Ghar Lapsi on 7 Apr.  
 1988 : Mostly recorded along the coasts and in harbours throughout the year away from the breeding colonies. Highest numbers in winter with 150+ off Ghar Lapsi on 24 Jan and 120+ in Grand Harbour on 6 Nov. Fewer sightings between late Jun and late Sep.
- GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica* Cirkewwa Geddumha Ohxon  
 1987 : 2 on 13th and 18th, 1 on 28th and 4 on 29 Apr, all at Ghadira; 2 at Ghallis on 29 Aug; 2 at Ghajnsielem on 18th and 1 at Ghallis on 25 Oct; singles in Nov at Cirkewwa on 4th, Ghallis on 8th and 13th and at Comino on 26th.  
 1988 : 2 on 10 Mar and singles on 8 May and 24 Jun, all at Ghadira. Then 1 on 3rd, 9 on 17th, 1 on 18th and 2 on 21-22 Sep; 2 on 9th and 1 on 29 Oct; singles on 1st and 3 Nov, all at Ghallis.
- CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia* Cirkewwa Prima  
 1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 29-30 Apr and 1 killed at Luqa on 23 Oct.  
 1988 : 2 off Ghallis on 15th and at Ghadira on 30 Oct; and 1 again at Ghadira on 9 Nov.
- SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* Cirkewwa tax-Xitwa  
 1987 : Singles on 15th and 17 Jan. 1-5 on 4 days from 4-18 Oct and on 8 days from 4-18 Nov; mostly 1-6 but 10+ at Ghallis on 6th. 14 off Gammieh on 13 Dec. Most sightings at Ghallis.  
 1988 : Singles off L-Ahrax Pt. on 23 Jan and at Ghadira on 10-11 Mar; then 2 on 2 Sep, and 22 sightings on 17 dates from 15 Oct to 29 Nov; mostly 1-3 but 5+ at Ghallis on 10 Nov.
- COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* Cirkewwa tal-Bahar  
 1988 : Singles at Ghadira on 25 Jun and in Gozo on 2 Nov.
- LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* Cirkewwa Zohira  
 1988 : 1 at Ghadira on 13 May.
- WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybridus* Cirkewwa bil-Mustacci  
 1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 24 Jun and Delimara on 18 Nov.  
 1988 : Two records at Ghadira: 1 found freshly dead on 25 Jun and 2 on 5 Jul.
- BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* Cirkewwa Sewda  
 1987 : Singles at Mgarr, Gozo on 30 Apr, at Salina on 28 Jul and at Ghallis on 8 Sep.  
 1988 : 1 at Golden Bay on 2 Jun; 2 at Birzebbuga on 18th and singles at Ghadira on 25th and 29 Aug.
- WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* Cirkewwa tat-Gewnah Abjad  
 1988 : 2 at Dwejra, Gozo on 1 May and at St. Elmo Pt. on 5 Nov.
- 'MARSH TERNS' *Chlidonias sp.*  
 1987 : 1 at Ghadira on 16 Aug.  
 1988 : 3 at Sliema on 25 Aug, and 4 at Ghallis on 3 Sep.
- ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* Tudun tal-Gebel  
 1988 : 2 at Dwejra, Gozo on 9 Sep.
- WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* Tudun  
 1987 : Singles at Lunzjata on 7 Mar and at Ghadira on 2 Dec.  
 1988 : Influx in Nov: 30+ at Dwejra, Gozo and some at id-Delli on 7th, 20+ at Xaghra on 8th, 7 at Ghadira on 9th and 3 at Xaghra on 10th.
- TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Gamiema  
 1987 : 1 on 5th, then almost daily from 10 Apr to 31 May; in single to low double figures but 120+ (3 sites) in Gozo on 3 May; 1-2 on most days throughout Jun and

- 1-2 on 7 dates from 1 Jul to 1 Aug. On autumn migration almost daily from 30 Aug to 27 Sep with max of 5 at Buskett on 13 Sep, otherwise 1-4. Singles on 6th and on 14-16 Oct.
- 1988 : Singles on 17th, 26th and 31 Mar, then almost daily from 2 Apr to 31 May (most in mid-Apr to early May). In single to double figures of up to 35, but 350+ at Comino and 40+ at Ghadira on 24 Apr. Then 1-2 on most days in Jun but 6 at Bingemma on 12th, and 1-2 on 7 days from 9 Jul to 3 Aug. On autumn migration from 12 Aug when in single figures on a few dates till 3 Sep, then in single to double figures from various sites to 25 Sep, with 100+ on 10th, 70+ on 21st and c.60 on 16th, all at Buskett. 1-2 on 5 dates from 29 Sep to 15 Oct.
- CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* Daqqqa Kahla  
 1987 : Singles on 26th and 30 Mar; then 1-2 on most days from 10 Apr to 10 May but 4 at Bingemma on 29 Apr. Singles on 20 May; 16 Jul; 11th, 18th and 24 Aug; and on 27 Sep.  
 1988 : 1 on 10th and daily from 16-24 Apr with 4 at Portes Des Bombes on 21st, otherwise 1-2. Singles on 5 dates from 26 Apr to 4 May. In autumn 8 sightings of singles on 6 dates from 8-21 Sep.
- BARN OWL *Tyto alba* Barbagann  
 1987 : Singles in Gozo on 19 Jul, at Sliema on 5 Sep and 1 caught at Gozo on 20 Nov.  
 1988 : 1 on 26 Jan and 5 unfledged juveniles found dead at nest site on 19 May in Gozo.
- SCOPS OWL *Otus scops* Kokka  
 1987 : Singles at Bingemma on 20 Jan, 2-3 Apr, and 10 May, then at Zejtun on 30 May. In autumn again singles at Kapuccini Valley on 15th and at Lunzjafa on 28 Oct and on 8 Nov and at Bingemma on 15 Nov and 28 Dec.  
 1988 : In spring on 10 days from 18 Mar to 30 Apr; singles, except for 2 at Comino on 24 Apr. In autumn singles on 4 dates from 2-25 Oct, on 10 Nov and 13 Dec. Most sightings from Bingemma.
- LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* Gattus  
 1987 : 1 shot at Delimara on 16 Mar.
- SHOT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* Kokka fax-Xaghri  
 1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 15 Mar and at Xlendi on 2 Dec.  
 1988 : Singles at Qamzieh on 19 Mar, at Mgarr, Malta on 25 Sep (found injured) and at Ghallis on 30 Oct.
- NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* Buqrajq  
 1987 : Singles at Bingemma on 8-9th and 19 Apr, and from various sites in May on 1-2nd, 24th and 28-30th. 1-2 on 6 dates at Dwejra, Malta from 15-28 Sep.  
 1988 : 1 on 12th, then 10 sightings on 7 dates from 24 Apr to 21 May; singles except for 2 at Ramla on 1 May. In autumn singles on 9 dates from 6 Sep to 4 Oct, mostly at Dwejra, Malta. 1 at Xemxija on 21 Oct.
- SWIFT *Apus apus* Rundun  
 1987 : Almost daily sightings from 13 Mar to 13 Sep but with a slight decrease in Jul. Mostly in double figures but treble figures on 2 dates in May, 6 dates in Aug and once in Sep with 1000+ at Rabat and 300+ at Golden Bay on 9th and 300+ at Dwejra, Malta on 17, all in Aug. 1-3 on 6 dates from 19 Sep to 15 Oct.  
 1988 : 1 on 12th and 2 on 18th, then frequently from 23 Mar to 23 Sep with most sightings in May-Jun and in Sep. Mostly in double figures but in treble figures on a few days between May-Sep with 300+ at Dwejra, Malta on 30 May highest. Singles on 30 Sep and 2 Oct.
- PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus* Rundun Kannelli  
 1987 : 1 at Marsalforn on 15 Nov.  
 1988 : 1 at Dwejra, Malta on 4 Jun.
- ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* Rundun Zaqqu Bajda  
 1987 : 2 on 14th and 27 Mar; then 1-2 on 6 days from 4-26 Apr; 1 on 28 Jun; 2 on 7th and 1 on 13 Jul; 1 on 9th and 2 on 14 Sep; and singles on 17-18 Oct.  
 1988 : 8 sightings on 6 scattered dates from 3 Apr to 30 May; mostly 1-3 but 5 at Comino on 10 Apr. 3 on 13th and singles on 25 Jun and 9 Jul. In autumn 5 sightings of singles on 2 dates - 16th and 21 Sep.



KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* Ghasfur fa' San Martin

- 1987 : 1-2 daily at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 17 Mar. In autumn again daily at Ghadira from 5 Aug to year end; mostly 1-2 but 3 on 6 dates in Sep-Oct. Only 3 sightings of singles outside Ghadira: on 13th and 29 Sep and 19 Oct.
- 1988 : 1-2 daily at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 23 Mar and singles on 30-31 Mar. In autumn daily from 17 Jul to end of year at Ghadira; mostly 1-3 but 4-5 from mid-Sep to mid-Oct. 7 sightings of singles outside Ghadira.

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster* Qerd in-Nahal

- 1987 : Singles on 5 Apr and 2 May; then 6 on 20th and 14 sightings on 6 days from 25-31 May; mainly up to 10 but 100+ at Bahrija on 28 May; 8 on 18th and 1 on 24 Jun; then on 4 dates from 20-28 Sep with 50+ at Zebbug on 27th highest, otherwise 1-15.
- 1988 : In spring 13 sightings on 9 dates from 11 Apr to 24 May with 10 at L-Ikkin on 12 Apr highest, otherwise 1-6. 6 on 12th and 1 on 22 Jun. In autumn, 9 sightings in Sep with 50+ at Lunzjata on 12th and 1-7 on 5 dates from 19-30th.

ROLLER *Coracias garrulus* Farrug

- 1987 : 1 at Dwejra, Malta on 4 Sep.
- 1988 : Flock of 7 over Buskett on 9th and 1 at Marsa on 10 Sep.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* Daqqqa tat-Ioppu

- 1987 : In spring, 40 sightings on 20 dates from 19 Mar to 26 Apr; mainly 1-3 but 10+ at Qammieh on 19 Apr and 8 shot at Bahrija on 6 Apr. Singles on 3rd, 9th and 29 May, 7 Jun and 13 Jul; then 1-2 on 6 days from 9 Aug to 2 Oct but 3+ at Dwejra, Malta on 14 Aug.
- 1988 : 1 on 5th, then 32 sightings on 21 days from 16 Mar to 24 Apr; mostly 1-5 but 10+ at Dwejra, Malta on 23 Mar. Singles on 3rd and 8 May and 24 Jun. 2 on 27 Jul and 1 in early Aug. Then main autumn migration from 15 Aug to 21 Sep when 17 sightings on 14 days with 5 at Qala on 8 Sep highest, otherwise 1-3.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* Bulebbiet

- 1987 : Singles on 1 Jan, 3rd and 9 Feb; then on 14 dates from 20 Mar to 28 Apr; in singles but 2 at Comino on 26 Apr. In autumn early bird on 10 Aug then singles on 8 dates from 12-30 Sep, followed by 1-3 on most days from 9 Oct to end of year with a peak from 18-28 Oct.
- 1988 : Singles on most days from 2 Jan to 25 Mar when recorded at 8 different sites. Almost daily from 3-22 Apr; mainly 1-2 but 10+ at Comino on 10th and 4 at Dwejra, Gozo on 3-4th. In autumn 1 on 29 Aug, then almost daily from 2 Sep to end of year with highest numbers from late Sep to late Oct. Mainly 1-3 but c.5 on 26 Sep and 4+ on 2 Oct, both at Buskett.

CALANDRA LARK *Melanocorypha calandra* Kalandra

- 1987 : 1 in Gozo on 27 Mar.

SHCR1-1OED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* Bilbla

- 1987 : Present at various sites from 22 Mar to mid-Sep with a few irregularly till 7 Oct. Mostly in single to double figures with max of 75 at Dwejra, Malta on 31 Aug. Highest numbers from mid-Apr to mid-May and early Aug - mid-Sep due to presence of migrants. Breeding as usual.
- 1988 : First sighting on 16th, then commonly seen from 31 Mar to 23 Sep. Passage birds more evident from Apr to mid-May and mid-Aug to mid-Sep. Highest counts were of 80+ on Comino on 24 Apr and at Dwejra, Malta on 1 Sep.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* Alwetta

- 1987 : Wintering in small numbers in Jan-Feb but 20+ at Ta' Cenc on 7 Feb. Return passage evident from late Feb to 29 Mar; when in single to low double figures but 60+ (3 sites) on 14 Mar. 1-4 on 6 dates from 5-26 Apr. In autumn, singles on 1st and 5th, then daily from 9 Oct to end of year; often in high double figures with highest numbers during the peak migration from mid-Oct to mid-Nov. But treble figures on 3 Nov with 600+ from Ghadira and Xemxija and 150+ at Mosta on 23 Oct. In smaller numbers after mid-Nov with 20+ on 12 Dec highest.
- 1988 : In single to low double figures from 1 Jan to 23 Mar with a small return passage evident in Mar with max of 20+ at Mosta on last date. Singles on 3rd and 6 Apr. In autumn, 1 on 27 Sep then daily from 2 Oct to late Nov with peak period from mid Oct to early Nov. Often in double figures with max of 70 at Dwejra, Malta on 16th and at Ghallis on 25 Oct. Up to 20+, mostly in Gozo, till end of year.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* Hawwiefax-Xtuf

- 1987 : Up to 10 on 6 days from 16-26 Mar, then on most days from 7 Apr to 31 May with

a peak from 15-22 May when in high double figures (max 80+) mostly at Ghadira; otherwise up to 30. In autumn, 1 on 30 Aug and on most days from 3-29 Sep, then almost daily from 8-22 Oct. Usually 1-10 but 20 at Buskett on 20 Sep.

- 1988 : In spring, 1-2 on 4 dates from 8-18 Mar and 1-30 on 5 dates from 3-16th; then almost daily from 18 Apr to 21 May; mainly in single to medium double figures but treble figures in mid-May with 100+ at Ghadira on 13th and 200+ again at Ghadira and 100+ at Lunjata on 14th. 1-2 on 5 dates from 26 May to 2 Jun. In autumn, 2 on 30 Aug and 2 Sep, then almost daily from 8 Sep to 9 Oct with max of 100+ at Ghadira on 21 Sep, otherwise only up to 20.

CRAG MARTIN *Ptyctoprogne rupestris* Hawwiefal-Blat

1988 : 1 at Ramla on 30 Apr.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* Huttafa

1987 : 1 on 1st, then daily from 11 Mar to 10 Jun with highest numbers from mid-Mar to mid-May when mostly in double to low treble figures with 250+ at Ghadira on 16 Apr high est. Up to 80 after late Apr. 1-3 on 6 dates from 13-28 Jun; 2 on 10th and 3 on 13-28 Jun; 2 on 10th and 3 on 13 Jul. In autumn 2 on 23rd and 4 on 31 Aug; then daily from 5 Sep to 2 Nov with a peak from mid-Sep to late Oct when mostly in high double figures but also in low treble figures on a few dates mostly in Oct with max of 250 at Ghallis on 11th. Singles on 8-9th and 17 Nov.

- 1988 : In spring, 15+ on 4th and 1-6 frequently to 16th, then daily from 19 Mar to 31 May with most from early Apr to mid-May. Mostly in double figures with low treble figures only in May; highest 200+ at Ghadira on 14th. 1-3 on most days in Jun from 2-26th. 2 on 6th and singles on 12th, 27th and 29 Jul; 1st and 29 Aug. Then daily from 2 Sep to 1 Nov, with treble figures almost daily from early Sep to mid-Oct. Highest counts were 800 at Buskett on 16th, 500 at Lunjata on 8th and 400 at Dwejra, Malta on 30th, all in Sep. 1-3 on 11 dates from 3-26 Nov and 1 on 13 Dec.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* Regina tal-Huttaf

1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 22 Mar; at Lunjata on 14th and again at Ghadira on 17 Apr; and at Buskett on 22-23 Sep.

- 1988 : 2 at Bingenma on 11th and singles at Ghadira on 13th and 24 Apr, and 15 May. 1 at Dingli on 2 Oct.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* Hawwiefal

1987 : 6 on 24th and 1 on 25 Feb at Ghadira; then up to 10 on several days from 1-20th and almost daily from 22 Mar to 8 Jun. Most in mid- late Apr and in mid-May when frequently seen in treble figures, highest 400+ at Dwejra, Malta on 28th and 300+ at Ghadira on 16-17th, both dates in Apr. Singles on 18th and 27th, and 3 on 28 Jun and 1 on 13 Jul. In autumn up to 30 on most days from 10-30 Sep and then almost daily from 7-24 Oct when mainly in single to medium double figures but 300+ at Lunjata on 12th. 3 on 31 Oct and 8 Nov; two sightings in Dec: 3 on 8th and 2 on 10th.

- 1988 : Almost daily sightings in spring from 5 Mar to 4 Jun with a peak in May. Up to 30 till 20 Apr, then in high double to low treble figures till late May, with max of 300 at Ghadira on 14 May. Singles on 12th, 16th and 26 Jun. In autumn 3 on 31 Aug, then on several days from 8 Sep to 17 Oct; mostly in single to medium double figures but 100+ at Ghadira on 23 Sep. 2 on 25 Oct, and on 3 dates in Nov: c.15 at Wied Il-Luq on 10th, 1 on 20th and 2 on 27th.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris* Bilblun

1987 : In spring 1-3 on 5 days from 17 Apr to 1 May. In autumn 1-3 on 11 dates from 8 Sep to 17 Oct.

- 1988 : 1 on 25 Mar, then on 6 dates from 3-12 Apr; mainly 1-2 but 20 at Ia' Cenc / Xlendi on 5th. 1 on 12th and 2 on 17 May. In autumn singles on 29 Aug and 3rd, 7th and 11th, then 1-5 almost daily from 18-30 Sep. Late singles on 13 Oct and 7 Dec.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* Dizz

1987 : First sighting on 14th, then daily from 20 Mar to 4 May, in single to low double figures with max of 40 at Ghadira on 16 Apr. then 1-3 on 7 dates from 7-30 May. In autumn singles frequently from 19 Aug, then daily from 7 Sep to 18 Oct, highest 10 + on 21 Sep and 15 Oct, otherwise up to 8; then 1-2 on 11 dates from 20 Oct to 10 Nov.

- 1988 : Singles on 15-17th and 20th, then daily from 22 Mar to 2 May; mostly in double figures of up to 50, but 150+ on 5 Apr and 100+ on 23 Mar and a heavy passage on 24 Apr with 3000+ over Comino. Then on 8 days from 5-25 May with max of 5 on 14th otherwise 1-2. In autumn, 2-3 on 4 days from 20-30 Aug; then daily in varying

numbers, highest 70 at Dwejra on 20 Sep from 4 Sep to 9 Oct, and 1-3 on 9 dates from 11-30 Oct. Late singles on 11th and 19 Nov.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* Pespus

1987 : Wintering at various sites during Jan-Feb mainly in single to low double figures, with a small return passage in Mar when highest 50+ at Ia' Qali on 10th, otherwise up to 30. Then in single figures to 5 Apr. In autumn, 1 on 14th then daily sightings from 17 Oct to end of year with highest numbers from mid-Oct to mid-Nov when mostly in double figures, but 100+ at Dwejra, Malta on 25 Oct and 1 Nov, and at Bingenma on 7 Nov.

1988 : In single to low double figures in Jan-Feb with max of 30+ in Gozo on 26 Jan. Increase in daily sightings in Mar due to migrants when mostly up to 10 but 15+ on 16th. Then on most days in Apr to 17th with 10+ on 7th. Daily in autumn from 13 Oct to end of year with a peak from late Oct to late Nov when occasionally in high double figures but 150+ on 28 Oct and 100+ on 9 Nov at Bingenma. Smaller numbers in Dec.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* Dizz Ahmar

1987 : 1 on 7th, 1-3 at Munxar on 17-19 Apr, and 1 on 9 May. In autumn 6 sightings of 1-5 from 11-21 Oct and singles daily from 1-3 Nov. 1-2 at Ghadira in Dec from 5-23rd.

1988 : 1 on 27 Mar, then 18 sightings of 1-6 on 12 dates in Apr from 5-25th, and 1 on 6 May. Most at Munxar. Singles on 11th and 20 Oct.

WATER/ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* Dizz Ia' l-Ilma

1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 3-5th, 10th and 12 Nov. All birds belonged to *littoralis*.

1988 : Singles belonging to *littoralis* on 18th, 24-25th and 27 Oct and on 4th and 17-18 Nov. 1 on 23 Oct, then almost daily in Dec; mostly 1-2 but 3 on 12th, belonged to *spinoletta*. All records of both races at Ghadira.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Isfar

1987 : 1-2 on 13-15th, then daily from 19 Mar to 27 May with most from mid-Mar to late Apr; in single to double figures of up to 40 but 60 at Ghadira on 4 Apr. Then 1-2 on 4 days from 30 May to 7 Jun and 1 on 26 Jun. Singles at Salina on 20th and 27 Jul. In autumn, single figures on most days from 5 Aug becoming daily, mostly in medium double figures, from 30 Aug to 25 Oct with 60 at Buskett on 23rd and 60 at Dwejra, Malta on 30 Sep highest, and 1-2 on 8 days at Ghadira from 29 Oct to 20 Nov.

1988 : In spring, 1-5 on 7 dates from 6-20th, then daily from 23 Mar to 24 May with a peak from early Apr to mid-May when mostly in double figures but low treble figures on 5 days in Apr, max 550+ from 3 localities on 5 Apr. Then on most days from 26 May to 27 Jul, mainly 1-3 but 6 at Salina on 27 Jul and 4 at Ghadira on 1 Jun. In single figures on most days from 1 Aug, then daily in double figures from 27 Aug to 18 Oct but treble figures almost daily from early Sep to early Oct. Highest numbers were of roosting birds at Ghadira with 500-600 frequently from 13-24 Sep. 1-5 on 6 days from 20 Oct to 8 Nov and 1 on 7 Dec.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* Zakak tad-Dell

1987 : Wintering in single figures in Jan-Mar to 16th, mostly 1-4 but 5 at Lunzjata on 24-25 Jan. 1 on 30 Sep and 2 on 1st and 3rd, then daily from 7 Oct to 9 Nov with max of 10 at Lunzjata on 17 Oct otherwise up to 5. 1-3 frequently sighted from 11 Nov to end of year.

1988 : Frequent sightings in Jan-Mar to 14th; mainly 1-2 but 5 at Ghadira on 29 Jan. Singles on 3rd and 7 Apr. In autumn from 25 Sep with a peak from mid-Oct to mid-Nov when mostly up to 6 but 10+ at Lunzjata on 6 Nov. 1-3 on most days after 26 Nov.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* Zakak Abjad

1987 : Single to low double figures at various sites in Jan-Feb with an increase in sightings due to migrants in Mar with max of 50 at Lunzjata on 8th. 1-2 till 17 Apr. In autumn, 1 on 2nd then daily from 6 Oct to end of year with most from mid-Oct to late Nov. Mostly in double figures but 900+ over Bellissimeh on 24 Nov were counted on their way to the roosting grounds at Valletta where no counts were made. Smaller numbers in Dec.

1988 : Up to 25 in Jan-Mar to 27th, but 400+ were roosting at Victoria, Gozo on 1 Jan and 50+ on 26 Jan over Valletta where no proper counts were made. 1-2 frequently till 20 Apr. Singles on 25-26 Sep, then daily from 2 Oct to end of year with a peak from mid-Oct to mid-Nov; up to 50 on a few days but 100+ at Marsa on 15 Oct and 12 Nov. A decrease in numbers evident in Dec.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* Bunistur

1987 : 1 at Buskett on 31 Dec.

1988 : Singles at Naxxar on 22 Jan; at Lunzjata on 1 Apr; at Ghadira on 15 Nov; and at Wied Speranza on 13th and 25 Dec.

DUNNOCK *Frunella modularis* Ziemel

1987 : Single to low double figures in Jan-Mar to 20th; highest numbers in Jan with max of 100 at Bingemma on 1st, then 1-2 on 4 days from 27 Mar to 2 Apr. From 21 Oct in autumn when daily till end of year; mostly up to 15 but 25+ at Ghadira on 7 Nov. Highest numbers in Nov.

1988 : Present from Jan-Mar to 20th when mostly up to 10 but 15+ at Buskett on 16 Jan. Smaller numbers in Mar. Daily sightings from 16 Oct till end of year with a peak from late Oct to mid-Dec; mainly up to 20 but 25+ at Ghadira on 9 Nov.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* Pitirross

1987 : Single to medium double figures in most places from Jan to early Apr but up to 100 at Bingemma on 6 dates. A small return passage evident in Mar. 1-5 frequently to 26 Apr, then singles on 11 days from 18 May to 22 Jun; and 1-2, mainly at Bingemma and San Anton, during Jul-Aug. In single figures from 3 Sep, reaching double figures by 3 Oct with main migration period between mid-Oct and late Nov. High double figures on most days but 100+ on a few days, mostly at Bingemma, in Nov-Dec.

1988 : Low double figures in Jan - early Apr with up to 50 at Bingemma and Buskett on a few dates. An increase in sightings in Mar due to return passage. 1-3 occasionally to 25 Apr and 1-2 in May-Aug, mainly at Bingemma, Buskett and Marsa. Single figures from 1 Sep, reaching double figures from 25 Sep when daily till end of year. Peak period between early Oct and late Nov when in low treble figures on several days with max of 150 on a few dates, mainly at Bingemma. Smaller numbers in Dec but up to 100 at Bingemma and Buskett.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* Rozinjol

1987 : 1 on 17-18th, then daily from 21 Mar to 12 May with a peak in Apr; mostly 1-8 but 10 at Comino on 26 Apr. Singles at Bingemma on 6 dates from 23-31 May. In autumn, singles on 23rd, then on most days from 28 Aug to 15 Oct when mainly up to 5 but 10 at Bingemma on 3 Oct.

1988 : In spring, 1 on 20th then daily from 23 Mar to 2 May with most in Apr: mostly 1-12 but 60+ at Dwejra, Gozo on 3rd and 25+ at Comino on 24 Apr. Then singles on 4 dates from 10-29 May. 1 at Bingemma on 2nd and 31 Jul. On most days in autumn from 7 Aug to 12 Oct with a peak in Sep when daily from 8-28th; max of 20 at Dwejra, Gozo on 9th and at Bingemma on 19 Sep, otherwise 1-15.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* Kudirross Blu

1987 : 2 on 19th and 1 on 26 Mar and singles on 23 Sep, 5th and 9 Oct, all at Ghadira. Then singles at Lunzjata on 17 Oct and at Xerxija on 10 Nov.

1988 : Singles at Ghadira on 23-24 Mar. In autumn singles on 23 Sep and on 1-2 Oct, 2 on 9th, then singles on 11th, 16th, 18th and 24th, all in Oct, and 2 on 24 Nov. All autumn records from Ghadira and Xerxija.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* Kudirross Iswed

1987 : Up to 4 wintering in suitable areas in Jan-Feb but 15 at Ta' Cenc on 1 Jan. Small return passage evident in Mar to 28th, when mostly 1-5, but 10 at Qammieh on 20th. 1 on 15th, then from 24 Oct onwards, mainly in single figures but 15-15 occasionally in Nov-Dec.

1988 : Single figures in Jan-Mar to 27th (higher numbers from late Feb), with max of 8 at Bombes on 21 Mar. Singles on 1-2 Apr. In autumn from 15 Oct onwards, with most from late Oct; mostly 1-10 but 12 at Sghajter on 29 Oct and 20+ at Sarrafu on 27 Dec.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Kudirross

1987 : 1 on 20th, then 1-4 on most days from 31 Mar to 30 Apr and singles on 12 dates from 2-29 May. Higher numbers in autumn with 1 on 31 Aug, and 1-3 on most dates to 17 Sep; then daily from 19th to 19 Oct; mostly 1-5 but up to 10 at Wied il-Luq on 20-21 Sep, at Bingemma on 3rd and at Muxar on 14 Oct. Singles on 21st and 23 Oct.

1988 : In spring 1 on 19 Mar, then almost daily from 3-28 Apr; mostly 1-6 but 20+ at Comino on 24 Apr. Singles on 4 dates in May from 2-21st. In autumn, almost daily from 6 Sep to 17 Oct with max of 4 at Wied il-Luq on 12 Oct, otherwise 1-5. Singles on 22 Oct and 6 Nov.

- WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Bucaqq tas-Silla  
 1987 : In spring 1-5 on most days from 5 Apr to 2 Jun but 30+ at Comino on 26 Apr. Most sightings from mid-Apr to early May. In autumn 1-2 on 6 dates from 6-29 Sep and 1 on 18 Oct.  
 1988 : Almost daily sightings in spring from 3 Apr to 13 May with a peak in late Apr; influx on 24 Apr with 150+ at Comino otherwise in single to low double figures. In autumn 1-2 on 8 days from 6 Sep to 8 Oct.
- STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* Bucaqq tax-Xitwa  
 1987 : Wintering in various places in Jan-Mar to 25th, with a small return passage evident in Mar. Mostly 1-10 but 20+ at Qammieh on 14 Mar. In autumn from 7 Oct, reaching double figures by 17th. Peak from mid-Oct to mid-Nov, max 50+ at Ghadira on 21 Oct. Smaller numbers in Dec.  
 1988 : Sightings of up to 15 from a few areas in Jan-Mar to 19th, then 1 on 3-4 Apr. In autumn from 24 Sep onwards with a peak from mid-Oct to mid-Nov when mostly in double figures of up to 40 but 60+ at Ghadira on 20 Oct. A decrease in sightings evident in Dec with 20+ at Ghajn Rihana on 15th highest.
- ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina* Kuda Izabellina  
 1987 : Singles in Gozo on 27th and at Ghallis on 29 Mar.
- WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* Kuda  
 1987 : Spring migration from 13 Mar when almost daily till 26 Apr; mostly up to 15 but 30+ at Qammieh and 20 at Ta' Cenc on 19 Apr. Then 1-2 on most days from 1-9 May and singles on 29 May, 2nd and 7 Jun. In autumn almost daily from 18 Aug to 28 Oct, with no clear peak; mainly up to 6 but 10 at Qammieh on 18 Sep.  
 1988 : Almost daily in spring from 22 Mar to 30 Apr with a peak from early - mid-Apr when mostly in low double figures but 50+ at Ta' Cenc on 5th, at Sarraflu on 7th and at Comino on 17th. Singles on 6th, 14th and 30 May. First in autumn on 19 Aug, then daily from 26 Aug to 30 Sep with max of 15 on 5th at Delimara and on 6th at Gharb, otherwise 1-10. Singles on 6 dates from 2-24 Oct.
- BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica* Kuda Dumnikana  
 1987 : 13 sightings on 10 days from 5 Apr to 4 May; mostly 1-2 but 6 at Ta' Cenc on 19th and at Comino on 26 Apr. Singles on 23 May and 3 Jun. In autumn 1 on 7th, 2 on 15th and 1 on 25 Sep, and 1 on 2 Oct.  
 1988 : In spring 18 sightings on 15 dates from 3-30 Apr; mostly 1-2 but 6+ at Comino and 3 at Paradise Bay on 17th. 2 at Il-Qaws on 26 May. 1 on 21 Aug; then 2 on 1st, and singles on 2nd, 9th and 27 Sep.
- ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis* Ganublu  
 1987 : 1 at Qammieh on 29 Mar; 3 on 20th and 2 on 22 Apr at Dwejra, Malta. In autumn singles on 4 dates from 12-20 Sep at Ghadira and Bingemma.  
 1988 : In spring 11 sightings on 10 dates in Apr from 3-26th, with most in early Apr; mostly singles but 3 at Dwejra, Malta on 10th and 2 at Sghajtar on 5th. 1 singing at Bingemma on 12 Jun and 2 sightings of singles in Sep: at Buskett on 12th and Dwejra, Malta on 22nd.
- BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius* Merill  
 1987 : Breeding along the coastal cliffs in stable numbers with up to 10 in favourite areas. Higher numbers in post-breeding period with 20+ at Qammieh in Sep. A few inland in Aug-Nov due to dispersal of young.  
 1988 : Numbers the same as previous year from the usual breeding sites. Also found inland in Jan-Mar and Jul-Nov.
- RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* Malvizz tas-Sidra Bajda  
 1988 : 1 at Ghadira on 1 Dec.
- BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* Malvizz Iswed  
 1987 : 4 sightings of 1-3 from 3-19 Jan; singles on 14th and 20 Feb, and 6 sightings at Ghadira from 9-27 Mar. 1-3 on 11 dates from 29 Oct to 26 Nov with most in early Nov; then singles on 4 dates from 10-29 Dec.  
 1988 : 1 on 24th, then almost daily from 29 Oct to end of year; mostly 1-3 but 14 at Ghadira and 5+ at Xemxija on 9th and 4 at the same place on 17 Nov.
- FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* Malvizzun tal-Ot'ajja'  
 1987 : 2 at Floriana on 16th and 30+ at Fomm Ir-Rih on 25 Jan; 1 at Ghadira on 9th and c.10 at Zejtun on 13 Nov.

1988 : 11 sightings in Nov from 6-26th: mostly singles but 15 at Bahar Ic-Caghaq on 17th and 3 at Ghadira on 14th and at Mellieha on 18th; 6 sightings in Dec from 10-31st, in singles but 2 at Buskett on 24th and 4 at La' Pinu on 28th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* Malvizz

1987 : Up to 10 wintering in suitable areas in Jan-Feb but 20+ at Dwejra, Malta on 23 Jan. Small return passage evident in Mar with max of 50 at Buskett on 8th and 30+ at Gammieh on 14th, otherwise in single to low double figures. Singles on 2-7th and 14 Apr. In autumn 1 on 13 Sep, then almost daily from 10 Oct to end of year with a peak from mid-Oct to early Nov when mostly up to 30 but 35+ at Ghadira on 21st and 26 Oct. Smaller numbers in Dec.

1988 : Low single figures in Jan-Feb but 10 at Buskett on 16 Jan, then on most days in Mar with max of 12 at Portes Des Bombes on 21st, otherwise 1-4. A few singles till 11 Apr. In autumn singles on 1st and 3rd, then daily sightings from 8 Oct to end of year with a peak from mid-Oct to mid-Nov when mostly in double figures of up to 50, but 300+ at Dwejra, Malta on 28 Oct. Smaller numbers in Dec with max of 20 at Buskett on 13th.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* Malvizz Ahmar

1987 : Almost daily from 15-31 Jan with max of 15 at Bingemma on 18th, otherwise 1-10; then 7 on 6th and 1 on 24 Feb, and 5 on 8 Mar. In autumn, 1-2 on 6 dates from 1-27 Nov and 2 on 12 Dec, mostly at Ghadira.

1988 : 2 on 15th and 1 on 30 Jan. 3 on 9th and 1-2 on 5 dates from 16-26 Nov, but 8+ at Bingemma on 18th. Then 1-5 almost daily in Dec from 11-31st. Most sightings at Ghadira and Bingemma.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* Malvizzun Prim

1987 : Singles at Dwejra, Malta on 25 Oct and 1 Nov.

1988 : 4 sightings in Nov with 20+ at Dwejra, Gozo on 7th, 4 at Ghadira on 9th, 1 at Xemxija on 14th and 3 at Bahar Ic-Caghaq on 17th. 1 at L-Ahrax on 11 Dec.

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

1987 : Breeding at usual sites offering suitable habitat. As usual an increase in the post breeding period with 15+ at Buskett on 14 Jun highest.

1988 : Breeding in same numbers as previous year in the usual localities. Up to 10 mostly at Bingemma in late May to Aug.

FAN-TAILED WARBLER *Cisticola juncidis* Baghal ta' L-Imrewha

1987 : Commonly breeding. Mainly in medium double figures in various areas between Mar and Nov with max of 60 at Marsalforn on 2 Aug. Smaller numbers in Jan-Feb and in Dec.

1988 : Breeding almost everywhere. In double figures throughout the year but higher numbers from Apr to Oct when up to 50 at Ghadira on most days. Numbers very much lower in Dec.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* Baghal tal-Gurati

1987 : 1 at Belliegha, Gozo on 9 Oct.

RIVER WARBLER *Locustella fluviatilis* Baghal tax-Xmajjar

1988 : 1 at Ghadira on 20 May.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides* Baghal Ahmar

1987 : Singles at Ghadira on 26 Apr and at Buskett on 3 Sep.

MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Acrocephalus melanopogon* Baghal Qastni

1987 : Singles at Lunzjata on 30 Oct and 1 Nov and on 8 dates at Ghadira from 7-19 Nov; mostly singles but 2 on 18th.

1988 : 1-3 on 14 days from 29 Oct to 24 Nov mostly at Ghadira but also at Xemxija. Singles at Lunzjata on 26-27 Dec.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Baghal tas-Simar

1987 : 1 on 7th and 2 on 10 Mar then on 22 dates from 5 Apr to 30 May; mostly 1-2 but 3 at Munxar on 30 Apr. 1 on 8 Jun. In autumn singles on 3 dates from 11-16 Sep and again from 2-19 Oct. Most sightings from Ghadira.

1988 : Singles on 16th and 20 Mar; then on most days from 2 Apr to 30 May with most in early Apr and mid-late May. Mainly 1-6 but 20+ on 14 May and 10+ on 6 Apr and 22 May, all at Lunzjata. Singles on 3 dates from 2-12 Jun. In autumn singles on 9th and 20 Aug; then 10 sightings of 1-2 on 7 days from 10 Sep to 4 Oct, and singles on 24-25 Oct. Most autumn sightings at Ghadira and Xemxija.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* Baghal fal-Qasab

- 1987 : Singles on 4 dates from 3-23 Apr at Lunzjata and Xemxija, and at Ghadira on 26 May. In autumn 1-5 almost daily from 4 Aug to 21 Oct.
- 1988 : In spring, 2 on 5th and singles at 2 sites on 30 Apr; 4 at Lunzjata on 14th and singles on 15th, 26th and 29 May. In autumn, 1 on 11th, 2 sightings of singles on 24th and 2 on 31 Jul; then almost daily from 3 Aug to 8 Nov with most sightings in Sep. Mostly 1-5 but 20+ in Gozo and 10+ at Ghadira on 21 Sep.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* Baghal Prim

- 1987 : In spring, on most days from 5 Apr to 13 May with a peak in mid-Apr; mainly 1-2 but 3 at Ghadira on 16 Apr. Then singles on 23-24 and 25-29 May. In autumn, singles on 22 Aug; 20th and 22 Sep; and on 8 dates from 8 Oct to 1 Nov. Most sightings at Ghadira and Xemxija.
- 1988 : Singles on 24th and 28 Mar, then 1-3 almost daily from 3-28 Apr but 4 at Xemxija on 25th, and singles in May on 10th, 14th and 19th. In autumn, 18 sightings of 1-2 on 15 dates from 10 Aug to 6 Oct - daily from 9-14 Sep. Most at Ghadira.

OLIVACEOUS WARBLER *Hippolais pallida* Bekkafik Griz

- 1987 : 1 at San Anton on 22 Jun.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* Bekkafik Isfar

- 1987 : In spring, 5 on 5th and 1 on 28 Apr, then 1-4 almost daily from 1 May to 7 Jun but 10+ at Bingemma on 24 May. In autumn 1-3 on 8 dates from 18 Aug to 21 Sep and singles on 10th and 14-15 Oct.
- 1988 : Singles on 25th and 29-30 Apr, then on most days from 1-30 May - daily from 11-22nd - up to 6 but 10+ at Bingemma on 22 May. In autumn 1 on 6 Aug, then 24 sightings on 13 dates from 8-28 Sep: mostly 1-3 but 10+ at Lunzjata on 12th. Singles on 4th and 9 Oct.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata* Bufula tax-Xaghri

- 1987 : 1 at Gammieh on 19 Dec.
- 1988 : Singles at Griebeg Pt. on 22 Nov and at Has-Saptan on 14 Dec.

SPECIACLED WARBLER *Sylvia conspicillata* Bufula Hamra

- 1987 : Present at various sites in small numbers with highest numbers in Apr-Oct. Highest 10+ at la' Cenc on 14 Oct.
- 1988 : An increase in numbers and presence at more sites evident over previous year. Highest count was of c.20 on the south coast of Gozo on 16 Mar and up to 15 in Jun at Saghjar.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* Bufula Passajra

- 1987 : 1 on 3rd, then almost daily from 13 Mar to 4 May, with most from late Mar to mid-Apr. Mainly in single figures but 10+ at Ghadira on 25 Mar, 14 Apr and 4 May (when also at Bingemma). Singles on 7th, 12th and 31 May. In autumn 1 on 1st and 1-3 on most days from 14-30 Jul, then daily from 3 Aug to 22 Sep with highest numbers from mid-Aug to mid-Sep; low double figures on most days with max of 45 at Bingemma on 16 Aug. Again almost daily from 25 Sep to 17 Oct mainly 1-5 but 8+ on 3 Oct.
- 1988 : 1 on 21st, then almost daily from 23 Mar to 30 Apr with a peak in early Apr; max 70 on 3rd and 40 on 4th at Dwejra, Gozo, otherwise 1-10. In autumn, singles on 3rd and 7th, then almost daily sightings from 16 Jul to 25 Sep with most from late Jul to mid-Sep. In single to low double figures with up to 20 on 4 dates in Sep, mostly at Bingemma. 4 sightings of 1-2 from 8-17 Oct and late bird at Ghadira on 4 Nov.

SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala* Bufula Sowda

- 1987 : Common breeding resident in stable numbers throughout the year with a slight increase from late Jul to Oct.
- 1988 : Commonly breeding throughout the islands in stable numbers.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* Bekkafik Irmiedi

- 1987 : 2 at Bingemma on 19 Sep and 1 at Ghadira on 16 Oct.
- 1988 : Singles at Bingemma on 25th and at Ghadira on 27 Sep; and at Wied Il-Luq on 14 Nov.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* Bekkafik Ahmar

- 1987 : In spring 1-5 on 4 days from 4-16th, then single figures almost daily from 20 Apr to 29 May with max of 10+ at Comino on 26 Apr and at Bingemma on 1-2nd and 12 May. In autumn singles on 26 Sep and on 7 days from 1-15 Oct.
- 1988 : In spring on most days from 4 Apr to 22 May with most sightings in Apr. Mostly

1-10 but 20+ at Comino on 24 Apr. Singles on 6th and 12 Jun and on 24 Jul. Then 1-2 on 7 days from 9-25 Sep and 1 on 1 Oct.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* Bekkafik

1987 : In spring, 1-2 on most days from 5-30 Apr, then daily sightings in May when mostly in double figures of up to 35 but 100+ on 24th, 60+ 23rd and 50 on 25th, all at Bingemma. On autumn migration almost daily from 15 Aug to 26 Oct with most from early Sep to mid-Oct; single to low double figures of up to 25 but 30+ on 20-21 Sep at Wied Il-Luq. Late bird at Bingemma on 15 Nov.

1988 : 2 on 8th and 1 on 14th, then almost daily from 20 Apr to 30 May with highest numbers in May when mostly in medium to high double figures at Bingemma where max of 100+ on 15th. 5 on 5th, and singles on 12th and 29 Jun. In autumn 1 on 8th, then almost daily from 14 Aug to 17 Oct with most from late Aug to late Sep. Single to double figures of up to 40 but 50+ on 4 dates in Sep at Bingemma. Singles on 24 Oct, 1st, 6th and 22 Nov.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* Kapinera

1987 : In varying numbers - single to high double figures - in Jan-Mar with highest numbers at Buskett and Bingemma, but with max of 200 at Buskett on 30 Jan and up to 100 on 3 other days. Then single figures regularly till 24 Apr and singles on 6th, 10th and 25 May; 6th and 23 Jun. In autumn 1-2 on 3 dates from 19-26 Sep; then 1-5 on most days from 3 Oct onwards but 10 at Buskett on 25 Nov and on 3 Dec.

1988 : Wintering in small numbers in Jan-Mar, highest at Buskett where 50+ on 3 Jan. A few regularly till 20 Apr and 1 on 26 May. In autumn in single figures regularly from 9 Sep, then almost daily from 1 Oct; mainly in single to low double figures of up to 30 but 50+ at Buskett on 30 Oct and at Has-Saptan on 27 Dec. Higher numbers in Dec.

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

1987 : 1 ringed at Lunzjata on 25 Oct.

1988 : 1 ringed at Xemxija on 26 Oct.

PALLAS'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus* Vjolin ta' Pallas

1987 : 1 ringed at Rabat on 13 Nov.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* Vjolin tal-Faxx

1987 : 1 at Lunzjata on 17 Oct.

1988 : Singles at Lunzjata on 9th and at Bingemma on 22 Oct.

BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* Vjolin Bajdani

1987 : Singles at San Anton on 29 Mar and at Ghadira on 29-30 Apr and 9-11 May.

1988 : Singles at Ghadira on 22nd and 24 Mar, then 9 sightings of 1-2 on 7 dates from 3-19 Apr, mostly at Ghadira and Xemxija and 1 at Lunzjata on 18 May. In autumn 1 at la' Pinu on 24 Oct.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Vjolin Hadrani

1987 : 1 on 27th, then daily from 29 Mar to 31 May with most in mid and late Apr. Max 35 at Ghadira on 13-14 Apr, otherwise single to low double figures. In autumn 17 sightings of 1-2 on 15 dates from 14 Aug to 22 Sep and 7 sightings on 5 dates in Oct from 3-12th; mainly 1-2 but 5 at Dingli/Buskett on 12th.

1988 : Almost daily in spring from 3 Apr to 26 May with highest numbers from mid to late Apr. Single to low double figures of up to 30 but 60+ at Ghadira on 25th and 50+ at Comino and at Ghadira on 24 Apr. In autumn 1-2 on 24-25 Aug, and singles on 3rd and 6th, then daily from 8 Sep to 13 Oct with most in Sep. Max 15+ at Xemxija on 22-23rd and at Ghadira on 10 Sep, otherwise 1-10.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* Vjolin tax-Xitwa

1987 : Mostly in medium double figures in Jan-Mar but low treble figures on a few dates with max of 200 at Lunzjata on 24-25 Jan. A few regularly to 14 Apr, then singles on 17th, 26th and 29th. 1 sighted regularly at San Anton Gardens from 11 May to 20 Jul and also on 10th, 16th and 20 Aug. 1 on 1st, then daily from 15 Oct, reaching double figures late in the month; mainly in single to low double figures of up to 25 but 50+ at Xemxija on 29 Oct and at la' Pinu on 29 Dec.

1988 : In varying numbers - single to medium double figures - in Jan-Mar with highest numbers between mid-Feb and late Mar. Max 60+ at Ghadira on 24 Mar, otherwise up to 50. Then single figures till 7 Apr and singles on 17 Apr and 5 Jun. In autumn daily from 11 Oct onwards with most from late Oct; mainly in double figures of up to 60+, but c.100 at Lunzjata and at la' Pinu on 27 Dec.



WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* Vjolin Pastard

- 1987 : In spring, daily from 19 Mar to 22 Apr when mostly in single to medium double figures but 100+ at Bingemma on 5 Apr; then 1-2 on most days from 26 Apr to 29 May and 1 on 10 Jun. On autumn migration singles on 11th and 18th, then almost daily from 22 Aug to 21 Oct with peak in mid-Oct; mainly 1-10 but 25+ at Munxar on 14 Oct.
- 1988 : Almost daily from 12 Mar to 20 May with a peak in early Apr when mostly in medium double figures from 5-10 Apr with max of 50 at Lunzjata on 6th otherwise in single figures, 1 on 29 May. Autumn migration from 20 Aug to 21 Oct when almost daily, with highest numbers in Sep. Highest 25 at Ghadira on 9th and at Xemxija on 21st, otherwise 1-20. Late single on 28 Oct.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* Bufula tal-Qamar

- 1987 : Singles on 30 Jan, 11 Feb and 8 Mar. In autumn 1-5 at Ghadira from 8 Nov to 23 Dec but 8 on 12 Nov. Two sightings outside Ghadira: singles at Xemxija on 16 Nov and at San Anton on 28 Dec.
- 1988 : Singles on 20th and 30 Jan, 18th and 22 Feb. 1 on 10th then daily from 30 Oct to 16 Nov; single figures, max 7 at Ghadira on 7 Nov. Singles on 14th and 24 Dec.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus* Bufula tat-Toppu Ahmar

- 1987 : 8 sightings of 1-2 on 7 scattered dates from 3 Jan to 23 Mar then 1-2 on 3 dates from 10-25 Nov and 1 on 13 Dec.
- 1988 : Singles on 3 Jan and 29 Feb, 3 on 1st and 1 on 21 Mar. In autumn 1-2 on several days from 25 Oct to 31 Dec but 5 at Chambray, Gozo on 19 Nov.

GOLD/FIRECREST *Regulus regulus/ignicapillus*

- 1987 : 1-3 on 7 dates from 1 Jan to 14 Feb and singles on 14th and 26-27 Mar; most at Dwejra, Malta. 1-2 on 7 dates from 31 Oct to 15 Nov and 5 at Buskett on 31 Dec.
- 1988 : 1-3 on 7 scattered dates from 3 Jan to 30 Mar and on most days from 27 Oct to 15 Dec when mostly 1-5 but 10+ at Chambray, Gozo on 19 Nov.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* Zanzarell tat-Ikki

- 1987 : In spring almost daily from 16 Apr to 11 Jun with highest numbers in late May - early Jun; in low to medium double figures (up to 50) daily from 22 May to 2 Jun but 70+ at Dwejra, Malta on 24 May. 1 on 22 Jun. In autumn, 1-3 daily from 29 Aug to 4 Sep, 1 on 13th and daily from 15-29 Sep; mostly 1-2 but 4 at Buskett on 23rd. Then 1-2 on 8 dates from 2-26 Oct and a late bird at Bingemma on 13 Nov.
- 1988 : In spring, 1 on 6th then almost daily from 21 Apr to 29 May, when in single to low double figures with c.30 at Portes-Des-Bombes on 12 May highest. 1 on 12 Jun. First autumn migrant on 20th, then almost daily from 27 Aug to 10 Oct with most in Sep; mostly 1-5 but 10+ at Lunzjata on 11 Sep. Singles on 14th and 21 Oct; and at Gammieh on 12 Nov.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* Zanzarell Sidru Ahmar

- 1987 : 1 at Bingemma on 20th and 2 at Buskett on 23 Sep; 1-4 on 8 dates from 7-18 Oct, mostly at Ghadira and Lunzjata; and 1 at Munxar on 29 Oct.
- 1988 : 1 at Wied il-Luq on 18 Sep; then in Oct singles at Lunzjata on 2nd, at Xemxija on 5th and 7th and at Ghadira on 13th; 1-2 at Xemxija on 17-18th and singles again at Bingemma on 21st and at Xemxija on 26th.

SEMI-COLLARED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula semitorquata* Zanzarell tal-Lvant

- 1988 : 2 ringed at Ghadira on 25 Apr with 1 still present on 27th.

COLLARED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula albicollis* Zanzarell tal-Kullar

- 1987 : After 1 on 3rd, almost daily from 8 Apr to 10 May; mostly 1-5 but 10 at Lunzjata on 17 Apr; then 1-2 on 3 dates from 25-31 May. In autumn singles at San Anton on 31 Aug, 18-21st and 29 Sep, 1-4th and 6 Oct.
- 1988 : In spring singles on 9th, 11th, 13th and 18th, then 1-5 daily from 20-30 Apr but 6 at Portes-Des-Bombes on 28th. Three sightings of singles on 8th and 10 May. One sighting in autumn: 1 at Wied il-Luq on 8 Sep.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* Zanzarell Iswed

- 1987 : Singles on 6 dates from 22-31 Mar, then daily from 4 Apr to 30 May (with most from mid-Apr to mid-May); mainly 1-10 but up to 15 on 3 dates at Bingemma. 1 at Rabat on 4 Jun. In autumn 18 sightings of 1-2 on 16 dates from 3 Sep to 8 Oct, mostly at San Anton.
- 1988 : In spring singles on 15th and 31 Mar; 2nd and 4th, then daily from 9 Apr to 4 May with a peak from mid-late Apr; mostly in single to double figures of up to 35 but 100+ on Comino on 24 Apr and max of 50 at Bingemma on 3 dates in Apr. Then

singles on most days from 8-20 May. In autumn singles on 27-29 Aug, then frequently from 1-21 Sep when mainly in singles but 3 at Wied il-Luq on 18th and at Xemxija on 21st. 1 on 2 Oct.

PENDULINE 111 *Remiz pendulinus* Pendulin

1987 : Six sightings in Jan: singles at Ghadira on 2nd and 5-6th, and at Nadur, Gozo on 7th; then again at Ghadira with 4 on 23rd and 1 on 25th. Singles also at Ghadira on 1st and 16th, and 5 on 27 Feb. In Mar, 3 on 2nd, 1-3 daily from 12-18th but 5+ at Xemxija on 17-18th and 1-3 on 22-23rd. Mostly at Ghadira. In autumn 2+ at Ghadira on 3 Nov.

1988 : On 4 dates in Nov from 4-16th, mostly 2 but 6 on 4th; 8 sightings in Dec from 12-30th; singles but 3 on 15th. All at Ghadira except for 2 sightings from Gozo on 28th and 30 Dec.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* Tajra Safra

1987 : 1 on 16th, then daily sightings in various sites from 19 Apr to 31 May; most in May when in single figures of up to 8 but 10+ at Dwejra, Malta on 3rd. 1-2 on a few dates in Jun-Jul, mostly at Bingemma. In autumn, 1-4 on most days from 21 Aug to 17 Sep and 1 on 8 Oct.

1988 : In spring 1-2 on 3 dates from 5-21st, then almost daily from 23 Apr to 29 May, with most from late Apr to mid-May; mainly up to 10 but 30+ on Comino on 24 Apr. 2 on 5th and singles on 26 Jun and 19 Jul. In autumn almost daily from 3-25 Sep, mainly in single figures but low double figures on 3 dates with max of 35 at Buskett on 10th and 30+ on Gozo on 20th. 1 on 1st and 3 on 16 Oct.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* Kaccamendula Hamra

1987 : Singles at Xemxija on 6th and at Dwejra, Malta on 7 Jun. In autumn on 13th and 20 Aug; 5th, 21st and 26-27 Sep; and on 15 Oct. Singles except for 2 on 21 Sep.

1988 : 1 at Lunzjata on 28 Mar. Recorded in singles in autumn: on 16 Aug, 7 sightings on 6 dates from 2-26 Sep, and on 2 Oct.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* Kaccamendula

1987 : On most days in spring from 12 Apr to 27 May; mostly up to 5 but 10+ on Comino on 26 Apr and at Ghadira on 24 May. In autumn almost daily from 11-30 Aug with most sightings at Dwejra, Malta where 4 on 28th and 5 on 30th, otherwise 1-2. 1 on 9 Sep.

1988 : In spring 1 on 30 Mar, then 24 sightings on 15 dates from 3 Apr to 11 May; mostly 1-4 but influx on 24 Apr with 30+ on Comino. Singles on 3 dates from 20-29 May. In autumn singles on 1st, 7th and 11th, then 1-3 almost daily from 15 Aug to 12 Sep with nearly all sightings at Dwejra, Malta. 1 at Bingemma on 23 Sep.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* Sturnell

1987 : Double to medium treble figures (up to 500) at Marsa in Jan-Feb; a small return passage evident in Mar to 18th with treble figures on most days and 1500 at Luqa on 15th. 1-3 on a few days till 17 Apr and singles on 26 May, 7th and 28 Jul; 4th and 14th and 2 on 24 Aug. 1-4 at San Anton in Sep then main autumn migration from 10 Oct with highest numbers from late Oct. Mostly in treble figures but over 1000 on 14 occasions with max of 5000 at Luqa on 18 Nov.

1988 : Treble figures on most days in Jan-Mar to 12th but c.1500 at Saghjtjar on 9th and c.1200 at Marsa on 20 Feb. Then 1-4 on 5 days from 19 Mar to 10 Apr; 2 on 22nd and 1 on 25 May; and singles on 6th, 10th and 29-30 Aug. 5 on 4th and a few regularly from 10 Sep reaching peak numbers by 10 Oct when mostly seen in treble figures till mid-Nov. Over 1000 on a few days with max of 5000 at L-Ahrax on 11 Dec.

SPANISH SPARROW *Passer hispaniolensis* Ghammiel tal-Bejt

1987-88 : Abundant breeding resident.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* Ghammiel tas-Sigar

1987 : Breeding resident at various sites with highest numbers between Jul-Oct. Peak counts at Lunzjata with 50+ on 30 Aug and at Chadwick Lakes with 40 on 15 Aug.

1988 : Breeding at usual sites in stable numbers. Highest numbers between late Jun and mid-Oct with max of 50 at Xemxija on 18 Sep and 30-40 at Lunzjata and Chadwick Lakes on a few days. Increase in numbers in Dec due to migrants.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* Sponsun

1987 : Single to double figures in Jan-Mar with max of 85 at Ta' Gali on 23 Jan. A small return passage evident in mid-Mar. Up to 5 throughout Apr in various places and 1-3 frequently sighted in May-Sep in a few localities mostly at

Buskett, Bingemma, Ghadira and San Anton. In autumn from 3 Oct with most from 12th; mostly in low double figures but 100+ at Ghallis on 13 Nov. Smaller numbers in Dec.

- 1988 : Up to 15 wintering at various sites in Jan-Feb but 50+ on 21 Feb at Lunzjata. 1-10 daily throughout Mar with a few present in Apr. 1-5 sighted occasionally in a few areas in May-Aug but 10+ at Wied il-Luq in Jul. Up to 5 in Sep, then daily from 4 Oct with most from mid-Oct to mid-Nov; mostly in low double figures with max of 40 at Ghallis and Bingemma on 25 Oct and a 'passage' in Gozo on 8 Nov. smaller numbers in Dec with 20 at Has-Saptan on 21st highest.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* Sponsun Selvagg

- 1987 : 1 at San Anton on 30 Jan.  
1988 : 2 at Rabat from 13-24 Dec.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* Apparell

- 1987 : In low to medium double figures (up to 60) in Jan-Mar to 21st but 150+ at Chadwick Lakes on 26 Jan. Then 1-6 daily till late Apr and 1-3 frequently sighted between May - Sep, mostly at Ghadira, Chadwick Lakes and Bingemma. On most days in Oct-Nov with 6+ at Mtarfa on 30 Nov, otherwise 1-3. Higher numbers in Dec with max of 25 at Bingemma on 14th, otherwise up to 15.  
1988 : In single figures in Jan-Mar with 10 at Bingemma on 2 Jan highest. Then singles frequently in Apr and on 8 days in May-Jul mostly at Bingemma and Ghadira. In autumn singles on 22 Sep and then almost daily from 25 Oct to end of year; mostly 1-15 but c.30 at Wied il-Luq on 11 Dec.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* Verdun

- 1987 : On 6 days from 1 Jan to 13 Feb; mostly 1-2 but 11 at Ghadira on 20 Jan. Then singles on 25 Feb, 20 Mar, 17 Apr, 12 Jun and 17 Jul. In autumn 1 on 10th, then 1-15 almost daily from 21 Oct to 15 Nov but 25+ at Ghallis on 7 Nov. 1-2 on 6 days from 22 Nov to 25 Dec.  
1988 : On 12 dates from 15 Jan to 24 Mar; singles but 2 on 22 Mar; again on 12 dates in Apr-May, then on 30 Jun and on 4 dates in Jul. All in singles except for 2 at Bingemma on 23-24 Jul. Again in singles on most days from 15 Sep to 19 Oct, then 1-5 almost daily till 21 Nov; 10 on 24 Nov and on 6 days in Dec with 20+ at Il-Qaws on 23rd; otherwise 1-2.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* Gardell

- 1987 : 1-3 on 4 dates from 5-17 Jan. Singles on 11 Jun and 1 Jul, then 2 at Ghallis on 24 Oct and singles on 30 Nov and 22 Dec.  
1988 : 1 on 5th and 2 on 9 Feb; and 1 on 1 Apr. On 4 dates from 16-26 Nov; mostly 1-2 but c.10 at Chambray, Gozo on 19th. 1 on 19th and 3 on 28 Dec.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* Ekru

- 1987 : 1 at San Anton on 2nd and 6 Jan.  
1988 : 1 at Rabat on 16 Feb. 2 at Xaghra on 8 Nov; 2 at Hal Far on 7th and 1 at Wied il-Luq on 11 Dec.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* Gojjin

- 1987 : Double to low treble figures of up to 300 in Jan-Mar to 26th, but 1000+ roosting at Floriana on 19 Jan. Then single figures on a few days to 20 Apr. 2 on 3rd and 1 on 4 May; and 2 on 31 Jul. 1-2 on 5 dates from 11-20 Sep and almost daily from 11 Oct to 27 Nov, mostly up to 30 but 40+ at Ghadira on 23 Oct. Up to 10 on a few days in Dec, with max of 25 on 27th.  
1988 : Wintering in small numbers, with max of 20 at Bingemma on 2 Jan and with a few irregularly till 17 Apr. 1 on 3rd, and 2 on 6-7th and 15 May. Singles on 1-8th (at Dwejra, Gozo), 11th and 23 Aug and 1-2 on 4 days from 8-21 Sep. Autumn migration from 15 Oct, when in single to double figures almost daily till end of year with max of 50 at Il-Qaws on 7 Nov.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Iaz-Zebbug

- 1987 : Singles at San Anton on 10th and 18 Sep and on 6 Oct. Then on 8 days from 20 Oct to 18 Nov; mainly 1-2 but 7-11 at Buskett on 25-26 Oct and up to 30 trapped in Gozo in late Oct-early Nov.  
1988 : 1 at Ghadira on 10 Feb.

ORTOLAN BUNLING *Emberiza hortulana* Ortolan

- 1988 : Singles on Comino on 17 Apr and at B'Bugia on 20 Oct.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica* Durrajsa Qastnija  
1988 : 1 at Lunzjata on 6 Nov.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* Durrajsa Qerqnija  
1987 : 1 at Lunzjata on 8 Nov.  
1988 : 1 at Ghadira on 16 Oct.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* Durrajsa tal-Gasab  
1987 : 1-2 at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 19 Mar with 3 on 20 Feb. In autumn almost daily again at Ghadira from 24 Oct to 23 Nov; mostly 1-3 but 4 on 10 Nov. Singles also at Lunzjata and Marsalforn Valley in late Oct-early Nov.  
1988 : 1 at Ghadira on 24-26 Mar. Almost daily from 25 Oct to 27 Nov; mostly 1-5 but 6+ at Marsalforn Valley on 4 Nov. Most sightings at Ghadira, but also at Xemxija, Salina and Lunzjata. Singles at Ghadira in Dec from 1-17th and on 29th.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala* Durrajsa Rasha Sewda  
1988 : 1 male at Lunzjata on 13 Jul.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra* Durrajsa  
1987 : Breeding at various sites in the Maltese Islands with highest numbers in Sep-Oct due to presence of migrants. Highest 50+ at Dwejra, Gozo on 5th and 35+ at Dwejra, Malta on 7 Sep.  
1988 : Breeding in usual numbers. Highest counts on 28 Jul when c.40 at Ramla and in Sep - Oct with up to 30 on a few days.

## RINGING REPORT FOR 1988

Joe Sultana & Charles Gauci  
(Ringing & Research Committee)

This report covers the ringing activities of the Valletta Bird-Ringing Scheme of the M O S for the year 1988. The number of birds ringed was a record one and totalled 14,322 of 108 species. At the end of the year the grand total of birds ringed since 1965 stood at 189,893 of 159 species and 2 hybrids.

Four new species, namely Mallard, Kentish Plover, Turnstone and Slender-billed Gull, were added to the ringing list. Several vagrants were also ringed. These included the 5th Thrush Nightingale, the 2nd River Warbler, the 2nd Arctic Warbler, the 6th and 7th Semi-collared Flycatcher, the 8th Rustic Bunting and the 4th Little Bunting. 2 Yellow-browed Warblers brought the total to 15 birds ringed. The regular manning of the wetland reserve at Ghadira with the use of a few traps is reflected in the relatively good number of waders ringed there.

The ten species topping the list of those ringed since 1965 remained the same as in the previous year and were as follows (number of birds ringed during 1988 is also given) :

Species	1965-88	1988
Robin	28,928	3,099
Chiffchaff	21,543	1,651
Swallow	17,316	369
Storm Petrel	14,593	399
Spanish Sparrow	13,092	980
Sardinian Warbler	10,987	915
Blackcap	7,979	456
Sand Martin	7,710	257
Garden Warbler	7,166	917
House Martin	5,633	158

This report also carries a section dealing with 11 recoveries of 4 species reported during 1988. 2 of these, a Swallow and a Chiffchaff, were reported from abroad. The Swallow, the 39th to be reported from abroad, was the first to be reported from Hungary, while the Chiffchaff (the 8th abroad) was our 2nd recovered in Czechoslovakia.

The report also lists 9 recoveries in Malta of foreign ringed birds. These include the 5th Cormorant from Denmark, the 1st Grey Heron from Yugoslavia, the first Buzzard from Finland (the 2nd from abroad), the 17th Osprey from Finland, the 1st Marsh Harrier from Italy and the 1st Sedge Warbler from Great Britain. An Italian-ringed Reed Warbler is the first of this species to be recovered in Malta. The other recoveries are the 9th Turtle Dove from Italy and the 1st Starling from Bulgaria.

The scheme started the year with thirteen ringers - J. Attard Montalto, J. Borg, D. Cachia, R. Cachia Zammit, V. Cilia, Br. Edmund, R. Galea, C. Gauci, M.V. Gauci, B.K. German, J. Grech and J. Sultana - but in April the number went up to fifteen when M. Mallia and J.M. Mangion joined the group. J. Middleton, a B T O ringer, helped the group during two visits in spring and autumn respectively. As in previous years C. Gauci was the Ringing Secretary and was responsible for compiling all the ringing data, keeping the M O S ringing scheme's log books and preparing bi-monthly ringing newsletters issued exclusively for the group's ringers.

## RINGING AND RECOVERY TOTALS TO 31.12.88

Species	Ringed in 1988	Grand Total ringed 1965-1988	Recovered	
			1988	Grand Total
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	-	1	-	-
Black-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	1	4	-	1
Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	121	1,812	-	28
Manx Shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	19	492	-	5
Storm Petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	399	14,593	-	26
Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	2	46	-	1
Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1	10	-	-
Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	-	2	-	-
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	-	1	-	-
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1	1	-	-
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	-	9	-	1
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	-	1	-	-
Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	1	7	-	-
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	18	46	-	2
Spotted Crake <i>Porzana porzana</i>	1	13	-	1
Little Crake <i>Porzana parva</i>	-	6	-	-
Baillon's Crake <i>Porzana pusilla</i>	-	1	-	-
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	39	118	-	2
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	3	6	-	-
Stone Curlew <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	-	1	-	-
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	21	65	-	1
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	1	6	-	-
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	3	3	-	-
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	-	1	-	-
Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	103	567	-	4
Temminck's Stint <i>Calidris temminckii</i>	1	34	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	8	51	-	3
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	13	54	2	2
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	7	42	-	1
Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	-	18	-	1
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	8	53	-	3

Great Snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>	1	8	-	1
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	-	1	-	-
Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>	-	2	-	-
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	7	10	-	-
Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	-	1	-	-
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	2	3	-	-
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	3	23	-	3
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	21	116	-	8
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	60	241	-	-
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	3	3	-	-
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	-	1	-	-
Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	-	1	-	1
Slender-billed Gull <i>Larus genei</i>	1	1	-	-
Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus cachinnans</i>	75	312	-	7
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	-	1	-	-
White-winged Black Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	-	1	-	-
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	-	47	-	4
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	4	25	-	-
Scops Owl <i>Otus scops</i>	3	111	-	5
Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	-	2	-	-
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	1	14	-	1
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	-	28	-	1
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	21	128	-	9
Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	3	16	-	-
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	47	401	-	1
Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	1	145	-	1
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	-	2	-	-
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	-	27	-	5
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	257	7,710	-	36
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	369	17,316	2	89
Red-rumped Swallow <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	1	35	-	1
House Martin <i>Delichon urbica</i>	158	5,633	1	15
Richard's Pipit <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	-	1	-	-
Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>	-	9	-	-

Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	-	3	-	-
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	99	1,155	-	1
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	54	1,043	-	8
Red-throated Pipit <i>Anthus cervinus</i>	7	65	-	-
Rock/Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	2	14	-	-
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	246	2,785	-	19
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	18	593	-	7
White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	30	671	-	7
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	-	19	-	-
Duncock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	171	1,669	-	8
Rufous Bush Chat <i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	-	7	-	-
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	3,099	28,928	5	172
Thrush Nightingale <i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	1	5	-	-
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	182	1,535	-	2
Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	11	79	-	-
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	26	218	-	1
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	75	2,034	-	3
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	36	476	-	-
Stonechat <i>Saxicola torquata</i>	173	1,616	-	2
Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	-	1	-	-
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	6	145	-	1
Black-eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	1	4	-	-
Rock Thrush <i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	-	3	-	-
Blue Rock Thrush <i>Monticola solitarius</i>	3	72	-	3
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	-	3	-	-
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	19	190	-	13
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	-	3	-	-
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	60	924	-	29
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	-	27	-	-
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	100	992	-	27
Fan-tailed Warbler <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	494	4,156	-	30
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	-	4	-	-
River Warbler <i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	1	2	-	-
Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	-	36	-	-



Mustached Warbler <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	12	95	-	1
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	175	1,661	-	1
Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	-	1	-	-
Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	3	20	-	-
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	144	1,382	-	-
Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	58	966	-	3
Olivaceous Warbler <i>Hippolais pallida</i>	-	3	-	-
Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>	109	975	-	-
Melodious Warbler <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	-	2	-	-
Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	2	38	-	-
Spectacled Warbler <i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	3	1,240	-	3
Subalpine Warbler <i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	425	4,637	-	1
Sardinian Warbler <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	915	10,987	-	35
Ruppell's Warbler <i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>	-	2	-	-
Orphean Warbler <i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	-	4	-	-
Barred Warbler <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	-	1	-	-
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	4	50	-	-
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	146	1,658	-	1
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	917	7,166	-	9
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	456	7,979	-	18
Arctic Warbler <i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>	1	2	-	-
Pallas's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	-	1	-	-
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	2	15	-	-
Bonelli's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	10	123	-	-
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	473	4,499	-	-
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1,651	21,543	1	56
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	496	4,082	-	4
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	25	201	-	-
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	17	324	-	4
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	71	1,168	-	5
Red-breasted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula parva</i>	3	64	-	-
Semi-collared Flycatcher <i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>	2	7	-	-
Collared Flycatcher <i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	25	299	-	-
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	239	2,023	-	2
Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	-	17	-	2

Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	26	179	-	6
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	10	93	-	-
Woodchat Shrike <i>Lanius senator</i>	5	164	-	-
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	16	90	-	6
Spanish Sparrow <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	980	13,092	2	119
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	60	407	-	1
Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	-	1	-	-
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	68	618	-	6
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	-	4	-	-
Serín <i>Serinus serinus</i>	2	289	-	4
Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	2	282	-	18
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	-	15	-	1
Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	1	8	-	-
Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	3	907	-	53
Scarlet Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	-	3	-	-
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	1	2	-	-
Lapland Bunting <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	-	1	-	-
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	-	1	-	-
Ortolan Bunting <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	-	2	-	-
Rustic Bunting <i>Emberiza rustica</i>	1	8	-	1
Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1	4	-	-
Chestnut Bunting <i>Emberiza rutila</i>	-	1	-	-
Yellow-breasted Bunting <i>Emberiza aureola</i>	-	1	-	-
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	26	182	-	-
Corn Bunting <i>Milliaria calandra</i>	13	368	-	5
Swallow X House Martin <i>Hirundo rustica X Delichon urbica</i>	-	1	-	-
Tree Sparrow x Spanish Sparrow <i>Passer montanus x hispaniolensis</i>	-	1	-	1
Totals	14,322	189,893	13	959

N.B.: Grand total recovery totals have been corrected.

## RINGING RECOVERIES

This section deals with 11 recoveries of 4 species reported during 1988. Only those found at least 5 km away from ringing site are included. The co-ordinates of the localities are given only once, when these are first mentioned.

## Key to symbols and terms used in the recovery list :

- Arrangement of entry : recoveries are arranged by species, and within species usually by date of the recovery letter. Ringing details are given on the first line and recovery data on the second.
- Ring number : where this is followed by an asterisk (\*) the ring has been returned.
- Age code : 1 = pullus; young bird ringed in the nest.  
2 = fully grown; year of hatching quite unknown.  
3 = definitely hatched during current calendar year.  
3J = as above, but bird still partly or completely in juvenile body plumage.  
4 = hatched before current calendar year; exact year unknown.  
5 = definitely hatched during last calendar year.  
(A number in brackets beside the age code 1 indicates the size of the brood).
- Sex : M = male; F = female.
- Date of recovery : where this is unknown the date of the reporting letter is given instead and is shown in brackets. An 00 in the date indicates that the exact day or month are unknown.
- Manner of recovery : v = caught or trapped, and released with ring.  
+ = shot or killed by man.  
x = found dead or dying.  
( ) = caught or trapped alive and not released, or released but with ring removed.  
/?/ = manner of recovery unknown.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

57.135	4F	15.04.87	Lunzjata Valley : 36.03 N, 14.14 E, Gozo.
	x	14.04.88	Fonyodleget : 46.46 N, 17.35 E, Somogy, HUNGARY.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

57.757	4	11.05.88	Lunzjata Valley.
	v	13.05.88	Bingemma : 35.54 N, 14.23 E.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

64.227	3	08.10.88	Buskett : 35.51 N, 14.25 E.
	v	12.10.88	Xemxija : 35.57 N, 14.23 E.
64.297	3	11.10.88	Buskett.
	v	27.10.88	Ramla Valley : 36.04 N, 14.14 E, Gozo.
67.216	3	26.10.88	Ghadira : 35.58 N, 14.21 E.
	v	27.10.88	Buskett.
66.825	3	25.10.88	Bingemma.
	v	29.10.88	Xemxija.
52.360	5	08.01.87	Ghajr Zejtuna : 35.58 N, 14.22 E.
	v	01.11.88	Lunzjata Valley.
59.382	3	27.10.88	Rabat : 35.53 N, 14.24 E.
	v	06.11.88	Xemxija.
66.329	3	29.10.88	Xemxija.
	v	18.11.88	Bingemma

42.306 \* 3 09.10.88 Xemxija  
 x 29.11.88 Birkirkara : 35.54 N, 14.28 E.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

9A.899 \* 4 07.02.87 Ghadira  
 x(car) 04.04.88 Vranova : 49.03 N, 16.32 E, Blansko, CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

## FOREIGN RINGED BIRDS RECOVERED IN MALTA

This section deals with 9 foreign ringed birds, all different species, recovered in Malta. The symbols and terms used are the same as those in the previous section.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Copenhagen 1 28.05.85 Orneø, Glensø : 55.12 N, 11.28 E, Sjælland, DENMARK  
 214.450  
 (+black 403) + ca.25.10.88 Zejtun : 35.52 N, 14.33 E.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Zagreb 1 22.06.88 Obedska bara, Kupinovo : 45.43 N, 20.01 E, Oberenovac,  
 K 2.164 YUGOSLAVIA.  
 + 06.09.88 Anchor Bay : 35.58 N, 14.21 E.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Bologna 4F 08.04.84 Bordonchio : 44.08 N, 12.28 E, Bellaria Igea Marina  
 C 0.824 (Forlì), ITALY.  
 + ca.25.03.88 Malta : ca.35.50 N, 14.30 E.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Helsinki 1 01.07.87 Kitee : 62.03 N, 30.06 E, Pohjois-Karjalan (Lääni),  
 H 119.229 FINLAND.  
 + 21.04.88 off Mersaxlokk : ca.35.53 N, 14.31 E.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Helsinki 1 14.07.85 Yläne, Turun Ja Porin (Lääni), FINLAND.  
 H 19.549 + 28.03.88 Ghaxaq : 35.50 N, 14.33 E.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Bologna 4 20.04.87 Castello Barbarossa : 40.33 N, 14.13 E, Anacapri (Napoli)  
 H 14.504 ITALY.  
 + ca.30.04.88 Rabat : 35.53 N, 14.25 E.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

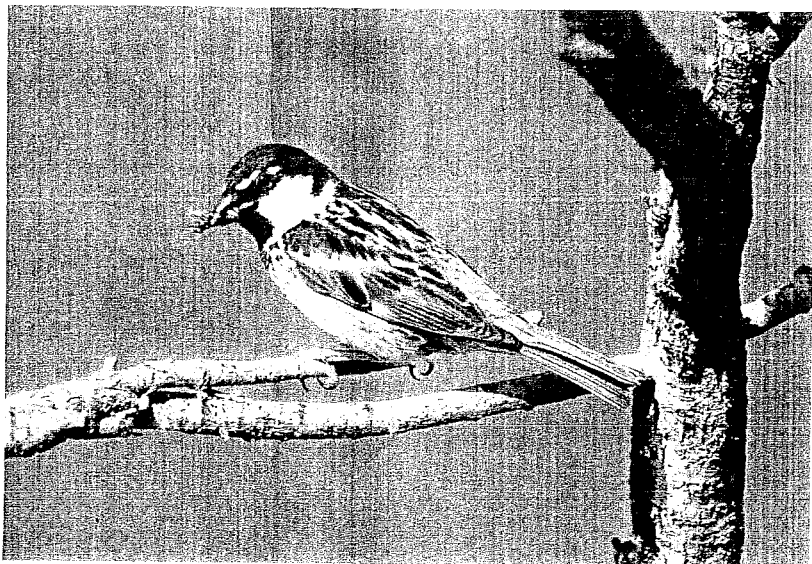
London 3 05.07.87 Shotton : 53.12 N, 03.03 W, Clwyd, WALES.  
 E 424.257 v 16.03.88 Xemxija : 35.57 N, 14.23 E.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Bologna 3 03.08.86 Valle Campetto : 44.35 N, 11.51 E, Argento (Ferrara),  
 A 248.328 ITALY.  
 v 12.09.88 Lunzjata Valley : 36.03 N, 14.14 E, Gozo.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Sofia 1 18.05.88 Melschik : 43.57 N, 25.80 E, Ruse, BULGARIA.  
 L943.111 + 11.10.88 Xemxija : 35.53 N, 14.16 E, Gozo.



Richard Coehia Zammit

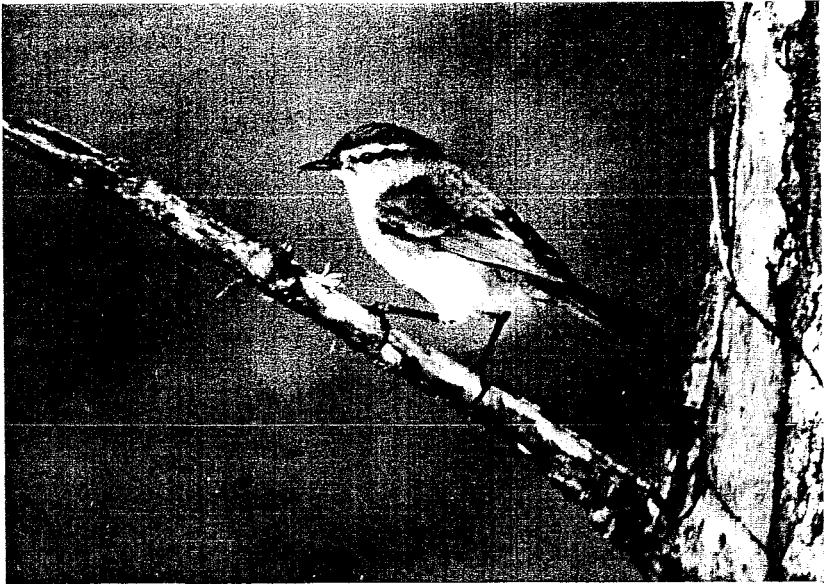
Out of 13,092 Spanish Sparrows ringed up to the end of 1988, 119 have been recovered. None travelled farther than 12 km away from ringing site.



Joe Sullivan

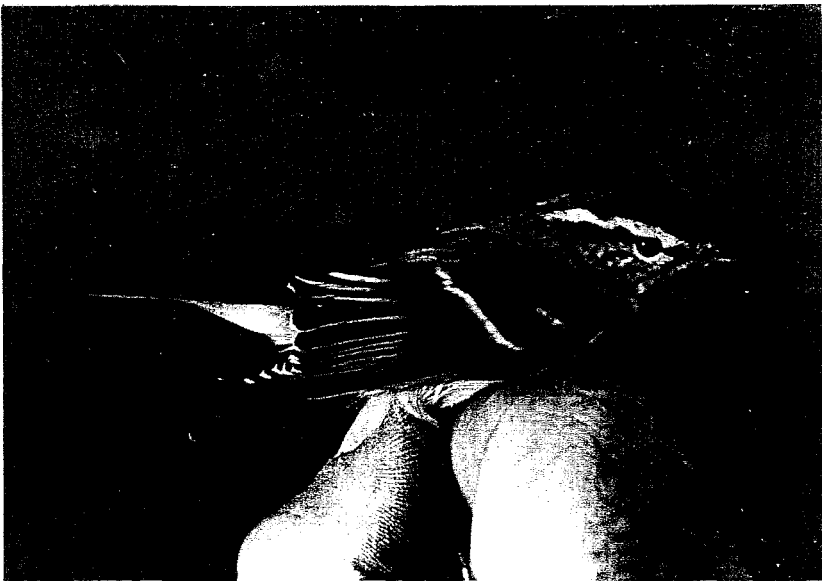
The regular mowing of the wetland reserve at Chadira is reflected in the relatively good numbers of waders ringed there.

Raymond Galea

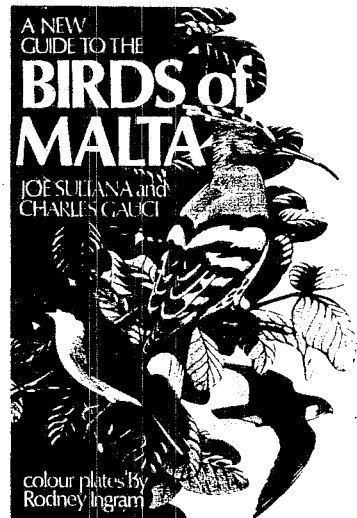


Up to the end of 1988 21,543 Chiffchaffs have been ringed. 8 have been recovered abroad, mostly in central Europe.

John Attard Mcnialto



Yellow-browed Warbler photographed before released. Two of this rare vagrant were ringed in 1988.



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**ERRATUM**

The ringing recovery of Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* (Ring No. T 58.539), which appeared in IL-MERILL No. 25 (1988) p. 50, should read as follows :

Bologna 4 03.05.79 Bellaria, Igea Marina : 44.09 N, 12.28 E (Forlì), ITALY.  
 T 58.539 + 15.04.86 Bubaqra : 35.49 N, 14.29 E.

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