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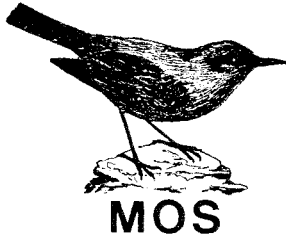


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THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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.

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THE DWARF MALTESE SWAN

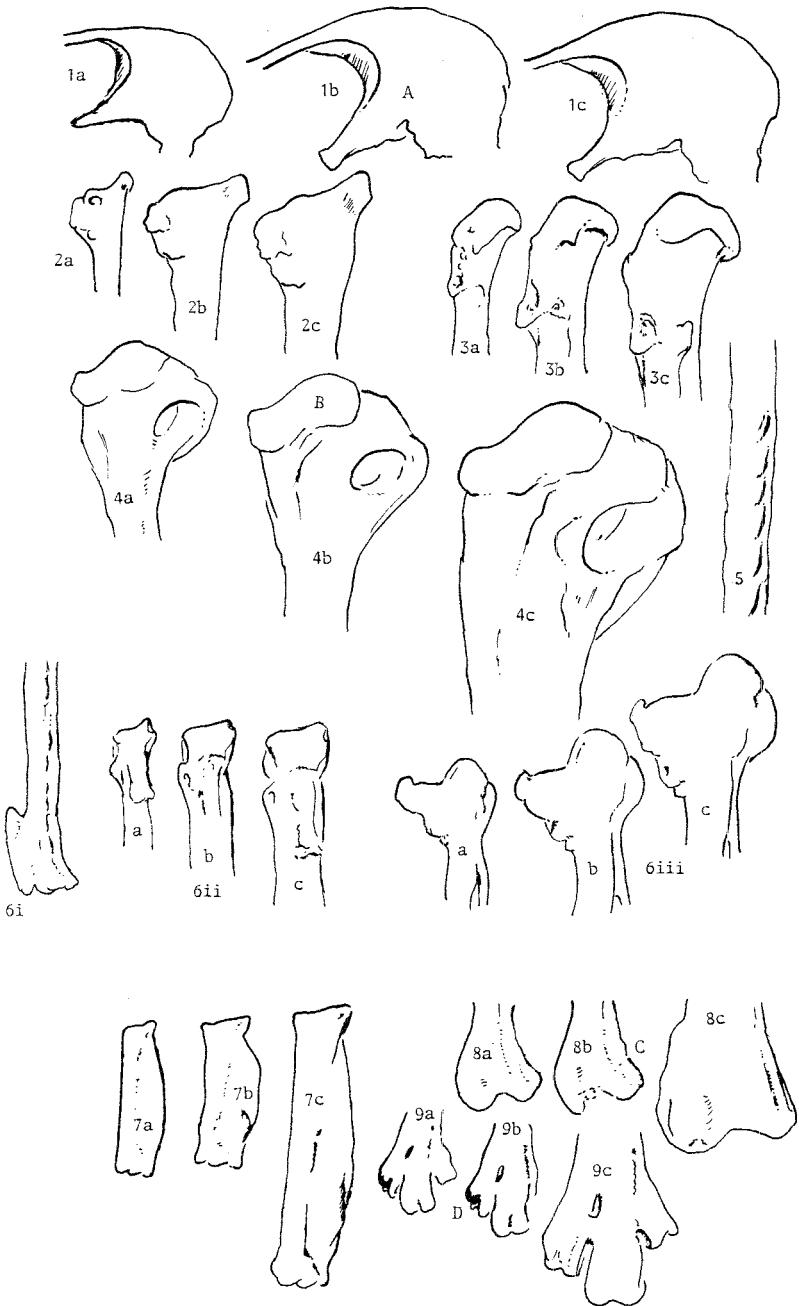
E. MARJORIE NORTHCOTE

Bate (1916) gave the name *Cygnus equitum* to fossil bones she considered to be those of a dwarf extinct swan. Lambrecht (1933) and Howard (1964) agreed with Bate. However, the eminent authority Brodkorb (1964) named these bones *Anser equitum*, considering them to belong to a large extinct goose. Bate (1916) briefly described the holotype (a carpo-metacarpus) and paratypes (a proximal humerus and a coracoid) that came from deposits at Ghar Dalam, Malta. This type-series (Specimens 20 and 21) is in the National Museum of Natural History, Malta (NMM). Casts of the bones (Specimens A1613, A1614, and A1615), labelled *Anser equitum*, are in the British Museum (Natural History) (BMNH). Among other anseriform bones from those museums and the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge (UMZC) I found further *equitum* fossils (chiefly also of fore-limbs) from elsewhere in Malta. It is now possible to ascertain the genus and affinities of the bird and suggest its size, form and habit, particularly with respect to Bate's claim that *equitum* was flightless.

The *equitum* specimens came from the same level as giant Maltese Swans *C. falconeri* Parker, 1855 and giant Maltese Cranes *Grus melitensis* Lydekker, 1890 assigned elsewhere (Northcote 1982a,b, 1981-83, 1984-85) to a period equivalent to the Ipswichian (Eemian) Interglacial Stage of more northern countries, i.e., about 125,000 years ago.

	<u>n</u>	<u>equitum</u>	<u>n</u>	Greylag Geese	<u>n</u>	Whooper Swans	<u>n</u>	Bewick's Swans	<u>n</u>	Mute Swans
humerus										
max. length	2	197.15	6	169.37	28	275.5	8	233.3	33	290.9
min. shaft										
width	2	9.60	6	9.38	28	12.30	8	10.91	33	12.29
ulna										
max. length	2	c.187	7	152.77	25	259.7	8	219.5	28	257.3
min. shaft										
width	2	7.80	7	7.86	25	10.16	8	8.79	28	9.80
carpomet.										
max. length	4	91.18	5	96.44	17	137.47	2	118.90	9	133.36
max dorso-ventral width	4	7.95	5	5.66	17	8.16	2	6.20	9	7.67
met. majus.										
phalanx										
max. length	9	33.42	2	43.40	16	58.29	2	51.15	5	51.42
femur										
max. length	1	c. 79	5	80.16	26	108.78	8	94.33	34	104.67
min. shaft										
width	1	9.90	6	7.52	26	10.46	8	9.39	34	10.20

TABLE 1. Mean limb-bone measurements (mm) of *equitum*, Greylag Geese and extant Palearctic swans.



Captions for figures

Where appropriate a, goose; c, Whooper Swan.

Fig.1. Cranium. b, *equitum* BMNH 3267.

Figs 2 and 3. Cranial extremity of scapula and coracoid respectively.
b, *equitum* BMNH A5218 and A5221.

Fig.4. Proximal extremity of humerus. b, *equitum* BMNH A5222.

Figs 5 and 6.i. Shaft of ulna BMNH A5225 and distal carpometacarpus NMM Q.102. F25 respectively of *equitum* showing flight feather follicles.

Figs 6.ii and iii. Cranial and dorsal aspects respectively of proximal extremity of carpometacarpus. b, *equitum* BMNH A5225.

Fig.7. Dorsal aspect of chief wing phalanx. b, *equitum* BMNH A5219.

Figs 8 and 9. Cranial surface of distal extremity of femur and tarsometatarsus respectively. b, *equitum* BMNH A5812 and A5810 respectively.

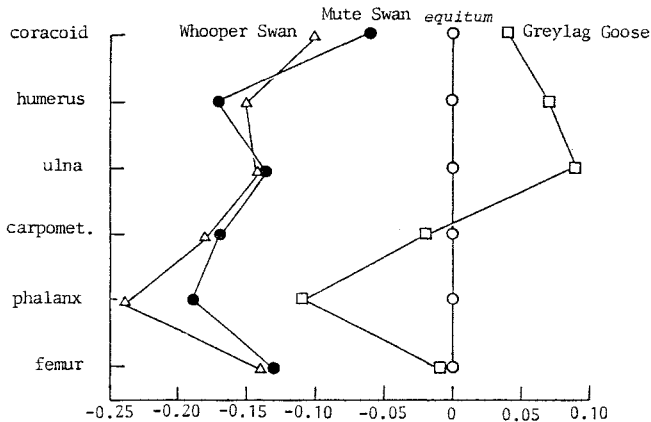


Fig. 10. Ratio diagram comparing mean lengths for six bones of Greylag Geese, Whooper and Mute Swans and *equitum*.

Comparisons with extant European Anserini show the bird was indeed a swan. So far, the only goose-like characters are the relatively small size (Table 1), one feature on the proximal humerus (B) (Fig.4) and one each on distal femur (C) and tarsometatarsus (D) (Figs 8 and 9). The relatively larger beak indicated by accommodation of larger muscles and ligaments (A) (Fig.1), characteristic shape of scapula and coracoid (Figs 2 and 3), and chief hand bones (Figs 6ii,iii and 7), 'stoutness' of the limb bones (from Table 1) and ratios of their lengths to one another (Fig. 10), all show the overall skeletal structure of *equitum* to be less like geese than swans. Absence of a bony bill knob especially (Fig. 1), two features on the humerus and ratio (femur length : humerus length) (from Table 1), taken together, indicate affinity between *C. equitum* and Whooper and Bewick's Swans, *C. cygnus* and *C. bewickii* respectively, rather than Mute Swans *C. olor*. However, the relative shortness of the chief hand bones, similar to that in Mute Swans, combined with the actual shortness of the limb bones and greater 'stoutness' of carpometacarpus and femur compared to other European swans justify Bate's (1916) designation of it as a separate species.

Using scaling formulae I estimate mean weight of *C. equitum* as 3.5-4kg. Though within ranges for the largest European Geese (Greylag Geese) and the smallest swans (Bewick's Swans), this is less than mean weight of the latter (6.05 kg.) (data from Scott et al. 1972). *C. equitum* is the smallest known swan.

The coracoids of *C. equitum* are relatively longer than in other swans (e.g. 74.7mm for both it and the larger Bewick's) so its body may have been comparatively broader.

Using its wing-bone lengths plus the calculated distance between its humeri as well as formulæ based on its weight, I estimate the feathered wing span of *C. equitum* as approximately 1.5m. Compared to other swans, its wings were probably more 'elliptical' - greater 'stoutness' of carpometacarpus and perhaps ulna suggests a higher camber; also, the relatively short hand indicates less attenuation than the 'high-speed' wings of, for example, Whooper Swans. The body and wing shapes I propose for *C. equitum* and greater similarity of its distal wing-bone proportions to the more sedentary Mute than the migratory Whooper and Bewick's Swans suggest it did not fly far. However, there is no evidence to support Bate's (1916) assertion, subsequently quoted by other workers, that *C. equitum* had a reduced carpometacarpus and lacked flight feathers and was, therefore, flightless. Indeed there was no reduction either of 'stoutness' and relative lengths of wing bones or coracoid or of major flight muscles, its wings were fully feathered as evidenced by the presence of flight feather follicles on ulna and carpometacarpus (Figs 5 and 6.i) and it was light enough to fly.

C. equitum was abundant and widespread on the island and occurred near both fresh and brackish water. The goose-like characters noted above suggest it may have walked well on land and, unlike other swans, could have taken off and alighted on the ground.

Remains of Whooper Swans are found with those of the related *C. equitum* and *C. falconeri*. The first occurs at other levels elsewhere in Europe but the two other swans are found only in Interglacial deposits of Siculo/Malta and were evidently endemic, maybe indigenous. During the ca. 21,000 years of the Interglacial, Siculo/Malta was isolated from the mainland by very strong currents in the Straits of Messina (Sondaar and Boekschooten 1967). On the island, mild climate, plentiful food and lack of predators (Northcote 1981-83) would have obviated dispersal or escape and encouraged speciation. Rapid climatic changes terminated the Interglacial (Starkel 1977). The less specialised Whooper Swans migrated; *C. falconeri*, that had reduced flight ability (Northcote 1981-83) and *C. equitum*, perhaps unable to fly far, became extinct.

Acknowledgements

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THE BREEDING POPULATION OF THE BLUE ROCK THRUSH *MONTICOLA SOLITARIUS* ON COMINO ISLAND IN 1988

RAYMOND GALEA & RAYMOND CARUANA

Introduction

For the past 15-20 years, Comino was visited annually in spring, mostly by members of the Malta Ornithological Society. Records of birds seen were always kept and the Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* was always listed. Estimates of the breeding population were always based on the number of birds seen. Five to ten pairs was the usual estimate. The authors of this paper tried to monitor the exact number of Blue Rock Thrushes breeding on the island in 1988.

The Blue Rock Thrush is a fairly common breeding resident in the Maltese Islands. It is mainly found breeding along sea cliffs, but some pairs are still to be found inland along hills, rocky valleys as well as in some fortifications. The nest is mostly built in crags in cliff faces. (Sultana & Gauci 1982).

The Study Area

The island of Comino separates the main islands of Malta and Gozo and occupies only 2.6 sq.km (1 sq.mile). The Upper Coralline Limestone rises from the sea to 75 m on the south-west side, from where it slopes towards the north-west. It is an exposed and barren island with little remaining agriculture except in the Santa Marija valley. Comino has a coastline of about 9.6 km. (Boffa 1966).

Method and Results

The island was visited twice for this census - on 17th and 30 April 1988. Observations were mostly based on singing males. At this time of year females will be in the nest incubating; in fact no females were observed during either visit. A male singing, displaying, or calling the characteristic alarm call more than once in the same area was counted as a breeding pair. Both visits started early in the morning from Santa Marija bay, walking very slowly along the cliffs, covering practically the whole of the island's coastline. Only a few places were not covered as they did not offer suitable habitat for the breeding of this species.

1st Visit - 17th April 1988

- 1 The first male Blue Rock Thrush was observed singing and flying for short distances close to the cliffs about 900m to the east of Santa Marija bay. This bird was also noted flying towards a small chapel in this same bay. This chapel must be a watchpoint marking its territory because it was watched going there several times, even in past years.
- 2 The second bird was seen and heard singing twice; once on a small stone hide at Il-Hamra and then at a point some distance away from the Redoubt at Il-Miskta.
- 3 Close to the Comino lower another singing male was present. It was later seen on the cemetery walls.
- 4 At laħ il-Mazz a male was observed chasing another male bird, probably the one seen earlier close to the lower (no: 3). This behaviour made it clear that these two birds had overlapping territories and were nesting somewhere along the cliffs below.

Another singing male was later observed perched on an electricity pole at Ta' Savier. As this place does not offer ideal breeding habitat for this species, it was assumed that it was one of the males seen chasing each other at laħ il-Mazz. Observations ended at the starting point, i.e. at Santa Marija bay.

2nd Visit - 30th April 1988

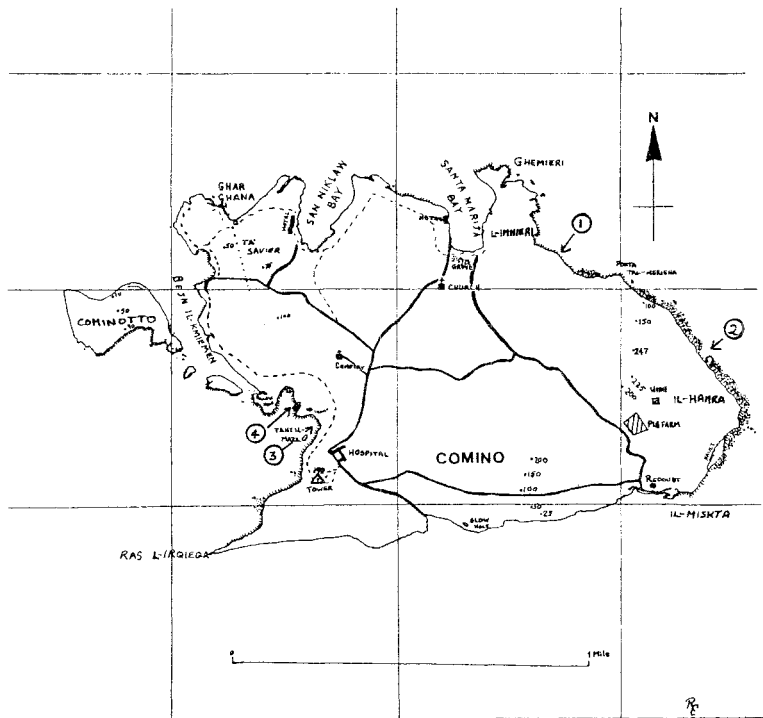
This visit started at the same time and place as the previous one and the same route was taken.

- 1 At a point between L'Imnieri and Il-Ponta fal-Merieħa, a pair of Blue Rock Thrushes was uttering alarm calls to each other very frequently and excitedly, on the rocks

below the cliffs. This was presumably because of our presence and suggested that they had hatched young in the nest. This area is the same place where we observed the 1st male on the first visit.

- 2 The singing male close to the Redoubt in the first visit was again observed in the same area.
- 3 A male bird was observed entering its nesting hole with a small lizard *Podarcis filifolensis* hanging from its bill, at laht il-Mazz. This suggested that this bird was either feeding its mate or it had young in the nest.
- 4 The other male believed to have its territory overlapping with that of no:3 at laht il-Mazz, was again seen hunting inland from laht il-Mazz, while we were still observing the male at no:3 with prey in its mouth.

No other birds were seen during this visit. On both visits no Blue Rock Thrushes were observed on the smaller islet of Cominotto, although observations were only made from Comino. After these two visits it was concluded that the breeding population of the Blue Rock Thrush on the island of Comino was made up of four pairs.



Map of Comino showing breeding areas of 4 Blue Rock Thrush pairs in Spring 1938. Numbers 1 to 4 (circled) refer to numbers in the text. Names of places mentioned in the text are all marked on the map.

Conclusion

Similar exercises in the future will show if the population of the Blue Rock Thrush on Comino is a stable one or not. If the population will remain the same for several years it can be assumed that this island can only hold four pairs. There are many suitable nesting places where these birds can nest but the feeding areas on top of the island play an important part in the territory of such species.



A typical nesting-site of the Blue Rock Thrush on Comino Island, with loose rocks beneath the cliffs. (Photo : Raymond Caruana)

It is also a fact that stealing of young from the pairs at Taht il-Mazz takes place every year. This might also have an effect on the breeding population of this bird on the island.

Summary

A census of Blue Rock Thrushes breeding on the island of Comino in April 1988 located 4 singing males, observed during two visits by the authors. No birds were found breeding inland. Inland nesting is practically impossible as all ruins and other buildings on the island are all subject to human predation and disturbance. All birds observed were breeding in almost inaccessible parts of the cliffs. It is also to be noted that the four pairs located all chose a habitat with loose rocks beneath the nesting-site.

Acknowledgement

We are grateful to Charles Gauci for his comments and also for correcting this paper.

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A REVIEW OF THE BREEDING POPULATION OF THE YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *LARUS CACHINNANS* IN THE MALTESE ISLANDS

JOHN BORG & RICHARD CACHIA ZAMMIT

The Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans* is a common winter visitor and a fairly common breeding resident in the Maltese Islands. It is found breeding in a few small scattered colonies along the south-western coasts of Malta and Gozo as well as on the islet of Filfla (Sultana & Gauci 1982). Bannerman & Vella-Gaffiero (1976) wrongly claim that it also breeds on Comino. Breeding there could not be confirmed during the past 20 years and there have never been any breeding records for Comino in the literature (Sultana & Gauci 1982).

Several visits to the sea-cliffs of the Maltese Islands were carried out from February to June 1987 by the present writers in order to estimate the breeding population of this species. No new colonies were found and only the four already documented breeding sites were located. A summary of the history of these colonies follows:

Dingli Cliffs

This is the only colony of this gull on mainland Malta. It was reported to hold some 30 pairs in 1968 (Sultana & Gauci 1968). 30+ individuals were counted there on 3 July 1977 (Cachia Zammit & Attard Montalto 1980), but this figure may have included juveniles, considering the time of the year. In 1987, the authors counted about 30 adult birds at the site.

Ta' Cenc Cliffs

These cliffs in Gozo used to hold the largest colony of Yellow-legged Gulls in the Maltese Islands and about 80 to 100 pairs have been recorded breeding there (Sultana et al. 1975). A decline in numbers was noted in 1976 when only 50+ adults were counted in April-May (Sultana & Gauci 1977-78). There were still some 30 pairs occupying the colony in 1981 (Sultana & Gauci 1982). The decline has continued and it has been most evident during these last years. Only 7 pairs were found to occupy the area in 1987.

Wardija Point

This colony is situated some 6 km west north-west of Ta' Cenc. The area had been reported to hold some 20 pairs (Sultana & Gauci 1982), but in 1987 only about 9 pairs were found breeding there.

Filfla

While a marked decline was noted in all the other colonies, the one on this islet has been on the increase in the last 17 years. The Yellow-legged Gull started colonizing the islet in the late thirties (Sultana & Gauci 1970). Filfla was used as a bombing target and the population there has been increasing since bombing practice ceased in 1971 (Sultana & Gauci 1982). In May 1974, the colony held 140+ adults (Gauci & Sultana 1975). The numbers continued to increase and by 1981 the population had increased to about 120 pairs (Sultana & Gauci 1982). In 1987 some 200 adults were counted.

James (1984) reports 135 breeding pairs for the Maltese Islands. In 1987, the present writers estimated the population of this species in the Maltese Islands at about 150 pairs, 80% of which are found breeding on Filfla.

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A REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE GANNET *SULA BASSANA* IN MALTESE WATERS

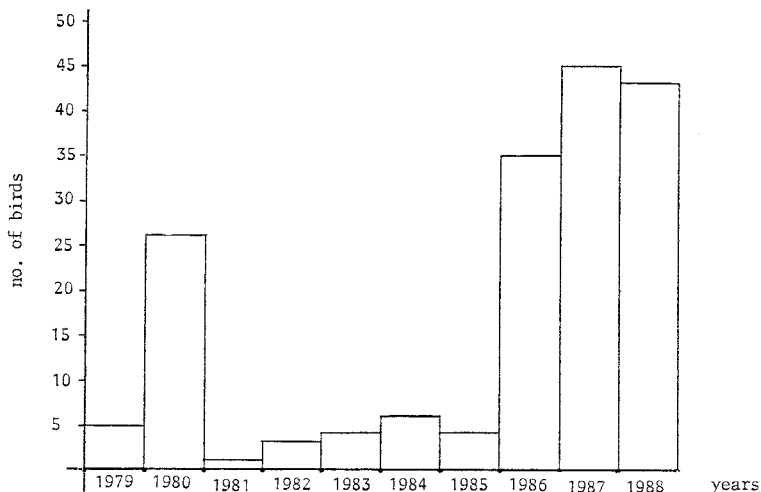
JOSEPH M. MANGION, CHARLES COLEIRO & MANUEL MALLIA

The Gannet *Sula bassana* is a scarce winter visitor in Maltese waters, with about ten birds recorded annually. It occurs mostly from October to March (Sultana & Gauci 1982). It was first recorded by N. Tagliaferro (1892 - in Despott 1917) and was first recorded as a regular winter visitor by Gibb (1951).

The dearth of regular sea-bird watching previous to 1986 is reflected in the low numbers of Gannets recorded. From 1986 to 1988, regular sea-bird observations were carried out by the authors from October to March, starting from January 1986, mainly at Gammieh Point and Ghallis Point. Observations were carried out mainly from 0700 hours to 1200 hours, and a few times from 1300 hours to 1700 hours.

These regular observations produced a marked increase in the records of Gannet occurrences and consequently the status of the Gannet as given by Sultana & Gauci (1982) may have to be reviewed.

Figure 1. gives the records for the years 1979 to 1988.



With the exception of 1980, when a maximum of 26 Gannets were recorded on 11 days (Cachia Zammit 1981-83), there were 6 or even less annual records before 1986 (Gauci 1984-85, 1986-87). There is sufficient evidence to show that the Gannet occurs more frequently than previously thought, although seasonal fluctuations have to be taken into consideration. The fact that an increase in wintering Gannets may have occurred cannot be totally excluded. Weather conditions have a substantial bearing on the behaviour of Gannets. Wind direction and force effect sea conditions and it is presumed that this may be a primary clue to explain the occurrence of Gannets near the coast in a particular range of wind direction and forces (Mangion in prep.).

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SHORT NOTES

FISH-SPAWN ENTANGLED TO THE LEGS OF CORY'S SHEARWATERS *CALONECTRIS DIOMEDEA*

A colony of Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* in the south of Malta, where six nest sites are accessible, was visited during the day on 22 May 1987 to determine if there were any incubating birds. None were found. However, the birds started arriving at the colony at night and three birds were caught. All were females bearing rings and were known to have occupied nests in that area, suggesting that the pre-laying exodus was terminating and that females had started to visit their nest-sites to lay. In fact, on visiting the area three days later, all nests were occupied by incubating birds. The unusual thing was that two of the birds examined that night had small lumps of fish-spawn entangled to their rings.

Female Manx Shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus* breeding on Skokholm leave the colony for some days to go and feed in a rich fishing area. This helps the birds in the egg formation (Perrins, C.M. & de L. Brooke, M. Manx Shearwaters in the Bay of Biscay. *Bird Study* 23 : 295-299, 1976). It is possible that female Cory's Shearwaters, during the pre-laying exodus, do the same thing and go to feed in areas where large numbers of fish congregate to breed.

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THE PRESENCE OF A BROOD-PATCH IN NON-BREEDING CORY'S SHEARWATERS *Calonectris diomedea*

Feathers in the nests of Cory's Shearwaters *Calonectris diomedea* are most evident during the incubation period mainly due to the formation of the brood-patch (Cachia Zammit & Borg 1986-87). However, feathers can be also found in dummy nests occupied at night by non-breeders, suggesting that even non-breeders may have a brood-patch. In incubating birds of both sexes, the brood-patch is quite evident when parting the ventral feathers. It consists of a relatively large bare area, roughly 9cm in length and 5-6cm in width, and is situated just above the cloacal aperture. The bare skin has a somewhat bluish coloration.

On 12 June 1987, 6 non-breeding Cory's Shearwaters were caught at a colony at night, and were examined for the presence of a brood-patch. 5 of these birds showed no sign or only a trace of a brood-patch, but one female had a complete one similar to that of an incubating bird except for the lighter colour of the bare skin. Inspection of the cloaca showed no sign of laying. Breeding females have a clearly distended cloaca which can still be evident up to 3 weeks after laying. A male, known to be a non-breeder, was also examined on 20 June 1987 and was found with a poorly defined brood-patch with scattered tufts of feathers. The colour of the skin was pinkish, lacking the bluish tinge of incubating birds.

It seems that the formation of the brood-patch or at least the loss of feathers from the abdominal region is a seasonal occurrence affecting both incubating birds as well as other mature birds which for unknown reasons are not breeding.

Birds are judged to be non-breeders from their behaviour (Cachia Zammit & Borg 1986-87), while they are sexed using Ristow's and Wink's methodology (Ristow & Wink 1980).

The presence of a brood-patch amongst non-breeding birds has already been documented in the Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* (Scott 1970 in Love 1974).

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CORY'S SHEARWATER *CALONECTRIS DIOMEDEA* BREEDING IN ITS 2nd YEAR

A male Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* was found occupying a nest site on 28 March 1987, in the same area of a colony where it was ringed as a pullus in 1985. The same bird was found incubating on 14 June 1987 in the same nest site which it occupied in March. The egg did not hatch. The following year the bird turned up again, breeding in the same nest site. This time the egg hatched and the pair successfully raised the young.

There was already a record of a bird ringed as a pullus and retrapped in its second year, as well as another record of a bird which was found breeding in its fourth year (Cachia Zammit, R. & Borg, J. Notes on the Breeding Biology of the Cory's Shearwater in the Maltese Islands. *Il-Merill* 24 : 1-9, 1986-87).

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CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* BREEDING ON HAGRET IL-GENERAL

The Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* breeds along suitable sea-cliffs on Malta and Gozo and on Filfla. It has not been recorded breeding in any of the other Maltese islands forming the Maltese Archipelago. Searches in suitable sites on Comino and Cominotto resulted in locating Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus yelkouan* but not the Cory's Shearwater (Sultana, J. & Gauci, C. A New Guide to the Birds of Malta - MOS, 1982).

Hagret il-General, popularly known as the Fungus Rock, was visited on 26 May 1988 to photograph the endemic lizard *Podarcis filifolensis generalensis* and the famed 'Malta Fungus' *Cynomorium coccineum*. Hagret il-General, which is situated at the entrance of Dwejra Bay, has a surface area of about 4000 sq.m. and rises to a height of 48m. in precipitous cliffs, forming a sloping plateau.

During the visit shearwater droppings were noted in front of some boulders on the highest part of the islet and on further investigation one Cory's Shearwater was located incubating in a 2m. deep nest-site beneath a boulder. The western side of the islet, which seems to provide good breeding habitat for shearwaters, could not be searched for other nest-sites due to its inaccessibility and also lack of time.

The behaviour of a pair of Blue Rock Thrushes *Monticola solitarius*, which was present at times during the day, suggested breeding.

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THE OCCURRENCE OF TWO EGGS IN A NEST OF A CORY'S SHEARWATER *CALONECTRIS DIOMEDEA*

A female Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* was found sitting on its nest on 14 June 1987. Alongside the bird there was an egg which was barely covered by a few flank feathers of the sitting shearwater. On retrieving the bird for examination, a second egg was found. When the bird was returned to its nest, it immediately started to incubate the same egg, ignoring the one which had been seen earlier partly exposed. Unfortunately another visit to the area a few days later revealed an empty nest with only scattered pieces of egg-shell present.

Harris recalls a similar situation for the Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. A female which had two different mates, laid two eggs in its nest during one season (Harris, M.P. Breeding Biology of the Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. *Ibis* 108 : 17-33, 1966). In our case we have no evidence that both eggs were laid by the same female. However, the possibility that one of the eggs was an addled one from the previous year is to be excluded as the pair which bred there in the previous year had successfully reared the young.

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AVIAN, CHIROPTERAN AND OTHER REMAINS IN BARN OWL *TYTO ALBA* PELLETS FROM GOZO

This short note deals with bird, bat, and other mammalian remains in Barn Owl *Tyto alba* pellets collected from one site in Gozo. Material gathered from this site has already been previously examined for mammalian remains (Schembri, S.P. & Cachia Zammit, R. Mammalian Contents in Barn Owl Pellets from Gozo. *Il-Merill* 20 : 20-21, 1979).

Thirty one intact pellets were collected on two visits - 11 May and 1 June 1986. Before being dissected, pellets were measured and weighed. Length varied from 21.1 - 52.3mm (mean 35.5mm); weight varied from 0.9 - 8.9gm (mean 3.5gms). Ten bird and two bat remains were examined.

Three species of birds were identified:

<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	-	5 skulls, bones and feathers in 4 pellets.
<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	-	4 skulls, bones and feathers in 4 pellets.
<i>Delichon urbica</i>	-	1 skull, bones and feathers in 1 pellet.

The Sardinian Warbler and the Spanish Sparrow are common breeding residents in the area while the House Martin is a very common spring migrant, with smaller numbers re-passing in autumn (Sultana, J. & Gauci, C. A New Guide to the Birds of Malta. The Ornithological Society, Valletta, Malta, 1982).

Bats are very difficult to identify. Both skulls were found to belong to *Vespertilionidae* bats of the genus *Myotis*. One species from this genus has been recorded from Gozo - Lesser Mouse-eared Bat *Myotis blythi*-Tomes 1857 (Borg, Cachia Zammit, Zava, di-Stefano in press). This is the first time that bat remains have been found in pellets collected from the Maltese Islands.

Other mammals identified in these pellets were: 38 *Crocidura sp.*, 29 *Mus domesticus* and 7 *Rattus sp.* The material was dissected and examined by the authors.

The authors would like to thank Joseph M. Mangion, Manuel Mallia and John Attard Montalto for their help in gathering the pellets and Bruno Zava for the identification of the bat remains.

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LAST KNOWN PAIR OF BARN OWLS *TYTO ALBA* SHOT

Sultana et al. (1975) listed the Barn Owl *Tyto alba* as a very scarce breeding resident and estimated that at least 10 pairs were breeding. In 1976, it was only recorded at four different sites during the breeding season (Sultana & Gauci 1977-78) while it was recorded from only two sites in 1978 (Cachia Zammit & Attard Montalto 1980). Sultana and Gauci (1982) noted its presence in at least one locality in Gozo. The locality which they referred to is Mgarr ix-Xini Valley (authors pers. comm.)

On Thursday 19 May 1986, the authors went at the site beneath the nest to see if there were any pellets, which indicate the presence of the birds. A young bird which was about three weeks old was found dead on the ground below the nest. The bird could not have been dead longer than a day because it was still intact and decomposition was still at an early stage. On closer inspection, we could note another dead bird, which seemed bigger, in a bristle bush immediately below the nesting crevice. Just below the nest-site we found two fresh spent cartridges marked as containing size 9 lead shot.

On 22 May, N. Fenech went again to the nest-site. On this occasion, he was accompanied by Louis Cassar and Michael Galea, who brought their climbing equipment to try and enter into the crevice to see if there were any more young owls. On arrival, an almost fledged young bird was found on the ground below the nest. It was the same one that was seen in the bristle bush some days before. There were three more dead pulli in the nest. These were at a more advanced state of decomposition. From the nest-site we recovered a considerable number of pellets, which are being examined.

It was evident that these five young Barn Owls died of starvation after their parents had been shot. The local shooters' association claimed in a press statement that the birds may have died due to poisoning from pesticides. However, the bird recovered on the 19th showed no signs of chemical residue.

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FIRST BREEDING RECORDS OF THE MOORHEN *GALLINULA CHLOROPUS* IN GOZO

The Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* was first reported breeding in Malta in 1984 (Doublet, J.A. & Portelli, P. First breeding records of the Moorhen in the Maltese Islands, *Il-Merill* 24 : 20, 1986-87).

Breeding in Gozo was suspected to have occurred for the first time in 1987, and was confirmed the following year. A few years previously, at a hillside at Ghajnsielem, Gozo - above Xatt l-Ahmar, a farmer had dug a large depression in the clayey soil, using the spoil to form an embankment on the lower side. This was done to collect rain water, as well as the water originating from a little spring, to be used for irrigation purposes. The surface area of this fresh water pool is about 2,200 sq.m. Vegetation in and around the pool consists mainly of *Typha latifolia*, *Arundo donax* as well as *Rubus uimifolius* and some specimens of *Ceratonia siliqua*. The pool is by the side of a track leading to Xatt l-Ahmar and is overlooked by buildings, including some holiday flats. The farmer keeps about 20 domestic ducks in this pool. In spite of a lot of disturbance, up to 10 adult Moorhens have been present during the past two years. No search for nests was carried out but several downy young have been noted being fed by adult birds on different days in 1988.

In 1987 up to 10 adult Moorhens were seen on four visits from January to April; 2 adults and 3 juveniles were present on 29 June, 5 adults and 3 juveniles were seen on 26 July and 6 adults and 2 juveniles on 1 August.

In 1988 the site was visited on 1 April when 9 adult birds were counted. On 7 May apart from 8 adult birds, 4 downy young were seen in the *Typha*, and 12 days later a further 3 downy young were seen being fed by an adult. On 21 May 19 birds were counted - 8 adults and 11 young of four different ages. In June, 6 adult birds and 4 juveniles (2 fully grown and 2 about two weeks old) were seen on 25th. On 6 July an adult bird was seen carrying food while 5 fully grown young were present. On 30 July 14 birds were counted - 6 adult birds, 6 full grown young and 2 about fifteen days old. Five days later (3 August) 22 birds were present - 8 adults, 12 fully grown juveniles and 2 young about 20 days old. On 28 August 6 adult birds, 6 fully grown juveniles and 3 young 4-5 weeks old were present.

It seems likely that at least three or four pairs have bred in the area in 1988. Adults were frequently seen chasing each other or other juveniles and uttering alarm calls. Both adults and fully grown juveniles were also frequently seen joining the domestic ducks feeding on food provided by the farmer.

Other species noted breeding in the area are Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*, Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis* and Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*.

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FIRST OCCURRENCE OF THE PADDYFIELD WARBLER *ACROCEPHALUS AGRICOLA* IN THE MALTESE ISLANDS

While ringing in a maize-field at Lunzjata, Gozo on 5 September 1986, an unfamiliar *Acrocephalus* warbler was found in one of the mist-nets. The bird's upperparts were similar to those of a Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* but with a slightly pale rufous rump. It had a conspicuous whitish supercilium which was well marked behind the eye. The underparts were whitish with a very pale tinge of buff on the throat, breast and belly. The flanks had a light olive-brown wash. The legs were pinkish with yellow soles, and the iris was olive brown. It was identified as a Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*.

Biometrics, taken in mm., were: wing - 55; tail - 49 (outer rectrice 42); bill (from skull) - 14.5 (from feathering) - 9.5; and tarsus 21.5. Wing point was 3rd=4th and it had emarginated 3rd and 4th, and slightly on 5th, primaries (counted ascendantly).

The bird was retrapped in the same area the following day. When released it was heard calling 'gish - gish'.

The Paddyfield Warbler breeds in S.Russia and Asia and is vagrant to Europe.

The Maltese name given is Baghal tas-Saqwi.

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Joe Sultana

Raymond Galea

The Paddy-field Warbler and the Pallas's Warbler photographed before released.

PALLAS'S WARBLER *PHYLLOSCOPUS PROREGULUS* - 1ST RECORD FOR MALTA

Putting up a mist net in your back garden can produce some surprises. I regularly put up a 6m, 3-shelf net in my back garden, which is about 50 sq. m. and is situated in the outskirts of Rabat. In it I have planted ten fruit trees and also cultivated some vegetables. I have also created a small artificial pond to attract the birds. Throughout the year a different assortment of birds are ringed. These include Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*, Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*, Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*, Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*, White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*, Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*, and Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*.

On Friday, 13 November 1987 at 0640 hours, I found what I at first thought was a Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* in the net, but on closer examination the bird turned out to be a Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*, a species not yet recorded in Malta. The bird was also examined by Joe Sultana and Raymond Galea who came up to see the bird after I phoned them, and a detailed description was taken. In appearance it resembled a somewhat large Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. The beak was dark horn coloured, with the inner parts of the lower mandible orangish. It had a long yellow eyestripe which nearly met at the back of the head, and a yellow stripe along the middle of the crown. On the back parts and under the side of the supercilium it had a blackish

band, giving the impression of a black patch behind the eye. The crown was greyish green turning blackish towards the back of the head on both sides of the middle stripe. The sides of the head were faintly washed greyish green below the eye. The upperparts were greyish green with a conspicuous pale yellow rump, in a rectangular form from one side to the other.

The greater and median coverts were boldly and widely edged pale yellow forming two wing bars, with the upper smaller than the lower one. The 2nd and 3rd tertials were also edged pale yellow, while the rest of the wing flight feathers were edged greyish green, and when closed getting the same appearance as the upper parts. The tail was greyish green with the lower parts of the outer webs greenish. The underparts from chin to the under tail coverts were whitish (faintly tinged yellowish-white on the belly). The tarsus was light horn colour and the iris was black. The measurements in mm were: wing 49.5; tail 37; tarsus 15; bill to skull 10,- weight 5.1gm.

Wing formula: w.p. 4th=5th, 2nd < 7.5mm; 3rd < 2.5; 6th < 1.5; 7th < 4; 8th < 5.5; 9th < 6.5; 10th < 9. The 1st primary was 6.5 primary coverts. Primaries 3rd-6th were emarginated.

Mario V. Gauci

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WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT *APUS CAFFER* - A NEW RECORD FOR MALTA

A specimen of a White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* was recently noted in a local collection of stuffed birds. It was dated but had not been identified. This species has never been recorded in Malta. The specimen in question had been shot on 25 May 1974 at Il-Faqanija. It was among a loose flock of about 200 Swifts *Apus apus*.

The bird's wings and deeply-forked tail are brownish black. The rest of the body is bluish black, except for a white patch on the chin and a white band on the rump, extending to the sides. The wing-length is 136mm. The longest tail feathers are 70mm while the shortest are 38mm.

Its breeding range is sub-Saharan Africa, central Morocco and, since 1964, southern Spain. It has occurred accidentally in Finland in 1968 and in North Yemen in 1982. Some populations are resident while others are migrant or partial migrant (Fry, C.H., Keith, S. & Urban, E.K. The Birds of Africa. Academic Press, 1988).

The Maltese name given to the species is Rundun tal-Hawwief.

Thanks are due to Aswero Vassallo for some of the above information.

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FIRST OCCURRENCE OF THE MASKED SHRIKE *LANIUS NUBICUS* IN THE MALTESE ISLANDS

While ringing at Lunzjata, Gozo on 20 October 1985, a Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* - sized bird, later identified as a Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*, was flushed from a fig tree and was seen flying into another fig tree. The first thing that was noticed was an extensive white shoulder patch which was very pronounced. The bird had another white area on its forehead. It appeared slimmer than a Woodchat Shrike and had a remarkably long tail. The underparts were washed with brown. The bird was seen in clear sunlight at 0840 hours. It stayed in the fig tree for about ten minutes and then flew across the field to a partly dead tree. It did not behave like a Woodchat Shrike and never settled on an exposed perch. It stayed reasonably well hidden in the fig tree and in the dead tree. The bird was watched for about twenty minutes.

This shrike is a summer visitor to Turkey, Greece and southern Yugoslavia and is a vagrant to the rest of Europe.

The Maltese name given is Kaccamendula tal-Maskra.

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UNUSUAL MOULT IN A WOOD WARBLER *PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX*

An adult Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* caught for ringing at Xemxija on 14 September 1988 was found to have undergone a partial post-nuptial moult in its European breeding ground. The bird had moulted the following remiges: pp 3-4 and ss 6-8 as well as some greater coverts. All other tracts showed no sign of moult and as such showed a contrast between old feathers and the brighter green of the new feathers.

The bird also had an unusually short second primary which fell between pp 5-6. This could have been due to the fact that pp 3-4 were new while 2,5 and 6 were not, and as such would have undergone some wear since their last moult.

John Attard Montalto

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FEEDING BEHAVIOUR OF THE BLUE ROCK THRUSH *MONTICOLA SOLITARIUS*

A male Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* was noted wintering for 2 consecutive years in a disused quarry at Is-Sghajtar, l/o Naxxar. The following method of feeding was observed.

The bird perched on an exposed rock 3 to 10m above the ground, watching for suitable food items. When it spotted its prey, which in many cases consisted of insects of the order *Coleoptera*, it flew to the ground, grabbed the prey and carried it on a flat stone or slab of rock. There it battered the prey against the ground, then it stood back and waited, presumably to check whether the prey was dead before eating it. Sometimes it hovered momentarily before grabbing the prey.

The average size of the insects eaten was 2 to 3cm. On one occasion the bird took a large insect about 5cm long of the order *Orthoptera* in flight. On another occasion, the same bird was observed feeding on winged ants (probably *Messor sp.*) in a flycatcher like manner.

Mark Falzon

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RECORDS OF SKYLARK *ALAUDA ARVENSIS* SINGING IN THE MALTESE ISLANDS

The Skylark *Alauda arvensis* is a very common autumn migrant but only a few manage to winter, probably due to shooting. A small return passage is often observed in spring. It had never been recorded singing in the Maltese Islands (Sultana, J. & Gauci, C. A New Guide to the Birds of Malta. The Ornithological Society, Valletta: Malta. 1982).

On 10 February 1987, at Mgarr ix-Xini in Gozo, a Skylark was noted giving its aerial song. The bird continued singing throughout the 5 minutes that we stayed in the area. Skylarks have been recorded singing at Ghadira in February - March on a few occasions in recent years (J. Sultana & C. Gauci, pers. comm.).

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A PAIR OF SWALLOWS *HIRUNDO RUSTICA* SUSPECTED BREEDING IN JUNE 1988

At about 0800 hrs on 5 June 1988, on a country road leading from Girgenti to Zebbug (Malta), a couple of Swallows *Hirundo rustica* were noted perching on an electricity wire about 15m away from the road. As these birds were rather late in their migration journey, the possibility of breeding was raised.

After a few minutes observation, the two Swallows took off and came searching for insects, flying very low, just on the road from where the authors were observing; sometimes

1-2m away. From the length of the outer tail feathers it was assumed that the two birds were a pair. The male had two long streamers, while those of the female were almost non discernible. The birds then perched again at the same place on the wire. After a few minutes they came down again to prey on flying insects. This happened several times, and it seemed that a bond existed between them. They never flew alone, and a contact call was repeated several times while flying and even while perching on the wire. This behaviour gave us the suspicion that these birds were doing some sort of display to each other.

It is to be noted that this area still holds a number of farmhouses, most of which are uninhabited, thus offering good nesting places for this species, especially those with open windows and doors.

On re-visiting the area on 8 June, only one bird was seen. It is to be noted that it was early in the morning (between 0630-0730 hrs) and that it was very windy. The presence of this bird made the authors believe that the two Swallows were probably nesting somewhere in that area. Unfortunately, no visits were made after this date.

In the Maltese Islands, Swallows are very common passage migrants, in spring from March to May, with some till mid-June; and in autumn from early September to the end of October. A few birds sometimes occur during the rest of the year (Sultana, J. & Gauci, C. A New Guide to the Birds of Malta. The Ornithological Society, Valletta: Malta).

In 1974 a pair of Swallows bred in a house in the village of Mqabba, raising 4 young which left the nest on 2 August (Sultana, J. & Gauci, C. Eight Ornithological Notes - 1974-1975 : An unusual occurrence - Swallows breeding in Malta. *IL-Merill* 15 : 2-4, 1975).

The only previous reference to breeding of Swallows in these Islands was made way back in 1843 by Antonio Schembri, who stated that a few breed (Catalogo Ornitologico del Gruppo di Malta. Anglo-Maltese : Malta, 1834).

Raymond Galea & Raymond Caruana

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LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *BUTEO RUFINUS* FEEDING ON FLEDGLINGS OF THE LOGGERHEAD TURTLE *CARETTA CARETTA*

On 16 August 1987 I was accompanying some Turkish biologists who were studying the breeding biology of the Loggerhead Turtle *Caretta caretta* at Dalayan, a sandy beach on the S.W. coast of Turkey.

During the visit, which started at day break, we walked along the 7km beach, making notes on the tracks left by the young turtles which had fledged during the night and early morning. At one time a raptor was observed flying towards the beach from the direction of a wood on the other side of the bay. This raptor, which was eventually identified as a Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*, alighted on a log on the beach about 150m ahead of us. After some minutes it flew about 1m above the ground and landed on the ground where it was observed to run and hop about.

It then flew across the bay in the direction of the wood carrying an unidentified object in its talons. We then walked towards the spot where the bird was observed and found a set of turtle tracks surrounded by the tracks of the bird. The turtle tracks ended at the spot where the bird was seen to take off. It was assumed that the turtle fledgling was taken by the Long-legged Buzzard. I was later informed that the bird was observed again in the area on subsequent days.

According to 'The Birds of the Western Palearctic', Vol. II (Cramp, S & Simmons, K.E.L. (eds.) Oxford University Press, 1980), the Long-legged Buzzard feeds chiefly on small mammals, reptiles and large insects. Sometimes it searches for prey from a perch on a rock, mound or tree and often on the ground. Reptiles taken include lizards *Lacerta* and *Eremias sp.* and snakes *Matrix* and *Vipera sp.*

Paul Portelli

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SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1985 - 86

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, Raymond Galea, Charles Gauci, Manuel Mallia, Joseph M. Mangion and Joe Sultana. Other contributors were: Alfred E. Baldacchino, Mrs. M. Bonnici, Dennis Cachia, Richard Cachia Zammit, Victor Cilia, Max Farrugia, Natalino Fenech, Joe Grima, Anthony B. Heath, Hanna and John Middleton, D.J. Nelson, Paul Portelli, Silvio Scicluna, K.F. Stade, Martin A. Thake and Louis Vella. Other members may have contributed to the daily log kept at the Ghadira Nature Reserve, which records were subsequently added to the national daily and species 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 and subsequently transferred to the species log by Charles Coleiro who also compiled the systematic list.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Blongun Zghir

1986 : 1 at Ghadira from 2 Jan to 11 Mar and 5 at Qammieh on 1 Apr. Again 1 at Ghadira from 2 Nov, then 2 from 15 Dec to end of year.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* Blongun Prim

1985 : 1 at Il-Menqa, Marsa on 5 Nov.
1986 : 1 at Monoel Island on 4 Dec.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* Blongun Sekond

1985 : 1 at Ghadira from 1-12 Jan. 4 offshore on 15 Sep, then 1 at Ghadira on 26 Sep and from 8 Nov to 22 Dec.
1986 : 1 present at Ghadira from 30 Aug to 14 Sep and 1 seen at Qammieh on 6 Sep. 1 again at Ghadira from 3 Nov to 27 Dec.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* Ciefa

1985 : First seen on 4 Mar. Highest count 1500 off Gharb on 13 Jul. Breeding as usual.
1986 : First sighting on 25 Feb and last recorded on 2 Nov. Highest counts were of 1000 on 10 May and on 26 Jul, off Gharb. Bred as usual.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* Garnija

1985 : c.50 on 10 Mar at Hal Far. Recorded ashore at colonies till 18 Jun. 1 was shot on 2 Nov. A few already ashore on 5 Dec. Bred as usual.
1986 : Highest count ashore c.20 at Hal Far on 25 Feb, with last date on 5 Jul. Two off shore sightings in Apr and Dec with 5 off Qammieh on 27 Dec. Breeding at usual colonies.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* Kangu ta' Fifla

1985-86 : Recorded only on Fifla where bred as usual.

GANNET *Sula bassana* Sula

1985 : 3 off Golden Bay on 30 Mar and 1 juv on 15 Dec.
1986 : 1-3 on 8 dates from 3 Jan to 23 Feb off the NW coast of Malta. Singles on 11th and 18 Oct and up to 4 on 5 dates in Nov, then 4 off Qammieh and 1 at Mfahleb on 21 Dec and 1-3 daily from 25-28 Dec at three different sites.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* Margun

1985 : 2 over Ghadira on 13 Jan. 8 sightings of 1-3 birds from 6-30 Nov and singles on 7 dates at Ghadira from 3-31 Dec. Also 1 at Ahrax on 31 Dec.
1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 1-2 Jan. 2 at B'Bugia on 20 Sep, then on 14 days from 8 Oct to 9 Nov; single figures but a flock of c.40 at B'Bugia on 17 Oct and 17 were reported shot offshore on 9 Nov. 1-2 on 3 dates from 23-30 Nov. 2 overland on 28 Oct.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* Kappun

1985 : 1 shot at Bahrija on 30 Oct.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus* Russett fas-Sigar

1985 : Early bird at Ghadira on 10 Mar, then singles on 11 dates from 7 Apr to 25 May.
In autumn singles on 12th and 19-20 Oct at Ghadira.

1986 : 1 at Lunzjata on 31 Mar, then singles on 19th and 23 Apr and on 4 May. 1 released at Ghadira on 17 Oct.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* Kwakka

1985 : Up to 11 birds on 19 days from 21 Mar to 27 May. In autumn recorded on 9 days from 6 Aug to 14 Sep; single figures but flock of c.40 at Bingemma on 14 Sep. Then 1 on 6th, 200 at Bahrija on 9th and 1 on 27 Oct.

1986 : 4 on 20 Mar, then recorded on 10 dates from 6 Apr to 20 May; single figures but 11+ at Comino on 6 Apr. On several days from 13 Aug to 21 Sep, usually in small flocks of up to 30, but 100 at Buskett on 3 Sep. 1 on 4 Oct, then 1 present at Ghadira from 25 Oct to 12 Dec.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides* Agrett isfar

1985 : Up to 5 almost daily at Ghadira from 13 Apr to 21 May, then 1 at Manoel Island on 30 May. In autumn singles on 4 dates at Ghadira from 17th to 25 Sep and 1 at Xemxija on 28 Sep.

1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 26 May, then 1 released at same place on 2 Jun still present up to 3 Jul. 5 at Ghadira on 22 Aug and 2 at Comino on 9 Oct.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* Agrett tal-Bhejjem

1986 : Singles reported shot at Salina in late Nov and at Delimara in early Dec.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* Agrett Abjad

1985 : Almost daily from 21 Mar to 15 May. All sightings except 5 at Ghadira; highest 60 at Bubaqra on 7 Apr, otherwise 1-8. Then 1-2 at Ghadira from 23 May to 6 Jun. In autumn 1 on 26 Aug, then on 7 days from 5-25 Sep with 30 over Sliema on 25th highest. 30 at B'Bugia on 5th and 1 at Ghadira on 27-29 Oct.

1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 11-12 Jan. First in spring 5 at Gammieh on 29 Mar, then singles on 5 dates from 4-27 Apr, most at Ghadira, and 1-2 daily at same place from 4-13 May. In autumn 11 at Ghadira on 27 Aug, then up to 4 on 12 dates from 1 Sep to 5 Oct, 3 on 17 Oct and 2 on 5 Nov. Most records from Ghadira.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* Russett Griz

1985 : 2 at Ghadira on 24 Feb, then on 13 dates from 3 Mar to 16 Apr with 10 at Dwejra (Malta) on 20 Mar highest. 2 on 30 Apr then 1-3 daily at Ghadira on 4-9 May and 5 at same place on 11 May. In autumn 1 on 15 Aug followed by 25 sightings on 14 dates from 8 Sep to 12 Oct with 60 on 21 Sep highest, and with flocks of over 20 recorded 5 times. 1-4 on 5 dates in Nov, 1 on 9 Dec and 1 at Ghadira from 21-29 Dec.

1986 : In spring, 7 over Comino on 15th and 1 at la'Qali on 21 Mar, then 1-3 on 5 dates from 1-28 Apr and singles on 30 May and 7 Jun. On autumn migration, 1 at Salina on 1 Aug, then 41 sightings on 33 dates from 21 Aug to 12 Nov; in single figures but a total of 60 at 4 sites on 28 Sep. Most records at Ghadira and along coast. Singles on 22nd, 25th and 31 Dec.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* Russett Ahmar

1985 : 9 over Comino on 24 Mar, then 1 on 1 Apr, and 1-8 on 7 dates from 18-25 Apr. 2 on 1 May. Most at Ghadira. Only one autumn sighting - 5 at Mnajdra on 12 Sep.

1986 : 3 at Delimara on 13 Mar then 1-4 on 7 dates from 29 Mar to 20 Apr and a flock of 25 at Golden Bay on 10 May. In autumn 1 at Qawra on 15 Aug, then on 8 dates from 22 Aug to 13 Sep. Single figures, highest 6 at Comino on 24 Aug.

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* Cikonja Sewda

1985 : 1 at la'Qali on 19 Apr was later shot at Attard. 1 over Dwejra and over Buskett on 5 Oct was probably the same bird.

1986 : 1 reported as shot at Dwejra (Gozo) on 17 Apr, 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 22 Sep, and 3 at same place on 5 Oct.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* Cikonja Bajda

1985 : 1 seen over Dwejra (Malta) and Buskett on 21 Sep, 2 over Dwejra (Malta) on 5th, 1 reported as shot at sea on 26th and 1 at Xaghra (Gozo) on 30 Oct.

1986 : 1 shot at Dwejra (Gozo) on 17 Apr. 1 shot on 26 Oct and 1 at B'Bugia Bay on 25 Nov.

'STORK sp.' *Ciconia sp.*

1986 : 2 over Buskett on 14 Sep.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* Vetteran

- 1985 : 6 on 14th, flock of 33 over Msida on 15th and 2 on 16 Apr. 2 at Ghadira on 9 Jun. In autumn singles on 16-17 Sep.
 1986 : Flock of 30 on 20 Mar off Cirkewwa and 1 at Ghadira on 5 May. Flock of 17 over Dwejra (Malta) and singles at Qammieh and Ghadira on 27 Sep only sightings for autumn.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* Paletta

- 1986 : 1 shot at Delimara on 16 Oct.

GREATER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus ruber* Flamingu

- 1986 : 2 at B'Bugia on 2 Dec and a flock of c.26 over Ghadira Bay on 11 Dec.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* Cinju Mutu

- 1985 : Singles reported shot on 17 Jan at St Thomas Bay, M'Xlokk and Delimara.
 1986 : Singles shot at Gharb and Gala on 6 Dec.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* Wizza tal-Maskra Bajda

- 1986 : 1 at M'Scala on 21 Dec.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* Kuluvert tas-Salib

- 1985 : 2 on 3rd and 1 on 14 Jan at Ghadira.
 1986 : Flock of 12 and 20 shot offshore on 9th and 6 on 13 Nov; 4 on 2nd, then 2 sightings on 19-20th and 4 sightings on 29-30 Dec; flocks of 7 on 20th and 29th highest.

WIGEON *Anas penelope* Silfjun Ewropew

- 1985 : Daily at Ghadira from 6 Nov to 26 Dec with max. of 5 from 25 Nov to 12 Dec. Only 2 records elsewhere: 1 at Ghajn Tuffieha and 2 at Qawra on 18 Dec.
 1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 22-26 Sep. 3 records in Nov: 13 at Ghallis on 2nd, 12 over Ghadira on 8th and 1 against Ghallison 9th. 3 at Ghadira on 30-31 Dec.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* Kuluvert Griz

- 1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 22 Nov.

TEAL *Anas crecca* Sarsella

- 1985 : 2 at Ghadira on 1-3 Jan and 1 there on 27 Feb; then singles again at Ghadira on 8-9th and 20 offshore on 25 Mar. Daily from 22 Oct to 13 Nov with max of 4 on 26 Oct. Then 13 on 30 Nov and singles on 2nd and 24 Dec. All records at Ghadira except for 1 at Ramla Bay on 1 Nov.
 1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 10-16 Sep, then 5 at same place on 1 Oct, 4 at Ghallis on 9th and singles at Ghadira on 29-30 Nov. In Dec, 4 on 1st then daily from 15-22nd, decreasing from 7 to 1, and 1 on 30th. All at Ghadira.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* Kuluvert

- 1985 : 1-2 from 5 Jan to 6 Mar and 1 from 30 Oct to 20 Nov (but 2 on 7 Nov), at Ghadira.
 1986 : 1 on 19th, 1 shot on 21st and 9 off Ghallis on 22 Nov. On 4 dates in Dec: 6 off Filfla on 12th, and 5 sightings on 29-31st with max of 10 shot at la' Qali.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* Silfjun

- 1985 : 1 on 8th, then 1 daily from 26 Mar to 8 Apr. 2 records in Oct: 17 on 23rd and 1 on 27th. Recorded on most days in Nov: 20 on 2nd then 3 on 6th and 1 daily from 8-18th; 74 on 22nd, 22 on 29th and 8 on 30th. 1 on 7 Dec. Almost all records at Ghadira.
 1986 : 30 at Cirkewwa on 20 Mar. 1 on 26 Jul at Ghadira and 1 at Ghallis on 28 Sep. 17 on 24th and 1 on 31 Oct, both at Ghallis; 4 sightings on 9-20 Nov, highest 10 over Mosta on 13th. Two flocks of 6 on 12th and 29 Dec at Ghadira and Delimara respectively.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* Sarsella Hamra

- 1985 : 1-15 daily at Ghadira from 16 Feb to 30 Apr and 1 on 4 May. 3 other records off Qammieh in Mar: 300 on 5th, 20 on 6th and 45 on 30th. 1 at Ghadira on 18 Sep.
 1986 : Only 1 spring record: 90 off Qammieh on 1 Apr. 1 at Ghadira almost daily on 1-22 Sep.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* Palettuna

- 1985 : 2-3 daily on 8-16 Mar and on 4th and 8 Nov, at Ghadira.
 1986 : 1 off Ghallis on 23 Nov.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* Brajmila
1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 16 Sep.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* Brajmila + Ghajhna Bajda
1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 16 Mar and 1 Dec.
1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 27 Apr.

Unidentified DUCKS *Anas sp.*
1985 : 1 on 4 Jan, 20-35 on 4-5th and 24 Mar, on 7th and 12-13 Apr. Singles on 12th and 21st, 14 on 23rd and 50 on 26 Oct off Ghadira. On 7 dates from 1-27 Nov mostly off or over Ghadira but 60+ off Ahrax on 27th. 1 on 15 Dec.
1986 : 200 off Cirkewwa on 20 Mar, then on 3 dates from 31 Mar to 3 Apr with 250 off Bnghisa on 3 Apr. 1 on 21st and 18 off Delimara on 28 Sep. On 3 dates in Oct: 13 on 12th, 14 on 14th and 20 on 24th. Then on 7 dates from 2 Nov to 30 Dec (almost daily on 14-21 Nov) with 50+ at Grand Harbour on 2 Dec highest.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* Kuccarda
1985 : On 10 days in spring from 20 Apr to 25 May. Always 1-4 birds except for 13 on 23 Apr and 15 on 8 May, both sightings over Dwejra (Malta). Singles on 9-10 Jun. In autumn, almost daily from 9-30 Sep when recorded in single to low double figures. Highest totals were of 19 on 20th (2 sites) and 29th (4 sites). Singles in Oct on 5-6th, 13th and 19th. Most records from Dwejra (Malta) and Buskett.
1986 : On 9 days in spring from 16 Apr to 31 May. All sightings were of 1-2 but a few were seen in S. Malta on 31 May. 2 on 24 Jun at Dwejra (Malta) and singles at same place on 10-11 Jul. In autumn almost daily from 7-28 Sep. In single to low double figures but 81 (2 sites) on 17th. 1-6 on 4 dates in Oct up to 26th. Most records from Dwejra (Malta) and Buskett.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* Astun Iswed
1985 : 1 at Ghadira on 29 Mar, then singles on 10th and 24 Apr and on 25 May. 8 sightings on 5 dates from 13-22 Sep; singles, but 5 (2 sites) on 20th. Exceptional flock of 66 over Buskett on 9 Oct.
1986 : 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 10 Apr, then singles at Luqa on 20 Apr and daily on 2-4 Jun. Singles on 7th, 15th and 17th, and 2 on 18 Sep. Autumn records from Buskett and Dwejra (Malta).

EGYPTIAN VULTURE *Neophron percnopterus* Avultun Abjad
1985 : Singles over Ghadira on 8th and over Dwejra (Malta) on 14 Apr; and at Buskett on 14 Sep.

SHORT-TOED EAGLE *Circus gallicus* Ajkta Bajda
1985 : 1 at Buskett on 20th, then 1 over Dwejra (Malta) and Buskett on 22 Sep were probably the same bird. 1 shot at sea on 26 Oct.
1986 : Singles over Buskett on 13th and over Dwejra (Malta) on 22 Sep. 2 at Buskett on 9 Oct.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* Bughadam Ahmar
1985 : 1 on 3 Mar; then 32 sightings on 26 days from 14 Mar to 23 May (almost daily from 21 Mar to 10 Apr); mostly 1-5 but 17 at La' Gali /Dwejra area on 28th and 9 on 14 Mar; 1, injured, found on 26 Jun. In autumn 1 on 28 Aug, then on most days from 9 Sep to 13 Oct; highest totals were of 33 (3 sites) on 15th, 81 (5 sites) on 16th, 51 (4 sites) on 17th and 31 (2 sites) on 20th, otherwise 1-9. 1 on 29 Oct. Most autumn records from Buskett and Dwejra (Malta).
1986 : Spring passage from 3 Mar to 28 May when there were 34 sightings on 25 days, with a peak from 23 Mar to 7 Apr when almost daily. Highest 12 at Dwejra on 5 Apr, otherwise 1-4. In autumn almost daily from 6-27 Sep, mostly 1-12 but 32 (4 sites) on 20th and 17 on 12th. Singles on 5th, 8th and 12 Oct. Almost all autumn records from Dwejra (Malta) and Buskett.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* Bughadam Abjac Prim
1985 : 1 male at Wied Qirda on 3 Apr.
1986 : 2 different males at Dwejra (Malta) on 1st and another at same place on 16 Apr.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus* Bughadam Abjad
1986 : 1 male at Luqa on 26 Mar.

MONJAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* Bughadam Griz
1985 : Recorded only in Apr: 7 at La' Gali, 5 at Zejtun and 1 at Xemxija on 19th; and 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 25th.

1986 : Only 1 record: 1 at Chadwick Lakes on 7 Sep.

'RINGTAIL' HARRIERS *Circus sp.*

1985 : 1 on 28 Mar and 1-3 on 7 dates on 8-28 Apr. Singles on 12 Sep and 12 Oct.

1986 : Singles on 5 dates from 1-25 Apr but 8 were shot at Wardija on 17th. In autumn singles on 5 dates from 7-23 Sep and on 26 Oct. Most records at Buskett and Dwejra.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* Sparvler

1985 : 2 at Buskett on 22nd and 1 at Ghadira on 29 Sep. 1 again at Buskett on 13 Oct, and 1 at Sarraflu on 9 Nov.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* Kuccarda Prima

1985 : Singles at Buskett on 22nd and at Ghadira on 29 Sep; 1 on 2 Oct over Dwejra (Malta).

1986 : 1 over Dwejra (Malta) on 16 Sep.

LESSER-SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila pomarina* Ajkla tat-likki

1986 : 1 over Buskett on 21 Sep.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* Arpa

1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 21 Mar, at Dwejra (Malta) on 16th (shot) and at Ghadira on 18 Apr. In autumn recorded daily on 13-17 Sep; singles but 2 on 16th. Sighted at Buskett and Rabat. Singles at Dwejra (Malta) on 26th and 28 Sep.

1986 : 1 at Gharb on 31 Aug, then in Sep singles at Ghadira on 9th, at Gammieh and Rabat on 20th, and over Buskett on 28th.

'BROADWINGS'

1985 : 3 on 19 Apr. On 7 days in Sep from 8-29th with 13 over Ghadira on 16th highest. 1 on 26 Oct.

1986 : 1 on 17th and 5 on 28 Mar. Singles on 4th and 17 Apr and on 12th and 14 May. 1 on 31 Aug, then on 10 dates in Sep from 2nd to 28th; mostly 1-5. 1 on 9 Oct.

LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni* Spanjulett Sekond

1985 : Only recorded in autumn: on 10 dates from 14 Sep to 13 Oct; mainly singles but 2 on 14 Sep. Most records from Buskett.

1986 : In spring singles on 26 Mar at Xaghira and on 5 Apr at Lunzjata. 2 at Buskett on 19th and 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 20 Sep.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* Spanjulett

1985 : 2 at Dwejra (Malta) on 8 Jan and singles on 3 dates in Feb in same area. First in spring on 11 Mar, then 40 sightings on 34 days from 20 Mar to 3 Jun - daily from 18-25 May. Only in low single figures with 6 at Dwejra (Malta) on 26 Mar highest. In autumn 1 on 31 Aug, then almost daily from 13 Sep to 8 Nov; in low single figures, highest 7 on 26 Sep at Dwejra (Malta). Singles on 19th and 21 Nov and on 29-30 Dec.

1986 : Singles on 6th and 14 Jan, 1 on 1st and 1-2 on 21-22 Feb. Spring passage from 5 Mar to 31 May; almost daily from 26 Mar to 16 Apr. There were 42 sightings on 35 days, always in low single figures, highest 6 at Ta' Qall on 4 Apr. 1 on 7 Jun. In autumn 1 on 23 Aug, then on most days from 7 Sep to 31 Oct; mainly 1-5 but 3 on 20 Sep and 17 Oct at Dwejra (Malta). Singles in Nov on 7th, 8th, 15th and 25th; then 4 sightings in Dec from 7th to 29th; singles but 6 at Siggiewi on 22nd.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* Zumbrell

1985 : 1 on 20th and 2 on 28 Apr; then singles on 4 dates in May from 10th to 23rd.

1986 : 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 22 May; then singles on 3rd and 9 Jun. 2 at Buskett on 17 Sep.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* Seger ta' Denbu

1985 : 5 seen at a taxidermist on 30 Oct.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* Seger tal-Hannieqa

1985 : Singles on 15-16 Apr; then 2 on 16th and singles on 18th and 21 May. In autumn singles on 31 Aug and 3 Sep, then almost daily in Sep from 11th to 29th; mainly 1-6 but 9 on 16th and 7 on 28th. Singles on 4 dates in Oct from 5-13th. Most records from Dwejra (Malta) and Buskett.

1986 : Singles on 5 dates from 7-23 Apr, on 18 May and on 3 Jun. In autumn 19 sightings on 13 dates from 3rd to 27 Sep; mainly 1-3 but 5 on 10th and 17th. 1 on 7th, 3 on 12th and 1 on 17 Oct. Most at Dwejra (Malta) and Buskett.

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

1985 : Singles at Rabat on 9th and at Bingemma on 26 Jun; 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 31 Aug

then singles daily on 13-16th and 3 on 20th, 1 on 24th and 28th (all at Buskett) and 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 29 Sep. 2 at Ramla Bay on 7 Nov.
 1986 : 1 at 'la' Gali on 24 Mar and 1 on Filfia on 2 Aug. Then on 8 dates in Sep: 2 on 3rd and singles on 12th, 15-16th, 19-20th, 25th and 27th. All records from Dwejra (Malta) and Buskett.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* Bies

1985 : 1 at Dwejra (Gozo) on 4 Aug.
 1986 : Singles at Migra Ferha on 6 Jul, at Benghisa on 23 Aug, at Dwejra (Malta) on 23 Sep and at Golden Bay on 15 Oct. 2 on 17 Oct.

Unidentified FALCONS *Falco sp.*

1985 : Singles on 15th, 19th and 25 Apr and 2 on 15 Sep.
 1986 : 1-3 on 5 days from 28 Apr to 7 Jun. Then 1 on 19 Aug, and on 10 days from 2nd to 28 Sep; mainly 1-3 but 5 at Dwejra (Malta) on 17th, 2 on 9th and ca. 7 on 17 Oct. Most autumn records refer to Kestrel/Lesser Kestrel. 1 on 14 Nov at Gammieh.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* Summiena

1985 : Singles at Luqa on 11th and at Gharghur on 15 Feb. Spring passage: 21 sightings on 17 days from 2 Mar to 7 Apr; all singles, except for 5 at Gozo on 24 Mar and 4 at Comino on 1 Apr. 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 1 May. In autumn 1 at same place on 17 Sep.
 1986 : On 7 dates in Mar from 7th to 31st when 1-2 birds mainly recorded but 3 on 9th. Then singles at Comino on 26 Apr and at Dwejra (Malta) on 1 May and 11 Sep.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* Gallozz tax-Xitwa

1985 : 1-3 at Ghadira throughout Jan and Feb and up to 19 Mar. Singles on 28 Jul and on 8 scattered dates from 10 Aug to 22 Sep, but 3 on 21 Sep. Then up to 15 from 4 Oct onwards. All autumn records from Ghadira except for 1 at Xemxija on 7 Nov.
 1986 : 1-5 at Ghadira on most days from 1 Jan to 28 Mar. First autumn record on 23 Sep, then almost daily at Ghadira from 25th onwards. Mainly up to 10 birds but max of 15 on a few dates in Nov-Dec. 2 records outside Ghadira: 1 at Lunzjata on 5 Oct and 1 at Xemxija on 9 Dec.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* Gallozz fat-likki

1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 5 dates from 13 Jan to 6 Feb. 2 at Chadwick Lakes on 12 Oct and 1 at Ghadira on 15 dates from 13 Oct to 26 Dec, but 3 on 19-20 Oct and 2 on 14 Nov.
 1986 : Singles at Ghadira on 23 Jan, 15 Feb and 8 Mar. Then 1 at Lunzjata on 26 Sep and 1 at Ghadira on 17 dates from 6 Nov to 11 Dec but 2 were seen on 2 Dec. 1 record outside Ghadira. 1 at Bingemma on 30 Nov.

LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva* Gallozz Zghir

1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 11 Mar; 9th, 16th and 30 Nov; on 1st and 22 Dec.
 1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 30 Oct.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex* Gallozz ahmar

1985 : 2 at Chadwick Lakes on 12 Oct.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Gallozz iswed

1985 : On most days at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 21 May with max. of 16 on 1 Jan. Only 1-5 from 26 Mar. 2 records outside Ghadira: 1 at Kirkop on 18th and 2 at Xlendi Valley on 23 Mar. 1-2 on 2-3 Jun at Ghadira. In autumn, 1-4 on 11 dates from 21 Sep to 27 Oct, then daily from 29 Oct to 31 Dec. Mainly up to 15 birds but 20 on 9th and 21 Dec. All autumn records from Ghadira except for 1-2 at Xemxija on 3-8 Nov. At least two pairs bred in a quarry in spring (see *Il-Merill* 24, p.20).
 1986 : Almost daily at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 31 Mar with max. of 10 counted on 4 days, then on 10 dates from 5 Apr to 22 May; mainly 1-2 but 3 on 5 Apr. Only 4 singles recorded outside Ghadira in Mar and Apr. 1 on 16 Jul, then 1-2 on 14 dates from 3 Sep to 4 Oct but 6 at Ghajnsielem on 13th. Almost daily at Ghadira from 8 Oct onwards with max. of 10 on 3 days in Dec. Other sightings were of 1 at B'Bugia on 6 Nov and 4 at M'Xlokk on 20 Dec. One pair bred (see *Il-Merill* 24, p.20).

COOT *Fulica atra* Tigięga fat-Bahar

1985 : Only recorded from Ghadira: up to 9 in Jan-Feb, then decreasing gradually from late Feb to 26 Mar. Only injured bird remained when sighted occasionally from Apr to Sep but 2 on 22nd and 29 Sep. 1-4 from 1 Oct, then 6 on 2 Nov increasing to 10 by 31 Dec.
 1986 : At Ghadira up to 10 in Jan and 9 in Feb decreasing from 3 Mar and all departing by 15 Mar. Only usual injured bird remained, occasionally seen throughout Apr-Sep,

but 2 were seen on 20th and 22 Sep, increasing to 3 on 19 Nov. Then 4 on 3rd increasing to 8 on 30 Dec. 2 shot at Xemxija on 16 Nov and 3 near Filfla on 12 Dec were the only records outside Ghadira.

CRANE *Grus grus* Grawwa

1985 : On 3 dates in Jan : 14 over Iarxien on 2nd, 30+ over south Malta and 14 over Ghadira on 4th, and 35+ over Bingemma on 9th. Then 3 at B'Bugia and 2 at Buskett on 5th, 1 over Dwejra and Benghisa on 19th, 1 shot at sea on 26th and 15 at Benghisa on 31st, all in Oct.

1986 : 6 over Dwejra (Malta) on 15 Mar in spring. 2 on 8th and 3 at Hal Far on 9th; 5 over Mosta and 3 at B'Bugia on 26 Oct. ca. 30 over Sta. Lucia on 5 Nov and singles in Dec at Ghadira on 18th and over Qammieh on 28th.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* Gallina tal-Bahar

1985 : 8 at Exiles on 2nd and 1 in Comino Channel on 16 Aug.

1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 27 Sep.

BLACK-WINGED STILL *Himantopus himantopus* Fras-servjent

1985 : 3 records in Mar: 5 on 11th at Ghadira, 2 shot at Mistra on 15th and 1 on 29th at Ghadira. Then 1-2 daily from 1st to 7th, 15 on 9th, 3 on 16-17th, 1 on 19th and 15 on 28th, all in Apr at Ghadira.

1986 : Only recorded from Ghadira: 4 on 1st and 16 Mar, 2 on 29 May and 2 on 15 Aug.

AVOCE1 *Recurvirostra avosetta* Xifa

1985 : Singles on 9-10 May; on 18th and 20 Aug; and on 3 Dec. All at Ghadira except the bird on 20 Aug which was at Qawra.

1986 : 1 shot offshore on 9 Nov.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicephalus* Tellerita

1986 : Singles at Ta' Zuta on 2 Mar and 1 shot at Dwejra (Malta) on 31 Dec.

PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola* Pernicjotta

1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 17 Apr.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* Monakella

1985 : 1 at Ghadira on 1st, 12th and 21 Jan. On spring passage almost daily from 7 Mar to 20 Apr; mainly up to 8 but max of 10 on 3 days in Mar at Ghadira. 1-2 on 8 days from 28 Apr to 18 May. 1 on 29 Jun. On most days from 9 Jul to 1 Sep; mainly 1-5 but max of 12 at Ghadira on 13 Aug. Then again frequently recorded from 11 Sep to 25 Oct with max of 7 at Salina on 11 Sep, otherwise 1-4. 1 on 2 Nov. Most records throughout the year from Ghadira.

1986 : Single figures, max 5, almost daily at Ghadira from 1 Mar to 29 Apr, then 1-3 on 8 days in May and singles on 5 days in Jun; On autumn passage on most days from 2 Jul to 19 Oct with max of 6 at Salina on 11 Aug. Singles on 25 Oct, 7th and 10 Nov. Few records outside Ghadira.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* Monakella Prima

1985 : 2 at Ghadira on 28 Mar, then 1-3 on 16 days from 10 Apr to 31 May. 1-2 on 5 days from 13 Jul to 20 Aug and 1-3 on 9 days from 15 Sep to 20 Oct at Ghadira.

1986 : Singles on 1st and 5 Apr, then 1-2 on 6 days from 30 Apr to 15 May, at Ghadira. 2 at Salina on 25 Jul, then singles on 8th, 11th and 28 Aug and on 5 days from 7-29 Sep. Most at Ghadira.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* Monakella Saqajha Suwed

1985 : Singles on 15 Jan, 14 Jun, 19 Sep and on 4 days from 6th to 13 Oct, all at Ghadira.

1986 : Singles on 7th, 24th and 29 Jun, on 19-20th and 24-25 Jul; on 11 Aug and on 4th and 8 Oct. All records from Salina and Ghadira.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* Birwina

1985 : 2 sightings of singles on 21 Mar. Then singles on 6 dates from 12 Sep to 6 Oct, and on 1st and 30 Nov.

1986 : Singles on 30 Sep at Dwejra (Malta), on 24 Oct at Ghallis and on 6 Nov at Ghadira.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* Pluviera

1985 : On 11 days from 28 Oct to 26 Nov; mainly 1-5 but 11 at Dwejra (Malta) on 17th and 40 at Zejtun on 18 Nov. 1 at L-Ahrax on 8 Dec.

1986 : 1 at Ghallis on 24 Mar. 21 at Dwejra (Malta) on 26 Oct, then on 7 days from 4-29 Nov; singles but ca. 10 at Delimara on 9th and 6 at Qammieh on 14th.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* Pluviera Pastarda

1985 : 2 at Ta' Qali on 1 Oct, then 3 on 22 Nov and 2 on 1 Dec at Ghadira.
1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 12 May.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* Venewwa

1985 : 11 at Żejtun and 8 at Mosta on 10th and 20 at Luqa on 12 Jan. Again 10 at Luqa on 11th and singles at Ghadira on 17-23 Feb. 1 at Benghisa on 13 Oct, then on 7 days from 7th to 30 Nov, max 10 at Ta' Pinu on 10th.
1986 : 1-2 at Luqa on 15th and 21 Jan, then on 6 days in Feb from 12-27th, highest 11 at Luqa on 16th. 4 at Qammieh on 25 Oct, then on 10 days from 5 Nov to 29 Dec; single figures but 18 on 25th and 25 on 29 Nov, and 30 at Ta' Qali on 26 Dec.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Pispisella Bajda

1985 : 1 at Ghadira on 27 Oct.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* Tertuxa

1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 23 Feb, 12 Mar and from 30 Mar to 2 Apr, then almost daily from 10 Apr to 14 Jun; single to low double figures with max of 15 at Ghadira on 18 May. Most at Ghadira. Then again almost daily (most at Ghadira) from 22 Jun to 31 Dec; double figures only on 7 days in Aug-Sep with max of 17 at Ta' Qali on 6 Aug and 15 at Ghadira on 21 Sep. Only 1-5 from 24 Sep onwards.
1986 : 1-2 at Ghadira in Jan-Feb, then almost daily there from 1 Mar to 9 Jun. Highest 45 at Ghadira on 4th and 27 at Ta' Qali on 14 May, otherwise single to low double figures. 1-3 on 5 days from 13 Jun to 8 Jul, then almost daily from 21 Jul to 13 Sep; usually 1-10 but 20 at Salina on 1st and 17 at Ghadira on 4 Aug. 1-3 daily at Ghadira from 22 Sep to 9 Oct, then 1 on 15th and from 27 Oct to 19 Nov.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* Tertuxa Griza

1985 : 1 at Ghadira on 8 days from 13 Apr to 6 May, then 2 at Ramla Valley on 8-9th, 1 at Ghadira on 19th and 3 on 28th and 1 on 30 May at Salina. 1 at Ta' Qali on 19 Aug.
1986 : 1 on 21st and 3 on 25th at Ghadira and 1 at Ramla Valley on 29-30th in Apr. Then singles at Ghadira on 19 May, 15 Jun, 27 Jul, 21 Aug and 3rd, 8th and 17 Sep.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* Beggazzina Hamra

1985 : 1-2 on 6 dates from 9-21 Apr, then almost daily from 7-26 May. Highest 30 on 9th and 20 on 10 May, otherwise 1-8. All at Ghadira except 1 at Ta' Qali on 16 Apr. Singles on 19-20 Jul and on 5 days from 14-31 Aug. Most at Ghadira.
1986 : 4 on 12th, then up to 7 on most days from 27 Apr to 14 May, and singles on 24th and 26 May, and on 15-16 Jun at Ghadira. 2 on 25 Jul and 1 on 11-13 Aug at Salina. 3 on 12th and 1 on 30 Sep at Ghadira.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* Beggazzina tat-Lizz

1985 : 1-2 at Ghadira from 4 Jan to 22 Mar. In autumn, singles on 26th and 29 Jul, then present almost daily at Ghadira from 4 Aug to 11 Dec. Highest 7 at Salina on 25th and 6 at Ghadira on 10 Sep, otherwise 1-4. 2-3 again at Ghadira from 21-29 Dec. Only 4 sightings outside Ghadira.
1986 : 1-3 at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 26 Mar. In autumn singles on 20th and 25 Jul, and 1-5 almost daily from 1-25 Aug. Again almost daily from 6 Sep to 21 Oct and from 27 Oct to 7 Nov; max of 4 on 19-20 Sep, otherwise 1-3. 1 on 18 Nov. Except for 6 sightings, all at Ghadira.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* Girwiel

1985 : 1 on 13th and 1-4 on 23-25 Feb. Then on most days from 3 Mar to 18 Jun; single figures but up to 10 on 31 Mar and 18-19 Apr. All records at Ghadira except for 8 sightings from Ta' Qali and Luqa. Singles on 6 days from 19 Jul to 23 Aug then 1-3 almost daily at Ghadira from 10-28 Sep. 1 on 2 Oct.
1986 : Singles on 1st and 16-17 Mar. 5 on 2nd and 1 on 3-5th, and 1-3 on 26-28 Apr. 1 on 4th, then almost daily, mainly at Ghadira, from 11 May to 26 Jul; mostly 1-3 but 11 at Ta' Qali on 24 May and 5 at Ghadira on 8 Jun. Singles at Ghadira on 17 Aug, 10th, 12th and 15 Sep. 1 at Luzzjata on 1 Nov.

JACK SNIBE *Lymnocyrtus minimus* Cinkonja

1985 : Singles at Xemxija on 4th and at Ghadira on 28 Oct, and again at Xemxija on 2 Nov and at Ghadira on 22 Dec.
1986 : Singles at Wied Speranza on 9th and at Luzzjata on 10 Mar. 1 at Mosta on 20 Oct and at Ghadira on 4 Nov.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* Bekkacc

1985 : 1 on 24 Jan; then on several days from 15 Mar to 1 May, most at Ghadira. Usually

- 1-2 but 3 on 15 Apr. 1 on 1-2nd, then 1-2 daily from 15-22 Sep at Ghadira. 1-2 on 11 days from 25 Sep to 10 Nov.
- 1986 : Singles at Ghadira on 2 Feb, 20 Mar and 7 Apr. Also 3 reported shot in Mar and 2 on 14 May. 1 on 23 Aug, then 1-2 on 5-11 Sep and frequently from 23 Sep to 31 Oct. Singles on 7th and 29 Nov and 2 on 9 Dec. Only 3 sightings outside Ghadira.
- GREY SNIPES *Gallinago media* Bekkacc ta' Mejju
1985 : 1 at Ghadira on 4 Apr.
- WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* Gallina
1985 : Singles on 15 Feb, 19 Oct, 23rd and 25 Nov; and on 8 Dec.
1986 : 1 on 15 Oct, then 1-2 on 9 days from 26 Oct to 30 Nov. Most records from Ghadira and Bingemma.
- BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* Girwiel Prim
1985 : 1 on 13 Mar, then 1-2 daily from 30 Mar to 5 Apr, but a flock of 10 on 30 Mar. All at Ghadira.
- WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* Gurlin Zghir
1985 : 4 shot at sea on 26 Oct.
- CURLEW *Numenius arquata* Gurlin
1985 : 2 at Luqa on 18 Apr, 8 at Qawra on 2 Aug and 2 on 29th and 11 on 30 Oct at Benghisa.
1986 : 1 at Benghisa on 30 Mar and 2 at Ghallis on 29 Nov.
- SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* Cuvett
1985 : 1 on 27-29th and 2 on 30 Mar; singles on 17th, 19th and 28 Apr; 27th and 29 Jun; 7 Jul; 8th and 19 Aug; 18th and 21 Nov. All at Ghadira.
1986 : Singles at Ghadira on 3 Mar, 9 Apr and 18 Jun.
- REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* Pluverott
1985 : All sightings from Ghadira: 1-2 almost daily from 23 Mar to 3 Apr and 1 on 18 Apr. 2 on 22nd and 1 on 27 Jun, then almost daily from 3 Jul to 6 Aug; usually 1-2 but 3 on 23 Jul. 1 on 13 Sep. 10 on 8th, then singles from 10-30 Nov but 2 on 26 Nov. 1 record outside Ghadira: 1 on 3 Jul at 1a' Qali.
1986 : Singles at Ghadira on 5th and 8 Mar and 8 May. Then 1-3 daily from 10-24 Jun and singles on 9 days from 27 Jun to 31 Aug, on 2nd and 9 Sep; on 22nd, 27th and 28 Oct and on 6 Nov. Most records from Ghadira.
- MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* Cewcewwa Zghira
1985 : 1-2 on 20-21st and 1 on 25 Apr; and 1 on 17 Sep. All at Ghadira.
- GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* Cewcewwa
1985 : 1 daily from 27 Mar to 4 Apr and 1-3 on most days from 13 Apr to 11 May. Almost daily from 29 Jun to 21 Jul; singles except for 2 on 13 Jul. Then 1 on 9 days from 12 Aug to 1 Sep. All records, except for 3 autumn sightings, from Ghadira.
1986 : Singles at Ghadira on 27 Apr and at Salina on 9 Jun. Then singles at Ghadira on 18th and 30 Aug, and on 6 days in Sep from 2-22nd. 1 at Mistra on 4 Nov.
- GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* Swejda
1985 : 1-3 on 17 dates from 5 Mar to 28 Apr, then 1 on 18th and 2 on 26 Jun. On most days from 3 Jul to 7 Sep with a total of 32 sightings. Usually 1-3, but 4 on 16 Aug. 1-2 on 19-21 Sep and 1 on 13 Nov. Most from Ghadira and 1a' Qali.
1986 : 1-3 on 19 dates from 5 Mar to 2 May; then singles at Ghadira on 15 May, 21st and 25 Jun. 1-2 on 6 dates from 9-23 Jul and almost daily from 31 Jul to 8 Sep; usually 1-4 but 5 at Ghadira on 5 Aug and 6 Sep. Singles at Ghadira on 16 Sep, 6th, 28th and 31 Oct, 6th and 28 Nov.
- WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Pespus tal-Bahar
1985 : 1 on 17th, then almost daily from 26 Mar to 13 May; usually up to 10 but 20 on 14th and 14 on 21 Apr, and 12 on 9 May; most at Ghadira. Singles on 26 May and 2-7 Jun. On several days in autumn from 6 Jul to 25 Aug; mostly 1-3, but 15 at Ghadira on 21 Aug. 1-3 on 3 dates from 1-18 Sep. Most from Ghadira and 1a' Qali.
1986 : Singles at Ghadira on 19th and 28 Mar. Then 28 sightings of 1-4 on 21 dates from 1 Apr to 15 May, singles on 27 May, 20th, 26th and 29 Jun. On most days from 2 Jul to 12 Sep with 18 on 4 Jul and 8 on 4 Aug, both at Salina, highest; otherwise 1-4. 1 on 21 Sep.

- COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* Beggazzina tar-Rokka
 1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 19 Jan and 13-14 Feb. 1 on 14th, then almost daily at various sites from 19 Mar to 15 May; usually 1-5 but max of 10 at Ghadira on 16-17 Apr. Singles on 21st and 27 May. In autumn almost daily from 1 Jul to 22 Sep, then on 6 dates from 25 Sep to 6 Oct; mostly up to 5 but 40 in Grand Harbour on 4 Aug. Singles on 10th and 20 Nov. Peak in Aug.
 1986 : Singles at Qammieh on 25 Jan, 15th and 23 Feb and on 27-28 Mar. Recorded in single figures, max 4, almost daily from 2 Apr to 15 May, then singles on 4 days on 21-28 May and on 3 days at Salina on 20-27 Jun. Frequent from 4 Jul to 12 Oct with max of 12 on 10 Sep, otherwise 1-8. Peak in Aug. Singles at Xemxija on 16 Nov and at Sliema on 7 Dec.
- POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* Ciefa ta' Denbha
 1985 : 1 on 15 Dec (dark phase).
- GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* Ciefa Kbira
 1986 : 1 at Qammieh on 16 Feb.
- MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* Gawwija Rasha Sewda
 1985 : 1 on 17 Jan and 2 on 17 Oct at Ghadira; 6 and 3 on 26-27 Nov and 1 and 10 on 15-16 Dec respectively, highest 10 at Grand Harbour on last date.
 1986 : On 14 dates between 3 Jan and 2 Mar with 50 in Grand Harbour on 25 Jan and on 17 Feb highest. 1 found dead at Qammieh on 14 Nov, then on 7 dates in Dec from 2nd to 29th (daily on 26th-29th). Single figures, but 30 at Qammieh on 27th.
- LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* Gawwija Zghira
 1985 : Singles on 4th and 17-18 Jan and 23 Feb. 3 at Ghadira on 24 Nov and 1 at Marsa on 15 Dec.
 1986 : 1 at Msida on 5 Jan. 1 at Ghallis on 9th, 5 at M'Xlokk on 18th and 4 at Ghallis on 29 Nov; 2 on 25th and 1 at Qammieh on 27-28 Dec.
- BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* Gawwija Rasha Kannella
 1985 : Recorded frequently in Jan and Feb but only on 2 dates in Mar, last on 24th. Single to low double figures but 100 on 8 Jan. Singles on 20 Jun, 18 Jul and 5 Aug. 3 on 6th, then on most days from 16 Nov onwards with max of 300 at Grand Harbour on 16 Dec.
 1986 : 200-400 in harbours in Jan-Feb but 800+ in Grand Harbour on 25 Jan. 1-5 on 6 dates in Mar to 27th, but 20 on 12th. 2 at Ghadira on 11 Jun and 10 Jul. 1 on 29 Oct; 2 on 2nd, then from 7 Nov onwards, mainly in harbours but also around the coast. Max 300 at Marsa on 12 Dec.
- SLENDER-BILLED GULL *Larus genei* Gawwija Geddumha Rqiq
 1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 1 Apr and daily from 29 Aug to 17 Sep.
 1986 : Singles at Ghadira on 23-29 May and 22 Jul; 2 at Msida and 1 at Qammieh on 27 Dec.
- AUDOUIN'S GULL *Larus audouinii* Gawwija Geddumha Ahmar
 1986 : 1 at Cirkewwa on 27 Oct.
- THIN-BILLED BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* Gawwija Dahrha Iswed
 1985 : Singles on 4 dates from 1-21 Jan, 1 on 1 Jun and 2 sightings of singles on 15 Dec.
 1986 : Singles at Qammieh on 27 Mar and at St. Paul's Bay on 18 Oct.
- YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans* Gawwija Prima
 1985 : Recorded frequently in harbours and along coast with a max count of 300 at Filfla breeding colony in mid-Jun. Wintering in low double figures. Few sightings between mid-Jul and late Oct, when birds desert the breeding colonies.
 1986 : Present all the year except for a period between late Jun and mid-Oct when only a few sightings recorded. Highest numbers in wintering months with 50 at Qammieh on 28 Dec and 40 in Grand Harbour on 24 Jan.
- GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica* Cirkewwa Geddumha Ohxon
 1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 26 May and 1 Jun and at Ramla Bay on 7 Nov.
 1986 : Singles at Cirkewwa on 18 Jan and at Ghadira on 2 Jul.
- CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia* Cirkewwa Prima
 1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 30 May.
- SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* Cirkewwa tax-Xitwa
 1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 6 Oct, at Marfa on 26 Nov and at Qawra on 18 Dec.

1986 : 1 at Qammieh on 25 Jan and 3 at Sliema on 14 Feb. 2 at Galet Marku on 28 Sep and 1 on 31 Oct. Then on 7 days from 8-25 Nov, with 3 at Ghallis on 16th; otherwise 1-2. 3 sightings of singles on 27-28 Dec.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* Cirklewwa Zghira

1985 : 1 at Bahar ic-Caghaq on 24 Jul.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybridus* Cirklewwa bil-Mustacci

1985 : 2 on 30 May and 1 on 9 Jun at Ghadira.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* Cirklewwa Sewda

1985 : 1 at Ghadira on 11 Aug and 1 offshore on 15 Sep.

1986 : Singles on 17 Jul (shot) and on 5 Aug at Salina and at Ghallis on 16 Nov.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* Cirklewwa tal-Gewnah Abjad

1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 1st and at Xemxija on 16 May.

1986 : Singles at Ghadira on 10 May and on 1-3 Oct.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* Iudun tal-Gebel

1986 : 1, probably of wild stock, at Migra Ferha on 6 Jul.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* Iudun tas-Sigar

1985 : 1 at Ia' Zuta on 19 May.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Gamiema

1985 : 1 on 1st, then almost daily from 12 Apr to end of May. Single to low double figures but a heavy passage occurred on 28 Apr when 'thousands' were sighted in various localities in Malta and ca. 5000 at Xaghra, Gozo. 1-2 at various sites in Jun-Jul with max of 5 at Buskett on 16 Jun. On most days from 22 Aug to 22 Sep; usually 1-10 but 20 at Buskett on 16 Sep. 1 on 9 Oct and an unusually late bird on 31 Dec.

1986 : Recorded almost daily from 4 Apr to 4 Jun in single to low double figures but with max of 60 at Ghadira on 26 Apr. Singles, except for 4 at Buskett on 15th, throughout Jun. Singles on 3 dates from 20 Jul to 7 Aug, then on most days from 20 Aug to 21 Sep; in single figures but 30 at Chadwick Lakes on 7 Sep and 15 at Buskett on 31 Aug. 1-2 on 3 dates from 27 Sep to 4 Oct.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* Daqquqa Kahla

1985 : Sightings of 1-2 daily from 12-16th and 1 on 18 Apr. Singles on 1 May and at Ghadira on 12 Aug and 29 Sep.

1986 : 18 sightings of 1-3 on 15 days from 10 Apr to 25 May, mostly from Dwejra/Bingemma area. 1 at Bingemma on 3-4th and 1 at Buskett on 15 Jun. Singles on 31 Jul, 7 Aug, 21st and 30 Sep.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* Barbagann

1985 : 3 sightings of singles at two sites in Gozo in Mar and Aug. 1 shot on 30 Oct.

1986 : Sightings in Gozo on 21-22 Jun, 9th and 23 Aug, 6 Sep and 11 Oct; all singles. 3 shot in Gozo on 19 Oct.

SCOPS OWL *Otus scops* Kokka

1985 : 2 at Bingemma and at Comino on 30-31 March. Singles at Ghadira on 24 Apr and at Mtarfa on 12 Oct.

1986 : Singles on 17th and 29 Mar and on 7 Apr. 1 found dead at Rabat on 12 Oct and singles at Buskett on 30 Nov and 7 Dec.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* Kokka tax-Xaghri

1985 : 1 on 20 Jan, 2 shot on 29 Mar and 1 on 7 Apr. 2 on 24 Oct and singles on 2nd and 12 Nov.

1986 : Singles at Qammieh on 31 Mar and at Floriana on 22 Sep.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* Buqrajq

1985 : Singles on 18th and 21 Apr, 5th and 11 May. In autumn 1 at Buskett on 12th, at Dwejra (Malta) on 14th, and 2 at Chadwick Lakes on 15 Sep.

1986 : Only recorded in spring: 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 20 Mar, then singles on 10th, 19th and 27 Apr; 6th, 10th 18th, 24th and 30 May. 1 found freshly dead on 7 Jun.

SWIFT *Apus apus* Rundun

1985 : 1 on 8 Jan. Passage on most days from 20 Mar to 27 Sep and singles on 2nd and 19 Oct. Highest numbers in May and Aug when often in treble figures with max of

- 300 on 21 May and up to 200 on 4 May and 13 Aug.
 1986 : 1 on 15 Feb; then on most days from 11 Mar to 21 Sep, although almost daily from late Mar to late Jun and less frequently till mid-Sep. Mostly in double figures but treble figures on 14 dates between mid-Apr and mid-Aug with max of 400 on 3 Jun. Late birds on 5 Oct, 1 Nov (2) and 16 Dec.
- PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus* Rundun Kanneġli
 1986 : 1 at Qormi on 16 Mar and 2+ at Binglemma on 27 Aug.
- ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* Rundun Zaqqu Bajda
 1985 : 5 on 1st and 2 on 27 Apr; singles on 8th, 16th and 18 May; 1 on 10th and 2 on 30 Jun; 2 on 4th and 1 on 20 Jul; 4 on 22 Sep.
 1986 : 1-3 on 10 days from 14 Mar to 30 Jun, then 1 on 5 Aug. Main autumn passage in Sep with 9 sightings of 1-6 on 6 days from 8-27th. Singles on 5th and 12 Oct. Most autumn records from Dwejra (Malta).
- KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* Ghasfur ta' San Martin
 1985 : 1-2 at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 19 Mar. Singles on 11th, 18th and 25 Aug, then 1-3 almost daily at Ghadira from 5 Sep to 12 Nov, and singles on 23rd and 30 Nov and on 1 Dec. Only 5 autumn sightings outside Ghadira.
 1986 : 2 at Mgarr, Gozo on 1 Jan. From 20 Jul on autumn passage when 1-2 almost daily at Ghadira to year end but up to 3 were present in 8-10 Oct. 15 sightings outside Ghadira.
- BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster* Qerd in-Nahal
 1985 : Only recorded in May with 1-5 on 8 days from 2-28th, but 15 on 2nd and 14 on 20th.
 1986 : Poor year with only 4 sightings: 2 on 16th and on 23 May, 3 at Salina on 20 Jun and 1 on 12 Sep.
- ROLLER *Coracias garrulus* Farrug
 1985 : Singles at two different sites on 20 Apr, then 1 at Bahar Ic-Caghaq on 14 Aug and 1 at Buskett on 16 Sep.
 1986 : Only recorded in singles: at Lunzjata on 19 Apr, at Ghadira on 9-10th and at Binglemma on 14 May. Then at Dwejra (Malta) on 21 Jun and at Buskett (shot) on 11 Sep.
- HOOPOE *Upupa epops* Daqquqa tat-Toppu
 1985 : 1 at Setmun on 18 Jan. In spring 26 sightings of 1-3 on 17 dates from 14 Mar to 13 Apr, then singles on 21 Apr and on 1st, 5th and 8 May. In autumn 1-2 on 9 days from 4 Aug to 16 Sep.
 1986 : 35 sightings on 22 dates from 2 Mar to 10 Apr; usually 1-2 but a max of 11 from 5 sites on 1 Apr. Then singles on 6 days from 26 Apr to 24 May. 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 9-10 Jun and 15 sightings of 1-2 on 12 dates from 7 Aug to 7 Sep.
- WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* Bulebbiet
 1985 : Singles at Ghadira, Buskett and Xemxija in Jan to 2 Feb. On spring migration on 12 dates from 10 Mar to 1 May (most in Apr); singles but 2 on Comino on 24 Mar. On most days from 1 Sep to 3 Dec; singles till mid-Oct, then up to 4. Singles in Dec on 6 dates from 8th to 29th.
 1986 : Singles at two different sites on 4 Jan, at Ghadira on 7th and at Binglemma on 20 Feb. In spring on 12 dates from 23 Mar to 29 Apr; usually 1-2 but 3 on Comino on 6 Apr. Singles on 8th and 10 May. 1 on 31 Aug, then on most days from 2 Sep to 16 Dec with peaks of sightings on 4-15 Oct and 5-23 Nov. Always in singles except for 2 at Buskett on 9 Oct.
- CALANDRA LARK *Melanocorypha calandria* Kalandra
 1985 : 1 at Benghisa on 13 Oct.
- SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* Bilbla
 1985 : Present from 8 Mar to 22 Sep, with a few irregularly till 9 Oct. In single to low double figures, but max counts were of 100 on 27 May and 150 at 1a' Cenc on 24 Aug. Most passage birds in Apr and from mid-Aug to mid-Sep. Bred as usual.
 1986 : Irregularly from 3-13 Mar, then first sighting on 3 Apr and present till 29 Sep. Mostly in low double figures but 150 on Gozo (3 localities) on 30 May. Highest numbers of passage birds in Apr and from mid-Aug to Sep.
- WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* Cuqlajta
 1986 : 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 11 Oct.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* Alwetta

- 1985 : Wintering in small numbers (up to 8) in Jan-Feb, but a small return passage evident from late Feb to late Mar when recorded more frequently in single figures. 1-2 on 4 days on 1-7 Apr. 2 on 29 Sep, then almost daily from 2 Oct to mid-Nov with double figures from 12th and a max of 130 at Dwejra (Malta) on 26 Oct. Single figures afterwards till year end.
- 1986 : Up to 10 in Jan-Feb at a few sites but more frequently recorded in Mar to 18th, with 20 on 13th highest. 1-2 on 14 dates from 25 Mar to 20 Apr. First autumn sighting on 2 Oct, then almost daily from 5 Oct to 17 Nov; mostly in double figures ca. 300 (4 localities) on 26 Oct and 100+ at Ghallis on 2 Nov. In single figures on a few dates till end of year.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* Hawwiefia tax-Xtut

- 1985 : 2 on 21 Mar and 1-3 on 5 days from 27 Mar to 5 Apr. Then almost daily from 12 Apr to 6 Jun; mainly double figures but max of 400 on 8-9 May. Poor autumn migration with 25 sightings on 14 dates from 12-30 Sep; mainly up to 10 but 20 at Dwejra (Malta) on 27th. On 3 dates in Oct to 18th and 1 on 2 Nov.
- 1986 : 2 on 16 Feb and singles on 4 days from 11-27 Mar. Then almost daily from 4-30 Apr and less frequent till 19 May; mostly in single to low double figures with max of 50 on 29-30 Apr and 11 May. 1-2 on 3 dates from 2-9 Jun. 1 on 3 Jul. In autumn on most dates from 28 Aug to 17 Oct with no clear peak; single or low double figures with 50 at Dwejra (Malta) on 16 Sep highest.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* Huttafa

- 1985 : 1 on 2 Mar, then daily from 21 Mar to 27 May with a peak from mid-Apr to mid-May when treble figures on 12 dates. Highest on 9th (800 in 5 localities) and 8th (600 in 4 localities). Up to 10 on 7 dates from 1-18th and 4 on 29 Jun. 2 on 4th and 1 on 8 Jul. In autumn 2 on 17 Aug, then on 6 dates till 8 Sep, after which daily till 10 Nov with a peak from mid-Sep to mid-Oct. Max of 400 at Dwejra (Malta) on 12 Oct, otherwise in double to low treble figures. Singles on 29-30 Nov and on 1st and 4 Dec.
- 1986 : 1 on 22-23 Feb; then daily from 8 Mar to 30 May with a peak in Apr. Max of 300 at Ramla Valley on 29 Apr otherwise in double to low treble figures and only up to 30 in May. 1-5 on 7 dates from 2-24 Jun and singles on 10th and 20 Jul. Then in autumn daily from 28 Aug to 1 Nov with a peak in Oct. Mostly in high double figures but in treble figures on most days in Oct with a max of 1000+ (2 localities) on 15th and 500+ at Lunzjata on 11th. 1-3 on 7 days from 3-22 Nov.

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

- 1985 : 1 at Bingemma on 18 May.
- 1986 : Singles on 10 Mar, on 4-5th and 7-8 Apr. 2 at Ramla Valley on 28th and 30 Apr; then again singles on 11 May; 16 Sep and 12 Oct.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* Hawwiefia

- 1985 : 3 on 14th, then on 12 dates from 16 Mar to 7 Apr with max of 40 on 30 Mar highest. Then on most days from 11 Apr to 3 Jun with a peak between late Apr - mid-May, max 800 (from 4 localities) on 9th and ca. 400 at Bingemma on 18 May. 1-2 sighted regularly at Valletta between 17 Jun and 4 Jul unsuccessfully attempted to breed. In autumn on 21 dates from 12 Sep to 13 Nov; usually 1-5 but 150+ and 20 on 11-12 Oct at Dwejra (Malta) highest.
- 1986 : 2 on 16th, 25 on 22nd and 1 on 23rd, all in Feb. 1 on 2nd, then on most days from 7 Mar to 12 Jun (daily from 15 Apr to 2 May). Usually in single to medium double figures but max of 150 at Ramla Valley on 30 Apr. Singles on 18 Jun and 12 Jul. In autumn frequently seen from 7 Sep to 23 Oct; usually up to 25 but 100 at Dwejra (Malta) on 8 Oct and 50 on 23 Sep. Singles on 26 Oct and a late bird on 8 Dec.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris* Bilblun

- 1985 : 1 on 8th and 2 sightings of 7 and 3 on 21 Mar. Then on 8 days from 1-27 Apr; usually 1-2 but 10 at Cumija on 20th. In autumn 12 sightings on 10 days from 1-25 Sep; singles but 5 on 11th and 3 on 21st, all at Buskett.
- 1986 : 2 on 29 Mar, then 1-2 on 3 dates from 5-13 Apr. In autumn 1 on 22 Aug, then 1-5 on 11 days from 7-27 Sep.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* Dizz

- 1985 : 1 on 28 Feb, then singles on 10th and 17th and daily from 21 Mar to 22 Apr, with low double figures from first date; max of 50 on 30 Mar. 1-5 on most days till 8 May. In autumn 1 on 23rd then almost daily from 30 Aug to 3 Nov with a max of 20 on 20 Sep and 26 Oct, otherwise mostly in single figures. 1 on 8 Nov.

1986 : Daily sightings from 16 Mar to 19 May with a peak in Apr when in medium double figures with max of 70 (2 sites) on 8th and 50 on Comino on 13th. In autumn 1 on 15th, then from 31 Aug to 29 Oct (daily from 12 Sep to 20 Oct). Mostly in single figures but up to 20 on 23 Sep. 2 on 1st and 1 on 16 Nov.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* Pespas

1985 : Wintering in many areas in low double figures in Jan-Feb but max of 60 on 19 Feb. Small return passage most evident in Mar when an increase of daily sightings and max of 100 on 9th. A few till 8 Apr. 1 on 13th, then from 15 Oct onwards with a peak from late Oct - late Nov when occasionally in low treble figures. Max 150 at Ta' Qali on 22 Nov.

1986 : Up to 30 in many places in Jan-Feb with a small return passage evident from late Feb to early Apr. Low double figures daily in Mar with a max of 50 on 7th and 20th. Last singles on 16 Apr. 1 on 5th and 2 on 12th, then daily from 14 Oct onwards. Peak in late Oct - mid-Nov; occasionally in high double figures with max of 100 on 26 Oct and 1 Nov.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* Dizz Ahmar

1985 : Singles at two different sites on 30 Mar. Then 1-5 on 7 dates from 5-27 Apr. 1-2 on 4 dates from 21 Oct to 7 Nov.

1986 : 1 on 5 Feb, then 1-4 on 4 dates from 2-26 Apr and max of 10 at Ta' Qali on 2 May. 1 on 24 Aug, then singles on 9 dates from 21 Sep to 6 Nov, with most in Oct.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* Dizz ta' l-Ilma

1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 23 Feb and 12-13 Oct.

1986 : 1 on 5 Jan at Ghadira. Almost daily at same place from 24 Oct to 8 Nov; 2 on 28 Oct, otherwise singles.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Isfar

1985 : 1 on 14 Feb; then on most days from 12 Mar to 3 Jun with a peak from mid-Apr to mid-May. Max 60 at Ta' Qali on 8 May, otherwise in single or low double figures.

1-3 on 4 days from 10-30 Jun and 1 on 21 Jul. In autumn single figures from 9 Aug, with daily sightings from 4 Sep to 19 Oct when up to 50 occasionally, but max of 60 at Salina on 11 Sep. 5 on 27 Oct then singles on 5 dates till 6 Nov.

1986 : In spring 1 on 2 Mar, then 1-5 frequently, becoming daily from 25 Mar to 16 May, with a few till 27 May. Usually in single to low double figures but a max of 50 on 8-9 Apr at Ta' Qali. Singles on 11th and 16 Jun. In autumn 1 on 11th, then daily from 15 Aug to 19 Oct with a peak from early Sep to mid-Oct. Mostly in double figures but treble figures roosting at Lunzjata, max 300 on 4 Oct. Singles on 3 dates till 31 Oct. Late singles at Ghadira on 17th and 24 Nov.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* Zakak tad-Dell

1985 : 1-2 in a few areas in Jan-Mar to 3rd. 1 on 21 Aug, then from 22 Sep onwards; mostly in single figures but a max of 10 at Lunzjata on 9 Nov and in late Dec.

1986 : Wintering in several areas in Jan-Mar to 12th; mostly 1-2 but 3 at Lunzjata on 19 Jan. In autumn 1 on 9 Sep, then 1-3 on a few dates till 6 Oct, after which daily sightings till late Nov, then less frequently till end of year. Highest numbers in Oct and Nov with max of 6 at Ghadira on 9 Nov.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* Zakak Abjad

1985 : Single to low double figures in Jan-Mar but 60 at Marsa on 3 Feb. Highest numbers at roosts (ca.500 at Valletta) but no proper roost counts were made. Singles till 9 Apr. 4 on 25 Apr. Singles on 8-10th, then from 12 Oct till year end; mostly in high double figures in peak period (mid-Oct - late Nov). But max of 120 at Marsa on 24 Nov. Again no proper counts at Valletta but ca.1000 on 5 Dec.

1986 : Up to 50 in several places in Jan-Mar with a few irregularly till 22 Apr. A small return passage most evident in Mar with more frequent sightings, ca.4500 were counted on 25 Jan at the Valletta roost. 1-2 were present at Salina from 20 Jun to 11 Jul. Then in single figures from 3rd, increasing rapidly from 15 Oct; mostly in double figures of up to 50. Highest numbers at roosts although no proper roost counts were made (ca.1000 at Valletta on 4-6 Nov). Smaller numbers in Dec.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* Bumistur

1985 : Singles at Marfa from 3-26 Jan and at Bingemma from 23 Jan to 16 Feb. 1 at Ghadira on 4 Nov and 2 at ic-Cumnija on 7 Dec.

DUNNOCK *Fringilla monticola* Ziemel

1985 : Single to low double figures in most places in Jan-Mar to 30th. Max of 40 at Buskett on 30 Jan. Late singles on 2 Apr and 14 May. From 13 Oct onwards in

- autumn reaching low double figures by 26th. Peak from late Oct. Max of 40 at Bingemma on 2 Nov and up to 50 at Buskett in Dec.
- 1986 : Max of 50 at Buskett in Jan and at Bingemma in Feb, otherwise up to 10 in other areas. In smaller numbers in Mar to 23rd. One in moult at Ghadira on 14 Aug and singles on 27 Sep and 14 Oct. Then from 18th onwards, reaching medium double figures by 31 Oct. Peak in Nov with double figures almost daily, max 60 at Bingemma on 8th.
- ALPINE ACCENTOR *Frunella collaris* Ziemel ta' l-Alpi
1985 : 3 at la' Cenc on 7 Nov.
- ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* Pitirross
1985 : Single to low double figures in Jan-Mar at most places but up to 100 at Buskett, 1-4 on a few days till 14 Apr. Singles on 11th and 26 May. On 4 days from 6-23 Jun with 3 at Buskett on last date. Then 1-2, mainly at Buskett and Chadwick Lakes, during Jul-Aug. 1-3 on most days in Sep but 5 on 29th. Main autumn migration from 2 Oct with numbers increasing daily, reaching double figures by 12th. Peak from mid-Oct to mid-Nov when treble figures on most days, with up to 350 at Buskett. Smaller numbers in Dec.
- 1986 : In low treble figures at Bingemma and Buskett in Jan-Mar with a max of 200 at Buskett on 16 Mar. Low double figures in other areas. Numbers reduced after mid-Mar with a few till 10 Apr. Then 1-3 on 10 dates from 29 Apr to 22 Jun. 1-2 in Jul-Aug, mainly at Bingemma, Buskett and Chadwick Lakes. Then a few singles in Sep, with numbers increasing from 26th. Already in double figures by 4 Oct with a peak reached between mid-Oct and mid-Nov with low treble figures frequently. Max 250 at Dwejra (Malta) on 1 Nov. Up to 40 at Buskett during Dec.
- THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia* Rozinjol Prim
1985 : 1 singing at Buskett on 22 Jun.
- NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* Rozinjol
1985 : On most days in spring from 21 Mar to 4 May with a max of 10 on Comino on 7 Apr, otherwise 1-8. Peak in Apr. 1 on 27 May. In autumn almost daily sightings from 18 Aug to 22 Sep; mostly 1-5 but 10 at Bingemma on 4 Sep. Singles, mostly at Dwejra (Malta), from 30 Sep to 9 Oct.
- 1986 : Singles on 20-21st, then from 26 Mar to 17 May with daily sightings from 31 Mar to 1 May. Mostly 1-8 but up to 15 at Comino on 6 Apr. 1-2 at Bingemma on 8 days from 20 Jul to 10 Aug, then on most days from 17 Aug to 28 Sep with max of 10 at Wied il-Luq on 31 Aug.
- BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* Kudirross Blu
1985 : 1-2 at Ghadira on 22-23 Mar. Singles at same place on 1st and 19th; and at Rabat on 13th and at Lunzjata on 24 Oct. 1 on 2nd and 2 on 8 Nov, again at Lunzjata.
- 1986 : In Mar singles at Lunzjata on 4th and 9th; and at Ghadira on 8-9th and 12th. In autumn singles at Xemxija on 11th and at Lunzjata on 12 Oct.
- BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* Kudirross Iswed
1985 : Single figures in Jan-Mar to 31st with a slight increase in Mar; max 15 at Cumnija/Gammieh on 9th. 1-2 on 19-20 Oct, then from 26th onwards - mostly in high single figures but up to 15 at la' Cenc on 7 Nov. Smaller numbers in Dec.
- 1986 : 1-2 in several areas in Jan-Feb with an increase to high single figures from late Feb to mid-Mar. Max of 10 at la' Zuta on 2 Mar. 1 on 27 Mar. Then from 17 Oct, with an increase in Nov. Usually up to 15 but 25+ (various sites in Malta) on 12th. Smaller numbers in Dec.
- REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Kudirross
1985 : Singles on 23rd and 30-31 Mar. Then 28 sightings of 1-3 on 17 dates from 7 Apr to 12 May with most sightings in late Apr. In autumn 1 on 4th, then on most days from 10 Sep to 15 Oct with max of 5 at Bingemma on 14 Sep. Singles on 3 dates from 20-27 Oct.
- 1986 : In spring singles on 4 dates from 8-26 Mar, then 1-4 on most days from 2 Apr to 18 May with most in Apr. On autumn migration 1 on 19th and 28 Aug; then from 8 Sep to 25 Oct, with daily sighting from 17 Sep to 19 Oct. Usually 1-5 but 8 at Buskett on 27 Sep. Late singles at Xemxija on 1st and 3 Nov.
- WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Bucaqq tas-Silla
1985 : 1 on 20th, then almost daily from 30 Mar to 11 May and on 6 dates till 31 May. Most from mid-Apr to mid-May with max 20 on 27 Apr and 10 May. In autumn 1 on 5th then almost daily from 9-30 Sep; usually 1-3 but max 10 at Cumnija on 14th.

- 1986 : Spring migration from 5 Apr with almost daily sightings till 18 May. Most in early- mid-May with max of 20 at Dwejra (Malta) on 3rd, otherwise up to 10. 1 on 22 May. In autumn 1 on 19th and 30 Aug. Then 1-2 on 15 days from 2 Sep to 14 Oct.
- STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* Bucaqq tax-Xitwa
 1985 : At various sites in Jan-Mar to 21st with a max of 50 (various sites in Gozo) on 9 Mar, otherwise up to 10. In autumn 2 on 15th, then single figures from 28 Sep reaching double figures by 5 Oct. Peak from mid-Oct to late Nov with max 50 at 1a' Qali on 7 Nov. Up to 15 in Dec but max of 40 on 20th.
 1986 : 1-10 in several areas in Jan-Feb with a slight increase in early Mar, max 30 at 1a' Qali on 3rd. Last sighted on 18 Mar. Single figures from 23 Sep increasing to double figures by 4 Oct. Higher numbers from mid-Oct to late Nov with a max of 40 at Ghar Lapsi on 29 Nov. Up to 10, mostly at Ghadjra, in Dec.
- WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* Kuda
 1985 : On most days in spring from 9 Mar to 28 Apr with a few irregularly till 10 May. Usually 1-5 but 10 at Cumnija on 30 Mar. No clear peak. In autumn, almost daily from 18 Aug to 30 Sep; mostly 1-5 but max of 14 on 22 Sep. 1-2 on 8 days in Oct to 19th. Singles on 8th and 13 Nov.
 1986 : In spring from 2 Mar, with sightings on most days till 13 Apr and then on 11 days to 8 May. Usually 1-8, but 20 at Qammieh on 1 Apr highest. In autumn daily from 15 Aug to 7 Oct, then on a few scattered dates to 25 Oct. Most in Sep when in high single to low double figures, max 25 at Cumnija on 6 Sep.
- BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica* Kuda Dumnikana
 1985 : Singles on 30 Mar and 6-7 Apr, then 2 at Dwejra (Malta) on 20-22 Apr. 1 on 7th and 11 Sep at same place.
 1986 : 1 on 5-6 Apr. Singles on 5 dates at Dwejra (Malta) from 3-21 Sep.
- ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis* Ganbulbu
 1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 1st and at Zebbug on 21 Apr. 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 6 Sep.
 1986 : Singles on 6th and 17 May and on 5th and 16-17 Sep. 3 on Comino on 9 Oct.
- BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius* Merill
 1985 : Breeding, mainly around coastal cliffs, in good numbers. Up to 20 in parts of Gozo in Apr-May. A few recorded inland especially in Sep-Nov.
 1986 : At most breeding sites as previous year with slightly higher numbers recorded in Sep-Oct with max 20 at Qammieh. A few inland in Aug-Nov due to dispersal of young birds.
- RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* Malvizz tas-Sidra Bajda
 1986 : 1 at il-Qaws on 21 Oct.
- BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* Malvizz Iswed
 1985 : Singles on 26 Feb and 9 Mar. 1-3 on 13 widely scattered dates from 15 Oct to 29 Dec.
 1986 : Singles on 19 Jan and 1 Apr; then 13 sightings on 9 dates from 21 Oct to 10 Nov. In Dec singles on 7th and at Ghadira on 22-30th.
- FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* Malvizzun tal-Qtajja'
 1985 : 18 sightings of 1-2 on 15 dates from 12 Jan to 13 Feb, mainly at Ghadira and Bingemma.
 1986 : 14 at Sarraflu on 8th and 1 at Ghadira on 11 Nov.
- SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* Malvizz
 1985 : In single figures, occasionally up to 15 in Jan-Feb, then a slight increase in Mar, with up to 20 on 21st. 1-3 on 4 dates in Apr to 13th. In autumn from 6 Oct, with the main passage period between mid-Oct and mid-Nov when mostly in double figures, but max 100 at Dwejra (Malta) and Ghadira on 19th and 20 Oct respectively. Frequently recorded till year end with up to 10 at Buskett.
 1986 : Wintering in single figures in Jan-Mar to 21st, with max of 10 at Dwejra (Malta) on 21 Feb. 2 on 1st and 3 on 6 Apr. Early singles on 31 Aug and 7 Sep; then almost daily from 2 Oct to year end with a peak reached between mid-Oct and mid-Nov, when double figures daily and max of 230 at 4 sites on 18th. In smaller numbers in Dec.
- REDWING *Turdus iliacus* Malvizz Ahmar
 1985 : On 10 dates from 23 Jan to 3 Mar with max of 9 on 9 Feb, otherwise 1-5. Most

records from Buskett; 1 at Ghadira on 1st and 8 Dec.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* Malvizzun Prim

1985 : 1 shot at Dwejra (Malta) in mid-Nov.

1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 30 Oct.

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

1985 : Breeding at suitable localities. Max 15 at Buskett in Jun-Aug.

1986 : Same numbers as previous year, breeding in usual areas. A few from other areas after Sep. Max 20 at Buskett on 22 Jul.

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

1985 : In double figures throughout the year with higher numbers between May and Oct. Max 100 at Ghajn Rihana on 29 Jul, otherwise mostly in high double figures from a few areas. Smaller numbers in Jan and Dec. Common breeding bird.

1986 : Widespread in stable numbers with up to 50 at Ghadira in Apr-Sep and medium double figures in many places. Smaller numbers in Jan, Nov and Dec. Commonly breeding.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides* Baghal Ahmar

1985 : 2 at Ghadira on 28th and 1 at Rabat on 31 Mar. 1 at Lunzjata on 7 Sep.

1986 : 1 at Ghadira on 30 Aug.

MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Acrocephalus melanopogon* Baghal Qastni

1985 : 10 sightings of singles on 8 dates from 1-28 Nov (daily from 6-10th), mostly from Xemxija and Lunzjata.

1986 : On 11 scattered dates from 20 Oct to 10 Dec; all singles except for 2 on 20 Nov and 10 Dec. All records from Ghadira, except for 2 at Xemxija and 1 at Lunzjata.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Baghal tas-Simar

1985 : Singles on 2nd and 10th, then 1-2 almost daily from 23 Mar to 5 Apr and again on most days from 14 Apr to 28 May when mostly 1-3, but 6 at Ghajn Rihana on 27 May. 1-2 on 4 dates in Sep from 6-28th; 1 on 6th and singles on 6 days from 19-29 Oct. 1-2 on 3-4 Nov.

1986 : 1 on 10th, 2 on 13th and singles on 19-20th; then 1-3 daily from 28 Mar to 7th, followed by 1 on 15th and then almost daily sightings from 25 Apr to 7 May. Max 10 at Lunzjata on 29 Apr, otherwise 1-5. 1-2 on 6 dates till 29 May. In autumn 1 on 30 Aug, then 15 sightings of 1-2 on 13 dates from 7 Sep to 11 Oct and singles on 22-23 Oct. Unusually late bird at Ghadira on 10 Dec.

PADDYFIELD WARBLER *Acrocephalus agricola* Baghal tas-Saqwi

1986 : 1 at Lunzjata on 5-6 Sep (ringed).

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* Baghal ta' L-Aghdajjar

1985 : Singles at Chadwick Lakes on 19 Aug and at Xemxija on 27 Oct.

1986 : 1 at Chadwick Lakes on 14th and up to 4 at Lunzjata on 24-31 Aug.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* Baghal tal-Qasab

1985 : Singles on 9 days from 27 Apr to 22 Jun, with most in Jun. In autumn 1 on 4th then on most days from 10 Aug to 21 Oct, with most mid-Aug - Sep. In single figures max 4 on 18 Aug and 1 Sep. Late bird at Ghadira on 8 Nov.

1986 : Singles on 22nd and 28 Apr, 1st and 25 May. In autumn 1 on 29 Jul, then in single figures on most days from 3 Aug to 28 Oct with max of 5 at Chadwick Lakes on 25 Aug and at Xemxija on 28 Sep. 1 on 3 Nov.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* Baghal Prim

1985 : 1 on 3rd, then 24 sightings on 15 dates from 13 Apr to 11 May; usually 1-3 but 5 at Ghadira on 16 Apr. In autumn singles on 1st, 14th and 22 Sep, on 1 Oct and 1 Nov.

1986 : 1 at Lunzjata on 24-25 Mar; then 1-3 almost daily from 5 Apr to 10 May with a peak in late Apr. Singles on 4 dates from 17-24 May. 1 on 20 Jun. In autumn singles on 10th and 30 Aug, 1st, 20th and 27 Sep, and 1 Nov.

OLIVACEOUS WARBLER *Hippolais pallida* Bekkafik Griz

1985 : 1 at Kennedy Grove on 30 Mar.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* Bekkafik ta' l-Ghana

1985 : On most days in spring from 26 Apr to 3 Jun, with a peak in early - mid-May. Usually 1-5 but max of 10 near Chadwick Lakes on 7th and 20 at Bingenma/Dwejra (Malta) on

11 May. Singles on 14th, 21st and 25 Aug, and 105 on 5 days from 19-29 Sep.
 1986 : 1 on 25 Apr, then on most days from 2-31 May; in single figures, but max of 25 at Bingemma/Dwejra (Malta) on 18th. 1 on 2nd and 2 on 7 Jun. In autumn singles on 15th and 17 Aug, 14 Sep and 5th, 12th and 17 Oct.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata* *Bufula tax-Xaghri*.
 1986 : 1 at Sliema on 7 Dec.

SPECTACLED WARBLER *Sylvia conspicillata* *Bufula Hamra*
 1985 : Still present in small numbers through out the year at various sites. Max 15 in Gozo on 27 May.
 1986 : Mostly sighted in single figures with the highest numbers in May-Jun with max 20 (3 localities) in Gozo on 30 May. A slight increase over previous year evident.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* *Bufula Passajra*
 1985 : On most days from 20 Mar to 14 Apr with max 20 on Comino on 1 Apr; otherwise up to 10. 1-2 on 6 dates from 19-28 Apr. In autumn, almost daily from 16 Jul to 28 Sep, with most from late Jul to mid-Sep; double figures on most days, max 60 at Buskett on 11 Aug.
 1986 : 2 on 7th, then almost daily from 12 Mar to 16 Apr; in single figures, but max 10 at 2 sites on 2 Apr. Singles on 25 Apr and 4 May. In autumn 1-3 on 4 dates from 6-13th, then almost daily from 19 Jul to 29 Sep. In low double figures mainly in Aug - mid-Sep, max 40 on 7th and 24 Aug.

SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala* *Bufula Sewda*
 1985 : Common breeding resident in stable numbers.
 1986 : Widespread and present in various habitats throughout the year. Breeding in usual numbers.

RUPPELL'S WARBLER *Sylvia rueppelli* *Bufula tal-Pavalor*
 1985 : 1 male at Dingli on 2 Apr.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* *Bekkafik Irmiedi*
 1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 24 Apr; at Chadwick Lakes on 18 Aug; at Dwejra (Malta) on 1 Sep and at Rabat on 2 Nov and 1 Dec.
 1986 : 1 at Chadwick Lakes on 17 Aug and singles on 7 dates at Ghadira from 6-26 Sep.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* *Bekkafik Ahmar*
 1985 : 1 on 23rd and 31 Mar; then 1-2 on 1-2nd, 1 on 14th and on most days from 19 Apr to 12 May; usually up to 10 but max of 20 at Dwejra (Malta) on 28 Apr. 3 on 18 May and 1 on 2 Jun. In autumn singles on 4 Sep and 12 Oct.
 1986 : In spring, 1-3 on 7 dates from 3-15 Apr and almost daily from 22 Apr to 16 May. Mostly in single to low double figures up to 15; but an influx in early May with max of 100 at Dwejra (Malta) / Bingemma on 3rd and 50 at Ghadira on 4th. 1 on 28 May. In autumn singles on 23 Aug, 3rd and 30 Sep.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* *Bekkafik*
 1985 : Spring passage from 14 Apr to 25 May with a peak from early - mid-May. In single to low double figures but 55 at Dwejra/Bingemma on 11 May highest. 1 on 11th, then almost daily from 18 Aug to 30 Sep; low double figures frequent in Sep with max of 40 at Bingemma on 1st. 1-2 on 3 dates from 15-27 Oct.
 1986 : Singles on 5th and 16th, then almost daily from 20 Apr to 31 May; in double figures on most days throughout May, but max 100 at Bingemma on 18 May. Singles on 2nd and 7 Jun. In autumn, 1 on 11th then on most days from 17 Aug to 5 Oct with double figures on a few days, max 50 at Wied il-Luq on 31 Aug. 1-2 on 3 dates from 10-23 Oct. 1 on 2 Nov.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* *Kapinera*
 1985 : In double figures at a few sites in Jan-Mar but higher numbers at Buskett: max counts for each month - 3000 on 26 Jan, 2000 on 9th and 16 Feb and 2 Mar. Single figures till 21 Apr. 1 singing at Buskett on 23 Jun and 1 on 5 Aug. In autumn single figures from 12 Oct, with double figures only on 3 dates in Dec; max 50 at Buskett on 8th and 22nd and at Lunzjata on 29th.
 1986 : Treble figures at Buskett and up to 20 elsewhere in Jan-Apr to 2nd, numbers increasing in Mar with max 200 at Buskett on 16th. Singles on 3rd and 5 May, and 1 singing at Buskett on 15 Jun. 1 on 12th, then singles on a few days from 26 Sep to 18 Oct; then more frequent, reaching low double figures by mid-Nov with max 25 at Buskett on 23rd. Numbers stable till year end.

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

1985 : Singles at Mellieha on 12th, at Lunzjata on 19th and at Sarraflu on 29 Oct.
 1986 : Singles at B'Kara on 29 Sep; at Xemxija on 11th and 18th and at Lunzjata on 26 Oct;
 and again at Xemxija on 3 Nov.

BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* Vjolin Bajdani

1985 : Singles at Ghadira on 16th, 22nd and 25 Apr, and on 4 May.
 1986 : Singles at Ghadira on 5th and 11 Apr.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Vjolin Hadrani

1985 : On spring passage almost daily from 29 Mar to 16 May with most from mid-Apr to early May. Max of 100 at Dwejra (Malta) on 28 Apr and 200 at Buskett on 7 May, otherwise single to medium double figures. 1 on 21 May. In autumn 1 on 10 Aug, then 16 sightings of 1-5 on 13 dates from 1 Sep to 27 Oct; most in late Sep.
 1986 : Almost daily from 2 Apr to 15 May with a peak from late Apr-early May. Single to low double figures, max 30 on 3 days. 1 on 31 May. In autumn 26 sightings of 1-4 on 21 days from 8 Aug to 20 Oct. Most sightings in Sep.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* Vjolin tax-Xitwa

1985 : Single to low double figures in Jan-Mar with max of 30 from some areas on a few dates. Singles on 1-2 Apr. In autumn singles on 13th and 16th, then daily from 19 Oct till end of year; mostly in double figures in most places but up to 100 on some days.
 1986 : In treble figures only at Lunzjata in Jan to mid-Mar, max 300 on 15th and 23 Feb, otherwise up to 40 elsewhere. Numbers decreased to single figures after mid-Mar with last on 16 Apr. Singles on 28 Apr, 7th and 18 May. In autumn 1-2 on 4-5th, 1 on 12th and daily from 18 Oct onwards. Higher numbers in Nov with 30-40 on most days reaching treble figures in late Dec. Max 100 at Chadwick Lakes on 25th and 200 at Lunzjata on 29th.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* Vjolin Pastard

1985 : In spring almost daily from 21 Mar to 11 May with peaks in late Mar and late Apr. Max 50 on 29 Mar and 30 on 30 Apr at Ghadira, otherwise single to low double figures. In autumn on most days from 18 Aug to 20 Oct, with most in Sep. High single figures, max 10 at Chadwick Lakes on 15 Sep. 1-4 daily from 30 Oct to 2 Nov.
 1986 : Almost daily from 19 Mar to 9 May with a peak in late Mar-early Apr. Single to low double figures, with 25 at Xemxija on 31 Mar highest. 1-2 on 4 dates from 13-24 May and 1 on 8 Jun. In autumn, singles on 8th and 11th, and 1-5 on most days from 14-31 Aug, then daily in Sep and Oct to 26th, with max of 25 at 'la' Gali on 5 Sep, otherwise mostly in high single figures.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* Bufula tal-Qamar

1985 : Singles on 15 Jan and 9 Feb. 1-4 on 8 dates from 27 Oct to 23 Nov.
 1986 : Only 3 sightings: singles at Ramla on 14 Mar and at Ghadira on 6-7 Nov.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus* Bufula taf-loppu Ahmar

1985 : 2 on 26 Jan, 1 on 14 Mar and 3 on 2 Apr. In autumn singles on 19th and 26-28 Oct, then almost daily sightings from 31 Oct to 14 Nov with 10 at Xemxija on 7 Nov, otherwise 1-4. Up to 5 frequently recorded from 22 Nov onwards.
 1986 : 1-2 on 14 days in Jan to mid-Feb, then up to 4 on most days from 21 Feb to 23 Mar. Most records from Ghadira. In autumn 28 sightings on 21 days from 2 Oct to 14 Nov; usually 1-3 but 10 at Xemxija on 14 Nov. Singles on 21 Nov, 4th and 16 Dec.

GOLD/FIRECREST *Regulus regulus/ignicapillus*

1985 : Recorded on a few days from a few localities in Jan-Mar to 9th. Mostly 1-3 but 5 at Buskett on 20 Jan. 1 on 4th, then on most days from 19 Oct onwards; usually 1-5 but 10 at Buskett on 8 Dec.
 1986 : Regular sightings on 1-4 in various localities in Jan-Apr to 5th; most in late Mar. Singles on 5th and 11th, then frequently recorded from 15 Oct to 16 Dec with 10-15 at Xemxija on 4 dates in Oct and Nov, otherwise 1-5.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* Zanzarell tal-Likki

1985 : On spring passage, singles on 10th and 12th, then almost daily from 16 Apr to 4 Jun; most from late Apr to mid-May. In single to low double figures but max of 40 at Bingemma/Dwejra on 18 May. Up to 3 pairs at Buskett in Jun-Jul. In autumn singles on 4 dates from 7-25 Aug; then 12 sightings of 1-3 on 9 dates from 1-29 Sep. Singles on 13th and 30 Oct, and 1-2 Nov.
 1986 : 2 on 20th, then daily sightings from 26 Apr to 25 May; usually in double figures of up to 60 but with max of 100 at Dwejra (Malta) on 15 May. 1-2 frequently from

28 May to 4 Jun. At least 3 pairs at Buskett in Jun-Jul. A few from 15 Aug, then on most days from 31 Aug to 15 Oct; mostly 1-3 but up to 5 at Xemxija on 28th and at Bingemma on 30 Sep. 1 at Ghadira on 23-26 Oct.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* Zanzarell Sidru Ahmar

1985 : Singles at Bingemma on 14th and at Xemxija on 22 Sep; at Ghadira on 20th and at Xemxija on 27 Oct, and again at Ghadira on 2-3 Nov.
1986 : Singles at Lunzjata on 5th and 12 Oct; and at Ghadira on 28 Nov.

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

1985 : 1 male ringed at Rabat on 28 Apr.

COLLARED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula albicollis* Zanzarell tal-Kullar

1985 : 17 sightings on 13 days from 30 Mar to 18 Apr, with 3-5 at Chadwick Lakes on 30-31 Mar highest, otherwise 1-2. Singles on 21st and 25 Apr, and on 9 May.

1986 : Only recorded in spring, with singles on 3 dates from 5-13th, and on 8 days from 23 Apr to 8 May; most in late Apr. Usually 1-5, but max of 15 at Bingemma/Dwejra on 24th and 26 Apr.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* Zanzarell Iswed

1985 : In spring 1-3 on a few days from 29 Mar, then on most days from 12 Apr to 12 May with 15 at Bingemma/Dwejra on 25 Apr highest, otherwise 1-10. 1 on 12 May. In autumn 1 on 24 Aug, and 1 on 6th and 2 on 22 Sep.

1986 : 1 on 18 Mar, then 1-2 on most days from 2 Apr with up to 10 from 19th, but 18 at Bingemma/Dwejra on 20th. Only 2-3 after 3 May with last on 15th. Singles on 5 days from 23-30 Aug; then 1-2 on 3 dates from 7-14 Sep and again singles on 3 dates from 2-12 Oct.

PENDULINE 111 *Remiz pendulinus* Pendulin

1986 : Exceptional year: 1-6 frequently from 24 Oct to 16 Nov; 1 on 22 Nov, then again almost daily from 1-9 Dec, with 5 on 8th, otherwise 1-3; and 1 on 27th and 2 on 29-30 Dec. All at Ghadira.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* Tajra Safra

1985 : Singles on 16th and 22 nd, then on most days from 25 Apr to 12 May and 5 further sightings till 31st. In single figures, but 10+ at Bingemma/Dwejra on 25 Apr. In autumn, 1 on 30 Aug, then singles on 4 scattered dates from 7-29 Sep.

1986 : In spring almost daily sightings from 18 Apr to 25 May; in single figures up to 7, but max of 10 at Xemxija on 25 Apr. 5 on 31 May and 2 on 3 Jun. Singles at Buskett on 4 dates in Jun-Jul. In autumn on 7 dates from 28 Aug to 23 Sep; singles, except for 4 at Lunzjata on 14 Sep.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* Kaccamendula Hamra

1985 : Singles on 5 dates from 2-15 Sep, then 1 at Ghadira from 27 Oct to 3 Nov.

1986 : Singles on 13th and 19 May. In autumn always recorded in singles: on 7th and 28 Aug, 4 different sightings on 11th and 13 Sep, and on 6 days from 4-19 Oct.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor* Kaccamendula Griza

1986 : 1 at Bingemma on 3 Aug.

MASKED SHRIKE *Lanius nubicus* Kaccamendula tal-Maskra

1985 : 1 at Lunzjata on 20 Oct.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* Kaccamendula

1985 : In spring, singles on 7 days from 7-22 Apr, then frequently recorded from 25 Apr to 12 May, followed by a further 3 sightings, the last on 30th. Max 20 at Ghaxaq on 28 Apr, otherwise 1-5. Singles on 8th and 12 Jun, and on 17th and 26 Jul. Again singles on 4 dates from 1-25 Aug and 1 at Dwejra (Malta) on 12-14 Sep.

1986 : On most days in spring from 4 Apr to 22 May with a peak in early May. Mostly 1-4 but 10+ at Dwejra/Bingemma on 3 May. Singles on 29th and 31 May. In autumn 18 sightings of singles on 15 days from 17 Aug to 18 Sep, with most in late Aug.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* Sturnell

1985 : Double to low treble figures in Jan-Mar to 7th, max 200 on 5 Jan, then 1-2 on 3 days from 18-23 Mar. Singles on 10 May and 21 Jul. 5 at Marsa on 28 Aug and singles on 3 dates from 3-10 Sep. Main autumn migration from 25 Sep, reaching treble figures on a few days from 9 Oct onwards. 1000 at Luqa on 16-17 Nov highest.

1986 : Double to treble figures in Jan-Feb to 14th with 700 at Luqa on 2 Feb highest.

Smaller numbers till 23 Mar, then 1-3 on 3 dates up to 23 Apr. Singles on 1st and 10 May, on 27 Jun, on 10th and 17 Aug. Autumn passage from 5 Oct with double or treble figures almost daily but max 1000 on 10-12 Nov and 2000+ at Luqa on 10 Dec.

SPANISH SPARROW *Passer hispaniolensis* Ghammiel tal-Bejt
1985-86 : Abundant breeding resident.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* Ghammiel tas-Sigar

1985 : Breeding as usual in scattered areas with up to 50 at Chadwick Lakes in Jul-Sep.
Recorded wintering and passage birds mostly in Oct-Nov.

1986 : Only scattered sightings from Mar with 10-50 at Bingemma and Chadwick Lakes between Jul-Aug. At other places mostly in Sep-early Nov with max of 25 at Xemxija on 5 Oct.
Breeding as last year.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* Sponsun

1985 : Single to low double figures in various places in Jan-Apr to 14th but only up to 5 after mid-Mar. Highest 40 at Buskett on 30 Jan. 1-2 on 9 days in May and up to 15 at Buskett in Jun-Sep. 1-3 in other areas, especially Chadwick Lakes, in same period. First migrants from 5 Oct, then main passage from 13th with double figures (up to 50) on most days but heavy passage recorded at Benghisa on 25 Oct. Peak from late Oct to mid-Nov with smaller numbers in Dec.

1986 : Single to double figures in Jan-Mar with max of 50 at Buskett on 17 Jan; a slight return passage evident in mid-Mar. 1-3 on most days in Apr-May, mostly at Ghadira, then up to 10 at Buskett in Jun-Aug (most in Jun) and 1-2 at a few other localities, mainly Bingemma and Chadwick Lakes during same period. A few singles in Sep, with passage migrants from 1 Oct onwards. Peak between mid-Oct and mid-Nov with low treble figures on 4 dates, max 180 at Cumnija on 31 Oct. Ca.300 at Floriana roost on 28 Nov. Smaller numbers in Dec, with treble figures only at roosts.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* Apparell

1985 : Double to low treble figures on most days in Jan-Feb but an exceptional influx occurred from 20-23 Jan when large passages (in thousands) reported from various sites. Up to 40 to mid-Mar with a few till 31st. Singles on 10 dates in Apr-May and 1-2 on 6 dates in Jun-Jul, mostly from Buskett where possibly breeding. Singles from a few localities in Aug-Sep but 4 at Chadwick Lakes on 15 Aug. Single figures from 6 Oct with occasional sightings till mid-Nov, but 50 at Benghisa on 5 Nov. 1-2 on 6 dates in Dec.

1986 : In single figures at various places in Jan-Mar, but 10 at Ghadira on 22 Feb. Singles on a few days in Apr-Jun and 1-2 at Migra Ferha in Jul and singles on 5 days in Jul-Aug. Most sightings after Mar from Ghadira. 2 on 27 Sep and 1 on 2nd, with passage migrants from 24 Oct onwards. 1-5 from many areas till year end, but 500+ at Siggiewi on 22nd and 50+ on 29 Dec highest.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* Verdun

1985 : On a few dates in Jan-Feb to 9th, max 6 at 11-Qaws on 12 Jan; otherwise 1-2. Singles on 10th and 14 Mar, with a small passage at Benghisa (no numbers given) on 1 Apr. Singles on sporadic dates between late Apr- late Aug, but 5 - pair and 3 young - at Victoria on 3 Aug. 1 on 5 Sep, then 13 sightings of 1-8 on 10 dates from 12 Oct to 13 Nov, followed by singles on 23rd and 30 Nov, 8th and 23 Dec.

1986 : Singles on 5 Jan; 5th and 7 Feb; 2nd, 9th and 20 Apr and 14-15 Jun. 2 at Marsalforn on 25 Jul and again singles on 7th and 14 Sep; 3-4th and 14 Oct. Then 30 on 18th and sightings of 1-5 on most days from 25 Oct to 30 Nov. 1 on 25 Dec.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* Gardell

1985 : 1-2 on 5 days from 20 Jan to 28 Feb, and singles on 4 dates from 9 Mar to 7 Apr, but a small passage (no numbers quoted) at Benghisa on 1 Apr. 1 on 3rd and 13 May, 3 on 5 Nov and 2 on 13 Dec.

1986 : 1-2 on 3 dates from 2-26 Apr; singles on 24 May and 16-17 Jul at Ghadira; and 1-2 on 3 dates from 1-10 Nov. 3 on 22 Dec.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* Ekru

1985 : 2 at Gharghur on 15th, then heavy passage (1000+) on 26 Oct and 200+ on 1st and 9 Nov, all at Benghisa. Another 9 sightings on 5 dates from 8-30 Nov, max 30 on 19th, otherwise 1-6.

1986 : Singles at Floriana on 24 Oct and at San Anton on 30 Dec.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* Gojjin

1985 : High treble figures in many areas in Jan-Mar to 11th, with a large influx occurring in mid-Jan when thousands reported from various areas. High numbers,

also in thousands, at roosts, especially Floriana. Numbers decreased to low double figures after mid-Mar with last on 14 Apr. 1-2 on sporadic dates between May-Aug, mostly from Gozo. 1 on 21st and 4 on 29 Sep, then 1-2 on a few days from 3rd, with most from 19 Oct onwards. Double figures (up to 50) on most days, but a passage reported at Bnghisa on 24 Oct.

1986 : Single to low double figures in Jan-Feb, with numbers increasing between late Feb and late Mar, ca.800 (roosting) at Floriana on 25 Feb highest. Single figures on a few days in Apr and singles on 6 dates in May. 2 on 19 Jun and 1 on 26 Jul. Then 1-3 on 5 dates in Aug-Sep. On autumn passage, 1 on 9th and from 19 Oct onwards in single to low double figures, max 30 at Qamtiġ on 31 Oct.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* Bagħal tal-Gojġin
1985 : 1 of the nominate race at Bahrija on 15 Dec.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* Krucġat
1985 : 1 at Ghadira on 13 Jul.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Ħaz-Zebbug
1985 : 1 at Gharghur on 14 Oct.
1986 : 11 sightings on 8 dates from 10 Oct to 8 Nov, with 20+ on Gozo and 5 at Euskeit on 31st and 8 at Fomm ir-Riġ on 22 Oct, otherwise 1-2.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* Durrajsa Safra
1985 : 1 at Delimara on 30 Sep.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* Ortolan
1985 : 2 at Gharghur on 16 Apr.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica* Durrajsa Qastnija
1986 : 1 ringed at Lunzjata on 19 Oct.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* Durrajsa tal-Qasab
1985 : 1-2 present at Ghadira in Jan-Feb to 17th and 1 at same place from 10-24 Mar. 1 on 18th and 1-3 on most days from 26 Oct to 27 Nov; 1-2 at Ghadira from 7-25 Dec. Most sightings in autumn at Ghadira, Xemxija and Lunzjata.
1986 : Singles on 5 Jan and 20-24 Mar at Ghadira. Daily at Ghadira from 13 Oct to 31 Dec, with most between mid-Nov and mid-Dec when usually 1-8 but 10 on 17 Nov. Sightings outside Ghadira in Nov, mostly at Xemxija and Lunzjata.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra* Durrajsa
1985 : Breeding in various sites. Highest numbers in Sep-Oct probably due to migrants with max 50 at Ghadira on 21 Sep.
1986 : Breeding as last year with highest number, 15 at Ghadira. Up to 30 on a few days in Sep-Oct indicates migration.

RINGING REPORT FOR 1986-87

Joe Sultana & Charles Gauci
(Ringing & Research Committee)

This report covers the two-year period 1986-87 during which period 22,122 birds were ringed. By the end of 1987 the grand total of birds ringed since ringing started in 1965 stood at 175,571 of 155 species and 2 hybrids.

The number of birds ringed in 1986 was 11,414 of 92 species, three of which, namely Little Egret, White-winged Black Tern and Paddyfield Warbler, were new additions to the ringing list. It was also the first time that the Paddyfield Warbler was recorded in the Maltese Islands. In 1987 the number of birds ringed was 10,708 of 99 species. Three other new species were added to the ringing list - Squacco Heron, Arctic Warbler and Pallas's Warbler, the latter two being also new to the list of birds occurring in Malta.

By the end of 1987 the ten species which topped the list of the number of birds ringed since 1965 were as follows: (the number of birds ringed in 1986 & 1987 are also given).

Species	1965-87	1986	1987
Robin	25,829	2,711	2,001
Chiffchaff	19,892	1,515	1,530
Swallow	16,947	942	621
Storm Petrel	14,194	544	303
Spanish Sparrow	12,112	800	848
Sardinian Warbler	10,072	607	622
Blackcap	7,523	278	393
Sand Martin	7,453	66	26
Garden Warbler	6,249	299	445
House Martin	5,475	135	411

The monthly totals of birds ringed for the two-year period under review are figured in the following table:

Months	1986		1987	
	No. of birds ringed	No. of species	No. of birds ringed	No. of species
Jan.	696	19	745	21
Feb.	556	17	510	18
Mar.	664	30	1,539	40
Apr.	1,499	40	1,569	49
May	1,394	37	791	42
Jun.	176	11	557	17
Jul.	209	9	302	13
Aug.	652	31	445	21
Sep.	685	43	486	43
Oct.	2,482	53	1,821	58
Nov.	1,766	38	1,425	42
Dec.	635	24	516	22

Apart from the list of ringing and recovery totals to the end of 1987, this report consists of a section dealing with 39 recoveries of 15 species reported during 1986-87. Fifteen of these recoveries, which involve ten species, were reported from abroad. As in previous years hirundines figure prominently in this section. Four of the most interesting are a House Martin recovered in England 7 years after ringing; a Swallow in Morocco (this is our first bird recovered so west in North Africa); a Sand Martin which was controlled

at a breeding colony in northern France; and another Swallow recovered in Poland 16 days after ringing. Although occurring in neighbouring countries, the most exciting recoveries belong to two Sardinian Warblers which were the first to be recovered abroad, one in Italy and the other in northern Yugoslavia. Other interesting recoveries involve our first Chiffchaff in Luxembourg and our second White Wagtail abroad, this one controlled at a roost in Czechoslovakia.

This report also carries a section of recoveries in Malta of 45 foreign ringed birds involving 22 species. As in previous years the finches (2 Chaffinches, 6 Serins, 1 Greenfinch, 1 Siskin and 4 Linnets) dominate the passerine section, and all have hailed from countries from where these species had already been previously ringed and recovered in Malta. Of the other passerines the most interesting recoveries are of two Willow Warblers from Lithuania and Belgium respectively (2nd and 3rd Willow Warblers to be recovered in Malta); the first Yellow Wagtail from Lithuania and the first White Wagtail from Hungary. The only recovery hailing from Africa is the first Curlew Sandpiper from Mauritania (the 4th to be recovered from abroad). It was sight controlled at Ghadira where the first Little Stint from Poland (the second from abroad) was also controlled. A Red-footed Falcon recovery from Hungary was the first for this species in Malta while 5 Turtle Doves, 3 Marsh Harriers and 3 Ospreys make up most of the other recoveries. The Ospreys, one of which is the first from East Germany, bring up the total to 29 recovered in Malta; all but one hailing from Sweden and Finland. The other recoveries include the 3rd and 4th Cormorants from Denmark, the 3rd Caspian Tern from Finland and the first Lesser Black-backed Gull from Denmark.

Twelve 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, were on the MOS books for 1986. In 1987, C. Coleiro joined the group. C. Gauci, as in previous years, was the Ringing Secretary and was responsible for compiling all the ringing data and for keeping the MOS ringing scheme's books.

RINGING AND RECOVERY TOTALS TO 31.12.87

Species	Ringed	Ringed	Grand Total ringed	Recovered	
	in 1986	in 1987		1986-87	Grand Total
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Black-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	-	-	3	-	1
Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	149	104	1,691	4	29
Manx Shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	5	21	473	-	5
Storm Petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	544	303	14,194	1	26
Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	1	6	44	-	1
Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	3	3	9	-	-
Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	-	2	2	-	-
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1	-	1	-	-
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	-	-	9	-	1
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	-	-	6	-	-
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	2	17	46	1	2
Spotted Crake <i>Porzana porzana</i>	-	3	12	-	1
Little Crake <i>Porzana parva</i>	-	-	6	-	-
Baillon's Crake <i>Porzana pusilla</i>	-	-	1	-	-

Moorhen					
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	-	27	79	-	2
Coot					
<i>Fulica atra</i>	1	-	3	-	-
Stone Curlew					
<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Little Ringed Plover					
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	1	2	44	-	1
Ringed Plover					
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	-	1	5	-	-
Lapwing					
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Little Stint					
<i>Calidris minuta</i>	16	82	464	-	4
Temminck's Stint					
<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	1	6	33	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper					
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	1	9	43	-	3
Dunlin					
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	8	3	41	-	-
Ruff					
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	-	2	35	-	1
Jack Snipe					
<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	-	-	18	-	1
Snipe					
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	4	6	45	-	3
Great Snipe					
<i>Gallinago media</i>	-	-	7	-	1
Woodcock					
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Spotted Redshank					
<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	-	-	2	-	-
Redshank					
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	-	1	3	-	-
Marsh Sandpiper					
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Greenshank					
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Green Sandpiper					
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	-	-	20	-	3
Wood Sandpiper					
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	1	9	95	-	8
Common Sandpiper					
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	11	22	181	-	-
Mediterranean Gull					
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Black-headed Gull					
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	-	-	1	-	1
Yellow-legged Herring Gull					
<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	50	25	237	1	7
Sandwich Tern					
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	-	-	1	-	-
White-winged Black Tern					
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1	-	1	-	-
Turtle Dove					
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	5	2	47	-	4
Cuckoo					
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	2	1	21	-	-
Scops Owl					
<i>Otus scops</i>	5	4	108	-	5
Short-eared Owl					
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	-	-	2	-	-
Nightjar					
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	-	1	13	-	1
Swift					
<i>Apus apus</i>	10	12	28	1	1
Kingfisher					
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	16	13	107	2	10

IL-MERILL No. 25 1988

Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	1	1	13	-	-
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	20	24	354	-	1
Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	1	7	144	-	1
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	-	-	2	-	-
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	-	-	27	-	5
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	66	26	7,453	3	36
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	942	621	16,947	4	87
Red-rumped Swallow <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	-	2	34	-	1
House Martin <i>Delichon urbica</i>	135	411	5,475	1	14
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>	80	45	1,056	-	1
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	54	52	989	1	8
Red-throated Pipit <i>Anthus cervinus</i>	-	3	58	-	-
Rock/Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	-	-	12	-	-
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	184	64	2,539	-	19
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	22	20	575	-	7
White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	99	74	641	2	7
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1	-	19	-	-
Dunnock <i>Fringilla modularis</i>	172	92	1,498	-	8
Rufous Bush Chat <i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	-	-	7	-	-
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	2,711	2,001	25,829	9	167
Thrush Nightingale <i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	-	-	4	-	-
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	52	84	1,353	-	2
Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	2	9	68	-	-
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	31	35	192	-	1
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	82	96	1,959	-	3
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	14	9	440	-	-
Stonechat <i>Saxicola torquata</i>	86	170	1,443	-	2
Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	5	2	139	-	1
Black-eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	-	-	3	-	-
Rock Thrush <i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	-	-	3	-	-

Blue Rock Thrush <i>Monticola solitarius</i>	6	1	69	-	3
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	-	-	3	-	-
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	10	14	171	1	13
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	1	-	3	-	-
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	80	65	864	-	29
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	1	2	27	-	-
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	75	103	892	1	27
Fan-tailed Warbler <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	553	316	3,662	2	32
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	-	1	4	-	-
River Warbler <i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	1	-	36	-	-
Moustached Warbler <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	10	4	83	-	1
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	70	17	1,486	-	1
Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	1	-	1	-	-
Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	5	1	17	-	-
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	79	55	1,238	-	-
Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	23	21	908	-	3
Olivaceous Warbler <i>Hippolais pallida</i>	-	-	3	-	-
Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>	22	41	866	-	-
Melodious Warbler <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	-	-	2	-	-
Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	-	1	36	-	-
Spectacled Warbler <i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	2	10	1,237	-	3
Subalpine Warbler <i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	207	275	4,212	-	1
Sardinian Warbler <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	607	622	10,072	5	34
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>	3	3	46	-	-
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	119	57	1,512	-	1
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	299	445	6,249	1	9
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	278	393	7,523	2	19
Arctic Warbler <i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>	-	1	1	-	-
Pallas's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	-	1	1	-	-
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	3	1	13	-	-
Bonelli's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	1	1	113	-	-

Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	330	264	4,026	-	-
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1,515	1,530	19,892	12	56
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	322	562	3,586	2	5
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	2	14	176	-	-
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	31	11	307	1	4
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	74	81	1,097	-	5
Red-breasted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula parva</i>	2	10	61	-	-
Semi-collared Flycatcher <i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>	-	-	5	-	-
Collared Flycatcher <i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	8	61	274	-	-
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	91	130	1,784	-	2
Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	5	5	17	-	2
Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	7	30	153	-	6
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	5	1	83	-	-
Woodchat Shrike <i>Lanius senator</i>	13	4	159	-	-
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	3	4	74	-	6
Spanish Sparrow <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	800	848	12,112	3	117
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	34	30	347	-	1
Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	55	38	550	-	6
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	-	-	4	-	-
Serín <i>Serinus serinus</i>	2	66	287	-	4
Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	7	4	280	-	18
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	-	1	15	1	2
Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	1	-	7	-	-
Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	2	1	904	-	53
Scarlet Rosefinch <i>Cardopacus erythrinus</i>	-	-	3	-	-
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	-	-	1	-	-
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	1	7	-	1
Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	-	1	3	-	-
Chestnut Bunting <i>Emberiza rutila</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Yellow-breasted Bunting <i>Emberiza aureola</i>	-	-	1	-	-

Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	35	7	156	-	-
Corn Bunting <i>Miliaria calandra</i>	15	18	355	-	5
Swallow X House Martin <i>Hirundo rustica</i> X <i>Delichon urbica</i>	-	-	1	-	-
Tree Sparrow x Spanish Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i> x <i>hispaniolensis</i>	-	-	1	-	1
totals	11,414	10,708	175,571	61	961

RINGING RECOVERIES

This section deals with 39 recoveries of 15 species reported during 1986-87. Only those found at least 5km 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.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*

GG 0.138 1 24.05.86 Filfla : 35.47 N, 14.25 E.
+ 24.11.87 Marsaxlokk : 35.49 N, 14.32 E.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

SE 28.439 2 21.09.86 Lunzjata Valley : 36.03 N, 14.14 E, Gozo.
v=3M 05.10.86 Ghadira : 35.58 N, 14.21 E.
v 09.10.86 ibid.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

46.943 4 13.04.86 Lunzjata Valley.
v(colony) 24.06.86 Varennes, Jablines : 48.55 N, 02.46 E (Seine-et-Marne), FRANCE.

48.295 4 13.04.86 Lunzjata Valley.
v(colony) 04.07.86 San Quirico, Treccasali : 44.55 N, 10.15 E (Parma), ITALY.
v 11.06.87 ibid.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

22.686	3	24.09.82	Lunzjata Valley.
	+	00.00.83	Nador : 34.47 N, 02.55 W, MOROCCO.
45.630 *	4M	29.04.86	Lunzjata Valley.
	x	15.05.86	nr. Szezecin : 53.35 N, 14.32 E (River Oder), POLAND.
48.845	4M	14.03.87	Lunzjata Valley.
	v	17.03.87	Zejtun : 35.51 N, 14.32 E.
57.035	4M	13.04.87	Lunzjata Valley.
	x	01.05.87	Majcichov : 48.17 N, 17.38 E (Trnava), CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
44.190 *	4M	01.05.86	Lunzjata Valley.
	x	03.05.87	Motzenhofen-Alchach : 48.28 N, 11.08 E (Oberbayern), W. GERMANY.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

AO 36.074	4	12.04.79	Lunzjata Valley.
	x	01.05.86	Fawley : 50.49 N, 01.20 W, Southampton (Hampshire), ENGLAND.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

32.521	4	04.12.83	Lunzjata Valley.
	v(roost)	16.09.86	Hrusky : 48.47 N, 56.59 E (Breclav), CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

42.913	3	04.11.85	Ghajn Zejtuna : 35.58 N, 14.22 E.
	v	18.04.86	Zemplinsky Klecenov : 48.34 N, 21.41 E (Trebisov), CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
49.798	3	13.10.86	Ghadira.
	v	18.10.86	Lunzjata Valley.
50.988	3	07.11.86	Ghadira.
	()	16.03.87	nr. Ghar Hasan : 35.49 N, 14.31 E.
60.045	3	02.11.87	Ghajn Zejtuna.
	()	15.11.87	Ghaxaq : 35.51 N, 14.31 E.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

XA 99.224	3M	04.11.79	Ghadira.
	+	24.10.87	Kuncizzjoni : 35.54 N, 14.25 E.

Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis*

A 5.289	1♀	13.06.85	nr. Chadwick Lakes : 35.54 N, 14.24 E.
	v=4F	15.10.86	Ghadira.
7A.154	3M	19.07.86	Ghadira.
	v	24.08.86	Lunzjata Valley.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

33.141 *	3F	25.11.83	Ghajn Zejtuna.
	x	02.02.86	Sava : 40.24 N, 17.33 E (Taranto), ITALY.
38.860	3J	10.08.85	Bingemma : 35.54 N, 14.23 E
	v=5F(breeding)	17.04.86	Ghadira.
46.857 *	5M	02.02.87	Has Saptan : 35.50 N, 14.31 E.
	x(cat)	spring87	Rijeka : 45.2 N, 14.27 E (Hrvatska), YUGOSLAVIA.
58.220 *	3JM	26.08.87	Bingemma.
	x(window)	(02.12.87)	Bugibba : 35.55 N, 14.26 E.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

46.358	2M	25.10.86	Rabat : 35.53 N, 14.24 E.
	v	01.11.86	Xemxija : 35.57 N, 14.23 E.
52.127	2M	01.12.86	Mellieha : 35.58 N, 14.21 E.
	x	03.05.87	Eichenau : 48.10 N, 11.20 E, Kr. Furstenfeldbruck, (Oberbayern), AUSTRIA.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

48.369	4	10.05.86	Ghadira.
	v	10.05.87	Barcaggio : 43.00 N, 09.24 E (Corsica), FRANCE.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

0A.835	2	05.12.84	Ghadira.
	v	12.01.86	Lunzjata Valley.
A 9.926	2	27.10.85	Ghadira
	v	25.01.86	Lunzjata Valley.
0A.925	2	01.12.85	Ghadira
	v	16.02.86	Lunzjata Valley.
2A.798 *	2	20.10.85	Ghadira.
	()	05.04.86	Jarse (Ljubljana) : 46.05 N, 14.32 E (Slovenija), YUGOSLAVIA.
0A.911	2	10.11.85	Ghadira.
	v	27.11.86	Te' Pinu : 36.04 N, 14.13 E.
3A.576	2	09.12.85	Ghadira.
	()	22.01.87	Zurrieq : 35.49 N, 14.28 E.
5A.857	4	07.02.86	Ghadira.
	v	29.03.87	Lunzjata Valley.
5A.864	4	09.03.86	Ghadira.
	v	29.03.87	Lunzjata Valley.
7A.847	2	06.11.86	Ghadira.
	v	30.03.87	Lunzjata Valley.
5A.945	4	24.03.87	Lunzjata Valley.
	v	31.10.87	Buzenol : 49.39 N, 05.36 E (Luxembourg), BELGIUM.
9A.481	2	07.11.87	Bingemma.
	v	27.12.87	Ghadira.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

0A.935	4	07.09.86	Chadwick Lakes : 35.54 N, 14.24 E.
	v	11.09.86	Ghadira.
9A.401	4	05.04.87	Bingemma.
	v	08.04.87	Xemxija.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

3A.296 *	3F	31.10.85	Ghadira.
	x	12.02.86	Mgarr : 35.55 N, 14.22 E.

FOREIGN RINGED BIRDS RECOVERED IN MALTA

This section deals with 45 foreign ringed birds of 22 species recovered in Malta. Some of these were recovered previous to the two-year period covered by this report but either recovery or ringing details only reached us during the two-year period under review. The symbols and terms used are the same as those in the previous section.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Copenhagen	1	04.06.86	Tofte Sø : 56.52 N, 10.12 E, Jylland, DENMARK.
216.439	+	26.10.86	Delimera : 35.49 N, 14.34 E.
Copenhagen	1	09.06.86	Dyrefod : 54.58 N, 11.50 E, Falster, DENMARK.
217.182	+	18.10.87	Qawra : 35.55 N, 14.25 E.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Budapest	4F	21.07.85	Úcsa : 47.18 N, 19.14 E (Cseli Tamás), HUNGARY.
510.569	+	00.03.87	Zejtun.

Riga	4F	01.06.82	Engure Lake : 57.15 N, 23.07 E, Tukums, LATVIAN S.S.R.
B 3.844	+	04.03.87	Mriehel : 35.53 N, 14.28 E.
Riga	4F	07.05.75	Engure Lake, LATVIAN S.S.R.
B 0.091	+	ca.15.09.87	Fawwara : 35.50 N, 14.26 E.

Osprey Pandion haliaetus

Helsinki	1	06.07.84	Valkeala, Kymen (Lääni), FINLAND.
M 20.021	+	14.09.86	Wied Ghammieq : 35.53 N, 14.23 E.
Stockholm	1	27.06.85	Rösåsen, Gustafs : 60.27 N, 15.41 E (Dalarna), SWEDEN.
9.220.664	+	02.06.87	Delimara.
Hiddensee	1	17.06.87	Granzin : 35.22 N, 13.04 E, 2 km S. Newstrelitz,
227.643	+	11.09.87	E. GERMANY.
			Luqa : 35.52 N, 14.30 E.

Kestrel Falco tinnunculus

Praha	1	22.06.77	Piešťany : 48.36 N, 17.49 E (Trnava), CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
E 237.463	+	(09.04.85)	Zabbar : 35.53 N, 14.32 E.

Red-footed Falcon Falco vespertinus

Budapest	1F	10.07.83	Nagyfván : 47.29 N, 20.55 E (Szolnok), HUNGARY.
314.545	+	29.05.87	Il-Qadi : 35.57 N, 14.21 E.

Little Stint Calidris minuta

Gdansk	3	01.09.86	Jastarnia : 54.42 N, 18.40 E (Gdansk), POLAND.
KH 18.565 *	v	05.05.87	Ghadira.
			(ring replaced with Valletta S 4.038 due to illegibility).

Curlew Sandpiper Calidris ferruginea

	2	between 22.03	Banc D'Arguin, MAURITANIA.
		and 23.04.85	
	vv	19.05.85	Ghadira.
			(sight recovery - yellow colour dye on underwings).

Mediterranean Gull Larus melanocephalus

Moakwa	1	18.06.85	Orlov Isles, Tendrovsky Bay : 46.17 N, 31.45 E (Ukraine),
M 521.019	+	00.04.86	U.S.S.R.
			N. Comino Channel : 36.00 N, 14.15 E.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus

Copenhagen	1	17.05.85	Anholt : 56.42 N, 11.34 E, DENMARK.
4.211.634	+	05.01.86	Naxxar : 35.55 N, 14.27 E.

Caspian Tern Sterna caspia

Helsinki	1	27.06.85	Tammisaari, Ekenäs, Uudenmään : 59.50 N, 23.36 E (Lääni)
C1 30.398	+	00.10.86	FINLAND.
			Xlendi Bay : 36.02 N, 14.13 E.

Turtle Dove Streptopelia turtur

Praha	1	24.06.77	Kersko : 50.09 N, 14.55 E (Nymburk), CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
H 43.259	+	02.05.79	Maida : 35.54 N, 14.30E.
Budapest	2	13.08.82	Szkolyas : 47.53 N, 18.58 E, Királyrét (Pest), HUNGARY.
305.716	+	23.04.84	Marsaxlokk : 35.50 N, 14.33 E.
Bologna	4	08.05.78	Valle Branega : 44.25 N, 08.57 E (Genoa), ITALY.
1 4.189	+	23.04.85	Dwejra : 36.03 N, 14.12 E, Gozo.
Bologna	4	23.05.79	Bettaria, Igea Marina : 44.09 N, 12.28 E (Forlì), ITALY.
1 58.539	+	Bubaqra : 35.49 N, 14.29 E.	
Zagreb	4M	14.05.85	Šibenik : 43.35 N, 15.56 E (Hrvatska), YUGOSLAVIA.
B 438.052	+	ca. 30.04.86	Ghaxaq.

Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>			
London	3J	31.07.83	North Connel, Oban : 56.28 N, 05.23 W (Strathelyde),
B 572.845	()	02.04.86	SCOTLAND Hamrun : 35.53 N, 14.3 E.
Ljubljana	3	27.09.84	Sežovlje, Portorož : 45.28 N, 13.38 E (Slovenija),
A 152.604	v	13.04.86	YUGOSLAVIA, Lunzjata.
Paris	4M	12.07.85	Gien : 47.42 N, 02.38 E (Loiret), FRANCE.
2.925.876	()	13.04.86	Lunzjata.
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>			
Radolfzell	4	21.04.80	Ebental, Bez. Klagenfurt : 46.36 N, 14.22 E (Kärnten),
B 017.664	+	00.04.86	AUSTRIA. Bubaqra : 35.49 N, 14.29 E.
Bruxelles	3	28.09.79	Halle : 50.44 N, 04.14 E (Brabant), BELGIUM.
1.090.974	+	00.04.86	Wied iz-Zurrieq : 35.49 N, 14.27 E.
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>			
Budapest	3M	28.08.85	Tömör-Keny, Csaj-te : 46.35 N, 20.05 E, HUNGARY.
B 66.308	+	26.09.85	Tal-Handaq : 35.52 N, 14.28 E.
Lituania	3	01.09.85	Ventésragas : 55.21 N, 21.13 E (Silutė),
TV 4.551	()	21.04.87	LITHUANIAN S.S.R. Hal Far : 35.49 N, 14.31 E.
White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>			
Budapest	3	25.07.85	Tamási : 46.38 N, 18.17 (Tőlna), HUNGARY.
E 31.183	x	00.01.86	Gharb : 36.04 N, 14.12 E.
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			
Ljubljana	3	19.07.86	Črna vas, Ljubljana : 46.01 N, 14.29 E (Slovenija),
A 206.928	v	03.11.86	YUGOSLAVIA. Xemxija.
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			
Bruxelles	4	14.04.84	Turnhout : 51.19 N, 04.57 E (Antwerp), BELGIUM.
6U 3.313	v	30.03.85	Ghadira.
Lituania	3	13.08.86	Ventésragas : 55.21 N, 21.13 E (Silutė),
CI 7.544 *	v	09.09.86	LITHUANIAN S.S.R. Ghadira.
			(ring replaced with Valletta 7A 707 as it was badly fitted).
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			
Bologna	2	08.10.86	Forcellino, Gazzaniga : 45.48 N, 09.48 E (Bergamo),
B0 226.275	()	17.11.86	ITALY. Ghar Hasan 35.49 N, 14.31 E.
Budapest	2F	02.10.86	Fülöpháza : 46.53 N, 19.28 E (Bacs-kiskun), HUNGARY.
N 02. 973	v	25.01.87	Xemxija.
Serin <i>Serinus serinus</i>			
Praha	3	01.09.83	Červený Hrádek : 49.56 N, 15.06 E (Kolín), CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
T 293.916	()=F	10.12.83	Dingli : 35.52 N, 14.25 E.
Praha	4F	21.07.86	Červený, CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
T 393.558	() ca.	15.01.87	Sannat : 36.01 N, 14.14 E
Ljubljana	2F	13.04.86	Ljubljana-Rudnik : 46.01 N, 14.31 E (Slovenija),
A 222.927	v	24.01.87	YUGOSLAVIA, Mšahleb : 35.52 N, 14.21 E.
Praha	4M	02.05.86	Červený, CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
T 393.544	()	26.01.87	Dingli.

Ljubljana B 3.965	2F ()	01.11.86 09.02.87	Vodice, Ljubljana : 46.13 N, 14.30 E (Slovenija), YUGOSLAVIA, Wardija : 35.56 N, 14.23 E.
Praha I 441.451	4M ()	01.10.87 04.11.87	Velké Bíelice : 48.38 N, 18.21 E (Topolčany), CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Ta' Cenc : 36.01 N, 14.14 E.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Praha Z 663.528	2F ()	01.08.87 02.11.87	Piešťany, CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Ta' Cenc.
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Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Moskva 0.301.913	4F ()	11.10.85 00.10.85	Kaliningrad O Rybachy : 55.08 N, 20.24 E, U.S.S.R. Sarrafu : 36.04 N, 14.13 E.
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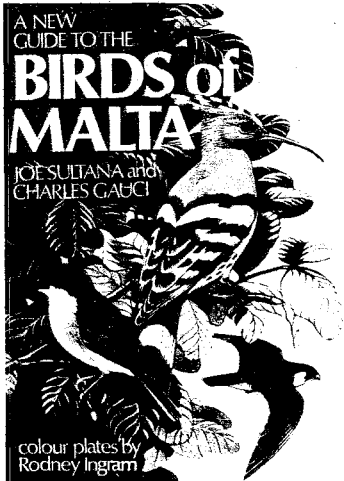
Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Budapest 899.946	4M ()	03.06.82 29.10.82	Szarvaskuti : 47.14 N, 17.51 E (Veszpréni), HUNGARY. Rinetta : 35.53 N, 14.32 E.
Praha M 888.950	3 ()=M	14.0783 07.11.83	Sedlec : 48.47 N, 16.42 E (Brečlav), CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Sannat.
Budapest 896.491	3 ()	23.07.82 02.03.84	Csobánka : 47.39 N, 18.58 E (Pest), HUNGARY. Bahrija : 35.53 N, 14.21 E.
Budapest 971.263	3 v=M	22.07.83 30.11.84	Pecs : 46.05 N, 18.15 E (Barawya), HUNGARY. Mtahele .

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MALTA**

JOE SULTANA and
CHARLES GAUCI

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