

Systematic List for 1977 & 1978

compiled by

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As usual the systematic list for the two-year period under review was compiled from field notes submitted by various contributors. The extent of coverage remained much the same as in recent years. While the autumn migration of raptors was again well covered, sea-watching remained a much neglected field, no doubt due to the paucity of sea-birds in this part of the world.

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In the systematic list, the years 1977 and 1978 have been treated separately for each species. When there were no sightings of a species in one of the two years, that year is omitted. All species have been included except for the Rock Dove *Columbia livia* of which there were no records of birds of purely wild strain.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Blonġun Żgħir

1977 : 1 at St. Paul's Bay on 27 Nov.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* Blonġun Prim

1977 : 1 at il-Menqa on 22 Dec.

1978 : 1 at Msida on 25-31 Oct and singles on 4th, 11th and 12 Dec.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* Blonġun Sekond

1977 : Singles at Ta' Xbiex on 5 Aug; at Salina on 28 Sep and at Sliema on 16 Dec. 1 at Pietà and 2 at Benqħisa Pt. on 17 Dec.

1978 : Singles at Manoel Isle on 9 Sep, at Msida on 13-17 Oct and at Sliema on 11 Nov.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* Ċiefa

1977 : First seen on 7 Mar when 60+ off Għajn Damma. Breeding in usual colonies.

1978 : First seen on 7 Mar with last sighting on 29 Aug. Breeding as usual.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* Ġarnija

1977 : 2 off Baħar ic-Caqħaq on 13 Apr was the only offshore sighting. Bred as usual. Fully grown young still in burrows on 7 Jul.

1978 : Breeding colonies first visited on 7 Mar when ashore in good numbers. A few birds still unfledged on 1 July.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* Kanġu ta' Filfla

1977 : Ca. 5,000 were ashore on Filfla on the night of 18-19 Jun.

1978 : A freshly dead bird and one calling in a cave at Għar Lapsi on 29 Aug may have been recently fledged birds from Filfla where they bred in usual numbers.

GANNET *Sula bassana* Sula

1977 : 2 on 6th and 5 on 18 Jan off l-Aħrax, singles at Marfa on 3rd and at St. Paul's Bay on 11 Apr, and at Għadira on 3 Dec.

1978 : 1-2 on 5 dates from 4 Jan to 21 Feb.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* Margun

1977 : 1 on 3 Apr. On 2 days each in Oct, Nov and Dec; all singles except 2 on 21 Oct.

1978 : 1 at Marsalforn in May, 2 at Delimara on 23 Oct and singles at Sliema on 5 Nov and 2 Dec.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Margun ta'-Toppu

1977 : 1 over St. Julian's on 5 Dec.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* Kappun

1977 : 1 at Salina on 10 Apr and 1 at Buskett on 26 Sep.

1978 : 1 at Żejtun on 7 Apr and 1 over Mellieħa on 5 Nov.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus* Russett ta'-Siġar

1977 : Singles on 8 days from 20 Apr to 9 May, but 6+ at Lunzjata on 21 Apr. 1 on 1 Jun. In autumn on 5 days from 2 Sep to 16 Oct; all singles except for 7 at Ġirgenti on first date and 2 on 28 Sep.

- 1978 : Only 5 sightings of singles - 3 in April, on 11 Sep and on 5 Oct.
- NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* Kwakka
 1977 : 1 on 11 Mar, then on 14 days from 1 Apr to 27 May. Highest 100+ at Għajn Tuffieħa on 25 Apr and flocks of 30-40 in various localities on 1 Apr. In autumn on 11 days from 25 Aug to 14 Oct. Highest 40+ over Mellieħa on 4 Oct. 1 on 12 Nov.
 1978 : 1-7 on 7 days from 17 Mar to 23 Apr, then 1 on 4 Jun. Heavier passage in autumn when up to 45 on 15 days from 23 Aug to 19 Nov.
- SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides* Aqrett Isfar
 1977 : On 9 days from 3 Apr to 15 May; mostly single figures except on 18 Apr when 11 at Għadira and 12 at Hal Far. Only 2 in autumn : singles on 1 Sep and 2 Oct.
 1978 : Poor year : singles on 5 days from 1 Apr to 6 May.
- CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* Aqrett tal-Bhejjem
 1977 : 4 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 25 Apr.
- LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* Aqrett Abjad
 1977 : In spring on 10 days from 1 Apr to 13 May with max of 43 (in 3 flocks) at Comino on 17 Apr. 5 autumn records from 9 Aug to 20 Sep with max flock of 19 on 27 Aug.
 1978 : Up to 5 on 8 days each in spring and autumn - 1 Apr to 6 May and 23 Aug to 18 Nov.
- GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* Russett Griz
 1977 : 1 on 7 Jan. In spring on 7 days from 27 Mar to 13 Apr, then daily from 16th to 22 Apr; mainly single figures but 20+ at Mellieħa and 15 at Żejtun on 17 Apr. Last seen on 27 Apr. In autumn recorded on 19 dates from 9 Aug to 27 Nov; single figures except for 47 at Żejtun on 11 Sep, 37 at Għadira on 26 Sep and 37 at Marsa on 14 Oct.
 1978 : 2 on 24 Feb, then on several days from 10 Mar to 1 May and again from 3 Sep to 7 Oct. Max flock 35.
- PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* Russett Afmar
 1977 : On 13 days from 13 Mar to 15 May, with most in Apr. Largest flocks were of 8 on 1st and 21 Apr. In autumn on 11 days from 27 Aug to 16 Oct with max of 91 (in 2 flocks) over Buskett on 27 Sep. 1 on 19 Nov.
 1978 : Spring passage from 15 Mar to 14 May when recorded in flocks of up to 25 on 16 dates. In autumn 1-3 birds on 9 days from 9 Sep to 6 Oct.
- BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* Ċikonja Sewda
 1978 : Singles over Xweini on 27 Apr and at ta' Qali on 20 Oct.
- WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* Ċikonja Bajda
 1978 : 1 was shot at Għarb in April. An unidentified stork was seen on 7 Oct.
- GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* Velleran
 1977 : Singles on 30 Mar and 3 Apr, then flock of 52 over Hal Far on 7 Apr. Only 2 autumn records : 1 at Sliema on 20th and 12 at Buskett on 26 Sep.
 1978 : Only 3 records : singles on 3 Mar, 19 Apr and 2 Oct.
- GREATER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus ruber* Fjamingu
 1977 : 3 at Marsaxlokk on 26 Oct and a juv at Anchor Bay on 24 Dec.
 1978 : 1 at Delimara on 3 Apr, 2 over Salina on 22 Apr and 1 at Marsascala on 11 May.
- GREY LAG GOOSE *Anser anser* Wiżża Griża
 1977 : 1 (female) shot off Munxar Pt. on 1 Dec.
 1978 : 1 at Delimara on 1st and 4 at St. Thomas Bay on 2 Dec.
 Unidentified 'grey geese' were seen as follows : 1 over Gozo on 24 Sep, flock of 80+ over Mellieħa on 22 Oct, and 8 over Żejtun on 5 Nov.
- SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* Kuluvert tas-Salib
 1977 : Singles at Benqħisa on 1st and at Qajjenza on 17 Jan. 1 at Marsaxlokk on 26 Nov; 2 at Selmun on 11th and 10+ on 14 Dec.
 1978 : Singles on 11 Nov, 5th and 12 Dec. Several reported off Marsaxlokk on 11 Dec.
- WIGEON *Anas penelope* Silfjun Ewropew
 1977 : 1 at Marsaxlokk on 29 Nov and 2 at Għadira on 3 Dec were the only sightings.
 1978 : 1 on 3 Mar; then 1 on 7th, 3 on 10th and 2 on 12 Dec, mainly along south coast.
- TEAL *Anas crecca* Sarsella
 1977 : 1 at Dingli on 18 Dec was the only record.
 1978 : Recorded on 27 Jan, 29 Mar and on 8 days from 6 Nov to 12 Dec. Max flock 100.
- MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* Kuluvert
 1977 : 6 large flocks off Benqħisa Pt on 30 Nov, then on 4 days from 15th to 29 Dec; singles except for 10 at Marsaxlokk on 19th.

- 1978 : 1 on 20 Jul and 2 singles on 12 Dec.
- PINTAIL *Anas acuta* Silfjun
 1977 : 1 on 5 Mar another shot in Mar or Apr. On 6 days from 26 Nov to 16 Dec with 6 large flocks (accompanied by Mallards) off Benghisa Pt. on 30 Nov and a flock of 15 at Ghadira on 2 Dec.
 1978 : Marked passage on 18-21 Feb with 3 flocks on 18th and several flocks on 19th off the south coast and 600+ off Ćirkewwa on 21st. Max flock 150+. Singles on 7 Nov and 26 Dec.
- GARGANEY *Anas guerguedula* Sarsella Mamra
 1977 : 10+ at Ghadira on 5 Mar.
 1978 : Ca. 150 passed off Ćirkewwa on 21 Feb, then singles on 6 other days till 14 Mar.
- SNOVELER *Anas clypeata* Palettuna
 1977 : Singles at Benghisa on 9 Jan and at Ghadira on 25-26 Nov. Flock of 22 over Ghadira on 6 Dec.
 1978 : Several flocks passed off the south coast on 19 Feb, when 1 was seen near Filfla. 1 on 7 Nov.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* Serra
 1977 : 1 at Kalafirana on 10 Jan and 1 at Marsaxlokk on 30 Nov.
 1978 : 1 at Marsaxlokk on 16 Dec.
- HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* Kuċċarda
 1977 : Recorded on 11 days from 4 Apr to 9 May; usually 1-4, except on 4-5 May when low double figures recorded from various localities. In autumn, 4 at Dingli on 4 Aug, then almost daily from 9 Sep to 16 Oct. Single to low double figures on most days except for 160+ on 17th and 100+ on 26 Sep. Most autumn records from Buskett.
 1978 : In spring there were 11 records of 1-8 birds on 10 days from 3 Apr to 13 May. From 1 Sep to 29 Oct in autumn when recorded on 28 days. Max 88 over Buskett on 15 Sep.
- WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* Ajkla tad-Denb Abjad
 1977 : 1 shot at Xaghjira on 25 Nov. (See IL-Merill 19 : 12).
- BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* Astun Iswed
 1977 : 7 records of singles in spring from 26 Mar to 7 May. In autumn singles on 8th and 31 Aug, then on 7 days from 14th to 26 Sep; mostly 1-4 except for 13 at Buskett on 18 Sep.
 1978 : 1-2 on 6 days from 27 Mar to 22 Apr. in autumn 1-7 on 8 days from 20 Aug to 22 Sep.
- EGYPTIAN VULTURE *Neophron percnopterus* Avultun Abjad
 1978 : 1 over Buskett on 24 Sep. Another was shot in Gozo in Oct.
- SHORT-TOED EAGLE *Circaetus gallicus* Ajkla Bajda
 1977 : 7 on 30 Sep and 1 on 2 Oct over Buskett. 1 at Ghadira on 29 Oct.
 1978 : Small passage in October : singles over Ghadira on 5th and Wied Blandun on 7th; 2-3 over Buskett and 1 at Tas-Salib ta' l-Gholja on 8th.
- MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* Bugħadam Ahmar
 1977 : On 18 days in spring from 13 Mar to 14 May (mainly late Mar to mid-Apr); all single figures except for 20+ at Gozo on 24 Mar. In autumn on 10 days in Sep from 12th and on 6 days in Oct to 20th. Mostly low single figures except for ca. 30 on 17th and 37 on 26 Sep. 1 on 12 Nov.
 1978 : 1 on 12 Feb, then on 28 days from 5 Mar to 4 May, with a total of 38 sightings. Max 10+ on 14 Mar and 6 Apr. Good autumn passage with records on 22 days from 8 Sep to 6 Oct. Max 51 on 15 Sep.
- HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* Bugħadam Abjad Prim
 1977 : Female at Hal Far on 23 Apr.
- PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus* Bugħadam Abjad
 1977 : Singles at Ta' Baldu on 19th and at Mellieħa on 23 Mar. 3 at Birkirkara on 24 Apr.
 1978 : 2 at Delimara on 15th and 1 at Santa Luċia on 17 Apr.
- MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* Bugħadam Griż
 1977 : 6 spring records, all in Apr from 2nd to 25th; all singles except 2 at Hal Far on 3rd. 1 at Żejtun on 5th Oct.
 1978 : Singles daily on 23-26 Apr. 1 on 15 Sep.
- 'RING-TAIL' HARRIERS *Circus* sp. Bugħadam
 1977 : 1-3 on 16 days from 21 Mar to 15 May, with most in Apr. 3 on 17th and 1 on 26 Sep.
 1978 : 1-4 on 13 days in spring and on 5 days in autumn.

- SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* Sparvier
 1977 : Singles on 3rd and 21 Apr. On 7 days from 23 Sep to 25 Oct, highest 4 at Buskett on 30 Sep.
 1978 : 2 on 21 Apr and 1 on 23 Sep at Buskett. 1 at Marsaxlokk on 11 Oct.
- BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* Kuċċarda Prima
 1977 : 1 at Birkirkara on 23 Apr. In autumn singles at Buskett on 21 Sep and 5 Oct, at Mal Far (probably *B.b.vulpinus*) on 9th and at Girgenti on 15 Oct. Another was seen at a taxidermist at the end of October.
 1978 : 2 on 11 Sep and 1 on 15 Oct at Buskett.
- LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila pomarina* Ajkla ta'-Tikki
 1978 : 1 over Buskett on 23 Sep.
- BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraetus pennatus* Ajkla tal-Kalzetti
 1977 : Singles over Buskett on 17th and 26 Sep.
- OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* Arpa
 1977 : 3 sightings on 3rd and 1 on 21 Apr. 10+ were reported shot at Żurrieq on 4 May. 7 records of singles on 6 days from 14 Sep to 10 Oct.
 1978 : Singles at Marsaxlokk on 22 Mar, at Mellieħa on 6th and at Bubaqra on 25 May. In autumn singles at Buskett/Salib ta' l-Għolja on 15th, 16th, 17th, 20th and 30 Sep and on 2 Oct; and 1 at Għar Hasan on 5 Oct.
- LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni* Spanjulett Sekond
 1977 : Only 1 spring record - 1 at Tal-Mandaq on 6 May. In autumn single figures on 15 days from 14 Sep to 16 Oct, highest 8 at Buskett on 25 Sep.
 1978 : 1-3 on 8 days from 14 Mar to 23 Apr. Unusual sighting on 28 July. In autumn up to 6 on 12 days from 11 Sep to 23 Oct.
- KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* Spanjulett
 1977 : 1-3 in various localities in Jan-Feb. Spring passage from 12 Mar to 12 Jun, with most records from late Mar to late Apr, then becoming scattered in May. Mostly low single figures with ca. 15 on 21 Apr. Singles on 8 Jul and 2 Aug. In autumn on 15 days from 3rd to 28 Sep, then daily from 1st to 17 Oct. On 9 days from 22 Oct to 22 Nov. Single to very low double figures.
 1978 : Sightings in every month except Jun. Singles on 9 days in Jan-Feb, then on most days from 4 Mar to 16 May with max of 70+ on 21 Apr. Singles on 22 Jul and 3 Aug, then on 18 days from 10 Sep to 29 Oct with max of 30 on 30 Sep. Sporadic sightings till 17 Dec.
- RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* Żumbrell
 1977 : Passage on 21 Apr when recorded from various localities, highest 25 at Safi. Then 1-2 on 6 days from 22 Apr to 24 May. Another 7 which were shot in May were seen at a taxidermist. In autumn singles on 26 Sep and 5 Oct.
 1978 : On 8 days from 6 Apr to 17 May; singles except for 25+ at Buskett on 21 Apr. None recorded in autumn.
- MERLIN *Falco columbarius* Seqer ta' Denbu
 1977 : 1 at Valletta on 24 May. Singles at Mellieħa on 15th and at Tal-Virtù on 16 Oct.
- HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* Seqer tal-Manneħa
 1977 : Recorded on 15 days from 2 Apr to 27 May (most in late Apr); single figures except for 10+ on 21 Apr. In autumn recorded on most days from 11 Sep to 16 Oct. Max 40 at Buskett on 26 Sep, otherwise mainly low double or high single figures.
 1978 : 23 records on 11 days from 2nd to 29 Apr with a max of 22 on 21 Apr at Buskett. Autumn passage from 24 Aug to 23 Oct, with 30 sightings on 22 days.
- ELEONORA'S FALCON *Falco eleonora* Bies tar-Regina
 1977 : Singles on 17 Apr, 4 May and 15 Jun, then on autumn passage from 17 Sep to 4 Oct when recorded on 6 days at Buskett; all singles except 3 on 22nd.
 1978 : 1 on 20th and 3 singles on 21 Apr. Singles on 8 May, 1st and 9 Jul. Passage from 19 Aug to 14 Oct with sightings on 18 days; mainly singles but 4 on 30 Aug and 2-3 on 4 other days.
- LANNER *Falco biarmicus* Bies Rasu Qastnija
 1978 : 1 at Marsaxlokk on 8 Sep.
- SAKER *Falco cherrug* Bies Rasu Bajda
 1977 : Singles shot at Marsascala on 8th and at Delimara on 9 Apr.
 1978 : 1 at Baħar iċ-Ċaġħaq on 3 Mar.

- PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* Bies
 1977 : Usual pair at Ta' Ċenċ - seen on various days till May. Also 1 imm. there on 8 May. Records of immatures from various other localities (usually coastal cliffs) throughout the year.
 1978 : Usual pair bred at Ta' Ċenċ where 2 juvs present on 6 Jun. Singles over Għadira on 11 Feb and 1 May.
- QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* Summiena
 1977 : 1 on 22 Feb. On 6 scattered dates from 14 Mar to 11 Apr, then almost daily from 15th to 29 Apr; always low single figures. Singles on 8 May and on 31 Jul. In autumn 1-2 on 3rd, 4th and 11 Sep, small passage on 27 Sep with ca. 25 in one place, and singles on 1st and 25 Oct.
 1978 : First seen on 24 Feb, then 14 records of 1-4 birds until 30 Apr. Singles on 29 May and 18 Dec.
- WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* Gallozz tax-Xitwa
 1977 : 1 on 8 Feb. Singles on 22 May and 4 June were unusually late. In autumn singles on 21st and 31 Oct, on 5 days in Nov, and on 5th and 20 Dec. Most sightings at Girgenti
 1978 : 1 on 28 Jan. 1 found dead at Marsa on 22 Oct, then 1-2 on 9 days from 4 Nov to 26 Dec. Most records from Girgenti.
- SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* Gallozz tal-Tikki
 1977 : 1 at Buskett on 18 Mar. Singles at Rabat on 11th and at Girgenti on 16-17 Sep.
 1978 : Singles on 5th, 9th, 11th and 12 Mar.
- LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva* Gallozz Żgħir
 1977 : Single birds at Sliema on 29 Mar, at Wied il-Luq on 8 Sep and at Rabat on 23 Sep.
 1978 : 1 at Girgenti from 2nd to 15 Apr.
- BATHLON'S CRAKE *Porzana pusilla* Gallozz tal-Faxxi
 1977 : 1 seen at a taxidermist in May.
 1978 : 1 at Għadira on 5-8 April.
- CORNCRAKE *Crex crex* Gallozz Aħmar
 1977 : 1 seen at a taxidermist in May and 1 at Marsa on 24 Sep.
 1978 : 1 at Marsaxlokk on 8 Sep.
- MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Gallozz Iswed
 1977 : Singles on 13th, 23rd and 24 Jan at Lunzjata and on 8 Feb at Girgenti. 15 records of 1-2 from 27 Mar to 21 May, then singles at Marsa on 8-16th and at Girgenti on 11 Jun. In autumn 1-2 on 16 days from 13 Aug to 28 Oct, but 8+ at Girgenti on 16 Sep. 3 on 6 Nov and singles on 17 Nov, 10th and 26 Dec.
 1978 : Up to 4 recorded on 22 days from 11 Jan to 27 May, then 1-2 on 5 days from 8 Oct to 18 Nov.
- AMERICAN PURPLE GALLINULE *Porphyryla martinica*
 1977 : 1 shot at Salina in autumn could have been an escaped bird (see 11-Merill 19:14-15).
- COOT *Fulica atra* Tiegħda tal-Baħar
 1977 : Singles at Għadira on 12th and at St. Thomas Bay on 20 Nov. 1 found dead on road on 26 Nov.
- CRANE *Grus grus* Grawwa
 1977 : 1 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 3 Mar. 3 at Żejtun on 4 Nov, 3 at Għadira on 3rd and 1 at Żejtun on 11 Dec.
 1978 : 2 over Mellieħa on 22 Feb and 1 over Buskett on 25 Nov.
- LITTLE BUSTARD *Tetrax tetrax* Pitarra
 1978 : 1 male at Doimara on 23 Mar.
- OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* Gallina tal-Baħar
 1977 : 1 at Marsascalea on 27 Apr, 5 at Għadira on 31 Jul, and 3 at Ta' Xbieg on 5 Aug.
 1978 : Singles at Marsalforn on 5 Aug and at Maroel Island on 9 Sep.
- BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus* Fras-servjent
 1977 : 1-2 on 3 days from 23rd to 30 Mar, then 2 on 11 Apr and 3 on 11 May.
 1978 : 4 at Marsaxlokk on 22 Mar and 2 at Għadira in April.
- AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* Xifa
 1977 : Flock of 26 over Għadira on 9 Aug.
 1978 : Singles at Għadira on 21 Apr and 9 Jul, and at Marsa on 13 Sep.
- STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* Tellerita
 1978 : 1 at Tal-Gordan on 24 Mar. 4 at Għallis on 23rd and 1 at Bubaqra on 28 Oct.

- CREAM-COLOURED COURSER *Cursorius cursor* Nankina
1978 : 1 shot in Gozo in April
- PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola* Perniçjotta
1977 : 2 at Ta' Qali on 20 Apr and 1 at Rabat on 1 May.
- LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* Monakella
1977 : Single figures on most days from 12 Mar to 24 Apr, except for 20+ at Salina on 10 Apr. 1-2 on 1 st, 17th and 18 May. In autumn recorded on 21 days from 3 Jul to 18 Oct, with most in Jul-Aug. Always low single figures but 9 at Salina on 30 Aug
1978 : Up to 14 on most days from 10 Mar to 15 May. In autumn up to 25 on 19 days from 6 Aug to 2 Oct.
- RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* Monakella Prima
1977 : 1-3 on 5 days from 2 Apr to 17 May. In autumn 1-3 on 23rd, 28th, and 30-31 Aug. Most records from Salina and Ghadira.
1978 : 7 records from 18 Apr to 13 May. 1 on 21 Aug.
- KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* Monakella Saqajha Suwed
1977 : 7 records, all of single birds in spring from 2 Apr to 3 May (most in early Apr). 1 at Salina on 26 Aug.
1978 : Singles on 3rd and 23 Apr, 13 Jul and 6-7 Sep.
- GREATER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius lescaenaultii* Birwina tad-Deżert
1978 : 1 at Delimara on 17 Jul.
- DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* Birwina
1977 : 1 on 24 Mar and 1 on 5 Jul. Singles on 7 days from 4 Sep to 16 Oct and on 20 Nov. Passage (no numbers given) over Gozo on 4 Dec.
1978 : 1-2 birds on 9 dates from 27 Aug to 26 Nov.
- GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* Pluviera
1977 : Up to 50 at Mal Far in Jan-Feb. In autumn first on 17 Oct, then very few scattered records till 29 Nov after which date seen almost daily till 14 Dec. Single to low double figures. A few stayed in suitable places till year end.
1978 : Flock of ca. 65 at Mal Far on 8 Jan and 1 on 7 Feb. Then recorded on 10 days from 22 Oct to 9 Dec, with a max of 70+ on 11 Nov.
- GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* Pluviera Pastarda
1977 : 4 at Mal Far on 17 May and singles at Delimara on 17 Aug and 17 Oct.
1978 : 1 at Xrobb l-Għagin on 21 Aug.
- LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* Venewwa
1977 : 10 on 30 Oct and 3 on 20 Nov, then small passage from 2nd to 18 Dec when seen in high single to low double figures on 6 days, but 94 (in 3 flocks) over Ghadira on 6th. 1 on 31 Dec.
1978 : On 5 days from 8th to 22 Jan with 45 over Marsa on 16th highest. 40+ at Ghallis on 23 Oct, then up to 14 on 5 days from 1st to 9 Dec.
- SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Pispisella Bajda
1977 : 1 at Salina on 2 Apr and 30+ over Qrejtjen on 17 May. Another 10 were seen shot in May.
1978 : Singles at Ghadira on 16 Apr and at Marsaxlokk on 10 Sep.
- LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* Tertuxa
1977 : 1 on 9 Jan. On various days from 23 Mar to 27 May; mainly single to low double figures, max 25+ on 9 May. In autumn recorded in single figures from 26 Jul to 4 Sep, highest 7 on 28 Aug. Singles on 2nd and 16 Oct and from 2nd to 6 Dec.
1978 : Up to 20 on most days from 10 Mar to 15 May. Singles on 21st and 25 Jul, then 1-5 on 9 days from 9 Aug to 13 Sep.
- TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* Tertuxa Griża
1977 : 1 on 31 Mar and 1-3 on 3-5 Apr at Ghadira. Singles at Marsa and Ramla Valley on 9 May and again at Marsa on 17th. In autumn singles at Rabat on 5th and at Salina on 15 Aug.
1978 : Singles at Ghadira on 24 Mar and 30 Apr. 2 on 20th and 1 on 23 Aug at Salina.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* Beggazzina Mamra
1977 : 1 on 12th, 5 on 18th, and 3 on 20 Apr, and 1 on 11 May. In autumn singles on 12th, 26th and 30 Aug, 3rd and 11 Sep. Most at Ghadira and Salina.
1978 : 1-5 on 8 days from 10 Apr to 13 May. 1 on 21 Jul.
- DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* Beggazzina tat-Tiżż
1977 : 3 at Ghadira on 3rd and 18 Apr. 1-2 on 8th, 14th and 28 Aug and on 1 Oct.
1978 : Singles at Salina on 16 Aug (found dead) and at Ghadira on 8th and 29 Oct.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* Girwiel Amerikan
 1978 : 1 at Hal Far on 2 Oct.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* Girwiel
 1977 : Recorded almost daily from 12 Mar to 7 Apr, then daily from 13th to 23 Apr. Mainly single or low double figures except for 60+ on 26th and 70+ on 29 Mar. 1 on 1st and 2 on 18 May. In autumn 1-2 on 13th, 23rd and 27 Aug and on 8th and 17 Oct. 1 at Ghadira on 3 Dec.
 1978 : On 12 days from 26 Feb to 13 May with max of 12 on 3 Apr. Singles on 17 Aug and 7 Dec.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus* Ćinkonja
 1977 : 2 at Rabat on 6 Nov; singles at Ghadira on 22-23rd and 1 at Lunzjata on 28 Dec.
 1978 : 1-2 on 12 days from 3 Jan to 3 Apr.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* Bekkačč
 1977 : Singles on 3rd and 5 Jan, then on 10 days from 5 Mar to 25 Apr. Max 4 at Marsa on 23 Mar, otherwise 1-2. 1 on 27 May. In autumn 1 on 15-16 Sep, 2 on 14th and 1 on 18 Oct then singles on 3rd and 12 Nov and on 16 Dec.
 1978 : Very frequent from 3 Mar to 7 May with a total of 23 sightings. Max 9 on 16 Mar. Singles on 9 days from 22 Oct to 19 Nov.

GREAT SNIPE *Gallinago media* Bekkačč ta' Mejju
 1977 : 1 at Salina on 2 Apr.
 1978 : Singles on 4th and 11 Mar, 22nd and 23 Apr.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* Gallina
 1977 : Singles on 18 Jan and 30 Sep. Then on 14 days from 15 Oct to 21 Nov; always single figures with max of 6+ on 2 Nov. Singles on 6th and 23 Dec.
 1978 : Recorded on 8 days from 25 Oct to 26 Dec; single figures, occasionally up to 10.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* Girwiel Prim
 1978 : 1 on 11 Feb, then 6 records in March : singles on 3rd and 10th, 3 on 11th, 2 on 12th and 13 on 28th. 1 on 5 Oct.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* Girwiel Denbu bl-Istrixxi
 1977 : 1 seen at a taxidermist in May

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* Gurlin Żgħir
 1977 : 1 at Ghadira on 20 Apr and 1 at Delimara on 22 Aug.

SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW *Numenius tenuirostris* Gurlin Geddumu Raiq
 1977 : 1 at id-Ċumnija on 6 Dec.
 An unidentified 'Curlew' was seen over Sliema on 1 Dec 1978.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* Ćuvett
 1977 : 1 at Lunzjata on 20 Apr.
 1978 : 1 at Ghadira on 23 Apr.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* Pluverott
 1977 : Singles on 30 Mar and on 3rd and 5 Apr; 2 on 25 Jul and 3 on 4 Sep.
 1978 : 8 records of 1-2 birds in spring from 10 Mar to 29 Apr. In autumn singles on 8 days from 17 Jul to 23 Oct.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* Ćewčewwa Żgħira
 1977 : 1 at Salina on 10 Apr.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* Ćewčewwa
 1977 : On 5 days in spring from 10th to 23 Apr, max 10 at Salina on 10th, otherwise 1-3. 1 on 15 Aug.
 1978 : Singles on 13 May, 17th and 27 Aug.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* Swejda
 1977 : 1-5 on 11 days from 26 Mar to 21 Apr. Singles on 18th and 25 Jun. Then 1-3 on 14 days from 23 Jul to 3 Sep. Singles on 26 Sep and on 22-23 Oct.
 1978 : In spring 19 records of 1-5 birds from 11 Mar to 6 May. Singles on 26 Jun and 1 Jul, then on 15 days from 23 Jul to 12 Nov. Mainly singles, but sometimes up to 30 at Salina.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Pespup tal-Baħar
 1977 : Recorded very frequently from 19 Mar to 28 May; always single figures but 50+ at Salina on 2 Apr. 1 on 21 Jul, then on 6 days from 13 Aug to 11 Sep; highest 79 at Salina on 15 Aug, otherwise single to low double figures. 2 on 26 Sep.
 1978 : Up to 10 on 18 days from 1 Apr to 7 May. Flock of 37 in Grand Harbour on 15 Aug..

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* Beggazzina tar-Rokka.
 1977 : Recorded frequently from 2 Apr to 17 May. Max of 50+ at Salina on 12 Apr, otherwise

- single figures. 3 on 12th and 1 on 19 Jun. In autumn recorded almost daily from 8 Jul to 12 Sep; single to low double figures with max of 30+ at Marsamxett on first day. 1 on 2 Oct.
- 1978 : 1-2 on 10 days from 28 Mar to 5 May. Commoner in autumn with records of up to 12 on several days from 21 Jul to 21 Sep.
- TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* Monakella Mperjali
 1977 : 6 at Hal Far on 17 May and 1 at Marsaxlokk on 6 Jun.
 1978 : Singles at Ghadira on 30 Apr and at Benghisa on 9 Oct.
- POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* Ċiefa ta' Denbha
 1978 : 1 offshore on 8 Oct.
- GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* Ċiefa Kbira
 A specimen seen at a taxidermist was shot either in Dec 1976 or in Jan 1977.
 1978 : A ringed bird was recovered 14 km east of Malta on 23 Jul.
- MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* Gawwiġa Rasha Sewda
 1977 : Singles on 1st, 16th and 19 Mar. 9 on 6 Nov, then almost daily in Dec from 2nd. Single to low double figures, highest 50 in Grand Harbour on 18th.
 1978 : Up to 30 on 11 days in Jan-Mar to 13th. Singles on 22 Jul and 27 Nov, 2 on 3rd and ca. 27 on 28-29 Dec. Most in Grand Harbour.
- LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* Gawwiġa Żghira
 1977 : Recorded only in December : singles at Sliema on 7th and 16th, 1 in Grand Harbour on 29th and 1 at Gżira on 31st.
 1978 : 1 at Msida on 15 Dec.
- BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* Gawwiġa Rasha Kannella
 1977 : Double to low treble figures in harbours in Jan-Feb, max 450+ at Sliema on 7 Jan. Double figures in March to 11th, then 1-4 till 18th. 2 on 24 Oct and 1 on 12 Nov, then daily from 25 Nov, numbers fluctuating considerably, but mainly double figures. Highest 800+ in Grand Harbour on 11th and 18th Dec.
 1978 : Recorded almost daily in Jan-Mar to 30th with peaks of 400 on windy days. 1 on 11 Sep, then on most days from 18 Oct onwards, with max of 157 at Marsa on 1 Dec.
- SLENDER-BILLED GULL *Larus genei* Gawwiġa Geddumha Rqiq
 1978 : 5 on 12th and 2 on 13 Mar at Marsaxlokk
- AUDOUIN'S GULL *Larus audouinii* Gawwiġa Geddumha Aħmar
 1977 : 2 off Munxar Pt. on 10 Oct.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* Gawwiġa Daharha Iswed
 1977 : 4 on 18th and 19 Jan; singles on 26 Feb, 8 Mar and 21 Apr; 1 on 17 Oct; 2 on 2nd and 1 on 26 Nov, and 1 on 30 Dec.
 1978 : 1 on 7 May, 2 on 29 Nov and 1 on 1 Dec.
- HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* Gawwiġa Prima
 1977 : Recorded throughout the year mostly in single figures; double figures recorded mainly during Dec, with max of 70 in Grand Harbour on 13th. Max counts at breeding colonies : 50 at Ta' Ċenċ on 15 May, 60 at Wardija Pt. on 28 May, 30+ at Dingli Cliffs on 3 Jul, and 160+ at Filfla on 18 Jun.
 1978 : Present all the year round. Peak count ca. 200 on Filfla in June and July.
- GULL-BILLED TERN *Colocheilidon nilotica* Ċirlewwa Geddumha Oħxon
 1977 : 1 at Marsaxlokk on 10 Apr and 1 at Sliema on 6 Dec.
 1978 : 1 at Marsaxlokk on 21 May.
- CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia* Ċirlewwa Prima
 1977 : Ca. 9 at Marsascalea from 19th to 24 Apr.
 1978 : 1 at Delimara on 13th and 1 at Marsaxlokk on 28 Sep and 3 at Ghadira on 7 Nov.
- SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* Ċirlewwa tax-Xiwa
 1977 : 1 at Ċirlewwa on 26 Dec.
 1978 : 2 singles on 25 Feb and 1 on 26 Mar. Singles on 25th, 29th and 31 Dec.
- COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* Ċirlewwa tal-Baħar
 1978 : 1 at Marsaxlokk on 10 Jul.
- LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* Ċirlewwa Żghira
 1977 : 1 off Delimara on 16 Aug.
 1978 : 1 at St. Thomas Bay on 26 Sep.
- BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* Ċirlewwa Sewda
 1977 : Recorded only in August: singles at Marsalforn on 8th and at Ghadira on 10th, ca. 10 in Grand Harbour on 20th, 21 off L-Aħrax Pt. on 28th and 1 at Salina on 31st.

1978 : 2 at Delimara on 6th and 2 at Marsaxlokk on 8 May. 3 off L-Afrix on 7 Aug.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* Ċirlewwa ta' Ġewnaħ Abjad

1977 : 1 at Marsa on 22 Apr and 2 at Salina and 1 at Qajjenza on 9 May.

1978 : Singles in Grand Harbour on 1st, 8th and 9 Aug.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* Tudun tas-Siġar

1977 : 1 seen at a taxidermist on 29 Oct.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* Tudun

1977 : Singles at Buskett on 18th and 26 Mar, at Dingli Cliffs on 19 Apr and at Ġhadira on 16 Oct and 13 Nov.

1978 : 1 at Mellieħa on 14 Mar.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Ġamiema

1977 : In spring no records till 15 Apr but then daily till 10 May; mainly double to low treble figures on most days. Max 400+ at Lunzjata on 21 Apr. Treble counts were also made on same day in 3 other localities. Then single to very low double figures on most days from 13th to 31 May, but ca. 140 at Mizieb on 17th. 1-3 recorded on 11 days in Jun to 28th. In Jul, 1 on 5th and 9th, and 2 on 17th. In autumn single to low double figures almost daily from 23 Aug to 25 Sep, then 1-3 on 8 days from 30 Sep to 18 Oct. Max 50+ on 8 Sep.

1978 : 1 on 28th and 2 on 30 Mar, then on most days from 6 Apr to 26 May with max of 1500 on 16 Apr. 1-2 on 11 days in Jun-Jul. 1 on 3 Aug, then on most days from 23 Aug to 24 Sep (max 115 on 9th) with occasional sightings till 22 Oct.

PALM DOVE *Streptopelia senegalensis* Ġamiema ta' l-Iliwien

1977 : Singles shot at Mal Far on 13 Mar and near Żabbar on 8th and 21 Oct.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* Daqquqa Kaħla

1977 : Spring passage from 26 Mar to 15 May with peak on 15-23 Apr when 1-5 daily, otherwise 1-2 on 9 other days. In autumn singles on 30 Jul, 13 Aug, 6th, 26th and 28 Sep, and 1 Oct.

1978 : Frequent from 19 Mar to 6 May with 26 sightings, mainly of single birds. In autumn singles on 6 days from 26 Aug to 7 Oct.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* Barbaġann

1977 : 1 at Xaqħra on 11 Sep was the only sighting.

1978 : Singles in Gozo in July and at Buskett in August.

SCOPS OWL *Otus scops* Kokka

1977 : 2 on 17th and 1 on 28-29 Jan. 5 single birds recorded on 4 days from 13th to 22 Apr. 1 at L-Afrix on 10 Jul was unusual. In autumn 1-5 on 10 days from 17 Sep to 21 Nov. 1 on 5 Dec.

1978 : Only 4 records in spring - 4 Mar to 10 Apr, with a max of 40 in Gozo on 6 Apr. 1 on 4 Nov, then 1-3 at Buskett in Dec at least to 16th.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* Kokka fax-Xaqħri

1977 : Singles at Rabat on 20 Mar and 7 Apr and at Tas-Salib on 21 Apr.

1978 : 1 at Baħrija on 10 Mar. 7 on 27th and 2 on 28 Oct at Mal Far.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* Buqrajq

1977 : 1 on 10th, then almost daily from 18th to 30 Apr. Always low single figures, but ca. 20 from 5 different localities on 18th. Then 1-3 on 4 days from 4th to 17 May. 1 at Lunzjata on 1st, 5th and 6 Jun. In autumn 1-2 on 5 scattered days from 14 Sep to 8 Oct.

1978 : Only 4 sightings : singles on 13 Apr, 6 May, 30 Aug and 19 Oct.

SWIFT *Apus apus* Rundun

1977 : 7 at Sta. Venera on 15 Feb were very early birds. Almost daily from 26 Mar to 8 Oct. Single figures till 6 Apr, then double figures, with treble figures recorded occasionally from mid-May to mid-Aug (max 150+ on 7 Aug). Only low double or single figures after mid-Aug. 2 on 22 Oct.

1978 : On most days from 10 Mar to 8 Oct with up to 600 on any one day.

PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus* Rundun Kannelli

1977 : Singles at L-Afrix Pt on 6 Jun, at Valletta on 18 Jul, and at Buskett on 24 Sep.

1978 : Singles at Mellieħa on 29 Apr, at Bubaqra on 2 Jul, at Buskett on 15 Sep and Bubaqra on 21 Oct.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* Rundun Żaqqu Bajda

1977 : In spring recorded on 7 days from 8th to 23 Apr; 1-2 except for 9 at Mellieħa on 21st. 2 on 29 May, 1 on 19 Jun and 2 on 9 Jul. In autumn recorded on 7 widely scattered days from 10 Aug to 8 Oct, highest ca. 19 at Buskett on 22 Sep. On the last date 1-3

- were recorded from various localities.
- 1978 : 19 sightings in spring from 18 Mar to 16 May with max of 18 on 29 Mar. 1 on 10th and 4 on 24 Jun. In autumn on 6 days at Buskett from 23 Aug to 2 Oct; 5 on first day otherwise 1-2.
- LITTLE SWIFT *Apus affinis* Rundun Żghir
1977 : 1 at Salina on 23 Apr.
- KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* ĠMasfur ta' San Martin
1977 : Singles on 11 days from 26 Jul to 12 Sep (most in mid-Aug), and on 9th and 16 Oct.
1978 : 1 found dead on Comino on 19 Mar. Sightings of 1-4 on 15 days from 3 Aug to 22 Nov.
- BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster* Qerd in-Naħal
1977 : Spring passage from 6 Apr to 10 Jun with 15 different sightings on 10 days. Most in mid-late May. Max 50+ over Salina on 29 May. Only 2 autumn records, both at Buskett: 1 on 11th and flock of 80+ on 17 Sep.
1978 : Passage on 28 Apr with 10+ at Buskett and 20+ at Mellieħa; 2 on 27 May and 2 Jun. 2 on 20 Sep.
- ROLLER *Coracias garrulus* Farruġ
1977 : Only 3 records of single birds : at Lunzjata on 21 Apr, at Mtaħleb on 5th and at Mtarfa on 17 May.
1978 : Singles on 6 days from 15 Apr to 1 May. 1 on 11 Sep.
- HOOPOE *Upupa epops* Daqqqa ta' Toppu
1977 : Scattered sightings from 25 Feb, then single figures almost daily from 22 Mar to 8 Apr, after which recorded on 8 days, the last on 17 May. In autumn 1-2 on 13 days from 16 Aug to 28 Sep.
1978 : Very frequent from 8 Mar to 28 Apr with a total of 28 records and a max of 50+ in Gozo on 6 Apr. Singles on 10 days from 6 Aug to 9 Sep.
- WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* Bulebbiet
1977 : Singles in 3 localities in Jan-Feb but 2 at Rabat on 18 Feb. Spring passage from 24 Mar to 14 May, with most in Apr. Only single birds recorded. In autumn 1 on 28 Aug, then 1-3 on 13 days in Sep and almost daily throughout Oct and to 6 Nov. Scattered sightings till 10 Dec.
1978 : 1-4 frequently recorded from Jan to 23 Apr and from 16 Sep onwards. Main passages from 4 Mar to 23 Apr and from 16 Sep to 5 Nov.
- HOOPOE LARK *Alaemon alaudipes* Alwetta Bumunqar
1977 : Singles at San Blass on 30 Aug and at il-Qaws on 2 Dec.
- SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* Bilbla
1977 : First on 9 Mar then frequent with 100+ from 2 localities on 23rd. Daily from 3 Apr onwards and bred in usual numbers. Slight increase in Aug-Sep due to passage birds. Last seen on 25 Sep.
1978 : First were 6 on 19 Mar. Bred in usual numbers. Regularly seen until 20 Sep. 1 on 5 Oct.
- WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* Ċuqlajta
1978 : Singles at Delimara on 23 Oct and 6 Nov.
- SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* Alwetta
1977 : Few wintering birds present; low double figures recorded only from Gozo (max 30+ at Sarraflu on 12 Feb). Very slight evidence of return passage in Mar with ca. 20 at Mellieħa on 27th. 1-3 till 16 Apr. In autumn daily from 30 Sep with a peak from 13 Oct to 6 Nov. Highest on 5 Nov with a continuous passage of flocks of up to 50 each. Single to very low double figures, max 15, till year end.
1978 : Frequent in Jan-Mar with few until 23 Apr. Max 20 on 14 Jan. Again regular from 9 Oct onwards with a peak in mid-Oct to mid-Nov. Medium double figures on most days.
- SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* Hawwiefat tax-Xtut
1977 : First on 26 Mar then almost daily with peaks on 21 Apr (1500 from 5 localities) and on 9 May (1000+ at Salina). Treble figures recorded till 1 Jun, then double to single figures till 6 Jun. 1 on 22 Jul. In autumn 1-3 on 4 days in Aug from 17th, and almost daily from 2 Sep to 16 Oct. Highest 200+ at Salina on 9 Oct, otherwise mainly single figures. 1 at Lunzjata on 2 Dec.
1978 : On most days from 9 Mar to 28 May with max of 900+ on 29 Apr. Smaller numbers in autumn from 20 Aug to 11 Nov, with most in Sep. Max 100+ on 17 Sep.
- CRAG MARTIN *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* Hawwiefat ta' Blat
1978 : 1 at Delimara on 6 Nov.
- SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* Muttafa
1977 : 1 at Ramla Valley on 16-23 Jan and 4 on 27 Feb. Spring passage first on 19 Mar, then

- daily from 25 Mar to 15 Jun. Treble figures frequent till 9 May, then double figures till early Jun. Max 800+ at Xaghra on 26 Apr. Singles on 18th and 26 Jun and 9 Jul. In autumn 1-3 on 3 days from 23 to 28 Aug, then daily from 31 Aug to 25 Oct, with treble figures from 11 Sep to 22 Oct. Max 1000+ at Rabat on 13 Oct. Up to 15 on 11 other days till 21 Nov.
- 1978 : 10 on 18 Feb, then daily from 6 Mar to 27 May. Several large passages, with up to 1300 birds, in Apr-May. Singles on 3rd and 18 Jun and 4 Jul, then almost daily from 29 Aug to 12 Nov. Smaller numbers than in spring : usually high double figures with up to 250 on a few days.
- REG- RUMPFED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* Reġina tal-Muttaf
1977 : Singles on 6 days from 2 Apr to 15 May, mostly in Gozo. 1 at Rabat on 24 Jun and 1 at Xemxija on 9 Oct.
1978 : 1-3 on 6 days from 25 Mar to 14 Apr. 1 on 10 Nov.
- HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* Hawwiefra
1977 : Up to 4 on a few days from 26 Jan, then almost daily from 26 Mar to 11 Jun. Treble figures recorded mainly after mid-April, with max of 500 at Gormi on 21 Apr. 1-2 on 18-19 Jun. In autumn singles on 21 Aug and 8 Sep, then on most days from 11 Sep to 23 Oct. Max 300+ at Buskett on 8 Oct, otherwise mainly single to very low double figures. Up to 3 on 5 days from 26 Nov to 4 Dec.
1978 : On most days from 26 Feb to 28 May. Usually low treble figures with up to 500 on a few days. Singles on 25 Jun and 2 Jul. On 3 days in Aug from 13th, then low double figures (max 50) frequent from 9 Sep to 12 Nov.
- TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris* Bilblun
1977 : Single figures on 15 days from 3 Apr to 17 May, with most in Apr. In autumn 1 on 25 Aug, then almost daily from 2nd to 18 Sep, always in single figures. 1 on 2nd and 6 on 15 Oct.
1978 : Single figures, max 8, on 11 days from 24 Mar to 24 Apr. In autumn up to 6 on 14 days from 29 Aug to 24 Sep.
- OLIVE-BACKED TREE PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni* Diżż ta' l-Indja
1977 : 1 trapped and ringed at Ghadira on 30 Oct. (Ill-Merill 19 : 11).
- TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* Diżż
1977 : 1-2 on 3 days from 14 Mar, then daily from 26th to 17 May. Low double figures recorded till 17 Apr, then treble figures in various localities on 18-23 Apr, with max of 500+ at Mellieħa on 20 Apr. Numbers reduced to low double figures again after 24 Apr. Only single figures in May. In autumn 1-2 on 5 days from 17th to 28 Aug, 10 on 31 Aug, then almost daily from 3 Sep to 15 Nov. Single to very low double figures, but 50+ at Marsa on 1 Oct. 1 at Ghadira on 4-5 Dec.
1978 : Almost daily from 15 Mar to 6 May, then occasional to 27 May. Max was 128+ on 20 Apr. Regular, but in smaller numbers, from 23 Aug to 24 Oct with max of 27 on 16 Sep. Singles on 8th and 12 Nov.
- MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* Pespas
1977 : Low double figures in most localities during Jan-Mar. Return passage evident only by slight increase to medium double figures on 14-19 Mar. In April, single figures to 23rd. Again from 14 Oct till year end; usually double figures but treble figures on 3 days in late Nov, max 150+ at Mellieħa on 22nd.
1978 : Medium double figures in most places in Jan-Apr to 7th, with marked increase in the latter half of Mar. In same numbers from 22 Oct onwards, with frequent passages in Nov.
- RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* Diżż Aħmar
1977 : Singles on 4th and 26 Jan and on 27 Feb, and on 15 days from 13 Mar to 20 Apr, after which day recorded in low double figures on 8 days till 7 May. 1-5 on 4 other days till 17 May. Max was 30+ at Marsa on 21-22 Apr. In autumn frequent from 1 Oct to 6 Nov, mostly in single to very low double figures, max 25+ at Marsa on 20 Oct. 1 at Marsa on 29 Dec.
1978 : On 7 days in Apr from 3rd to 29th, with max of 9 on 16th. 1 on 10 Nov was the only autumn record.
- ROCK/WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* Diżż ta' l-Ilma
1977 : Good year with 1-3 recorded on 9 days from 26 Oct to 11 Nov. All records from Marsa and Rabat.
- YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Isfar
1977 : 5 on 13th, then daily from 18 Mar to 10 May. Medium to high double figures on most days but treble figures on 31 Mar-1 Apr (max 600+ at Marsa) and on 18-23 Apr with peak on 21st (treble figures recorded from many localities). Single to very low dou-

- ble figures on 9 days from 14 May to 5 Jun. Singles on 11th and 22 Jun and on 28-29 Jul. In autumn almost daily from 7 Aug to 29 Oct, usually in small numbers but low treble figures at roosts, max ca. 120 at Lunzjata on 8 Oct.
- 1978 : 1 at Marsa on 2nd and 5 Jan. Spring passage from 7 Mar to 14 May with max of 450+ on 6 Apr. At least two different birds on 6 days between 28 May and 27 Jul. In autumn on most days from 10 Aug to 25 Oct with max of 230+ on 14 Sep.
- GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* Zakak tad-Dell
 1977 : Single figures in some areas in Jan-Mar to 11th. 1 stayed at Marsa till 24 Apr. Autumn passage from 9 Sep; recorded always in single figures except for 15+ at Rabat on 22 Oct and 20+ at Lunzjata on 27 Nov.
- 1978 : Single figures in suitable localities in Jan-Mar to 5th. Then again from 16 Sep onwards with low double figures in Oct, max 27 on 22nd.
- WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* Zakak Abjad
 1977 : Single to low double figures recorded in Jan-Mar, but 60+ at Marsa on 29 Jan and treble figures at the Valletta and Marsa roosts. Last seen on 2 Apr. In autumn few from 2nd then daily from 14 Oct till year end. Low double figures in many localities during Oct and mid-Nov, but 80+ at Paola on 28 Oct. 700+ were counted at the Marsa roost on 23rd and 25 Dec.
- 1978 : Daily in Jan-Mar to 30th, then singles till 19 Apr. Up to 800 counted at the Marsa roost. 2 on 14 Sep, then from 7 Oct onwards. Ca. 350 were found to be roosting at Lunzjata in Nov.
- WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* Bumistur
 1978 : 1 at Lunzjata on 2 Dec.
- DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* Żiemel
 1977 : Low single figures in Jan-Mar but up to 10 at Buskett. Last recorded on 11 Apr. In autumn first on 15 Oct, then daily till year end. Mainly in single figures.
- 1978 : Low double figures (max 35) in Jan-Mar to 28th. In autumn from 11 Oct onwards, with up to 60 at Buskett.
- RUFIOUS BUSH CHAT *Cercotrichas galactotes* Rożinjol tax-Xagħri
 1977 : 2 at Dwejra, Gozo on 22 May.
- 1978 : Singles at Sta. Luċia on 8th and at Wied il-Luq on 14 Apr.
- ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* Pitiross
 1977 : Double figures in Jan-Feb with up to 100 at Buskett. In Mar single figures daily till 20th, but double figures still present at Buskett. 1-2 throughout Apr-May. Few present throughout summer (up to 3 at Buskett). First passage migrant on 7 Sep with low double figures recorded till 14 Oct and then high double to low treble figures on most days till end of month. Max 300+ at Buskett on 21st. Low double figures throughout most of Nov and Dec. A totally albino bird was caught at Buskett on 25 Oct.
- 1978 : Double figures in most places in Jan-Mar with max of 230 at Buskett. Few migrants till 14 Apr, then seen on several days in May-Aug, mainly singles at Buskett and Gिरgenti. In increasing numbers from September onwards with max of 300+ at Buskett on 15 Nov.
- NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* Rożinjol
 1977 : 1-5 on 8 days from 11th to 28 Mar, then daily from 30 Mar to 28 Apr. Mainly single figures but low double figures at Buskett/Gिरgenti in mid-Apr, highest 20+ on 13th and 16th. 1-5 on 6 days from 4th to 14 May. 1-2 at Wied il-Luq on 12 Jun and on 4-24 Jul. In autumn almost daily from 17 Aug to 5 Oct. Low double figures between 28 Aug and 9 Sep, otherwise always in single figures. Max 25+ at Wied il-Luq on 29 Aug. 1 on 19 Oct.
- 1978 : First on 18 Mar, then single or low double figures on most days till 26 Apr, with max of 42 on 2nd. Scattered singles in May to 20th. 1 was singing at Buskett on 4 Jun. In autumn after 1 on 12th, almost daily from 22 Aug to 17 Sep, then scattered sightings till 6 Nov. Max 22 at Wied il-Luq on 3 Sep.
- BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* Kudirross Blu
 1977 : Singles at Bañrija on 1st, at Ghadira on 18th and at Rabat on 25 Oct, and at Buskett on 24 Nov.
- 1978 : Singles on 23 Mar and 8-9 Apr, at Lunzjata.
- BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* Kudirross Iswed
 1977 : 1-5 in suitable localities from Jan till 11 Mar. In autumn first on 15 Oct, then almost daily from 21 Oct till year end. Always in single figures but ca. 10 at Mellieħa on 4 Dec.
- 1978 : Low single figures in several places in Jan-Mar to 26th. Late bird on 7 Apr. In

larger numbers (max 8) from 5 Oct onwards.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Kudirross

- 1977 : 1 on 25 Mar, then low single figures almost daily from 1 Apr to 22 May, highest 5+ at Xemxija on 23 Apr. In autumn daily from 5 Sep to 23 Oct; single to very low double figures, highest 30+ at Wied il-Luq on 1 Oct. 1-2 on 28 Oct and on 6-7 Nov.
- 1978 : Single or low double figures daily from 1 Apr to 5 May with max of 60+ on 23rd. In autumn singles on 4 days from 24 Aug to 3 Sep, then almost daily from 16 Sep to 22 Oct; always single figures. Late birds on 2nd, 6th, 19th and 26 Nov.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Buċaqq tas-Silla

- 1977 : 1-5 on 5 days from 28 Mar to 13 Apr then almost daily from 17 Apr to 19 May. Single to low double figures but treble figures (max 200+ at Hal Far) on 22-23. In autumn 1-2 on 15 scattered days from 5 Sep to 16 Oct.
- 1978 : Low double figures from 8 Apr to 13 May but with 75+ on 23 Apr. In autumn 1-5 on 11 days from 9 Sep to 15 Oct.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* Buċaqq tax-Xitwa

- 1977 : Single to low double figures in Jan-Feb, numbers greatly reducing from mid-Feb. 1-2 on 5-6th and 18 Mar. In autumn 1-2 at Għadira on 19th and 26 Sep, then daily from 1 Oct till year end. Low double figures frequent between 9 Oct and 13 Nov, max 30+ at Marsa on 25 Oct.
- 1978 : Single figures, but occasionally up to 18, in most places in Jan-Mar to 16th. 1 on 16 Apr. Then again from 23 Sep onwards with the highest numbers in late Oct-early Nov, when up to 35 in some areas.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina* Kuda Izabellina

- 1977 : Singles at Hal Far and Għajn Barrani on 7 Apr.
- 1978 : 1 at Xlendi on 14 Mar.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* Kuda

- 1977 : 1 on 5th, then single to low double figures on most days from 16 Mar to 9 May, with max of 30+ at Ta' Ċenċ on 9 Apr. In autumn almost daily from 14 Aug to 23 Oct. Recorded in single to low double figures but ca. 65 were at Hal Far on 27 Aug.
- 1978 : From 26 Mar to 1 May (max 47 on 19 Apr) with late bird on 13 May. Smaller numbers in autumn from 12 Aug to 15 Oct, with max of 18 on 17 Sep.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica* Kuda Dumnikana

- 1977 : Recorded only in spring : 1-5 in suitable localities on 6 days from 25 Mar to 9 Apr.
- 1978 : 1-4 on 7 days from 27 Mar to 23 Apr.

DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti* Kuda tad-Deżert

- 1977 : 1 seen at a taxidermist was caught on 24 Nov.

ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis* Ġanbulu

- 1977 : 3 on 7 Apr and 6 singles from 10 Apr to 7 May.
- 1978 : Singles on 5 days from 5th to 23 Apr.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius* Merill

- 1977 : In usual numbers; mainly around coasts. Immature birds recorded inland on various occasions in Aug-Oct.
- 1978 : Resident and breeding in usual numbers. No apparent change in status.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* Malvizz tas-Sidra Bajda

- 1977 : Singles on 5 days from 4 Oct to 16 Nov.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* Malvizz Iswed

- 1977 : 1-2 wintering in a few places till 11 Mar. Again 1-2 regularly from 14 Oct onwards.
- 1978 : Low single figures on most days in Jan-Mar to 26th, with max of 10 on 28 Jan. Then 1-2 on 14 days from 22 Oct till year end.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* Malvizzun tat-Qtajja'

- 1977 : 1-2 on 10 days from 11 Nov to 5 Dec, and 1 on 30 Dec.
- 1978 : 2 at Buskett on 5 Feb and 1 at Sarnat on 18 Nov.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* Malvizz

- 1977 : 10-20 at Buskett in Jan-Mar, otherwise single figures in other localities. 1-2 till 18 Apr. 1 at San Anton Gardens on 10 Aug could have been an escaped bird. In autumn singles on 16th and 30 Sep and on 1st and 8-9 Oct, then double to low treble figures 14 Oct till end of month. Highest 200+ over Mellieħa on 19th. Only single to low double figures (max 15) in Nov-Dec.
- 1978 : Single or low double figures (max 22) almost daily in Jan-Mar, with a few singles or twos till 23 Apr. Singles in different localities on 21 Aug and 9-10 Sep. High

double figures frequent from 11 Oct onwards, max 217+ on 4 Nov.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* Malvizz Aġmar

1977 : 1-3 present at Buskett and Gġgenti and sometimes at Xemxija in Jan-Mar to 27th. Low numbers in autumn from 4 Nov till year end. Max ca. 15 at Buskett /Gġgenti on 20 Nov, 20th and 30 Dec, otherwise single figures.

1978 : On most days in Jan-Mar to 19th. Usually single figures but 26 on 28 Jan. On 11 days from 18 Nov to 31 Dec; usually 1-2 but 23 on 3 Dec.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* Malvizzun Prim

1977 : Singles at Rabat on 14th and at Mellieħa on 21 Oct; 1-2 at Buskett on 11-12th and 3 at Marsa on 13 Nov.

1978 : 1 at Buskett on 11 Nov.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* Baġħal tal-Għollig

1977 : Breeding restricted mainly to usual areas due to particular habitat preference. Adults and young were seen at Għajn Barrani in late Jul-early Aug. Seen also during the breeding season at Rabat and Chadwick Lakes but breeding was not confirmed.

1978 : Breeding in usual numbers in usual areas. Larger numbers in Jul-Sep after dispersal of young.

FAN-TAILED WARBLER *Cisticola juncidis* Baġħal ta' l-Imrewħa

1977 : Still spreading and bred in new areas. Up to 40 roosted at Għadira in Sep.

1978 : Breeding recorded in several new areas. Most conspicuous in Mar-Jul when male song is most intense.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides* Baġħal Aġmar

1977 : Singles at Sta. Maria Estate on 25 Mar and at Xemxija on 2-3 Apr.

1978 : Singles on 2nd and 11 Apr; 20 Aug; 4th, 11th and 12 Sep. Most at Buskett/Gġgenti.

MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Acrocephalus melanopogon* Baġħal Qasni

1977 : 1-3 at Lunzjata from 2 Nov to 9 Dec; singles at Għadira on 13 Nov and at Wied il-Lug on 20 Dec.

1978 : Singles at Xemxija on 12th and 18 Nov and at Gġgenti on 18 Nov and 2 Dec.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Baġħal tas-Simar

1977 : 5 on 27 Mar, then frequent from 6 Apr to 1 Jun with most from mid-Apr to mid-May.

Max 16+ at Lunzjata on 20 Apr. In autumn 1 on 5 Aug, then 1-2 on 13 scattered days from 4 Sep to 23 Oct.

1978 : On most days, mainly in single figures, from 5 Mar to 27 May, with max of 32 on 30 Apr. 1 on 22 Aug, then singles on 5 days from 1 Oct to 1 Nov.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* Baġħal tal-Qasab

1977 : 1-2 on 9 days from 20 Apr to 1 Jun. First breeding record for Malta, with family party (adults and 4 newly fledged young) at Salina on 26 Jul. They were last seen together on 30 Jul (11-Merill 19:13). In autumn singles on 23rd and 30-31 Jul, then almost daily from 4 Aug to 22 Sep; always single figures except for 15+ at Gġgenti on 28 Aug. Then on 5 days from 25 Sep to 10 Oct with 6+ still present at Gġgenti on 5 Oct.

1978 : 1 on 17 Mar, then 14 sightings of 1-3 birds between 8 Apr and 22 May. In autumn 1 on 23 Jul, then single figures (max 9) from 30 Jul to 11 Nov. Almost daily in Aug-Sep.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* Baġħal Prim

1977 : Recorded frequently from 6 Apr to 1 Jun. Max 15+ at Lunzjata on 21 Apr, otherwise 1-4. In autumn single figures from 14 Aug to 15 Oct, mostly from late Aug to mid-Sep, highest 6+ at Gġgenti on 23 Aug.

1978 : Single figures almost daily from 1 Apr to 1 May, then 1-2 on 6 days till 3 Jun. Singles on 1st and 30 Jul. In autumn 1-3 on several days from 12 Aug to 23 Oct.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* Bekkafik Isfar

1977 : 1 on 18 Apr, then recorded frequently in May till 29th. Always in single figures except for ca. 10 at Valletta on 17th. In autumn, 1-2 on 9 widely scattered days from 14 Aug to 4 Oct.

1978 : 1 on 19 Apr, then single figures almost daily from 28 Apr to 15 May with max of 10 on 13th. In autumn 1-2 on 10 days from 20 Aug to 17 Oct.

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta* Bekkafik ta' L-Għana

1978 : Singles at Għadira on 15 Apr and at Buskett on 2 May.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata* Bufula tax-Xaġħri

1977 : 1-2 at Għadira in Jan-Feb and 1 still there on 3 Apr. 1 at Mellieħa on 27 Oct and 1-2 at Ta' Ċenċ from 2-5 Nov; singles at Victoria on 1 Dec and again at Mellieħa on 22 Dec. 1 at Għadira from 6 Nov till year end.

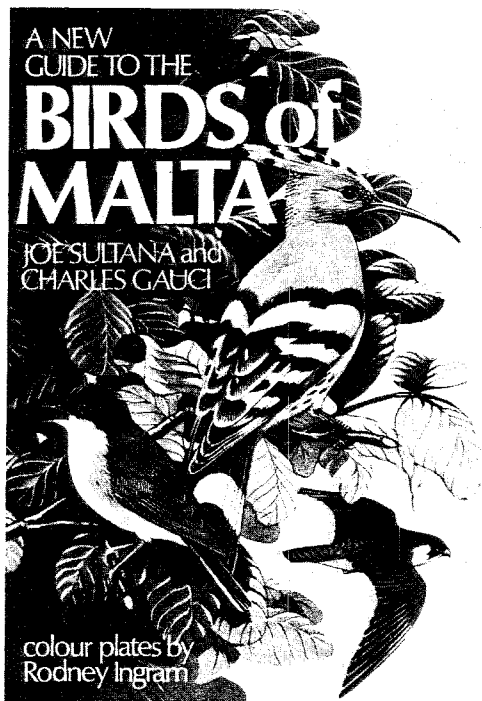
- 1978 : Singles seen on 14 January, 12th and 22 Feb, and 2+ on 26 Feb at Għadira.
- SPECTACLED WARBLER** *Sylvia conspicillata* Bufula Mamra
 1977 : Common only in suitable areas. Young seen out of nest from late Mar. Highest for any one locality was ca. 40 at tal-Handaq on 8 Jun.
 1978 : Recorded in usual numbers with no indication of passage.
- SUBALPINE WARBLER** *Sylvia cantillans* Bufula Passajra
 1977 : Spring passage from 6 Mar to 26 Apr, mainly late Mar to mid-Apr. Always in single figures except for 15+ at Xagħira on 23 Mar and 10 at Salina on 23 Apr. 1 on 10 May. Autumn passage, first on 3 Jul then daily from 10 Jul to 19 Sep. Low to medium double figures at Wied il-Luq from 16 Jul to 18 Sep, highest 50+ on 22-22nd and 60+ on 29 Aug, otherwise always in single to very low double figures in other localities. Then 1-5 on 6 days from 24 Sep to 4 Oct.
 1978 : Singles on 7th and 15 Mar, then almost daily from 24 Mar to 23 Apr with max of 54 on 2 Apr. 1 on 1 May. Autumn passage from 11 Jul to 29 Oct, but mainly in Aug-Sep when seen daily in double figures. Max 53 on 3 Sep.
- SARDINIAN WARBLER** *Sylvia melanocephala* Bufula Sewda
 1977 : Very common almost everywhere. Evidence of a return passage in late Feb-early Mar (Il-Merill 19:18-19). 60+ at Tal-Handaq on 8 Jun was the highest count for any one locality.
 1978 : Common everywhere throughout the year.
- ORPHEAN WARBLER** *Sylvia hortensis* Bekkafik t'Għajnu Bajda
 1978 : 1 at Wied Żnuber on 7 Apr.
- LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca* Bekkafik Irmiedi
 1977 : 1 at Għadira on 8 May. Singles at Wied il-Luq on 13th and 25 Sep and on 1 Oct.
 1978 : Singles at Għadira on 8th and at Marsa on 12 Oct.
- WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis* Bekkafik Aħmar
 1977 : 1-6 recorded frequently from 3rd to 20 Apr, then up to 10 in some localities on 21-23 Apr, numbers reducing to low single figures till 9-10 May when 10+ seen at Buskett. 1-5 from then till 26 May. In autumn singles on 8 scattered days from 2 Sep to 18 Oct, most in Sep.
 1978 : Seen on several days from 2 Apr to 15 May; mainly single figures but 23 on 29 Apr. In autumn singles on 19th, 24th and 26 Aug, then 1-3 on 6 days from 7 Oct to 6 Nov.
- GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin* Bekkafik
 1977 : Single figures frequent from 18 Apr to 29 May (max 10+ at Buskett on 10th and 22 May) 1 singing at Wied il-Luq on 11th and 1 at Lunzjata on 16 Jun. In autumn 1 on 17 Aug, then almost daily from 20 Aug to 23 Oct with peak from mid-Sep to early Oct. Max 40+ at Wied il-Luq on 18 Sep.
 1978 : Spring passage from 8 Apr to 28 May with most from mid-Apr to mid-May when seen almost daily. Mainly single figures but 31 on 28 Apr. In autumn medium double figures on most days from 15 Aug to 22 Oct with max of 60 on 10 Sep. 1 on 6 Nov.
- BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla* Kapinera
 1977 : Treble figures at Buskett in Jan-Mar with usual peak in mid-Mar (800+ on 11th). Recorded frequently from other localities in single to low double figures. 1-3 present in Apr to 23rd. Frequent, mainly in single figures, from 16 Sep till year end with low double figures from very few areas. Highest 20+ at Ġirgenti on 26 Dec.
 1978 : Medium treble figures at usual places in Jan-Mar with a peak in Mar; max 1000+ at Buskett on 11th. Few till 23 Apr. Again from 1 Oct onwards, reaching high double figures in early Dec.
- BONELLI'S WARBLER** *Phylloscopus bonelli* Vjolin Bajdani
 1977 : Single on 11 days from 23 Mar to 3 May, but a total of 4 recorded on 12 Apr.
 1978 : 11 sightings of 1-3 birds from 26 Mar to 23 Apr. 1 on 23 Aug.
- WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Vjolin Madrani
 1977 : Single figures from 23 Mar to 9 Apr, reaching low double figures from 10 Apr to 15 May. Good days on 21-23 Apr with double figures from many localities (max 50+ at Xemxija). Numbers reduced to single figures from 16th till 26 May. In autumn 1-3 on 15 days from 5 Sep to 14 Oct.
 1978 : Single or low double figures almost daily from 1 Apr to 13 May with max of 37 on 23 Apr. 1 on 12 Aug, then from 24 Aug to 22 Oct. Only low single figures but 13 on 12 Oct.
- CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita* Vjolin tax-Xitwa
 1977 : Very common from Jan to mid-Mar when numbers decreased considerably. Monthly peaks were : 400+ at Lunzjata in mid-Jan, 100+ at Marsa on 11 Feb, and 50+ at Marsa on 5

- Mar. Then 1-5 till 6 Apr and 1 at Lunjata on 7 May. In autumn single figures from 8th to 27 Oct, then double figures almost daily reaching treble figures in some areas by the end of Nov (max 200 at Marsa on 28th). Double figures in various localities in Dec with treble figures only at Lunjata (max 250+ on 27 Dec).
- 1978 : High double figures in most places in Jan-Apr to 7th, then 1-3 on 8 days till 23 Apr. Max was 410+ on 7 Jan. Again from 17 Oct onwards with max of 100 on 25 Nov.
- WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Vjolin Pastard
 1977 : 1-2 on 5 days from 18th to 27 Mar, then almost daily from 31 Mar to 10 May with max of 10 at Ghadira and Comino on 6th and 17 Apr respectively. 1 on 15 May. 1-3 on 6 days from 18th to 28 Aug, then almost daily from 1 Sep to 23 Oct. 10-15 at Ghadira on many occasions, otherwise single figures. 1 at Lunjata on 4 Dec.
 1978 : Almost daily from 23 Mar to 3 May with max of 65+ on 9 Apr. In autumn recorded from 13 Aug to 17 Oct; usually single figures, but 25+ on 1 Oct. 1 on 5 Nov.
- GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus* Bufula tal-Gamar
 1977 : Very few specifically identified : singles on 5 days from 25 Oct to 16 Nov.
 1978 : Only a few recorded : low single figures in Jan-Mar to 24th, 3 on 18 Oct and 1 on 2 Dec.
- FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapillus* Bufula tal-Toppu Aħmar
 1977 : Low single figures in suitable places in Jan-Feb, then 1-3 on 6 days from 18 Oct to 19 Nov.
 1978 : Low single figures in Jan-Mar to 24th and from 15 Nov onwards.
- GOLD/FIRECREST** *Regulus regulus / ignicapillus*
 1977 : Up to 10 in suitable localities in Jan-Feb numbers greatly reduced by mid-Feb. 1-3 on 3 days in Mar to 28th. In autumn 1-5 from 1 Oct till year end but ca. 20 at Miżieb on 19 Nov.
 1978 : Single figures and occasionally up to 10 in suitable localities in Jan-Mar to 27th and from 16 Oct onwards.
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata* Żanżarell tal-Tikki
 1977 : 1 on 20th, then up to 10 from 21 Apr to 14 May, but 30+ at Hal Saflieni on 10th and 15+ at Pietà on 12 May. Large influx, affecting mainly the SE of Malta on 15 May when treble figures recorded from 3 localities with max 500+ at Wied Żnuber (Il-Merill 19:16-17). Numbers dwindled to single figures by 19 May. 1-3 till 9 Jun. An unmated female laid two consecutive clutches in the same nest at Buskett and was regularly observed incubating between 26 May and 9 Jul (Il-Merill 19:24). In autumn 1-4 on 12 days from 27 Aug to 28 Sep, then high single figures daily till 10 Oct (max 10 at Buskett on 3rd); 1-3 on 4 days from 12th to 23rd and 7 at Birkirkara on 28 Oct.
 1978 : Almost daily from 19 Apr to 14 May, then occasional singles till 1 Jun. Max was 50+ on 28 Apr. An unmated female was first seen incubating in the previous year's nest on 27 May, and was joined by a male on 7 Jun. The 4 infertile eggs were removed from the nest on 14 Jun when the female was still incubating them. The same pair, and possibly two pairs, then bred in the vicinity, recently fledged birds being seen on 23 Jul and 15 Aug (Il-Merill 20:24). Autumn passage from 13 Aug to 15 Oct; only medium single figures. Singles on 1st and 6 Nov.
- RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula parva* Żanżarell Sidru Aħmar
 1977 : 1-4 on 13 days from 11 Sep to 15 Oct, most records from Buskett/Girgenti area.
 1978 : Singles at Lunjata on 14 Sep, at Ghadira on 13th, 15th and 17 Oct, and at Xemxija on 15 Oct.
- COLLARED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula albicollis* Żanżarell tal-Kullar
 1977 : Singles on 16 Mar and 3 Apr, then daily from 6th to 24 Apr (max 6 at Rabat on 7th) followed by 1-2 on 9 days from 27 Apr to 12 May.
 1978 : 12 sightings of 1-4 birds on 7 days between 14th and 26 Apr.
- PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca* Żanżarell Iswed
 1977 : 1 on 31 Mar then from 5 Apr, reaching double figures by 10th. Max 50+ at Marsa and Pietà on 21st. Numbers reduced to low double or single figures after 24th. Last seen on 15 May. Very few in autumn : 1-2 on 12 scattered days from 20 Aug to 16 Oct.
 1978 : Daily from 1 Apr to 3 May with a peak in the latter half of Apr. Max 60+ on 19th. 1 on 13 May. In autumn singles on 13 days from 28 Aug to 3 Oct.
- GOLDEN ORIOLE** *Oriolus oriolus* Tajra Safra
 1977 : Spring passage from 15 Apr to 29 May with double figures from 20th to 26 Apr (max 30+ at Chadwick Lakes on 21st), otherwise recorded mainly in single figures. 1-4 recorded in Jun to 19th and 1 was at Chadwick Lakes on 8 Jul. In autumn 1-7 on 15 days from 25 Aug to 20 Oct, most in early Sep.
 1978 : Single to low double figures frequent from 2 Apr to 7 May with max of 50+ on 23 Apr. 1 on 26 Jun. In autumn only seen in single figures from 23 Aug to 15 Sep, with max of 10+ on 2 Sep.

- RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* Kaččamendula Mamra
 1977 : 1-2 on 16 days from 31 Aug to 9 Oct.
 1978 : Singles on 7 days in Sep from 2nd, on 13th, 21st (2) and 25 Oct, and on 26 Nov.
- LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor* Kaččamendula Griža
 1977 : 1 at Għadira on 23 Apr.
- GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* Kaččamendula Griža Prima
 1977 : 1 at Marsaxlokk on 24 Apr.
- WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* Kaččamendula
 1977 : Singles on 28th and 31 Mar. Frequent from 7 Apr to 7 Jun, always in low single figures but 6+ at Pietà on 28th and 6 at Sta Luċia on 29 Apr. 1 male at Wardija on 10 Jul. In autumn 1-2 on 10 days from 16 Aug to 23 Sep, most from late Aug to early Sep.
 1978 : On several days from 26 Mar to 1 May; low single figures except for 13 on 23 Apr. Singles on 10th and 26 May. In Jun, 1 at Wardija on 3rd and 1 at Għadira on 26th and 30th. In autumn 1-2 on 13 days from 15 Aug to 14 Sep.
- STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* Sturnell
 1977 : Low double figures in Jan-Feb, numbers reducing greatly after mid-Feb. On 5 days in Mar to 25th and singles at Marsa on 8-9 Apr. In autumn 19 on 26th and 3 on 28 Sep, then daily from 1 Oct. Treble figures reached on 14 Oct. Largest flocks were of 1500+ over Paola on 31 Oct and over Marsa on 6 Nov. Numbers reduced from mid-Nov but treble figures remained in some areas till year end.
 1978 : Double figures and up to 800 in some areas in Jan-Feb, numbers greatly reducing in early Mar. Last seen on 27th. Singles on 21 Apr and 22 May. Larger numbers on autumn passage from 2 Oct when frequently up to 2000. Max was 3150 on 7 Nov.
- ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus* Sturnell Roża
 1978 : 1 was shot on 28 Aug.
- SPANISH SPARROW *Passer hispaniolensis* Għammiet tal-Bejt
 1977 : Abundant everywhere. A nest containing 3 young was recorded at Victoria in mid-Nov.
 1978 : Abundant breeding resident.
- TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* Għammiet tas-Siġar
 1977 : Small numbers breeding in several areas. Autumn passage mainly in October with double figures (max 50) recorded from some localities on 22-23 Oct.
 1978 : Single figures present in various localities throughout the year. Bred as usual but no evidence of autumn passage.
- CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* Sponsun
 1977 : Single to low double figures (max 50) in several localities in Jan-Mar. In smaller numbers in Apr and very few in May. 1-3 in Jun-Sep, mainly at Buskett where 3 females/juveniles seen together on 2 Jul indicate breeding. In autumn low to medium double figures from 14 Oct. Up to 10 wintering in several localities till year end.
 1978 : Low double figures in Jan-Apr to 8th with max of 100+ on 2 Mar. Several scattered records of 1-2 birds between mid-Apr and mid-Aug, mainly at Buskett where possibly bred. Numbers increased after mid-Aug reaching high double figures in Oct. Max count was of 500+ in Gozo on 13 Nov.
- BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* Sponsun Selvaġġ
 1977 : 1 male at Sliema on 29 Oct and 1 at Mellieħa on 1 Nov.
- SERIN *Serinus serinus* Apparell
 1977 : Low double figures (max 30) till 20 Jan, heavy passage in late Jan with high double to low treble figures recorded mainly from Rabat/Buskett area. Numbers reduced again to low double figures in Feb and single figures in Mar. Up to 5 recorded on various days in Apr and singles on 5 days in May. Family party (adults + at least two juvs) at Buskett in Jun-Aug. Singles in a few other localities during summer but up to 5 at Girgenti in Aug. 1-3 in Sep but first true autumn migrants probably on 7 Oct when 4 at Marsa. Very poor autumn migration: single to very low double figures only recorded, max 25+ at Pietà on 17 Dec.
 1978 : Low double figures from Jan to mid-Mar but with max of 75+ on 7 Jan. Single figures till 4 May. 2-3 at Lunzjata throughout Aug, then low single figures on 10 days from 11 Nov to 24 Dec.
- GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* Verdun
 1977 : Frequent in Jan with up to 30 at Rabat and at Victoria on 2nd and 20th respectively. Then on 4 days in Feb to 21st, 1-5 on 8 days from 5 Mar to 12 Apr and singles on 1 May, 4 Jun, 16th, 29th and 31 Jul, on 6 days in Aug (but 3 on 28th) and on 6 days in Sep. In autumn single figures from 2 Oct with small passages on 22nd (max 40+ at Mellieħa) and 25 Oct (max 25+ at Anchor Bay), then again in low single figures on

- scattered days till year end.
- 1978 : Low double figures frequent in Jan-Apr to 14th with passages in Gozo on 2nd and 31 Mar when 40+ and 150+ respectively seen. 1 on 14 Sep, then single figures again frequent from 6 Oct to 4 Nov.
- GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis* Gardell
- 1977 : Frequent in Jan to 26th. Low double figures recorded on various days and a small passage on 10th. Highest was 20+ at Rabat on 14th. Then 6 on 20 Feb, 3 on 12 Mar, 2 on 5 Apr and 1 on 7 May. In autumn 1-2 on 4 days from 6th to 27 Oct. No records in Nov but some present in Dec with a good passage recorded at Sannat on 8th and in single figures on 5 days, highest 10 at Gebel Ciantar on 20th.
- 1978 : 1-3 on 6 days from 1 Jan to 7 Feb, then singles on 5 Mar, on 5 days in Apr to 26th, on 3 Jun and on 17th, 21st and 25 Aug. Passage on 8 Nov when 150+ seen, then only 2 on 11th and 1 on 12 Nov.
- SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus* Ekru
- 1977 : Singles at Rabat on 4 May and at Wied il-Luq on 17 Jul. Autumn passage very poor : on 6 days from 19 Oct to 2 Nov; single figures but 10+ at Mellieha on last date. 1 on 4 Dec.
- 1978 : 1-2 on 5 days from 28 Jan to 5 Feb and singles on 7th and 22 Oct.
- LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina* Ġojjin
- 1977 : Double figures in many areas during Jan, treble figures recorded at roosts (up to 1000+ at Victoria during week following 20th). Heavy passage recorded on 25th. Numbers remained high in Feb with treble figures on 6 days (mainly at roosts). Single to low double figures during Mar but 80+ from 2 localities on 18th. Single to very low double figures in Apr and 1-2 on 3 days in May to 15th. Singles at Rabat on 10 Jun and at Pietà on 3 Jul and up to 5 at Għajn Barrani in Aug-early Sep. At least 2 juvs were seen there on 17 Aug. Singles on 16 Sep, 2nd and 14 Oct, then almost daily in double to low treble figures from 16th to 23 Oct after which numbers reduced and only treble figures at roosts.
- 1978 : Treble figures (max 250) on a number of days in Jan-Mar, then low single figures till 4 May. Scattered records of up to 10 (probably breeders) in Jun-Sep. Double figures on most days from 6 Oct onwards but 500+ in Gozo on 13 Nov.
- CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra* Kruċjat
- 1978 : 1 at Buskett on 22-23 Jul.
- TRUMPETER FINCH** *Bucanetes githaginea* Trumbettier
- 1977 : 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 11 Jun and 30+ at Kerċem/Xlendi area at the end of Jun.
- SCARLET GROSBEAK** *Carpodacus erythrinus* Bumunqar
- 1977 : 1 at Ramla Valley on 9 Oct.
- HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Taż-Żebbuġ
- 1977 : Singles at Pietà on 3 Mar and at Lunzjata on 12 Apr, then 1-2 at Xagħra from 24th to 29 Oct.
- 1978 : 1 on 7 Jan; 1 on 20th and 2 on 21 Oct; and 1 on 3 Nov.
- ORTOLAN BUNTING** *Emberiza hortulana* Ortolan
- 1977 : Singles on 22 Mar and on 5 Apr, then small influx in Gozo on 23-24 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 9 Sep and some present at the end of Sep.
- RUSTIC BUNTING** *Emberiza rustica* Durrajsa Qastnija
- 1977 : 1 trapped and ringed at Lunzjata on 21 Oct.
- 1978 : 1 trapped at Marnisi in Oct and 1 at Delimara on 30 Nov.
- LITTLE BUNTING** *Emberiza pusilla* Durrajsa Qerqnija
- 1977 : Singles near Delimara on 6th and 16 Oct.
- 1978 : Singles at Għadira on 2nd and at Marnisi on 23rd and 25 Oct.
- YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING** *Emberiza aureola* Ortolan tal-Lvant
- 1978 : 1 imm. trapped and ringed at Rabat on 30 Sep.
- REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus* Durrajsa tal-Qasab
- 1977 : Singles on 5 days at Lunzjata from 23 Oct to 11 Nov. 1-2 at Għadira on 12-13 Nov and singles at Miżieb on 19 Nov and at Marsaxlokk on 3 Dec.
- 1978 : 9 sightings of 1-5 birds from 22 Oct to 1 Dec. Most records from Għadira and Lunzjata.
- CORN BUNTING** *Miliaria calandra* Durrajsa
- 1977 : Breeding in usual numbers. Nests with eggs already found in late Mar. Large flocks in summer, highest 200+ at Għajn Riġana on 22 Jul. Few birds in October recorded in areas where they are not usually present indicate a small passage.
- 1978 : Bred as usual. In flocks of up to 90 in Jun-Sep.

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