

~~A LIST OF NOTEWORTHY SPECIMENS ACQUIRED BY THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY FROM THE COLLECTION OF MR. THEMISTOCLES CONTI.~~

- ~~Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* : Female from Ramla Bay, Gozo on 28/12/1932.
Gadwall *Anas strepera* : Male from Marsaxlokk on 28/11/1942.
Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* : Female from Salina on 28/11/1928.
Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* : Male and female from Delimara on 16/11/1961.
Knot *Calidris canutus* : Male from Marsaxlokk on 25/5/1943.
Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*: Female from Salina on 19/9/1961.
Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* : One from Marsaxlokk on 25/12/1969. (This has already been reported by Sultana, Gauci, Beaman in 'A Guide to the Birds of Malta' 1975).
Pomarine Skua *Stereorarius pomarinus* : One from the S.E.Coast of Malta on 16/11/1937.
Long-tailed Skua *Stereorarius longicaudus* : Immature from off Filfla on 25/10/1967.
Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii* : Male from Marsaxlokk on 14/2/1954.
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* : Male from Marsaxlokk on 13/7/1967.
Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* : Male from Marsaxlokk on 22/5/1951.
Stock Dove *Columba oenas* : Female bought from Valletta Market on 8/11/1931.
Little Swift *Apus affinis* : One from Birzebbuga on 4/4/1971.
Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* : One from Hal Far on 20/9/1937.
Ruppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppelli* : An immature male from Hal Far on 15/9/1915 and an adult male from Birzebbuga on 15/3/1965.
Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana* : One from Dingli on 16/3/1931 (ssp. *deserti*).
Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* : Male from Marsaxlokk on 16/6/1961 and single females from Kalafrana on 23/6/1933 and 21/10/1937.
Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* : One from Gozo on 1/3/1956 and a female from Marsaxlokk on 15/2/1968.
Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* : Male from Birzebbuga on 6/11/1935.
Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* : Male and female belonging to the subspecies *badius* from Birzebbuga on 12th and 4th April 1975 respectively.
Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* : Female from Hal Far on 9/7/1916, male from Imriehel on 23/10/31 and male from Santa Venera on 23/5/1946.~~

~~Joseph A. Vella-Gaffiero~~

HOUSE MARTINS ON MIGRATION SHELTERING FROM THE RAIN.

While birdwatching at Xlendi Bay in Gozo on 1st April 1979 we witnessed an unusual behaviour. It was a cold day, the sky was heavily overcast and it was drizzling all the time. Then, under the cornice on the top floor of a two-storey house still under construction, we saw a flock of about 120 House Martins *Delichon urbica* clinging with their feet to the vertical wall, huddled together and sheltering from the rain. The birds were clinging to the western and southern sides of the building.

As far as is known, there has been no record of such behaviour in Malta where the House Martin is only a migrant.

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