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## REPORT ON BIRD-RINGING FOR 1975 AND 1976

by Joe Sultana &amp; Charles Gauci

This ringing report covers the two-year period 1975-76 during which a total of 19,685 birds were ringed. Comparing this figure with that of the two previous corresponding years (1973-74) one notes an increase of 5,350 birds. This may be attributed to the increase in the number of ringers (13 at the end of 1976), as well as to the growing expertise and effort on the part of the few dedicated ones.

The number of birds ringed in 1975 and 1976 was 10,176 of 86 species and 9,509 of 90 species respectively; the former being the highest for one year since ringing was started in autumn 1965. There was a slight decrease in the total of 1976 (667 less than in 1975) but an increase of 4 in the number of species ringed. Since 1965 the grand total stands at 64,145 birds of 126 species as on 31.12.1976.

5 new species were added to the ringing list during 1975. These were Richard's Pipit, Rufous Bush Chat, Fieldfare, Brambling and Lapland Bunting; the last also being the first recorded for Malta. During 1976 only one species - Black-headed Gull - was added; however, there was a worthy addition of a new subspecies - the eastern race of the Collared Flycatcher *F.a. semitorquata* - which was also newly recorded for Malta. Rare visitors ringed included 2 Rustic Buntings, 2 Orphean Warblers and an Olivaceous Warbler.

With only about 13 resident species and 5 summer visitors, our ringing totals depend very much on the spring and autumn migrants as well as the winter visitors. As was expected the best months were again April and May and October and November, both the peaks of the migration in spring and autumn respectively. In the months of June and July, the almost total lack of ringed migrants was compensated by the number of ringed Storm Petrels (1,243 in 1975 and 460 in 1976) during 3 and 2 night visits respectively to Filfla Islet.

Though the pattern of migration is generally the same year after year, the numbers involved within a species of spring and autumn migrants and winter visitors fluctuate appreciably and depend to a large extent on the weather condition. Thus the total numbers of certain species of migrants are very variable from year to year. These changes (e.g. only 383 Swallows ringed in 1975 but 840 in 1976; 104 Great Reed Warblers ringed in 1975 while 61 were ringed in 1976) can be also explained by the fact that there are usually a few notable influxes of various species in spring and autumn which may either be totally missed or taken full advantage of by the ringers. The latter can only operate during their spare time, mainly during weekends.

Topping the list of birds ringed for both years we find the Robin with 1,584 and 1,381 respectively. In 1975 it was followed by the Storm Petrel (1,243), the Chiffchaff (986), the Blackcap (718), the Spanish Sparrow (690), the Garden Warbler (555), the House Martin (391), the Swallow (383), the Sardinian Warbler (365) and the Yellow Wagtail (317). The best totals in 1976 following that of the Robin were those of the Chiffchaff (1,108), the Swallow (840), the Spanish Sparrow (820), the Sardinian Warbler (531), the Garden Warbler (486), the Storm Petrel (460), the House Martin (319), the Wood Warbler (348) and the Sub-alpine Warbler (346). Topping the first 10 places in the grand total list at the end of 1976 we find 3 winter visitors (Robin 8,286, Chiffchaff 7,085 and Blackcap 2,114); 4 spring and autumn migrants (Swallow 6,041, Garden Warbler 3,129, Sand Martin 2,742 and House Martin 2,388); 2 resident species (Spanish Sparrow 4,515 and Sardinian Warbler 2,401); and 1 sum-

mer visitor (Storm Petrel, 7,937).

Being the highest since ringing started, the totals for 1975 and 1976 produced remarkable record totals for several species. Thus, the record totals in 1975 of the Cetti's Warbler (37), Sedge Warbler (111), Subalpine Warbler (298) and Wood Warbler (166) were bettered in 1976, reaching 43, 126, 346 and 348 respectively. (That of the Collared Flycatcher (26) was again repeated in 1976).

Record totals in 1975 which were not bettered in 1976 were: Cory's Shearwater - 154; Yellow Wagtail - 317; Dunnock - 89; Reed Warbler - 96; Great Reed Warbler - 104; Garden Warbler - 555; Blackcap - 718; Willow Warbler - 141; Pied Flycatcher - 150; Robin - 1584; Chaffinch - 57; and Reed Bunting - 18.

The record totals reached in 1976 were:

Manx Shearwater - 85; Scops Owl - 17; Tree Pipit - 133; Meadow Pipit - 62; Icterine Warbler - 91; Sardinian Warbler - 531; Spotted Flycatcher - 91; Stonechat - 83; Nightingale - 125; and Spanish Sparrow - 820.

Except for the Storm Petrel and the Shearwaters, most birds ringed in any number are small passerine species. Very few wader species were ringed (only 6 in 1975). Much effort on the part of two ringers produced 44 in 1976. Like most other species with the size of a Skylark or larger, waders are much harassed by local shooters. Furthermore, suitable wader-catching areas are restricted to Ghadira and a handful of small reservoirs in various valleys.

The main ringing sites during 1975 were Buskett/Wied il-Luq area, Salina, Girgenti, Mdina/Rabat area, Xemxija and Lunzjata. Other sites used were Ghadira, Wied Znuber/Hal Far, Targa Gap, Munxar and Ramla Valley. The same sites were again used in 1976 with the addition of the Marsa/Addolorata area and Sarraflu (Gozo).

The main part of this report is devoted to Ringing Recoveries. These are presented in two sections - (a) recoveries of birds ringed in Malta and (b) foreign ringed birds recovered in Malta. In both sections, recoveries in both years are treated together. In the recoveries of birds ringed in Malta, only those recovered at least 5 km away from the ringing site are included - the list comprises 80 recoveries of 29 species. The most remarkable are a Manx Shearwater found dead in Greece, a Sand Martin controlled in Holland, 3 Swallows in Poland, Sweden and the Central African Republic respectively; a Great Reed Warbler controlled in East Germany, a 1975 spring Pied Flycatcher found dead in Spain in the autumn of 1976, and a Rustic Bunting (3rd for the ringing list) recovered on the island of Rhodes 11 days after it was ringed in October 1976. Other interesting recoveries were 4 Storm Petrels (Sicily and Ionian Sea); a Grey Wagtail, a Redstart and a Robin in Tunisia; a Starling, a Garden Warbler and 2 Song Thrushes in Italy; also a Robin in Algeria. Of the local movement recoveries 3 Cetti's Warblers reared in the Girgenti/Wied il-Luq area moved to Gozo presumably trying to colonize new areas for this recently established species. 5 Robins, 5 Chiffchaffs and 2 Swallows were among 21 recoveries of birds ringed in Malta and recovered in Gozo or viceversa. A migrating redstart was recovered within 5 km of its ringing site in the subsequent season.

As in previous years there were many retraps. The most interesting were as usual those involving wintering species, mainly Chiffchaff, Robin and Blackcap, retrapped in subsequent winters. It is hoped that retraps, which do not figure in this report, will be treated together with those of previous years in a future issue of 'Il-Merill'.

The section of foreign-ringed birds recovered in Malta comprises 48 birds of 27 species. Some of these recoveries occurred previous to 1975 but only recently came to our notice. Of these foreign recoveries only a Sedge Warbler (ringed in Austria), 2 Blackcaps (one ringed in France and one in Norway) and a Pied Flycatcher (ringed in West Germany) were controlled by M.O.S. ringers. Details of the others were reported to us by various ringing schemes and by shooters or trappers who 'found' the ringed birds. Some were discovered in earlier reports of respective ringing schemes.

All these recoveries are remarkable. They include among others the first Gull-billed

Tem and the first Sanderling to be recovered in Malta (the latter was ringed in South Africa); 4 Ospreys (the 8th and 9th from Sweden and the 10th and 11th from Finland) bringing the total of 20 Ospreys recovered in Malta; the 3rd Marsh Harrier from Finland; and the 7th and 8th Caspian Tern from Sweden. An East German Dunlin, a Finnish Common Sandpiper, the 2nd Danish Cormorant and a Finnish Wryneck are also worthy of mention.

The M.O.S. Ringing Group started 1975 with 10 ringers, 3 of which J. Azzopardi, M.V. Gauci and C.A. Pomeroy, had just qualified for a ringing permit. The other ringers who had the ringing permit renewed from the previous year were S. Borg, V. Cilia, C. Gauci, T. Gauci, B.K. German, J. Grech and J. Sultana. By the middle of the year F. Smith brought the total number of ringers to 11. During their brief holiday in spring, B.T.O. ringers G. & J. Hiron, B. Evison and J. Gandy also helped in bird ringing. So did J.A. Hardman during his holiday in August.

In 1976 the Group again started with 10 ringers as C.A. Pomeroy left the islands. During the year S. Borg left the Ringing Group; however, two other members R. Cachia Zammit and M. Grima qualified for a ringing permit in March bringing up the total of ringers to 11. By the end of 1976 the number of ringers stood at 13. E. Mackrill, a B.T.O. ringer, working in Libya put up residence in Malta and joined the Group in the latter half of the year. F. Smith left the islands in December, while R.M. Holman and V. Sammut completed successfully their training to qualify for a ringing permit. Other trainees, mainly J. Attard Montalto, A.E. Baldachino, D. Cachia, E. Curmi and R. Testa frequently helped the ringers during ringing activities.

The M.O.S. Executive Committee has lately entrusted the running of the M.O.S. Ringing Group in the hands of a Ringing & Research Committee which for the next two years is composed of J. Sultana - Ringing & Research Officer; C. Gauci - Ringing Secretary; M. Thake - Research Co-ordinator; J. Grech - Gozo Representative; R. Cachia Zammit - Committee's Secretary; and E. Curmi - Asst. Research Co-ordinator and Young Members Section Representative.

The Ringing and Migration Section of the British Trust for Ornithology continued to supply us with rings and handled our recoveries most efficiently. In addition to the B.T.O. rings, the M.O.S. also ordered Malta-addressed A (size 2.3) rings which were used for the first time in 1976 mostly on resident species and on some migrants.

On behalf of the M.O.S. we wish to express our thanks to Robert Spencer, the Senior Research Officer of the Ringing and Migration Section of the B.T.O. for his unfailing support. Grateful acknowledgement is made to the B.T.O. for the supply of rings at a reduced price and for handling all our recoveries. Acknowledgement is also extended to the Andrews Feed Malta Ltd. for a donation of £M100 and to the Bird Reserves Overseas Committee for a donation of £15. Thanks are also due to the foreign ringing schemes for informing us about recoveries in Malta and for sending their respective ringing reports; to the ringers and helpers of the M.O.S. Ringing Group; to all those who forwarded ringing details of recovered ringed birds; and to P. Geroudet (Switzerland), W. Thiede (Germany), W. Rydzewski (Poland), A. Keve (Hungary) and B. Massa (Sicily) for the information re certain recoveries.

During the past two years, C. Gauci, the Ringing Secretary was busy recording all the data of ringed and recovered birds in a meticulous manner and he was responsible for keeping the ringers informed by issuing a newsletter every other month.

With this report we prepared a map showing all past recoveries of Swallows, Sand Martins and House Martins, both those ringed in Malta and recovered overseas, as well as those foreign-ringed ones recovered in Malta.

## RINGING AND RECOVERY TOTALS to 31.12.76

Species	Ringed in 1975	Ringed in 1976	Grand Total Ringed 1965-1976	Grand Total Recovered 1965-1976
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	154	49	538	11
<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	19	85	181	1
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	1,243	460	7,937	20
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	3	2	15	1
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	1	7	1
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	—	—	3	—
<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	4	1	15	—
<i>Porzana porzana</i>	—	1	6	1
<i>Porzana parva</i>	—	—	4	—
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	8	—	21	2
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	—	—	4	—
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	—	—	27	1
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	—	—	1	—
<i>Calidris minuta</i>	—	33	133	3
<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	—	—	8	—
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	—	1	7	—
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	1	6	16	2
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	—	1	13	1
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	—	1	9	3
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	—	—	43	6
<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	5	2	18	—
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	—	—	6	1
<i>Gallinago media</i>	—	—	1	1
<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	—	—	1	—
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	—	—	1	—
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	—	1	1	1
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	1	3	13	1
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	1	2	20	4
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	1	—	8	—
<i>Otus scops</i>	9	17	70	3
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	—	4	11	1
<i>Apus apus</i>	—	—	2	—
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	2	5	30	5
<i>Upupa epops</i>	—	—	6	—
<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	19	26	152	1
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	250	272	2,742	16
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	383	840	6,041	45
<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	3	1	19	1
<i>Delichon urbica</i>	391	359	2,388	7
<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>	19	4	86	1
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1	—	2	—
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	4	—	20	4
<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	1	—	1	—
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	—	—	5	—
<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	72	133	497	1

<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	49	62	265	2
<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	—	2	4	—
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	317	111	1,227	17
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	25	41	305	5
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	17	32	181	5
<i>Lanius collurio</i>	3	5	44	—
<i>Lanius senator</i>	8	9	72	—
<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	14	6	53	2
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	28	3	46	4
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1	—	15	—
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	89	58	372	3
<i>Cettia cetti</i>	37	43	158	7
<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	—	5	16	—
<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	—	—	1	—
<i>Locustella naevia</i>	—	—	2	—
<i>Luscinola melanopogon</i>	6	1	33	—
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	111	126	504	1
<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	—	—	3	—
<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	96	80	459	—
<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	104	61	482	2
<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	84	91	383	—
<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	1	—	2	—
<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	—	—	1	—
<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	1	1	3	—
<i>Sylvia borin</i>	555	486	3,129	5
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	718	252	2,114	7
<i>Sylvia communis</i>	122	78	834	—
<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	—	6	16	—
<i>Sylvia ruppelli</i>	—	1	2	—
<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	365	531	2,401	9
<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	298	346	1,721	—
<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	52	94	354	1
<i>Sylvia undata</i>	7	1	24	—
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	141	139	921	1
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	986	1,108	7,085	16
<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	13	13	55	—
<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	166	348	1,086	—
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	17	2	47	—
<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	17	12	118	1
<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	9	57	93	3
<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	150	99	616	2
<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	26	26	95	—
<i>Ficedula parva</i>	1	5	20	—
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	71	91	395	2
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	29	12	173	—
<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	72	83	383	2
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	2	7	69	—
<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	—	1	2	—
<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	—	—	1	—
<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	2	—	2	—
<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	—	2	3	—
<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	1	3	34	3



<i>Phoenicurus ocbruros</i>	10	1	24	—
<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	162	153	1,054	2
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1,584	1,381	8,286	117
<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	94	125	689	1
<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	—	1	2	—
<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	2	3	29	—
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	1	—	1	—
<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	—	—	3	—
<i>Turdus merula</i>	19	11	99	11
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	9	4	19	—
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	43	53	325	21
<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	—	—	2	1
<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	690	820	4,515	64
<i>Passer montanus</i>	11	16	71	—
<i>Passer mont. x hisp.</i>	1	—	1	—
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	57	54	229	4
<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	1	2	3	—
<i>Serinus serinus</i>	21	11	112	4
<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	1	1	252	18
<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	2	—	3	—
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	—	5	6	—
<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>	23	3	851	53
<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	—	—	1	—
<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	18	13	69	—
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	—	—	1	—
<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	—	—	2	—
<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	1	1	3	1
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	18	1	25	—
<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	1	—	1	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10,176</b>	<b>9,509</b>	<b>64,152</b>	<b>543</b>

## RINGING RECOVERIES

This section deals with 80 recoveries of 29 species during 1975-76 in the Maltese Islands. Only those recovered at least 5km away from the ringing site are included, except for 1 *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, which, though recovered within the limit of 5km, was recovered in the subsequent year. For local recoveries the approximate distance covered and direction are given.

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

*Arrangement of entry:* recoveries are arranged by species, and within the species usually by the date of recovery. 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.

1J = fledged, but flying so weakly that it is obviously incapable of having travelled far from the nest.

2 = fully grown; year of hatching quite unknown.

3 = definitely hatched during current calendar year.

3J = definitely hatched during current calendar year and still partly or completely in juvenile body plumage.

4 = hatched before current calendar year; exact year unknown.

5 = definitely hatched during last calendar year.

6 = hatched before last calendar year; exact year unknown.

(a number in brackets beside the age code 1 indicates the size of the brood)

*Sex* : M = male

F = female

*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.

*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.

### *Co-ordinates of ringing sites omitted from text:*

Filfla - 35°47'N, 14°25'E

L-Ahrax Pt. - 35°58'N, 14°23'E

Ramla Valley, Gozo - 36°03'N, 14°17'E

Lunzjata, Gozo - 36°03'N, 14°14'E

Valetta - 35°54'N, 14°32'E

Girgenti - 35°51'N, 14°25'E

Wied il-Luq/Buskett - 35°51'N, 14°26'E

Wied Zhubet/Hal Far - 35°49'N, 14°31'E

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*

FS 00.655	4	06.08.73	Filfla.
	+	(05.04.75)	Mellieha Bay (20 km N).
SS 92.734	4	14.06.70	ibidem.
	v	28.06.76	ca. 9.5 km off Munxar Reef.
FV 05.034	4	07.06.75	ibidem.
	v	28.06.76	ca. 9.5 km off Munxar Reef.
FV 05.205	4	10.06.76	ibidem.
	v	28.06.76	ca. 9.5 km off Munxar Reef.
FV 05.206	4	10.06.76	ibidem.
	v	28.06.76	ca. 9.5 km off Munxar Reef.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

EB 68.806	4	21.05.76	I.-Ahrax Point, Mellieha.
	x	18.07.76	Lagonisi: ca. 37°50'N, 23°45'E (Attiki) <b>Greece.</b>

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

214.8353	4	28.06.73	Filfla.
	+	15.04.75	Ionian Sea: ca. 38°30'N, 17°00'E <b>Italy.</b>
212.6117	4	06.08.73	ibidem.
	+	15.04.75	ca. 25 km off Syracuse: ca. 36°55'N, 15°25'E <b>Sicily, Italy.</b>
212.0540	4	27.05.72	ibidem.
	+	27.04.75	Lago di Siracusa: 37°04'N, 15°16'E <b>Sicily, Italy.</b>
697.638	4	13.06.70	ibidem.
	v	30.07.71	loco.
	+	29.07.76	Southern Ionian Sea, off Syracuse: 37°04'N, 15°17'E <b>Sicily, Italy.</b>
212.0052	4	27.05.72	ibidem.
	v	16.08.76	off Delimara Pt. (ca. 15 km ENE).
214.8758	4	28.06.75	ibidem.
	v	16.08.76	off Delimara Pt. (ca. 15 km ENE).

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

DS 40.369	4	25.04.75	Mosta.
	( )	27.04.75	Zejtun (8 km ESE).

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

KA 95.812	4	02.05.75	Ramla Valley, Gozo.
	v	12.07.75	Stellendam, Overflakkee: 51°48'N, 04°02'E (Zuid Holland) <b>Netherlands.</b>
			(re-ringed Arnhem)
			S815350

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

KA 35.207	4	01.04.75	Lunzjata Valley, Gozo.
	v	02.04.75	Mriehel (24 km SE).
JH 84.620	4 F	01.04.72	Ramla Valley, Gozo.
	x	(22.04.75)	Gnien il-Kbir, Rabat (22 km SSE).
JX 03.427	3	19.09.74	Lunzjata, Gozo.
	v	24.04.76	Pilawa Gorna, Walbrzych: 50°41'N, 16°45' E (Wroclaw)
			<b>Poland.</b>
KC 30.133	4 M	23.04.76	Targa Gap, Mosta.
	v	25.04.76	Sta. Lucia (11 km SE).
KA 95.977	4 F	09.05.75	Ramla Valley, Gozo.
	x	10.08.76	Algsjo, Asele: 64°12'N, 17°30' E (Vasterbotten) Sweden.
KA 96.348	4 M	26.03.76	Lunzjata, Gozo.
	()	(04.11.76)	Boda: 04°19'N, 17°26' E Central African Republic.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

KA 35.224	4	01.04.75	Lunzjata, Gozo.
	v?	04.04.75	Rabat (24 km SE).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

BS 45.120	2 M	27.10.75	Hal Far.
	+	08.11.75	B'Kara (10 km NW).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

KB 84.803	3	10.09.75	Girgenti.
	()	11.09.75	Mriehel (5 km ENE).
KB 84.784	3	10.09.75	ibidem.
	()	12.09.75	nr. Luqa (8 km E).
KB 84.844	3	12.09.75	ibidem.
	()	ca 13.09.75	Ghaxaq (9 km E).
KB 84.840	3	12.09.75	ibidem.
	v	13.09.75	Qormi (6 km NE).
KC 27.079	3	26.09.76	ibidem.
	v	28.09.76	Wied is-Sewda (6 km NE).

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

JK 31.551	4 M	23.10.72	Lunzjata, Gozo
	/?/	(29.12.75)	Mahdia: 35°29'N, 11°03' E Tunisia.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

CH 89.953	4 M	01.03.75	Valetta.
	+	29.01.76	Castorano, San Benedetto: 42°54'N, 13°43' E (Ascoli Piceno) Italy.

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

Valletta	2	01.11.76	Lunzjata, Gozo.
00.050	v	07.11.76	L-Iklin, B'Kara (23 km SE).

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

KA 95.911	1J	18.05.75	Xemxija.
	v	03.11.75	Ramla Bay, Gozo (17 km NW).
KC 29.629	3 F	10.07.76	Wied il-Luq, Buskett.
	v	30.10.76	Ghajj Barrani, Gozo (27 km NNW).
KC 26.996	3 M	10.09.76	Girgenti.
	v	30.10.76	Ghajj Barrani, Gozo (30 km NNW).

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

BR 79.935	4	26.08.75	Girgenti.
	v	04.07.76	Bärenbrück: 51°49'N, 14°28'E (Cottbus) <b>East Germany.</b>

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

HX 94.934	3	12.09.70	Wied il-Luq, Buskett.
	+	31.08.75	Seminara: 38°19'N, 15°52'E (Reggio di Calabria) <b>Italy.</b>

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

JV 15.332	5 M	19.01.75	Salina.
	v	22.03.75	Buskett (9 km S).
HX 76.315	4 M	24.03.70	Ghadira.
	v	26.03.75	Mdina (10 km SE).
KA 34.071	4 F	18.01.75	Buskett.
	v	06.04.75	Xemxija (10 km NNW).

**Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala*

KC 31.168	3J	16.05.76	Hal Far.
	( )	17.10.76	Qormi (8 km NW).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

162.830	2	24.11.74	Lunzjata, Gozo.
	v	29.03.75	
		& 15.11.75	Girgenti (24 km SE).
765.362	2	16.11.74	Salina.
	v	03.01.76	
		& 08.02.76	Lunzjata (19 km WNW).
826.886	2	15.12.74	Lunzjata.
	v	07.03.76	nr. Paola (30 km SE).
952.279	4	10.01.76	Hal Far.
	v	21.11.76	Lunzjata (35 km NW)

826.394	2	11.11.74	Lunzjata.
	v	27.11.76	Birzebbugia (35 km SE).
826.173	2	20.11.74	Xemxija.
	v	11.12.76	Addolorata Cemetry, Paola (13 km SE).

**Fan-tailed Warbler** *Cisticola juncidis*

962.417	1(5)	12.06.76	Ghadira.
	x	00.08.76	Dingli (13 km SSE).

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

KA 34.885	5 M	19.04.75	Girgenti.
	x	02.10.76	Rincon de Soto, Calahorra: 42°15'N, 01°50'W (Logrono) Spain.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

JX 60.387	3 M	03.11.74	Lunzjata.
	+	09.01.75	Wied is-Sewda (25 km SE).

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

JX 59.402	2 F	15.09.74	Girgenti.
	v	27.03.75	Rabat.
KA 96.537	4 M	20.04.75	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	x	10.04.76	Ouled Mansour: 34°15'N, 09°32'E (Gafsa) Tunisia.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

JV 15.698	4	04.11.74	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	v	06.02.75	Girgenti (10 km WNW).
KB 84.530	2	03.10.75	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	()	15.10.75	Gharghur (26 km NNW).
KB 84.576	2	23.10.75	Xemxija.
	()	01.11.75	Ta' Qali (6 km SE).
KC 26.340	2	29.10.75	Rabat.
	()	02.11.75	Hagar Qim (14 km SE).
KC 26.306	3	27.10.75	Rabat.
	v	03.11.75	Nadur, Gozo (20 km NNW).
KB 85.448	3	11.10.75	Xemxija.
	v	12.11.75	Ghajnsielem, Gozo (12 km NW).
KB 85.040	3	25.10.75	Girgenti.
	v	31.12.75	Victoria, Gozo (27 km NW).
KC 30.994	3	10.10.76	Lunzjata.
	()	25.10.76	Tas-Santi (15 km SSE).
KH 80.651	3	24.10.76	Lunzjata.
	v	30.10.76	Birzebbugia (35 km SE).

KC 31.691	3	10.10.76	Xemxija.
	v	31.10.76	Siggiewi (10 km SSE).
KH 80.111	3	23.10.76	Xemxija.
	()	31.10.76	Hamrun (11 km SE).
KC 31.975	3	20.10.76	Rabat.
	()	00.10.76	Zurrieq (10 km SE).
KB 85.576	3	07.10.75	Rabat.
	()	(13.11.76)	Mgarr (5 km NW).
KB 85.677	3	24.10.75	Rabat.
	()	(13.11.76)	Mgarr (5 km NW).
KC 31.486	2	11.09.76	Wied il-Luq.
	()	21.11.76	Qormi (6 km ENE).
JP 08.272	3	12.10.73	Wied Znuber.
	x	23.11.76	Mgarr (17 km NW).
KB 85.763	5	19.03.76	Buskett.
	x	25.12.76	Sidi Thabit: 36°54'N, 10°03'E <b>Tunisia.</b>
KC 26.903	3	12.12.75	Girgenti.
	()	(19.11.76)	Senglea (9 km ENE).
KC 26.044	3	23.10.75	Xemxija.
	+	26.12.76	Taguemount: 36°30'N, 04°08'E (Alger) <b>Algeria.</b>

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

XA 99.060	3 M	01.11.75	Wied Znuber.
	()	09.02.76	Mellieha (17 km NW).

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

CV 55.481	4	07.02.71	Buskett.
	+	(28.02.75)	Cropalati: 39°31'N, 16°44'E (Cosenza) <b>Italy.</b>
CP 66.988	2	26.10.73	San Anton Gardens.
	+	02.02.76	Matera: 40°40'N, 16°36'E <b>Italy.</b>
XA 99.070	3	24.10.76	Rabat.
	+	00.10.76	Zurrieq (10 km SE).

**Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus*

JX 59.829	4	30.11.74	Lunzjata.
	()+	00.03.75	Burmarrad (19 km SE).

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

JX 60.704	4 M	19.11.74	Ghadira.
	()	ca 03.03.75	Paola (16 km SE).
KC 26.322	3 M	28.10.75	Rabat.
	v	02.11.75	Wied il-Balluta (9 km NE).

**Linnet** *Acanthis cannabina*

JK 31.964	2 F	17.11.72	Mosta.
	()	00.10.75	Fomm ir-Rih (7 km W).
JX 59.759	2 F	11.11.74	Lunzjata.
	()	00.10.75	Fomm ir-Rih (16 km SSE).
JK 31.476	2 F	04.11.72	ibidem.
	()	00.10.75	Fomm ir-Rih (16 km SSE).

**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*

KH 80.580	3 M	13.10.76	Lunzjata.
	+	24.10.76	Rhodes: 36°26'N, 28°14'E Greece.

## FOREIGN RINGED BIRDS RECOVERED IN MALTA

This section deals with 48 foreign ringed birds of 27 species recovered in Malta. Some of these were recovered previous to the two-year period (1975-76) covered by this report, but they only came to our notice lately.

The symbols and terms are the same as those used in the Ringing Recoveries. A number in brackets beside the age code 1 indicates the size of the brood.

**Comorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Copenhagen 3009	1	07.06.75	Vorso, Horsens Fjord: 55°52'N, 10°01'E (Jutland), <b>Denmark.</b>
	+	13.11.76	Marsaxlokk: 35°51'N, 14°33'E.

**Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Zagreb C 229.924	4	10.06.69	Bilje: 45°37'N, 18°43'E (Hrvatska) <b>Yugoslavia.</b>
	+	16.10.72	S.E. Malta: ca. 35°54'N, 14°28'E.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Gdansk B 2484	1	27.07.34	Bielewo: 57°57'N, 16°56'E (Koscian) <b>Poland.</b>
	v	19.10.51	on board of a ship off Malta.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea pupurea*

Zagreb D 116.026	1	24.06.75	Apatin: 45°38'N, 18°58'E (Vojvodina) <b>Yugoslavia.</b>
	+	09.09.75	Gharghur: 35°56'N, 14°27'E.



**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Stockholm 9.207.286	1	30.06.67	Rodskar: 59°31'N, 16°56' E (Vastmanland) <b>Sweden.</b>
	+	00.10.67	Tal-Handaq: 35°52'N, 14°28' E.
Stockholm 9.211.920	1(3)	23.06.74	Hashtall, Vastermo: 59°20'N, 16°04' E (Sodermanland) <b>Sweden.</b>
	+	00.09.74	Buskett: 35°51'N, 14°26' E.
Helsinki M-9.292	1	04.07.74	Kangasala: 61°20'N, 24°00' E (Hame) <b>Finland.</b>
	+	00.09.74	Zebbiegh: 35°55'N, 14°23' E.
Helsinki M-9.022	1	01.07.75	Tammisaari mlk: 59°50'N, 23°00' E (Uusimaa) <b>Finland.</b>
	+	30.09.75	Malta: ca. 35°55'N, 14°28' E.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Helsinki H-108.110	1	06.07.73	Kymi: 60°33'N, 26°52' E (Laani) <b>Finland.</b>
	+ = F. ca	15.04.74	Siggiewi: 35°51'N, 14°26' E.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Helgoland 576.710	3	04.07.35	Garmisch-Partenkirchen: 47°30'N, 11°06' E (Oberbayern) <b>Germany.</b>
	+	18.10.35	Marsa: 35°49'N, 14°32' E.
Helgoland 48.300	3	02.07.35	Proskau: 50°35'N, 17°52' E, Kr. Oppeln, Polen, <b>Germany.</b>
	+	08.04.39	Xaghra, Gozo: 36°03'N, 14°15' E.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

Bologna S 49.195	/?/	20.04.72	Fano: 43°50'N, 13°01' E <b>Italy.</b>
	+	00.04.74	Ramla Bay (Gozo): 36°03'N, 14°17' E.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Hiddensee 80.255.299	4	10.08.76	Langenwerder: 54°02'N, 11°30' E (Wismar) <b>E. Germany.</b>
	+	20.10.76	Ta' Qali: 35°54'N, 14°25' E.
Praha Z 477.487	3	10.09.75	Senné: 48°40'N, 22°02' E (Michalovca) <b>Czechoslovakia.</b>
	+	29.09.76	Xghajra: 35°53'N, 14°32' E (Zabbar).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Pretoria BB 12.755	4	08.02.75	Oliphant's River mouth: 31°42' S, 18°12' E (Cape) <b>South Africa.</b>
	+	22.05.75	Marsa scala: 35°52'N, 14°34' E.

**Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*

Helsinki 3 12.08.72 Espoo: 60°09'N, 24°44' E (Uusimaa) **Finland.**  
 P -- 289.603  
 + 00.05.73 Salina: 35°57'N, 14°25' E.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

Moskwa 3 02.07.49 Orlov Isles: 46°17'N, 31°45' E (Tendrovskii Bay) **U.S.S.R.**  
 E 162.714  
 + early 1950 Valletta: 35°54'N, 14°31' E.

Moskwa 3 19.06.75 Smalenyi Island: 46°15'N, 32°00' E (Tendra Bay) **U.S.S.R.**  
 M 259.329  
 + 00.10.75 Malta.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

Budapest 1 28.05.61 Zzegeđ-Feherto: 46°20'N, 20°05' E **Hungary.**  
 130.429  
 + 08.04.62 Tarxien: 35°52'N, 14°32' E.

Budapest 1 07.06.64 ibidem.  
 152.181  
 + 15.01.65 Birkirkara: 35°54'N, 14°28' E.

Moskwa 1 15.07.74 Engure Lake: 57°17'N, 23°07' E **Latvian S.S.R.**  
 M -- 183.815  
 x (fishing net) 06.01.75 off Dingli Cliffs: 35°50'N, 14°22' E.

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Viborg 1 11.06.58 Aggersborrggaard: 57°00'N, 09°16' E (N. Jylland) **Denmark.**  
 S 28.439  
 + 06.04.63 Zurrieq: 35°58'N, 14°28' E.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne tschegrava*

Stockholm 1 16.06.73 Klyndroma, Graso: 60°27'N, 18°35' E (Uppland) **Sweden.**  
 7.055.063  
 + 24.08.75 Malta: ca. 35°55'N, 14°30' E.

Stockholm 1 12.06.75 Dansskaren: 58°06'N, 16°54' E (Ostergotland) **Sweden.**  
 7.059.183  
 + 08.09.75 Ramla Bay (Gozo): 36°03'N, 14°16' E.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

Helsinki 2 25.08.65 Tampere: 61°29'N, 23°50' E (Iidesjarvi) **Finland.**  
 A 286.783  
 () 31.10.65 Marsascale: 35°52'N, 14°34' E.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Copenhagen 9.193.305	4	21.07.68	Munkeby: 54°57'N, 11°12' E (Lolland) <b>Denmark.</b>
	v	19.09.69	Mgarr: 35°55'N, 14°22' E.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Sempach 527.909	3 F	30.07.60	Pointe-à-la-Bise: 46°12'N, 06°10' E (Genève) <b>Switzerland.</b>
	+	02.05.61	Gozo: 36°03'N, 14°14' E.
Hiddensee 90.262.338	1	03.08.72	Pima: 50°57'N, 13°57' E (Bezirk Dresden) <b>E. Germany.</b>
	+	00.04.73	Birkirkara: 35°54'N, 14°28' E.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

London JX 01.344	3 M	23.09.74	Dragonada: 35°20'N, 26°10' E <b>Crete.</b>
	()	ca. 12.04.76	Qormi: 35°53'N, 14°28' E.

**Staring** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Paris GD 15.495	/?/	17.12.73	Haffouz, Kairouan: 35°58'N, 09°41' E <b>Tunisia.</b>
	x(+)	30.10.75	Luqa: 35°52'N, 14°29' E.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Radolfzell BP 71.695	3	20.09.76	Illmitz, Bez Neusiedl: 47°46'N, 16°48' E (Burzenland) <b>Austria.</b>
	v	16.10.76	Ramla Valley: 36°03'N, 14°17' E.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Paris 1.781.567	/?/	10.04.74	St. Bauzile che de Mende: 44°31'N, 03°30' E (Lozère) <b>France.</b>
	v=4 M	15.03.75	Mdina: 35°53'N, 14°24' E.
Stavenger 9.399.342	3 M	06.10.75	Jomfruland, Kragero: 58°53'N, 09°37' E (Telemark) <b>Norway.</b>
	v	25.10.75	Wied il-Luq, Buskett: 35°51'N, 14°26' E.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Helgoland 9 H 07.485	1	04.06.72	Braunschweig: 52°22'N, 11°01' E (Niedersachsen) <b>W. Germany.</b>
	v=M	11.04.76	Rabat: 35°53'N, 14°24' E.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Bologna L 57.035	2	16.11.70	Pozzuolo Castro: 45°36'N, 10°31' E (Polpenazze) <b>Italy.</b>
	()	00.11.72	Sannat (Gozo): 36°01'N, 14°15' E.

**Serin** *Serinus serinus*

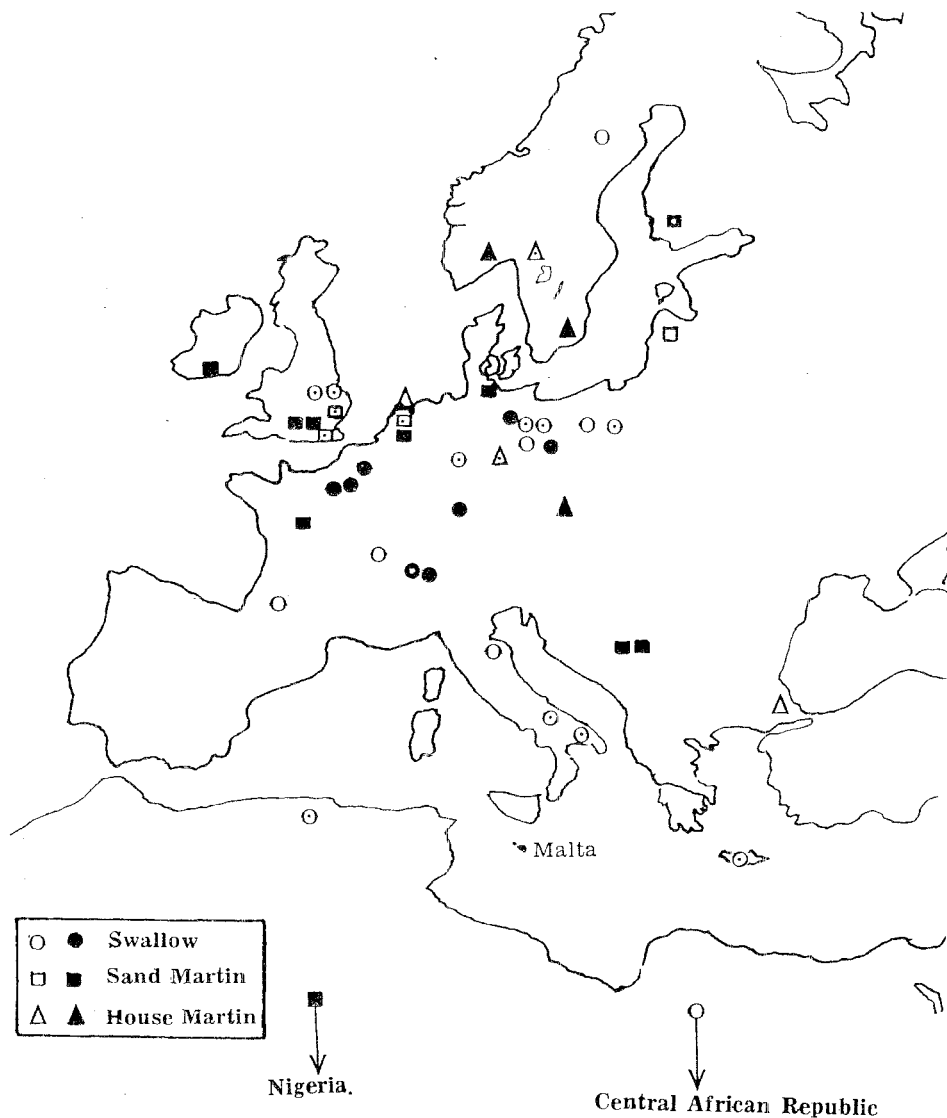
Ljubljana 2 M 18.10.75 Ljubljana: 46°03'N, 14°30'E **Yugoslavia.**  
 71.566  
 () 28.12.76 Safi: 35°50'N, 14°29'E.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

Ljubljana 2 F 06.10.74 Zalog: 46°03'N, 14°37'E **Yugoslavia.**  
 43.084  
 () 00.10.74 Malta.  
 Praha 4 19.10.73 Breclav: 48°46'N, 16°53'E **Czechoslovakia.**  
 M 677.414  
 () 00.10.75 Ta' Xbiex: 35°54'N, 14°30'E.  
 Moskwa 2 M 15.09.75 Liepaya District, near Pape: 56°09'N, 21°02'E **Latvian**  
 XA 184.040 **S.S.R.**  
 /?/ 15.12.75 Ghaxaq: 35°51'N, 14°31'E.  
 Ljubljana 2 F 04.10.75 Zalec/Celje: 46°15'N, 15°10'E **Yugoslavia.**  
 59.424  
 () 05.11.75 Cospicua: 35°53'N, 14°31'E.

**Linnet** *Acanthis cannabina*

Praha 3 20.07.62 Trnava: 48°22'N, 17°35'E **Czechoslovakia.**  
 M 422.173  
 () 07.11.62 Birkirkara: 35°53'N, 14°27'E.  
 Sempach 3 F 04.10.72 Col de Bretolet/VS: 46°02'N, 06°08'E **Switzerland.**  
 A 135.513  
 () 15.10.72 Kercem, Gozo: 36°02'N, 14°13'E.  
 Bologna 4 F 04.04.74 Porto S. Giorgio: 43°11'N, 13°48'E **Italy.**  
 L 465.252  
 () end 10.74 Luqa: 35°57'N, 14°29'E.  
 Praha 2 F 05.05.71 Topol'cany: 48°34'N, 18°10'E **Czechoslovakia.**  
 M 617.399  
 () 20.03.75 Ghar Lapsi: 35°50'N, 14°25'E.  
 Bologna 4 M 19.04.73 Via Litoranea Humana: 43°30'N, 13°36'E **Italy.**  
 L 139.407  
 () 16.03.75 Delimara: 35°49'N, 14°34'E.  
 Bologna 2 F 28.04.74 Marina, Massignano: 43°03'N, 13°48'E **Italy.**  
 L 455.098  
 () 04.11.75 St. Andrew's: 35°56'N, 14°29'E.  
 Bologna 2 02.04.74 Porto S. Giorgio: 43°11'N, 13°48'E **Italy.**  
 L 465.043  
 () 21.03.76 Kercem (Gozo): 36°02'N, 14°12'E.  
 Budapest 3 20.07.74 Piliscsaba: 47°38'N, 18°50'E **Hungary.**  
 189.029  
 () 00.11.76 Malta: ca. 35°54'N, 14°28'E.



Recoveries of hirundine species *Hirundo rustica*, *Riparia riparia* and *Delichon urbica*. The open symbols indicate recoveries of Malta-ringed birds. Solid symbols indicate foreign-ringed birds recovered in Malta. All recoveries effected during the same season as their ringing have symbol marked with a dot.