

HYBRID *Pluvialis apricaria* X *Pluvialis dominica*

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A hybrid between the Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and the Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* occurs occasionally on passage. A specimen was taken in Malta on 24th November 1975.

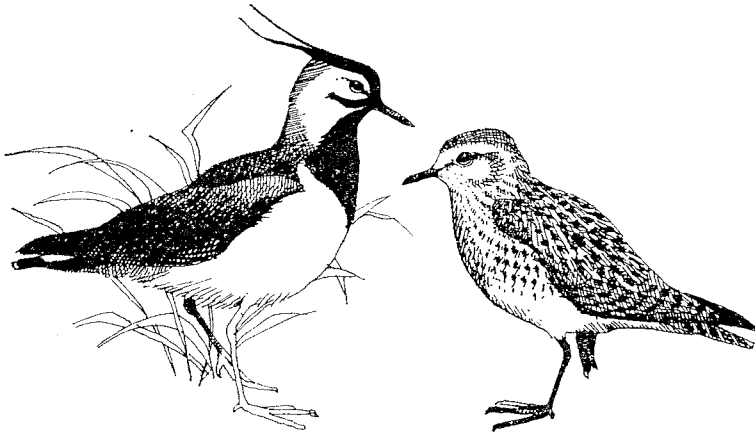
The hybrid looks more golden than the above-mentioned two plovers, particularly on the neck, head, breast and more sparsely on feathers of the flanks; but the markings on the upper-parts are blackish rather than dark brown. The underparts, the chin and eyelids are white, although there is what looks like a faint yellowish eyestripe which continues round between the forehead and the upper mandible, fading into a creamy white colour. The axillaries, which tend to be rather grey than white, are bordered with pearl-grey colouring; it would be on account of these very fine, nearly transparent axillaries which cause the greyish hue. The wings of the hybrid reached the tip of the tail and its legs were long and greyish.

Below is a list of some measurements of the hybrid compared with those of the two plovers, all given in mm.

	Hybrid specimen	P. <i>apricaria</i>	P. <i>dominica</i>
Length	251	270	220
Wing	178	180-195	156-177
Bill	23	21-25	19-23
Tarsus	42	37-42	37-42
Tail	71	70*	59**

* 5 specimens measured

** Only 1 specimen measured



Lapwing & Golden Plover.

(line drawing by R. Ingram)

The above line drawing and the one on the previous page have appeared in the MOS publication 'A Guide to the Birds of Malta'. A few hardbound copies of this publication are still available at £3 each.



The MOS stand at the Malta International Fair
July 1976.
(photo by A.E. Baldacchino)