

~~Black-headed Bunting: One in Gozo on 10th April, 1949.~~

~~Great Tit: One at Ta' Braxia in October, 1960.~~

~~Snow Bunting: One in Malta in December, 1955.~~

~~Crossbill: One at Portes de Bombes on 3rd October, 1933,  
and one at Wied id Dis on 20th August, 1941.~~

~~Rose coloured Starling: 2 at Burmarrad on 13th October, 1949.~~

~~Spotless Starling: One at St. Julian's on 16th October, 1947.~~

~~Rook: One at il Qadi on 25th April, 1942.~~

~~Compiled by J. Vella Gaffiero and S. Borg.~~

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## A WEEKEND IN CYPRUS

At the end of January I was lucky enough to have two whole days free whilst serving at RAF Akrotiri, in Cyprus. To many people, knowing of its association with the British Forces, Cyprus is thought of as a sister island to Malta. This, of course, is not true, for the island is very much larger than Malta — about the size of Crete — and boasts a large and varied resident bird population. Whilst shooting and trapping is still carried out on a large scale, conservation measures are gradually being introduced by the Government; Nature Reserves have been established and abuses of the conservation laws are usually 'pounced upon' by the Police Force.

Going to the island in January, I was too early to see the Spring passage migrants; too late to see those that pass through in the Autumn. However, my efforts were not in vain. On the afternoon of the 26th I was greeted with my first sighting of a Finsch's Wheater, but a trip to a valley near to Episkopi failed to bring into the binoculars the anticipated Wallcreeper. However, as compensation, I was lucky enough to see a pair of Griffon Vultures on a rocky crag, and a single, soaring Crag Martin.

Early on the morning of the 27th I set out to join Wilf Corris, since, unfortunately, re-posted to the UK, at his ringing site at a spot known as Bishop's Pool — the local sewage farm. None of the many birds that must now (30th March) be passing the area were to be seen on that day, although in the distance on the Salt Lake could be seen a large flock of Greater Flamingo. The first birds to enter the nets were Chiffchaffs, White Wag-

tails, a Red-throated Pipit, and several Blackcaps. During the days these were joined at the ringing table by Meadow Pipits, Sardinian Warblers, Stonechats, Redstarts, Robins, Serins, and Goldfinches — to mention but a few.

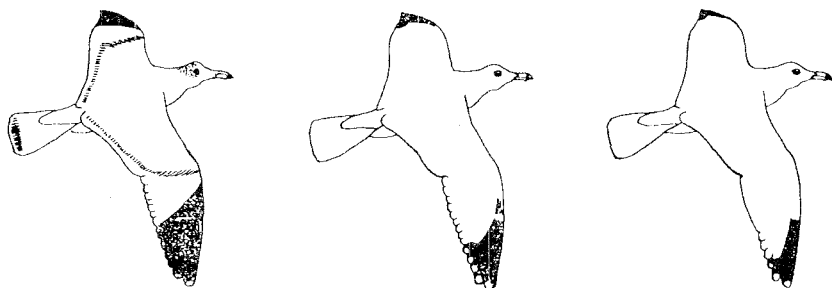
Amongst the birds on the adjacent pool were Ferruginous Ducks, Little Grebes, Pochard, and many Coots, whilst over-flyers were Magpies, Hooded Crows, Jackdaws, and various Gulls.

As dusk fell, my thoughts returned to Malta as the last sighting of the day was added to a healthy list — a single Blue Rock Thrush!

#### List of Sightings:

Little Grebe	Herring Gull	Redstart
Shag	Rock Dove	Robin
Greater Flamingo	Lesser Short-toed Lark	Chaffinch
Mallard	Short-toed Lark	Serin
Gadwall	Crested Lark	Greenfinch
Pintail	Woodlark	Goldfinch
Pochard	Crag Martin	Finsch's Wheatear
Ferruginous Duck	Meadow Pipit	Song Thrush
Tufted Duck	Red-throated Pipit	House Sparrow
Griffon Vulture	Water Pipit	Spanish Sparrow
Chucka	Grey Wagtail	Blackbird
Water Rail	White Wagtail	Magpie
Coot	Blackcap	Jackdaw
Lapwing	Sardinian Warbler	Hooded Crow.
Snipe	Chiffchaff	
Black-headed Gull	Stonechat	
	Blue Rock Thrush	

C.A. Pomeroy.



Audouin's Gull: Immature and (right) Adult