

# IL-MERILL

MALTA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN OF THE MALTA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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1s.6d. to non-Members



# IL-MERILL

The title of the Society's Bulletin, **IL-MERILL**, is the Maltese name for the Blue Rock Thrush, *Monticola solitarius*, which is one of the few resident species of the Islands. It was chosen as the National Bird of Malta by the local National Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation and has been the emblem of the Malta Ornithological Society since the latter's inception.

*Editor*

Bro. Edmund

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**MALTA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
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*Cover Picture: Meadow Pipit (E. Hosking).*

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**Editor's Note:**

This fifth issue of *Il-Merill* is no ordinary one for it is the fruit of several years of labour and record keeping. There has been a number of keen ornithologists in the past but we doubt if there has been such a constant day to day checking of the status of all resident and migrant birds as has been carried out by the active members of Malta Ornithological Society in the past four years. The results as printed in this issue are a real contribution to the bird section of Natural History and we are rightly proud of this.

In 1967 the M O S issued monthly newsletters which included bird notes. These continued to appear in the cyclo-styled Quarterly Bulletin during 1968-69. These notes have also been appearing in the last two years in various issues of *Il-Merill*. This issue then contains a comprehensive list of birds for the period 1967-70. Thus it is now possible to show clearly the present status of birds in our islands.

It has been our custom to print the English and scientific names of each species. In this issue the Maltese name is added. This has presented no small difficulty as previous authorities gave one or more Maltese names to the same species and often these names varied from one village to another. Many Maltese do not know the proper names of a large number of species and we have attempted through the efforts of a sub-committee to bring some order out of chaos and we hope that our list of names will eventually become standardised and accepted in local literature.

Naturally we have been very careful in our acceptance of records and any of a doubtful nature have been carefully vetted by the Rarities sub-committee. Quite a number of our records have been obtained by visits to various taxidermists and we are grateful for their collaboration.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST for 1967 — 1970

C. GAUCI &amp; J. SULTANA

(Unless otherwise stated, the dates in brackets are the earliest and latest for the four years).

**Little Grebe** *Podiceps ruficollis* Blongun żghir  
Single birds on 27/10/67, 6/11/68, 11/11/68 and 13/10/70.

**Black-Necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* Blongun sekond  
Frequent in winter (23/10 - 11/2). Very early birds recorded on 21/8/67, 23/8/68 and 12/8/70.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* Blongun prim  
Frequent in winter (28/10 - 9/2). Usually seen singly, but sometimes up to 4 together.

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* Ciefra  
Summer resident (March - October) breeding principally at Ta' Ġenċ Cliffs and on Filfla. Large numbers commonly seen offshore, especially during strong north-westerly winds.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* Garnija  
Summer resident (February - August), breeding in small colonies - largest of c. 200 pairs - on all Maltese Islands. Seldom seen near the coast during the day.

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus* Kangu ta' Filfla  
Summer resident. Large colony breeds on Filfla. No evidence of breeding anywhere else in the Maltese Islands.

**Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Kangu tal-Atlantiku  
Single birds caught by fisherman c.12 miles off the south coast of Malta on 21 & 26/7/69. (1st and 2nd records for Malta).

**Gannet** *Sula bassana* Sula  
A few regularly in winter (16/10 - 24/3). Seen offshore in parties of up to 5. Late bird on 23/4/67.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* Margun  
Frequent during the winter of 1968-69. Only a few in other winters (18/10 - 2/3). Early birds on 24/8/69 and 15/9/69 (2). Late immature bird on 4/5/67.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Margun tat-toppu  
Immature bird off M'Xlokk on 29/6/68. (1st record for Malta).

- Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris* **Kappun**  
None in 1967, then annual in autumn (25/9 - 10/11). On 7 dates in 1968 and 1969, and on 2 dates in 1970. Solitary spring record: one on 30/4/70.
- Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* **Russett tas-sigâr**  
Frequent in spring (13/4 - 20/5). Very few in autumn (27/8 - 6/10), but influx on 24-27/9/69 when c.30 recorded. Usually solitary, but sometimes up to 4 together.
- Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* **Kwakka**  
Very frequent, in flocks of up to 50, in spring (11/3 - 27/5) and autumn (12/8 - 26/10). Heaviest passage on 8/4/68. Late birds on 9 & 16/6/69.
- Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* **Agrett isfar**  
Frequent in spring (6/4 - 24/5). Sporadic, but annual, in autumn (14/8 - 7/10). Maximum flock 90+ on 26/4/68, otherwise never more than 30. Unusual birds on 11/7/68 (16), 15/6/69 and 29/6/69.
- Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* **Agrett tal -bhejjem**  
Flock of 14, with one *A. ralloides* and 10 *E. garzetta*, on rocks near Xlendi on 19/4/68. Singles at Mellieha on 16/1/69 and near Qormi on 28/4/70. (7th, 8th and 9th records for Malta).
- Great White Egret** *Egretta alba* **Russett abjad**  
Singles at B'Bugia on 23/3/67 and at Salina on 1/4/67. 2 in May 1968 and one on 30/9/70. (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th records for Malta).
- Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* **Agrett abjad**  
Frequent in spring (13/3 - 20/5) and autumn (6/8 - 5/11). Usually in flocks of up to 10 in spring and in flocks of up to 50 in autumn. Single birds on 13/12/67 and 4/12/69.
- Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* **Russett griz**  
In spring (28/2 - 30/5), frequent during 1967 and 1970, but only in small numbers in 1968-69. In autumn (23/8 - 11/11), fairly common annually. Largest flocks were of 90 and 50 on 8/9/68. Immature birds recorded annually (except in 1969) in flocks of up to 20, between late June and late July. Singles on 2/12/67 and 17/12/68.
- Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* **Russett ahmar**  
Very frequent in spring (14/3 - 16/5) and autumn (18/8 - 28/10). Largest flocks were 100+ on 20/9/70 and 60+ on 31/8/69. Odd birds on 3/6/67, 25/11/69 (6), and 9/7/70.
- White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* **Cikonja bajda**  
Party of 8 over Gozo on 27/4/67 and one at Siggiewi on 20/8/69.
- Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* **Cikonja sewda**  
One at Marsalforn on 5/5/67, 6 over Xaghra on 13/9/67, 3 over Wardija on 26/4/68 and one at H all Far on 28/9/68.
- Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* **Paletta**  
Singles on 27/5/68, 14/10/68, 17/4/69 and 7/5/69. Two on 16th and one on 17th June 1969. 2 on 1/3/70 and 11 on 4/3/70.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* Velleran  
Frequent, in parties of up to 15, from 8-14/4/68. Very few in other springs on dates between 22/3 and 27/4. No records in autumn 1967, but fairly frequent in other autumns (16/8 - 29/10).

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber* Fjamingu  
One at M'Scala on 1/10/69.

**Grey Lag Goose** *Anser anser* Wizza griza  
Few annually in Winter. 1967: one on 29/11, 5 on 30/11, and 2 on 28/12. 1968: one shot in January, then 5 on 16th, 2 on 19th and one on 23rd December. 1969: Party of c. 25 on 3rd and 8 on 5th December. 1970: 3 on 24/12. (Only one previous positive record).

**White-Fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons* Wizza tal-maskra bajda  
2 'grey geese' flyi ng high over Ta ' Qail on 28/10/69 belonged probably to this species.

**Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis* Wizza tal-ful  
Influx in January 1968: one on 10th, 7 on 14th, 15 on 15th, 4 on 16th 5 on 17th, and one on 18th. 2 on 17/2/68.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea* Kuluvert ahmar  
One at Salina on 27/9/70. (7th record for Malta).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* Kuluvert tas-salib  
Singles on 24/11/67, 24/12/67 and 14-15/1/68, then regularly in December, with 5 occurrences in 1968, 5 in 1969 and 3 in 1970. Highest 4 at Salina on 7/12/69. Two spring records: singles on 23 & 29/3/69.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Kuluvert  
3 on 24-25/11, then unusual influx between 20/12/67 and 18/1/68, with very heavy passage on 14/1. Few from 7/11 - 26/12/68 (but 30 at Marsamxett on last date) and from 1/11 - 31/12/69. Frequent from 4/11 - 28/12/70, with 30 at Delimara on 12/12 highest. Early birds on 25/7/68 (2), 9/8/68, 11/9/68 (4), 24/8/69, and 15/9/70. 20+ at M'Scala on 20/3/70 was the only spring record.

**Teal** *Anas crecca* Sarsella  
2 on 2/1/67. On 6 dates from 14/8 - 26/11/67, then influx between 20/12/67 and 23/1/68. 1-3 on 5 dates from 4-24/12/68 and from 1/11 - 26/12/69. In 1970, singles on 27/1 and 2/10, then on 8 dates from 29/10 to 15/12, with 20 on last date highest.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera* Kuluvert griz  
One at Qawra Point on 24/12/68.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope* Silfjun Ewropew  
One on 17 /1/67, then unusual large influx between 28/11/67 and 18/1/68, with heavy passage on 14/1. Singles on 6 dates from 23/11 - 15/12/68 and on 6 dates from 28/10 - 31/12/69. 2 on 20/10/70. Solitary spring record: one on 3/3/69.

**Pintail** *Anas acuta* **Silfjun**  
Annual in autumn and winter (11/9 - 15/12). On 2 dates in 1967, 5 dates in 1968, 6 dates in 1969 and 11 dates in 1970. Highest 6 on 11/9/68 and 3 on 18-19/9/70. Three spring records: single males on 30/3/67, 28/2/69 and 7/3/69.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula* **Sarsella ħamra**  
On a few dates in spring (5/3 - 20/5), but none in 1968. Highest 50+ on 21/3/69 and 18 on 16/5/70. In autumn, annual and frequent (in parties of up to 9) on dates between 29/7 and 3/10, but till 27/10 in 1969. Only winter records were 2 on 8/2/69 and singles on 22/11/69 and 17/1/70.

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* **Palettuna**  
Small influx in March 1967: 1 on 14th, 3 on 21st and 5 on 22nd. Singles on 14 & 25/12/67, 17/1/68, 28/8/69, and 12 & 29/12/69.

**Marbled Teal** *Anas angustirostris* **Sarsella mnaqqxa**  
2 at M'Xlokk on 25/7/68. (4th record for Malta).

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina* **Brajmla**  
Singles on 27/8 and 23/12/67. In 1968, 2 on 14/1 and singles in 16/1, 9/10, 28/10 and 1/11. None in 1969. In 1970, recorded on 25/1, 10/9 (2), 7/11 and 12/12.

**White-eyed Pochard** *Aythya nyroca* **Brajmla t'ghajnhajda**  
Recorded on 28/2, 22/3 and 22/11/67; 22 & 26/4/68; 27/1, 9/3 and 20/5/69; 18/3, 19/10 and 21/12/70. Singles, except on 27/1/69 - two.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator* **Serra**  
1-3 records each winter (5/11 - 6/12). Never more than two together.

**White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala* **Brajmla rasha bajda**  
One shot in January 1967. (2nd record for Malta).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* **Arpa**  
Small numbers annually in spring (20/3 - 15/5) and autumn (16/8 - 4/11). Spring: 1 date in 1967, 4 dates in 1968, 2 dates in 1969 and 8 dates in 1970. Autumn: 5 dates in 1967, 5 dates in 1968, 7 dates in 1969 and 4 dates in 1970. Best day was 27/9/70, when 4 were logged.

**Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* **Kuccarda**  
Frequent in spring (26/3 - 12/6), with marked passages on 7/5/68, 6-10/5/69 and 3-4 & 10/5/70. Much more frequent in autumn (16/8 - 25/10): Peak usually from mid-September to early October. Best days were 19/9/69 (78), 19/9/70 (64), 24/9/70 (100), and 27/9/70 (150) - all counted over Buskett.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* **Astun ahmar**  
One at B'Kara on 27/9/70. (2nd record since 1904).

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* **Astun iswed**  
A few in spring (except in 1968) on dates between 19/3 and 1/5, but 16 over Ta' Qali on 5/4/70. More frequent in autumn (5/8 - 29/9), with 2 dates in

1967, 6 in 1968, 5 in 1969 and 10 in 1970. Autumn 1970 was the best, with 20 birds logged.

**Sparrow Hawk**                      *Accipiter nisus*                      Sparvier  
Few (females predominating) annually in autumn (25/9 — 2/11). Highest 5 at Buskett on 30/9/69. Singles on 7/4/69 and 1/5/70.

**Buzzard**                              *Buteo buteo*                              Kuccarda prima  
5 singles in 1967: on 21/4, 29/4, 20/9, 24/9 and 28/9. None in 1968. In 1969, on 5 dates between 1/10 and 7/11, and one on 25/12. One on 26/3/70.

**Booted Eagle**                      *Hieraaetus pennatus*                      Ajkla tal-kalzetti  
Singles near Victoria on 16/10/68 and at Lunzjata on 5/10/69. (2nd and 3rd records for Malta).

**Lesser Spotted Eagle**              *Aquila pomarina*                      Ajkla tat-tikki  
Single birds at L-Ahrax on 14/10/67, at Mgarr on 29/9/70 and at Dingli Cliffs on 23/10/70. (8th, 9th, and 10th records for Malta).

**Short-Toed Eagle**                  *Circus gallicus*                          Ajkla bajda  
Singles at Buskett on 5/10/67, at Salib tal-Gholja on 21/9/68, at Hal Far on 1/10/69, at Salib tal-Gholja on 18/9/70 and at Mistra on 13/12/70.

**Hen Harrier**                          *Circus cyaneus*                          Bughadam abjad prim  
Few annually in spring (30/3 — 1/5), with one in 1967, 6 in 1968, one in 1969 and 4 in 1970. Twice in autumn: on 23/8 and 28/9/68.

**Pallid Harrier**                      *Circus macrourus*                      Bughadam abjad  
Fairly frequent in Spring (13/3 — 23/4), but scarce in 1967, when only 4 recorded. Only 3 autumn records: single birds on 30/8 and 23/10/68 and on 20/10/70.

**Montagu's Harrier**                  *Circus pygargus*                          Bughadam griz  
Frequent in spring (5/4 — 11/5) with 1969 the best year (over 34 logged). Few annually in autumn (21/8 — 1/10), with 6 dates in 1969 highest.

**Marsh Harrier**                      *Circus aeruginosus*                      Bughadam ahmar  
Frequent in spring (usually singly but sometimes in parties of up to 7) on dates between 28/2 and 7/5. Early bird on 15/2/69. Late birds on 30/5 and 1/6/69 and 18/5/70. In autumn only on 6 and 5 dates in 1967 and 1969 respectively, but frequent in 1968 and 1970. Main autumn passage in September, with extreme dates being 16/8 and 4/11.

**Egyptian Vulture**                  *Neophron percnopterus*                  Avultun abjad  
Singles at Xaghra on 14/12/67, Mosta on 18/9/69 and at Hal Far on 5/3/70.

**Saker**                                  *Falco cherrug*                                  Bies ta' rasu bajda  
Very few recorded annually: 1967: singles on 1/5 and 11/12. 1968: singles on 20/1, 6/11, 26/11 and 9/12. 1969: one on 29/10. 1970: one on 18/9. (Only 3 previous records).

**Peregrine**                              *Falco peregrinus*                              Bies  
2-3 pairs resident throughout the four years. Young birds frequently seen between July and November.



- Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* **Seqer tal-hannieqa**  
 Generally very frequent in spring (21/3 — 19/6) — peaks were 14 and 18 on 25/4 and 29/4/70 respectively. In larger numbers in autumn — late August to early October. Odd birds on several occasions in July and August. Autumn peaks were 50+ on 3 dates in early October 1967, 45 on 27/9/68, 30+ on 30/9/69 and 25 on 29/9/70. Last autumn date: 26/10/67-68.
- Eleonora's Falcon** *Falco eleonora* **Bies tar-regina**  
 Recorded annually. 1967: on 4/5, 4/6, 19/6, 24/6, 13/8, 20/9 and 28/9. 1968: on 24/5, 9/6 and 12/7. 1969: on 27/5, 8/6, 11/7, 23/7 and 18/9. 1970: 19/4, 28/4, 23/5, 23/8, 8/9, 14/9, 18/9, 21/9, (2) and 23/9 (2). (Described by all previous Maltese ornithologists as accidental).
- Merlin** *Falco columbarius* **Seqer ta' denbu**  
 Few recorded annually in late autumn (25/10 — 9/11): 1 in 1967, 5 in 1968, 4 in 1969 and one in 1970. 3 in winter: 19/12/68, 6/1/69 and 7/12/70. 2 in spring: 3/4/69 and 20/3/70.
- Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus* **Zumbrell**  
 Annual and very frequent in spring (14/4 — 16/5), with regular 'good' passages, heaviest on 22/4/68 and 25/4/70. Odd birds recorded as late as 10/7. Sporadic but annual in autumn (25/9 — 11/10), with 6 in 1969 highest. Late bird on 27/10/67.
- Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* **Spanjulett sekond**  
 Frequent in spring (26/2 — 22/5) and autumn (3/9 — 12/10), but scarce in autumn 1967 and spring 1969. Seen singly or in small parties. Early birds on 3/2/67 and 20/8/68. Late birds on 27/10/67. Best days were 30/9 and 1/10/69 with 10 and 13 respectively over Buskett.
- Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* **Spanjulett**  
 Common in spring (March — May) and autumn (September — October). Annual and frequent in winter. Odd birds seen annually throughout the summer. Peaks were 24/9/69 (80), 27/9/69 (30) and 30/9/69 (30).
- American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* **Spanjulett Amerikan**  
 Immature female at tal-Handaq on 14/10/67. (1st record for Malta — full description was given in the M.O.S. Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. 1 No. 2, p. 9).
- Sooty Falcon** *Falco concolor* **Zumbrell Gharbi**  
 Second year bird (in company of two other unidentified falcons) at tal-Handaq on 17/8/70. (1st record for Malta — full description appeared in "il-Merill" No. 3, pp. 10-11).
- Quail** *Coturnix coturnix* **Summiena**  
 Fairly common in spring (March to mid-May) and autumn (mid-August to mid-November). Few annually in winter. Sporadic in summer.
- Crane** *Grus grus* **Grawwa**  
 Regular, in parties of up to 17, in autumn (7/9 — 4/11): On 8 dates in 1967, 3 dates in 1968, 6 dates in 1969 and 9 dates in 1970. Two winter records: 14/1/68 (2) and 2/12/70 (3). Flock of c. 400 over Salfina on 20/3/70.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* **Gallozz tax-xitwa**  
Frequent in autumn (1st date 8/10) with a few remaining to winter annually. A few reapp in early spring (last date 19/3). Highest 4 at Lunzjata on 5/12/70. Unusually early bird at Wied il-Luq from 24/8/70 onwards.

**Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana* **Gallozz tat-tikki**  
Fairly frequent in spring (5/3 — 13/4). In smaller numbers in autumn (10/9 — 27/10), but none in 1967. An unusually early bird at Wied il-Luq on 7/8/70 **stayed till the end of the year.**

**Little Crake** *Porzana parva* **Gallozz zghir**  
Small numbers regularly in spring (18/3 — 11/5), but in larger numbers in 1968 when over 25 recorded. Only two autumn records: one on 23-24/8/70 and one (found dead) on 5/9/70. Unusual bird at Ghadira on 23/12/69.

**Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla* **Gallozz tal-faxxi**  
One at Salina on 29/11/67, one at Chadwick Lakes on 23/4/68, 2 at Marsa on 13/5/68, one near Qonmi in March 1970, and one at Ramla Valley on 2/5/70.

**Corncrake** *Crex crex* **Gallozz ahmar**  
A few (1-5 records) annually in spring (26/3 — 14/5) and autumn (4/10 — 21/11). Early bird on 22/8/67.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* **Galloz iswed**  
Fairly common in spring (9/3 — 31/5) and autumn (26/8 — 21/11). A few annually in winter. Odd birds on 18/6/67 and 8/8/68.

**Coot** *Fulica atra* **Tigiega tal-bahar**  
Regular and frequent in autumn and winter (29/9 — 1/3). Highest 9 at Ghadira on 1-2/1/67 and 7 at Marsa Creek on 14/1/68.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* **Gallina tal-bahar**  
Singles at Ramla Bay on 11/4/67 and 1/7/67, at St. Paul's Bay in early April 1968, at Manoel Isle on 7/8/68 and at M'Xlokk on 13/3/70.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* **Monakella prima**  
Frequent in spring (12/4 — 31/5), except in 1968, when only one recorded. Annual and more frequent in autumn (29/7 — 5/11). Maximum 6 at Salina on 7/5/69. Early birds on 28/3/69, 17 & 22-23/3/70, in spring; and on 13/7/69 in autumn.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* **Monakella**  
Common in spring (5/3 — 16/5, but till 30/5 in 1967), with up to 20 frequently at Ghadira, Salina and Hal Far. In autumn (25/7 — 27/10, but from 11/7 in 1970) common in 1969, but otherwise in smaller numbers, with 16 at Salina on 11/9/70 highest. Odd birds on 15/7/69 (3); and 2/7/70 (4). Five winter records: 17/12/67; 18 & 21/11/69; 9-10/12/70; and 24/12/70.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* **Monakella saqajha suwed**  
Few recorded annually: 1967 : 2 on 19/3 and one on 9/8. 1968 : 2 on 24/3 and one on 10/4. 1969 : One on 16-23/4 (2 on 18th) and one on 22/11. 1970 : One on 15/3, 3 on 2/4, singles on 10-24/4, 6/5, 19/12, and 4 on 25/12.

**Caspian Plover** *Charadrius asiaticus* **Birwina tal-Asja**  
Male at M'Xlokk on 19/7/68. (3rd record for Malta).

**Dotterel** *Eudromias morinellus* **Birwina**  
Small influxes frequent in autumn (28/8 — 29/11). Seen in small parties of up to 8. Very scarce but annual in spring (4/3 — 26/4), with single dates in 1967 and 1968, 2 dates in 1969 and 5 dates in 1970. Spring maximum: 6 on 21/4/67.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* **Pluviera**  
Fairly common from late October to December, with smaller numbers till early March. Few till 26/3 in 1967 and till 31/3 in 1968. Flock of 30-100 wintered annually at Hal Far. Odd birds on 10/5/68 and 9/9/69.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* **Pluviera pastarda**  
Sporadic in spring and autumn; recorded on 3/5/67, 5/5/68, 1/5/69 (2), 25/5/69 (2), 8/10/69 and 17/11/70.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* **Venewwa**  
Fairly common in autumn and winter — mid-October to mid-February. Exceptionally heavy passages, with flocks of up to 80, on 13-14 & 22/12/67 and on 14-15/1/68. Flock wintered regularly at Hal Far with a maximum of 350 in winter 1967/68, but only 30 in 1969/70. Late birds on 3/3/67, 7/3/68 and 1/3/70 (6).

**Spur-Winged Plover** *Vanellus spinosus* **Venewwa tal-ixpruni**  
One at sea off M'Xlokk on 16/9/67. (2nd record for Malta).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* **Monakella imperjali**  
Annual in spring (29/4 — 15/6). On 8 dates in 1967, 5 dates in 1968, 9 dates in 1969 and 3 dates in 1970. Maximum 20 at 'il-Blata' on 10/5/68, otherwise never more than 4 together. In autumn, recorded only in 1967: single birds on 20, 27 & 30/8 and on 25/9.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* **Tertuxa**  
Common, in flocks of up to 50, in spring (19/3 — 8/6) and autumn (12/7 — 29/10). Few regularly in November and one on 16/12/67.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii* **Tertuxa griza**  
A few regularly in spring (14/4 — 16/5) and autumn (27/7 — 20/9). Frequent in autumn 1969 (13 dates). Highest 4 on 9/8/68 and 3 on 10/9/68.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* **Beggazzina tat-Tizz**  
Irregular in spring (15/3 — 15/5), with 2 dates in 1967, 17 dates in 1969 and one date in 1970. Highest 10 at Salina on 9/5/69. Frequent in autumn (19/7 — 17/10). Odd birds regularly in November and December.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* **Beggazzina hamra**  
Frequent in spring (19/4 — 22/5) and autumn (5/8 — 8/9). Highest 8 at Salina on 16/5/67.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus* **Girwiel ta' saqajh qosra**  
One at Salina on 17/9/67. (3rd record for Malta).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* **Pispisella bajda**  
Few recorded annually: 1967: 2 on 16-17/5. 1968: singles on 10/9 and 27/10. 1969: singles on 4/8 and 18/8. 1970: singles on 5/5 and on 9-14/5 (but 3 on 11th).

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* **Girwiel**  
Common in spring (4/3 — 12/6), with 52 on 2/4/70, 50 on 19/3/67 and 23 on 4/6/67 highest. In slightly smaller numbers in autumn (8/8 — 24/10). One on 6/12/69.

**Buff-Breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* **Girwiel Amerikan**  
One, in company of 3 *P.pugnax*, at Marsa 1/10/68. (1st record for Malta).

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus* **Ċuvett**  
1-3 on a few dates annually in spring (3/3 — 25/5) and autumn (4/8 — 4/10), except in autumn 1970, when none recorded. 1968 was the best year, with 7 dates in each season. Odd birds on 6/12/67 and 21/6/70.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus* **Pluverott**  
Frequent in spring 1968, on 5 dates in 1969 and on 4 dates in 1970 (6/3 — 10/5). Few annually in summer (17/6 — 11/7). In autumn, frequent between 19/7 and 30/10. Few also annually in winter, with an unusual influx on 13-21/1/68.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* **Ċewċewwa zghira**  
One on 28/6/67; 2 on 1-5/4 and one on 14-17/4/68: one on 1/4, 8-9/4 and 30/8/69; and one on 12/4/70.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* **Ċewċewwa**  
Frequent in spring (21/3 — 12/5) and autumn (16/7 — 28/9), but rather scarce in 1967. Highest 20 at M'Scala on 20/8/69 and 18 at M'Scala and Salina on 31/8/69. Odd bird on 27/11/69.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* **Swejda**  
Fairly common in spring (20/2 — 2/5) and autumn (19/7 — 4/10). Highest 9 on 9/8/67 and 8 on 20-21/8/68 at Salina. Very early autumn record on 4/7/70 (4). Twice in winter: on 1/1/68 and 3/1/69.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* **Pespus tal-baħar**  
Fairly common in spring (24/3 — 31/5) and autumn (25/7 — 30/9), but in smaller number at both seasons in 1970. Highest 80 on 21/8/68 and 27 on 24/8/69 at Salina, and 25 on 22/4/68 at Ghadira. Very early autumn birds on 4 & 11/7/70.

**Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos* **Beggazzina tar-rokka**  
Fairly common in spring (21/3 — 31/5) and autumn (13/7 — 9/10). Highest 25 at Salina on 11/4/69 and 15 at Ramla Bay on 19/8/67. Single birds on 27/6/68 and 18/6/69. 1-3 near Marfa from 20/12/69 to 30/1/70. 2 at Manoel Isle from 28/10 to 31/12/70.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* **Beggazzina tax-xifa**  
One at Delimara on 28/8/70. (2nd record for Malta).

**Black-Tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* **Girwiel prim**  
Annual, but in irregular numbers, in spring (4/2—16/4): 5 dates in 1967, 4 dates in 1968, 8 dates in 1969 and one date in 1970. Sporadic in autumn and winter: 22/8/67 (5), 11/1/69, and 13/9/69.

**Bar-Tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* **Girwiel ta' denbu  
bl-istrixxi**  
Singles on 5 dates at Salina from 13/9 to 9/10/67. One near Mellieha on 4/9/69. (Only 3 previous records).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata* **Gurlin**  
In 1967, singles on 26-28/3 and 2 on 2/12. None in 1968. In 1969, singles on 13/8, 9/10 and 4/12. In 1970, passage on 30/3, with one over Gozo, 3 over Ghadira and 'several' reported over Salina. Also one on 8/12.

**Slender-Billed Curlew** *Numenius tenuirostris* **Gurlin ta' geddumu rqiġ**  
Single birds on 20/10/67, 9/8/68 and 15/8/68.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* **Gurlin zghir**  
Single birds on 15/4/67, 24/9/67, 27/3/69, 10/9/69 and 26/7/70.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola* **Gallina**  
Frequent in autumn from mid-October to late November, with odd birds logged regularly later (till 13/2). Marked influxes on 21/11/67, 24/11/68, 4/11/70 and 27-28/11/70, with over 20 recorded on each date. On 3 dates in spring: 24/3/68 (2), 29/3/68 and 3/3/70.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* **Bekkaċċ**  
Frequent in autumn, winter and spring on dates between 20/9 and 7/5. Seen singly or in parties of up to 4. Very early autumn birds on 19 & 28/8/67, 29/7/68, 31/7/70 and 28/8/70.

**Great Snipe** *Gallinago media* **Bekkaċċ ta' Mejju**  
Few annually in spring (4/3 — 6/5): On one date in 1967, 6 dates in 1968, 9 dates in 1969 and 6 dates in 1970.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minima* **Cinkonja**  
On 1-2 dates annually in spring (10/3 — 23/4). In late autumn and winter (15/10 — 18/1), on 5 dates in 1967, 6 dates in 1968, 9 dates in 1969 and 7 dates in 1970. Singles except on 8/12/70 (2).

**Black-Wingea Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* **Fras-servjent**  
Few annually in spring (11/3 — 13/5): 1-2 on 3 dates in 1967, 6 dates in 1968 and 1969, and 3 dates in 1970. One stayed at Ghadira from 16/3 to 11/4/68. One on 2/7/67.

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* **Xifa**  
2 at Qawra on 6/9/67 and one at Salina on 10/12/67.

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* **Baruża griza**  
Single birds at M'Xioġk Bay on 25/12/69 and at Qawra on 16/11/70. (1st and 2nd records for Malta.)

**Red-Necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* **Baruża**  
One at a rain-pool at Qormi on 12/9/68. (2nd record for Malta).

**Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus* **Tellerita**  
Fairly frequent, usually singly but sometimes up to 3 together, in spring (10/3 — 18/5) and autumn (29/9 — 30/11). Best days were 7/10/67 and 26/10/69, with 8 logged on each occasion.

**Cream-Coloured Courser** *Cursorius cursor* **Nankina**  
Singles on 30/4/68, 4/5/68, 21/5/68, 30/4/69, 26/4/70, 26/5/70, and 14/6/70.

**Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* **Pernicjotta**  
A few annually in spring (4/4 — 16/5): 1-3 on one date in 1967, 4 dates in 1968, 3 dates in 1969 and c. 10 dates in 1970. Influx on 6-7/5/68, with 6 logged. Odd bird at Salina on 28/6/67.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua* **Ċiefa kbira**  
One at sea off M'Xlokk 31/1/69. (2nd record for Malta).

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus* **Ċiefa ta' denbha**  
Singles offshore on 25/7/67, 12/10/67; 11/11/67, 30/9/68, 27/4/69, and 4/12/69. (Only 4 previous records).

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus* **Ċiefa tal-Artiku**  
One at sea off M'Xlokk on 31/1/69. (2nd record for Malta).

**Long-Tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudatus* **Ċiefa ta' denbha twil**  
Single birds caught by fishermen off the South coast in October and on 1st November 1967. (1st records for Malta).

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus* **Gawwija raġha sewda**  
Fairly common in winter, arriving between 4-21/12. Last date was 26/3/69. Peaks varied each year, with 200 in 1966/67, 600 in 1967/68, 80 in 1968/69 and 20 in 1969/70.

**Little Gull** *Larus minutus* **Gawwija zghira**  
A few annually in winter: one on 3/2/67; 1-3 on 3 dates from 23/12/67 to 28/1/68, singles on 5 dates from 11/12/68 to 1/1/69; and 1-2 on 5 dates from 3/1 to 16/3/70. In much larger numbers from 5-31/12/70, with a peak of 40+ off Delimara on 22-23/12. (Similar influxes have been recorded by Wright and D'Andria).

**Black-Headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* **Gawwija rasha kannella**  
Very common in winter, with up to 1,500 frequently in Grand Harbour during strong winds. Extreme dates were 27/11 and 19/4, with unusually early birds on 18/8 and 11/9/67 and 9/11/69.

**Slender-Billed Gull** *Larus genei* **Gawwija ta' geddumha rqiġ**  
Annual visitor in small numbers in autumn and winter: One on 3/11/67; 1-2 on seven dates from 15/8/68 to 20/1/69; one on 28/1/70 and singles on 9/8, 13/8 and 1/9/70.

**Lesser Black-Backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* **Gawwija dahrha iswed**  
Frequent, usually in parties of up to 4, in winter (27/12 — 1/4). Late birds on 11/5/68, 6/5/70 and 22/5/70. Very unusual bird at M'Scala on 22/6/68.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* **Gawwija prima**  
Up to 150 pairs resident. Numbers augmented in winter, with maximum of 600 in Grand Harbour on 6/2/68.

**Audouin's Gull** *Larus audouinii* **Gawwija geddumha aħmar**  
One at Selmun on 21/11/68. (4th record for Malta).

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger* **Ċirlewwa sewda**  
Very frequent in the autumns of 1968 and 1970, with smaller numbers in 1967 and 1969. Extreme dates were 29/7 and 28/9. Maximum 4 at Salina on 5/8/68 and 1/9/70. One off Qawra on 6/5/70 was the only spring record.

**White-Winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* **Ċirlewwa tal-ġewnaħ abjad**  
A few (up to 5 dates) annually in spring (29/4 — 8/6), with 5 on 2/5/68 and 3 on 8/6/68, at Salina, highest. In autumn 1-2 on three dates from 19/8 to 12/9/68 and on three dates from 15-28/8/70. Unusually late bird on 29/10/68.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* **Ċirlewwa bil-mustaċċi**  
One at Salina on 29/5/69.

**Gull-Billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* **Ċirlewwa geddumha oħxon**  
One at Għadira on 24/4/68, 13 off Delimara on 20/3/70, one at B'Bugia on 3/6/70, and one at Salina on 27/8/70.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne tschegrava* **Ċirlewwa prima**  
2 at Ramla Bay on 13/9/67.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis* **Ċirlewwa tax-xitwa**  
Fairly frequent in autumn and winter (8/10 — 27/1). Odd birds occasionally recorded earlier: 18/7/69, 25/8/70, 31/8/68 and 23/9/69. In spring one on 23/3/68; flock of 100+ off Comino on 20/4/69 and 21 off Delimara on 20/3/70. (Most of 80+ and 20+ terns seen off Delimara on 20-21/3/70, probably belonged to this species).

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* **Ċirlewwa tal-baħar**  
Single birds at M'Xlokk on 21/7/67 and 3/6/68, and off Ricasoli on 11/9/68. 2 off Delimara on 30/3/70 and one at M'Xlokk on 9/5/70.

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons* **Ċirlewwa zghira**  
One on 23/5/67, 2 on 16/9/68, and singles on 15/4/69, 2/6/69, and 31/5/70. All at M'Xlokk, except on last date — at Gnejna Bay.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda* **Mus tal-baħar**  
4 recorded in December 1969: one at Żonqor Point on 6th, and singles at Gżira Point, M'Scala and M'Xlokk Bay on 9th. (1st records since 1912).

**Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* **Tudun**  
1-2 on two dates annually in spring (23/3 — 29/4). In autumn (29/9 — 28/11), on one date in 1967, 3 dates in 1968, 7 dates in 1969 and 14 dates in 1970. Odd birds on 9/1/67, 14/1/67, 1/7/69 and 6/9/69.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas* **Tudun tas-sigjar**  
Single birds at Lija on 16/10/67 and at tal-Handaq on 21/10/68.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia* **Tudun tal-gebel**  
A few birds of a seemingly pure strain (typical plumage) present along the western and southern sea-cliffs of Malta and Gozo.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* **Gamiema tal-kullar**  
Singles at Lunzjata on 29/4/67 and at Tal-Handaq on 3/5/69. (2nd and 3rd records for Malta).

**Palm Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis* **Gamiema tal-ilwien**  
One at Wied l-Abjad on 1/11/70. (4th record for Malta).

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* **Gamiema**  
Very common in spring with peak from mid-April to early May, when a few very heavy passages recorded annually. In smaller numbers in autumn, with only occasional heavy passage. Extreme dates: 27/3 — 10/6 in spring and 15/7—14/10 in autumn. Odd birds seen regularly in summer. One on 31/12/67 was very unusual.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* **Daquqa kahla**  
Fairly common in spring (25/3 - 26/5). Early birds on 4 & 9/3/68. In autumn 1-2 on up to 10 dates annually (10/7 - 31/10). Influx on 24-30/9/69, with 10+ at M'Scala on 25th highest.

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* **Sultan il-gamiem tat-toppu**  
One on 19/4/67. In 1968, singles on 14th, 21st and 23rd March. In 1969, singles on 26/1 and 7/2, then singles on 21 dates from 18/2 - 5/4. Smaller influx in 1970, with 11 dates from 15/2 - 8/4 (2 on 15/2 and 24/3). One on 10/5/70. Odd autumn record: one on 21/8/70.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* **Barbagann**  
Few pairs resident in Malta and Gozo. Additional sightings in late autumn suggest that some migrants are present.

**Long-Eared Owl** *Asio otus* **Qattus**  
Annual in autumn (28/9 - 15/11): 4 dates in 1967 (3 on 15/10), 20 dates in 1968, 6 dates in 1969 and 4 dates in 1970.

**Short-Eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* **Kokka tax-xaghri**  
Frequent in spring (6/3 - 18/4), with larger numbers in autumn (14/9 - 2/12). Almost common in autumn 1968. Late birds on 23/12/68, and on 8 & 24/12/69. Odd bird on 8/8/69.

**Scops Owl** *Otus scops* **Kokka**  
Frequent in spring (12/3 - 5/5) and autumn (6/9 - 29/11), but rather scarce in spring 1970. A few wintered annually. Odd bird on 13/7/70.

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus* **Buqrajq**  
Fairly common in spring (24/3 - 5/6). In slightly smaller numbers in autumn (18/8 - 29/10). Highest 40+ on 29/9/70 and 30+ on 19/4/69, at Buskett.



**Red-Necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus ruficollis* **Buqrajq ahmar**  
One at Buskett on 29/5/67. Three singles in 1969: at Mosta on 28/4, at Mei-  
lieha on 17/5 and at Ta' Ġiorni on 29/6. (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th records re-  
spectively for Malta).

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis* **Rundun żghir**  
One at Hal Mula, near Żebbuġ, on 22/1/68. (2nd record for Malta).

**Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus* **Rundun kannelli**  
Few recorded annually: 1967: one on 14/4; 1968: 3 on 20/8; 1969: 2 on  
17/10; 1970: 2 on 16/3 and singles on 28/3, 3/4 and 18/7.

**Swift** *Apus apus* **Rundun**  
Very common. Seen regularly from late March to early September, with  
peaks in May-June and late July-late August. Extreme dates 21/3 and 30/9.  
Highest 1,500 at Dingli Cliffs on 29/7/68. Odd birds on 26/11/67 and on  
28/12/69.

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba* **Rundun ta' żaqqu bajda**  
Fairly frequent in spring (16/3 - 28/5), with 40+ on 4/4/67 and 12/4/68  
highest. On a few dates annually in autumn (19/8 - 7/10), with 7 on 15/9/70  
highest. Occasional in summer: 1/7/67 (7), 7/7/67 (2), 8/6/69, and 16/6/70.  
Late autumn bird on 4/11/70.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* **Għasfur ta' San Martin**  
Very frequent in autumn (18/7 - 25/10), with a few remaining to winter (last  
date 23/1). Highest 5 on 9/9/67 and 4 on 23/8 and 15/9/70. One on 25/3/67

**Bee-Eater** *Merops apiaster* **Qerd in-naħal**  
Frequent in spring (6/4 - 12/6), with 20+ on 10/4/67 and on 25/5/70 highest.  
One on 1/7/67. Only on 5 dates in autumn: 23/9/67, 11/9/69 (2), 11/9/70 (11)  
and 21 & 24/9/70.

**Blue-Cheeked Bee-  
Eater** *Merops superciliosus* **Qerd in-naħal aħdar**  
3 singles in 1968: at Madliena in late April, at Għajnsielem on 9/5 and at  
Comino on 10/5. (previously only 4 definite records).

**Roller** *Coracias garrulus* **Farruġ**  
Very frequent in spring (8/4 - 16/6), with 10 on 21/4/67 and on 27/5/69  
highest. Irregular numbers in autumn (4/8 - 26/9): 4 dates in 1967; small  
influx on 15-21/9/68 - 10 logged; on 8 dates from 25/8 - 12/9, then influx on  
24-26/9 with 22 at Mtaħleb on 24th, in 1969. On three dates in 1970.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* **Daqquqa tat-toppu**  
Fairly common in spring (28/2 - 13/5), with 20 at Mtaħleb on 17/4/68, high-  
est. In slightly smaller numbers in autumn (4/8 - 11/10).

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* **Bulebbiet**  
Fairly common in spring (24/2 - 5/5) and autumn (29/8 - 29/11). Few an-  
nually in winter. Late spring bird on 19/5/67 and early autumn record on  
13/8/68. Highest 20+ on 24/9/69, 10+ on 3/10/69 and 8 on 4/10/68, at Bus-  
kett.

**Short-Toed Lark** *Calandrella cinerea* **Bibla**  
Very common spring migrant and summer resident. Smaller return passage in autumn. Extreme dates: 7/3 and 2/10.

**Lesser Short-Toed Lark** *Calandrella rufescens* **Bibla sekonda**  
One caught at M'Xllok in August 1968. (Last recorded in 1943).

**Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra* **Kalandra**

One at Dingli Cliffs on 16/12/67. Four singles in 1970: at Tarxien on 14/3 at Buskett on 16/9, at Delimara on 4/10 and M'Scala on 7/10.

**Wood Lark** *Lullula arborea* **Čuqlajta**  
Annual, in small numbers, in autumn (18/10 - 29/11), but up to 4 stayed near Buskett from 21/10/67 to 23/1/68. Highest 30+ over Kuncizzjoni on 26/10/69, and 10+ near Buskett on 20/10/67 and at Xaghra on 23-30/10/68. One at Delimara on 8/3/70 was the only spring record.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* **Alwetta**  
Very common autumn migrant, remaining to winter in smaller numbers. Small passages again in February and March. Peak usually between mid-October and late November. Extreme dates were 23/9 and 7/4.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* **Hawwiefia tax-xtut**  
Very common in spring (4/3 - 22/6) with peak from late April to mid-May. In smaller numbers in autumn (28/8 - 27/10). Highest 3,000 on 6/5/70 in spring and 50+ on several dates in autumn. Odd birds on 2/7/68 (2) and on 30/7/69.

**Crag Martin** *Hirundo rupestris* **Hawwiefia tal-blat**  
5 at Ta' Cenč on 27/10/67. (1st record since 1873).

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* **Huttafa**  
Very common in spring (8/3 - 22/6) and autumn (26/8 - 20/11) with odd birds as early as 16/2 in spring and 2/8 in autumn. Highest 6,000 on 16/5/70 and 3,000 on 30/9/69. One on 4/1/67, 2 on 28/1/69, 3 on 12/7/69, and one on 3/7/70 were unusual birds.

**Red-Rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica* **Regina tal-huttaf**  
Regular in spring (22/3 - 22/5), with 8 dates in 1967, 16 dates in 1968, 7 dates in 1969, and 14 dates in 1970. Highest 25+ on 13/5/68 and 10+ on 11/4/69, at Buskett. 10+ at Mtaħleb on 24/9/69 and one at Buskett on 29/9/70, were the first autumn records.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica* **Hawwiefia**  
Very common in spring (2/3 - 16/6), with very early birds on 16/2 (2) and 21/2/69. Only a few in the autumns of 1967 and 1968, but fairly common in 1969 and 1970 (dates between 13/8 and 16/11). Highest were 6,000 on 16/5/70 in spring and 40 on 22/9/70 in autumn. 3 on 3/1/70 and one on 4/7/70 were very unusual birds.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae* **Bilblun prim**  
One at Salina on 30/9/68 and 2 at Ghadira on 15/10/68. Singles at Dingli Cliffs on 1/11/69, at Żebbuġ on 13/2/70, at Delimara on 18/10/70 and at Buskett on 2/11/70.

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* **Bilblun**  
Common in spring (9/3 - 26/4), with odd birds as early as 26/2. In slightly smaller numbers in autumn (28/8 - 18/10), with odd birds as late as 18/11. Highest in spring 300+ at Ghadira on 8/4/69 and in autumn 30+ at Mtahleb on 7 & 13/9/68.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* **Dizz**  
Very common in spring (5/3 - 14/5). Late bird on 31/5/67. In much smaller numbers in autumn (24/8 - 30/10), but very common in 1969. Very heavy influxes on 23/3/68 - 1,000+ over Marsalforn, and on 24/9/69 - 2,200 at Mtahleb and Buskett. One on 1/12/68.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis* **Pespus**  
Very common autumn migrant and winter resident. A smaller passage takes place in March. Starts arriving during the last week of October, with odd birds as early as the 11th. Last spring date 15/4. Up to 150 regularly in suitable localities.

**Red-Throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus* **Dizz ahmar**  
Frequent in spring (24/3 - 17/5), with 50+ at Mtahleb on 6/4/69 highest. In autumn (12/10 - 15/11), frequent in 1967 and 1969, but scarce in 1968 and 1970. Autumn maximum 10 at Ta Qali on 25/10/69.

**Rock/Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* **Dizz tal-ilma**  
Winter visitor in very small numbers. 1968: One at Qawra on 19/10, then up to 5 regularly at Salina from 28/10 to 19/11 (at least 11 individuals involved). 1969: 1-2 at Ghadira from 7-28/12 and singles at Salina on 2 & 20/12 1970: Singles at Salina on 5/3 and 22/10, and at Mistra Bay on 18/11; 2 on 12/12 and one on 19/12, at Salina. (*A.s. petrosus* recorded twice, the rest *A.s. spinoletta*).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* **Isfar**  
Very common in spring (12/3 - 2/6) and autumn (8/8 - 3/11). Odd birds on 22/6/67, 1/8/69 and 30/7/70. 4 on 11/11/67 were late birds. Several large influxes, highest 2,000+ in four localities on 23-25/4/69 and 800+ at Mtahleb in 24/9/69. In autumn, in flocks of up to 1,000 for roosting.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* **Zakak tad-dell**  
Fairly common autumn migrant and winter resident (1/9 - 21/3). Highest 40 at Lunzjata on 12/10/68, but usually never more than 10 in one locality.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* **Zakak abjad**  
Common winter resident: mid-October to mid-March, with odd birds as early as 25/9 and as late as 30/4. It is interesting to note that all White Wagtails in the Maltese Islands (except passage birds) roost annually in Great Siege Square, Valletta.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* **Kaccamendula hamra**  
Singles on 28/8/67, 15/10/67, 19/4/68, 16/5/69, 6/9/69 and 20/9/69. Influx on 27/9 - 13/10/69, with up to 4 at Buskett and at least 23 individuals involved. In 1970, one on 4 dates at Buskett from 29/8 to 26/9 and one at Xaghra on 3-25/10. (Only 3 previous records).

**Woodchat Shrike**                      *Lanius senator*                      **Kaccamendula**  
 Fairly common in spring (27/3 - 4/6) and autumn (6/8 - 12/10). Highest 10 on several dates in both spring and autumn. Odd birds regularly in June and July. One on 10/6/69 belonged to the Corsican race *L.s. badius*. A pair bred at Salina in 1969 and raised three young which stayed there throughout July and August. A pair was also present at the same place in July 1970.

**Lesser Grey Shrike**                      *Lanius minor*                      **Kaccamendula griza**  
 One at Dingli Cliffs on 28/8/67 and 2 at M'Xlokk on 28/9/67. Singles at Siggiewi on 13/8/68, at Has-saptan on 9/9/69 and at San Lawranz on 22/11/70.

**Great Grey Shrike**                      *Lanius excubitor*                      **Kaccamendula griza prima**  
 Singles at Ghallis on 24/4/67, at Delimara on 15/2/68 and at Siggiewi on 8/10/68.

**Wren**                                      *Troglodytes troglodytes*                      **Bumistur**  
 Annual winter visitor/resident in small numbers (1/11 - 13/3). At least 2 individuals in the winter of 1967/68, 4 in 1968/69, and 7 in 1970.

**Alpine Accentor**                      *Prunella collaris*                      **Ziemel tal-Alpi**  
 One at Kerċem on 23/1/68. (7th record for Malta).

**Dunnock**                                      *Prunella modularis*                      **Ziemel**  
 Common autumn migrant, and winter visitor/resident in smaller numbers (13/10 - 22/3). Return passage noted on 5-8/3/70. Highest 40-50 at Buskett on several dates in November and December.

**Cetti's Warbler**                      *Cettia cetti*                      **Bagħal tal-ghollieq**  
 Few pairs resident in four known valleys in Malta. Recorded only four times in other localities: on 1/11/67 (2) at Ghadira, on 3/3/69 at Bingemma, on 5/10/70 at Lunzjata and on 9-11/12/70 at Ghadira. (Previously only recorded twice).

**Savi's Warbler**                      *Locustella luscinioides*                      **Bagħal ahmar**  
 One at Wied il-Luq on 9/4/68 and one at Salina on 28/9/68. In 1969, singles on 26th and 29th September at Mtahleb, and at Salina on 4th, at Wied il-Luq on 10th, at Chadwick Lakes on 11th and at Mtahleb on 12th October. In 1970, singles on 9-13/4, on 30/8 and on 10/10, all at Wied il-Luq. (Only 3 previous records).

**River Warbler**                      *Locustella fluviatilis*                      **Bagħal tax-xmajjar**  
 One at Wied il-Luq on 12-13/9/69. (2nd record for Malta).

**Moustached Warbler**                      *Luscinola melanopogon*                      **Bagħal qastni**  
 Small numbers annually in autumn and winter: 8 in 1967 on dates between 25/11 and 10/12; 5 in 1968 (9-11/11 and on 31/12); 4 between 7/10 and 17/11/69, then 3 at Wied il-Luq from 12/12/69 to 8/3/70; also 2 at Ghadira from 14/1 to 8/2/70. 7 in autumn 1970 (29/10 - 25/11) with one staying at Wied il-Luq from 6-15/11. One on 19/12/70. (Only 4 previous records).

- Sedge Warbler**                      *Acrocephalus*                      Bagħal tas-simar  
*schoenobaenus*  
Fairly common in spring (7/3 - 4/6, but usually till mid-May). 15+ at Mtaħleb on 24/4/70 was the highest. Annual, but in irregular numbers in autumn (25/8 - 11/11): 2 dates in 1967; up to 4 daily at Salina in 1968; common in 1969 - with up to 10 at Wied il-Luq and 6 at Mtaħleb from 24/9 - 3/10; and 1-2 on 6 dates in 1970.
- Reed Warbler**                      *Acrocephalus*                      Bagħal tal-qasab  
*scirpaceus*  
Fairly common in autumn (3/8 - 12/10, but odd late birds annually: last date 11/11/68). Maximum of 15-20 on several dates, annually at Mtaħleb. In spring, singles on 5 dates from 14/4 - 25/5/68, 2 on 29/3/69 and 1-2 on 7 dates from 6/4 - 4/5/70.
- Great Reed Warbler**                      *Acrocephalus*                      Bagħal prim  
*arundinaceus*  
Very frequent in spring (29/3 - 25/5) and autumn (14/8 - 23/10); but only one in autumn 1968 - on 9/11. Common from 24/9 - 2/10/69, with 15+ at Mtaħleb and 10+ at Wied il-Luq. Highest in spring: 7 at Ramla Valley on 1/5/70.
- Icterine Warbler**                      *Hippolais icterina*                      Bekkafik isfar  
Fairly common in spring (21/4 - 28/5). Late birds on 3/6/68 and 9/6/70. Maximum 10 at Munxar on 3/5/69. In smaller numbers in autumn (21/8 - 2/10), but large influx on 24/9/69, with 60+ at Buskett and Mtaħleb.
- Melodious Warbler**                      *Hippolais polyglotta*                      Bekkafik tal-għana  
One at Munxar Valley on 6/5/69.
- Orphean Warbler**                      *Sylvia hortensis*                      Bekkafik t'għajnu  
   bajda  
Male at Buskett on 18/3/68. (Last recorded by Despott around 1907).
- Garden Warbler**                      *Sylvia borin*                      Bekkafik  
Common in spring (10/4 - 4/6), with 60+ at Wied Żnuber on 1/5/67 highest. In larger numbers in autumn (13/8 - 18/10). Large influx on 24/9/69, with 600+ at Buskett; next highest 150+ at Buskett on 12-14/9/69. Early bird on 5/8/68 and late bird on 1/11/70.
- Blackcap**                      *Sylvia atricapilla*                      Kapinera  
Regular pattern each year; Few from September (earliest 9/9/69), with numbers slowly increasing, becoming very common by December. Numbers greatly increase between mid-February and late March, with 500 - 800 annually at Buskett. Then odd birds till 1/5.
- Whitethroat**                      *Sylvia communis*                      Bekkafik ahmar  
Common in spring (27/3 - 17/5), with larger numbers in 1969. Large influx on 24/4/69, with 400+ at Mtaħleb. In autumn (15/8 - 13/10), on 4 dates in 1967 and 1968. In 1969, occasional from 23/8, then very common from 23/9 to 13/10, with large influx on 24/9 - 800+ at Mtaħleb and Buskett. Up to 4 on 11 dates in 1970. Odd birds on 30/5 and 12/7/69 and 11/6/70.

**Lesser Whitethroat**                    *Sylvia curruca*                    **Bekkafik irmiedi**  
Single birds at Wied il-Luq on 27/9/68, at Wied Babu on 19/4/69, at Ghadira on 23/9/69 and at Mtaħleb on 22/9/70.

**Ruppell's Warbler**                    *Sylvia ruppelli*                    **Bufula tal-pavalor**  
Single birds at Rabat on 24/9/69 and near M'Xlokk on 25/4/70. (5th and 6th records for Malta).

**Sardinian Warbler**                    *Sylvia melanocephala*                    **Bufula sewda**  
Very common resident. Found in all types of countryside and even in urban gardens.

**Subalpine Warbler**                    *Sylvia cantillans*                    **Bufula passajra**  
Fairly common in spring (10/3 — 3/5), with largest influx on 23/3/69 — 40+ at Mtaħleb. Very common in autumn (24/7 — 19/10). Large influx on 24/9/69, with 400+ at Rabat and Buskett. Next highest 180+ at Buskett/Mtaħleb on 8-13/9/69.

**Spectacled Warbler**                    *Sylvia conspicillata*                    **Bufula hamra**  
Common resident in open country. Fewer are seen in winter, suggesting that some leave the Islands.

**Dartford Warbler**                    *Sylvia undata*                    **Bufula tax-xaghri**  
Singles at Wied Żnuber from 1/1 to 5/3/67 and at Ta' Żuta on 22/12/68. Extraordinary influx from 18/11/70, with a maximum of 16 at Ghadira on 9-12/12. Numbers then decreased, but a few were still present in several localities till the end of December.

**Willow Warbler**                    *Phylloscopus trochilus*                    **Vjolin pastard**  
Common in spring (14/3 - 19/5), with 50 at Mtaħleb on 24/4/70 highest. In smaller numbers in autumn (14/8 - 16/10), but up to 30 frequently at Buskett and Salina. Very common in autumn 1969, with 250+ at Buskett from early September and large influx on 24/9, with 1,500 at the same place. Early bird on 31/7/70.

**Chiffchaff**                    *Phylloscopus collybita*                    **Vjolin tax-xitwa**  
Very common winter visitor (11/10 - 19/4), with passage birds in late autumn and early spring. Maximum 200+ at Lunzjata Valley on 10/1/70. Early bird on 1/10/70. Exceptionally late bird singing at Ġirgenti Valley on 5/5/70.

**Bonelli's Warbler**                    *Phylloscopus bonelli*                    **Vjolin bajdani**  
Small numbers annually in spring (29/3 - 13/4, but one on 29/4/70). Highest 5 on 2/4/68 and 6 on 2/4/70, at Ghadira. Very few in autumn (26/8 - 3/9): 1-2 on 2 dates in 1968, 3 dates in 1969 and one date in 1970.

**Wood Warbler**                    *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*                    **Vjolin aħdar**  
Fairly common in spring (26/3 - 19/5), with up to 20 on several dates. Only in small numbers in autumn (21/8 - 17/10), but large influx on 24/9/69 with 600+ at Mtaħleb and Buskett. Late bird on 26/10/69.

**Yellow-Browed Warbler**                    *Phylloscopus inornatus*                    **Vjolin tal-faxx**  
One at Munxar Valley on 21-26/3/70. (7th record for Malta).

- Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* **Bufula tal-qamar**  
Fairly common winter visitor/resident (24/10 - 22/3), with peak in November. 20 — 30 annually at Buskett.
- Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus* **Bufula tat-toppu ahmar**  
Fairly common winter visitor/resident (28/9 - 8/4), with evidence of a small return passage in March. Up to 30 annually at Buskett. In larger numbers than usual in autumn 1970.
- Fan-tailed Warbler** *Cisticola juncidis* **Baghal tal-imrewha**  
Few recorded annually: 1967: 4 on 25/6 and one on 2/7 at Salina, and one at Marsa on 22/9. 1968: Singles near Żebbuġ on 12/4, at Ghadira on 23/4 and at Salina on 14/12. 1969: Singles at Salina on 2nd, 5th, 8th and 27th August. 1970: Singles at Salina on 16/7 and 14/10. (1st records for Malta).
- Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* **Zanzarell iswed**  
Common in spring (27/3 - 14/5), but odd birds from 11/3 in 1968. Highest 30 on several dates. Few annually in autumn (7/8 - 5/11), but fall on 24/9/69 with 50+ at Buskett and Mtahleb.
- Collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis* **Zanzarell tal-kullar**  
Frequent in spring (27/3 - 7/5) Late bird on 22/5/69. In slightly larger numbers than usual in 1969. Highest 4 on several dates. 1-3 on three dates from 27/9 - 3/10/69 were the first autumn records.
- Red-Breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva* **Zanzarell ta' sidru ahmar**  
A very few annually in autumn (13/9 - 10/10), but one on 25/11/69. On one date in 1967, 2 dates in 1968, 4 dates in 1969 and 5 dates in 1970. Highest 3 at Buskett on 29/9/70.
- Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* **Zanzarell tat-tikki**  
Very common in spring (19/4 - 30/5), with 100+ in three localities on 24-25/4/70 highest. In autumn (27/8 - 18/11), small numbers in 1967 and 1968. In 1969, abundant from 24/9 - 2/10, with 800+ at Mtahleb and Buskett on first date highest. Very frequent in 1970. Odd birds at Buskett on 9/6 (2) and 15/7/70.
- Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* **Buçaqçaq tas-silla**  
Common in spring (27/3 - 23/5). Few annually in autumn (3/9 - 8/10). Extraordinary falls on 24/9/69 — 700+ at Mtahleb and Rabat, and on 25/4/70 — 1000+ in four localities.
- Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata* **Buçaqçaq tax-xitwa**  
Common, with up to 30 in suitable localities, in autumn and winter. Small return passage in early spring. Extreme dates 20/9 and 21/3. 2 late birds on 18/4/67.
- Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* **Kuda**  
Very common in spring (7/3 - 24/5) and autumn (12/8 - 3/11), but unusually low numbers in spring 1969. Large influx on 24-26/9/69 with a maximum of 300 at Rabat and Mtahleb on 24th. Odd birds on 26/12/68, 24/6/69, 21/1/70, and 27/11/70.

**Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka* Kuda tal-Lvant  
Male at Marsalforn Valley on 31/3/68. (1st record for Malta).

**Black-Eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica* Kuda dumnikana  
Fairly frequent in spring (14/3 - 8/5), but only on 4 dates in 1969. In autumn (30/8 - 2/10), on 5 dates in 1967, 3 dates in 1968, 4 dates in 1969 and 2 dates in 1970. Highest 10 at Ras il-Pellegrin on 25/3/70, 6 at Mtaħleb on 24/9/69 and 5 at Hal Far on 7/9/69.

**Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti* Kuda tad-deżert  
Single birds at San Lawrenz on 27/10/67 and at B'Bugia on 5/11/70. (2nd and 3rd records for Malta).

**Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina* Kuda izabellina  
One at Ras il-Pellegrin on 25/3/70. (1st reported record for Malta).

**Black Wheatear** *Oenanthe leucura* Kuda swarda  
Single birds at Dingli Cliffs on 28/8/67 and near M'Xlokk on 8/12/69. (2nd and 3rd records for Malta).

**Rufous Bush Chat** *Cercotrichas galactotes* Rożinjol tax-xagħri  
1967: Singles at Victoria on 29/4, near Qormi on 3/5 and at Għargħur on 29 & 31/5. None in 1968. In 1969, single birds at Selmun on 11/5 and at M'Scala on 26/5. One on 18/5/70.

**Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis* Ġanublu  
Fairly frequent in spring (12/3 - 12/5). In autumn (20/8 - 4/10), 1-2 on 5 dates in 1968 and 1969, and on one date in 1970. Very late birds on 21/10/69 and on 10/6/70.

**Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius* Merrill  
Resident, occupying mainly sea cliffs where it is fairly common. Very few found inland.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* Kudiross iswed  
Fairly common winter resident (26/10 - 27/3). Up to 15 annually in suitable localities.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Kudiross  
Common in spring — 14/3 to 8/6, but usually till mid-May. In larger numbers in autumn (26/8 - 4/11). Large fall on 24/9/69, with 600+ at Buskett and Rabat. Otherwise peaks of only 60 in autumn and 40 in spring.

**Robin** *Eritachus rubecula* Pitirross  
Very common autumn migrant and winter resident. A smaller passage takes place annually between late January and early March. Starts arriving at the end of September, but odd birds were seen as early as 4/8. Last spring date usually around mid-April, with odd birds till 21/5. Highest 600+ at Buskett on 4/11/69.

**Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* Rożinjol  
Common in spring (14/3 - 14/5), with 60+ at Buskett on 8/4/68 highest. In slightly smaller numbers in autumn (1/8 - 19/10), but large influx on 24/9/69, with 180+ at Buskett and Mtaħleb.



**Bluethroat** *Cyanosylvia svecica* **Kudiross blu**  
1-2 each spring (13—22/3), except in 1967, when none recorded. Annual in autumn (2/9—3/11), with one in 1967 and 2 in each of the other three years. Single birds at Ghadira on 29/12/69 and 8/2/70, were the 2nd and 3rd winter records. (C. s. *svecica* recorded twice—in autumn 1968).

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* **Malvizzun tal-qtajja**  
Winter visitor and resident in irregular numbers (30/10—5/3). Seen mostly in small parties of up to 12. Usually frequent, but rather scarce during the winter of 1968/69 and fairly common the following winter.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* **Malvizz tas-sidra bajda**  
Regular autumn and winter visitor (7/10—10/1). 1-3 on 9 dates in 1967, 13 dates in 1968, 15 dates in 1969 and 11 dates in 1970. 2 at Delimara on 3/4/70.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula* **Malvizz iswed**  
Frequent autumn migrant and winter visitor/resident (1/10—5/4). Late bird on 17/4/70. Highest 20 at M'Scala on 26/10/70 and 15 at Buskett on 3/1/69.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* **Malvizz ahmar**  
Annual and frequent winter visitor and resident (29/10—16/3). Highest 25, on 15/2/69 and 22 on 6/12/67, at Buskett. (Listed by previous ornithologists as rare and irregular).

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* **Malvizz**  
Very common autumn migrant, with frequent large influxes. Winter visitor/resident in smaller numbers (30/9—29/4). Early birds on 18 & 24-26/9/69. Marked heavy passages on 29/10/68 and 26/10/70. A small passage was noted annually during March.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* **Malvizzun prim**  
Few annually in autumn and winter (15/10—6/3). 1-2 on 3 dates in 1967, 2 dates in 1968, 4 dates in 1969 and 8 dates in 1970

**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra* **Durrajsa**  
Common resident. Passage birds regularly in spring and autumn (some remaining to winter). Juveniles congregate in flocks of up to 80 in August and September.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella* **Durrajsa safra**  
Single immature birds at Benghajsa on 26/10 and 7/11/70. (6th and 7th records for Malta).

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana* **Ortolan**  
Annual, in small numbers, in spring (24/3—28/4). Highest 10 at Xaghra on 2/4/68. Late bird on 25/5/69. Very few in autumn (8/8—6/10): 1-2 on one date in 1968, 4 dates in 1969 and 2 dates in 1970. 2 on 23/10/69 were very late birds.

**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* **Durrajsa qastnija**  
One at Wied il-Ghajj on 14/11/67. (4th record for Malta).

**Yellow-Breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola* **Ortolan tal-Lvant**  
Young male at Marsa on 24/11/68. (2nd record for Malta).

**Black-Headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala* Durrajsa rasha sewda  
Male at Pergla Valley on 10/5/67. (4th record for Malta.)

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus* Durrajsa tal-qasab  
Few irregularly in winter (1/11 — 20/12). On one date in 1967 and on 8 dates in 1968, with 5 at Sainna on 9/11/68 highest. None in 1969. In 1970, 1-2 on 4 dates, then 4 at Salina from 12-20/12.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis* Durrajsa bajda  
4 in 1968: singles at Victoria on 18/11, at Benghisa on 26/11, and at Sigġiewi on 29/11 and 22/12.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* Sponsun  
Common autumn migrant and winter visitor/resident (4/10 — 20/4). Small return passage in March and early April. Odd birds regularly in summer: pair at Xaghra in May-June 1967, one at Mtaheb on 11/6/68, one at Rabat on 1-2/6/70, and up to 7 at Buskett from June to September 1969 and 1970.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla* Sponsun selvaġġ  
One on 15/10/68. Singles on 4 dates from 23/11 to 19/12/69 and on 6 dates from 23/10 to 2/12/70.

**Serin** *Serinus serinus* Apparell  
Autumn migrant in irregular numbers, with frequent influxes in winter and early spring. Abundant in January — February 1967, and common in winter 1967/68 and 1968/69, but in much smaller numbers in 1969/70. Arrives in late October, with odd birds recorded as early as 10/9. Latest spring date 27/4. Few pairs seen regularly between May and September 1967 probably bred. 4 newly fledged young were seen at Buskett on 2/5/68.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* Verdun  
Fairly common autumn migrant, with a smaller passage in spring. Influxes also frequent in winter. Arrives in early October, with odd birds as early as 20/9, and leaves in mid-April with odd late birds up to 10/5. Unusual birds on 23/8/69, 31/7/70, 2/8/70 and 2 at Buskett from 28/8/70 onwards.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* Ekru  
A very few annually in autumn (15/10 — 26/11). One on 24/12/70 and small influx (max. 6) from 25/3 — 22/4/67. One at Chadwick Lakes on 4/3/69. Influxes on 22/10/68 and 25/11/70, with 15+ and 30+ respectively in Gozo.

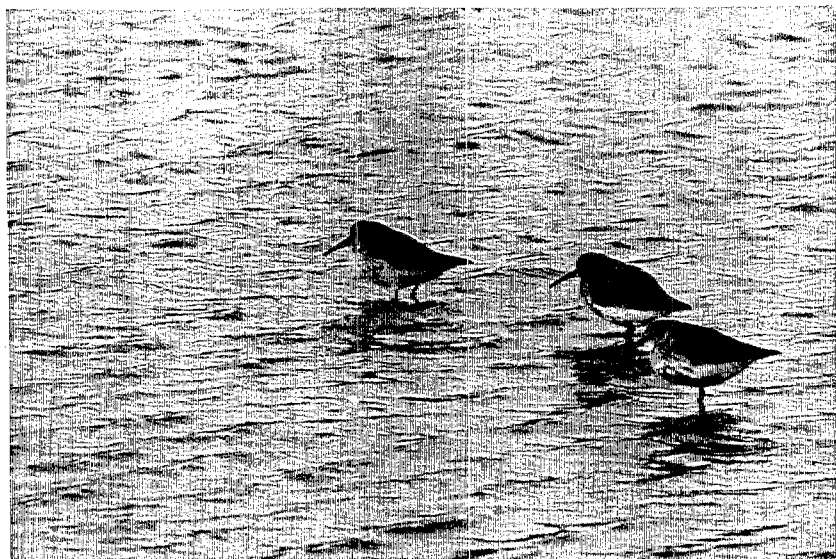
**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* Gardell  
Regular migrant in small numbers in spring and autumn, with influxes irregularly in winter (15/10 — 22/4). Very frequent in spring 1968 and autumn 1969. Highest 30+ at Xaghra on 29/10 and 20+ at Bahrija on 1/11/69.

**Linnet** *Acanthis cannabina* Gojġin  
Very common autumn migrant repassing in smaller numbers in spring. Also common winter visitor and resident. Occurs from early October to mid-April, with odd early birds from 31/8. Heavy passages (with over 1,500 birds) frequent annually. Abundant in January — March 1967. Few pairs resident, especially in Gozo.

- Trumpeter Bullfinch**                      *Rhodopechys githaginea*                      Trumbettier  
 Few recorded annually: 1967: one on 8/6, 1968: 2 on 5/1 and one on 15/2. 1969: one on 14/6, 1970: 2 on 28 & 30/6 and singles on 15/7, 24/8, 7/10, 18/10 and 23/11.
- Scarlet Rosefinch**                      *Carpodacus erythrinus*                      Bumunqar  
 A female was trapped at Buskett in June 1970. (3rd record for Malta).
- Crossbill**                                      *Loxia curvirostra*                                      Kruċjat  
 Immature bird near Rabat on 5/10/68.
- Hawfinch**                                      *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*                                      Ghasfur taż-Zebbuġ  
 Frequent autumn and winter visitor (4/10—4/2), but very scarce in autumn 1968. Almost daily in autumn 1969. Highest 30+ at Xagħra on 2/11/69. One at Buskett on 18/4/68.
- Spanish Sparrow**                      *Passer hispaniolensis*                      Ghammiel tal-bejt  
 Abundant resident.
- Tree Sparrow**                                      *Passer montanus*                                      Ghammiel tas-siġar  
 Resident, breeding in small colonies in several localities. Also common autumn migrant, with heavy passages (flocks of up to 80) annually in October. Smaller numbers remain to winter.
- Rose-Coloured Starling**                      *Sturnus roseus*                                      Sturnell roża  
 One near B'Bugia on 19/5/68.
- Starling**                                      *Sturnus vulgaris*                                      Sturnell  
 Very common autumn migrant and winter resident, from late September to mid-March but with odd birds as early as 19/9 and as late as 27/4. One on 3-4/8/68 and flock of 200 on 28/8/68 were very unusual. Seen in flocks of up to 2,000.
- Golden Oriole**                                      *Oriolus oriolus*                                      Tajra safra  
 Fairly common, in parties of up to 15, in spring (7/4 — 31/5). Late birds on 14/6/69 and 9/6/70. Frequent in autumn (16/8 — 3/10) with 15 at San Blas on 7/9/67. Exceptional influx on 24-26/9/69, with 150+ at Buskett on first date. 2 late birds on 24/10/67.

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To supplement our records, taxidermists C. Falzon, J. Muscat, A. Sammut and S. Xuereb were frequently visited.



Dunlins at Ghadira (photo: B. P. Grenfell).



Meadow Pipit: common winter resident (photo: B. P. Grenfell)



## MALTA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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(a) The Society's main purpose is to initiate, foster and aid the study of avian fauna in accordance with strictly scientific methods, thereby helping to increase the sum of human knowledge on the subject.

(b) The Society solemnly affirms its belief in the Conservation of Nature and will pursue whatever actions it deems necessary to ensure adequate protection of wild-life, and to propagate these ideals in the Maltese Islands.

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Young Member (under 17) 2s 6d

Anyone wishing to join the Society is welcome to write to the Secretary. The Society's Bulletin is sent free to members and illustrated talks, meetings and outings are held monthly except during the summer months.

### *Malta Ornithological Society Ringing Group:*

The Society also has its Bird Ringing Group. This Group is engaged in studying the various aspects of Maltese Ornithology, and is staffed by qualified bird ringers holding a ringing permit from the British Trust for Ornithology. Ringing Secretary: C. Gauci, IAI Museum Road Rabat, Malta.

*The Editor welcomes articles, letters and other features bearing on any aspect of the Ornithology of the Maltese Islands and Mediterranean for publication in this Bulletin.*

*The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or the M.O.S.*