

plumage. ~~The colour of the cere is yellow with a shade of green, while the feet, which have markedly long toes and black claws, are bright yellow with a shade of orange. The closed wing is slightly longer than the tail. Measurements: Wing 270~~

~~mm., Tail 130 mm. Bill 12 mm. and Tarsus 34 mm.~~

~~The Maltese name which fits this falcon is Zumbrell Gharbi. (Zumbrell is the Maltese name for the Red-footed Falcon and Gharbi means Arabian).~~

NEWS FROM THE RINGING GROUP

All ringers were very active throughout most of the last five months of the year. The new ringers, S. Borg and J. Grech, completed their training in November and are now awaiting their permits from the British Trust for Ornithology

A number of interesting retraps was obtained in November and December. Some Chiffchaffs were ringed up to four winters back and Robins and Grey Wagtails up to two winters back.

The only birds ringed in each of the last five months were Cetti's Warbler, Sardinian Warbler and Spanish Sparrow.

AUGUST

August was the initial month of autumn migration. Three of our ringers were away from the Island and only one ringer was active — during the latter half of the month. Ringing was mainly carried out in the early morning at Wied il-Luq, Buskett, which was visited on nine days. The most interesting birds ringed were three Cetti's Warblers and one Savi's Warbler. Three Whitethroats were also noteworthy.

SEPTEMBER

Three ringers active in September trapped 468 birds of 22 species. J. Sultana and C. Gauci, helped by S. Borg, successfully worked a big Yellow Wagtail roost at Salina on five occasions. J. Sultana and J. Grech also manned Lunzjata Valley for roosting Swallows and Yellow Wagtails. Wied il-Luq and Mtahleb in Malta and Pergla Valley in Gozo were used several times in the mornings.

OCTOBER

October was the best month in autumn as far as ringing was concerned. Early in the month we had the pleasure of welcoming once again to our shores Glyn Davies, who spent a fortnight in Gozo. He and V. Vella Muskat worked Lunzjata for roosting hirundines almost every day with very satisfactory results. Lunzjata Valley was the most frequented site with 21 ringing sessions to its credit. Wied il-Luq, Mtahleb, Ramla Valley and Ramla Bay were the most frequented localities. The best catches were recorded at Lunzjata on 6th and 7th, with 52 and 51 birds trapped respectively. A Water Rail ringed at Mtahleb was a new species added to the list. Other interesting birds ringed were a Red-backed Shrike, 2 Cetti's Warblers, 1 Savi's Warbler, 1 Moustached Warbler and a Bluethroat.

NOVEMBER

November proved to be yet another good month and just under 500 birds were ringed. Ringing took place in the usual places, but Wied Znuber, at Hal Far, was also visited a few times. Several good catches were recorded. The most interesting birds ringed, besides two Wrens and a Blue-throat, were undoubtedly two Dartford Warblers.

DECEMBER

No less than eight more Dartford Warblers were trapped and ringed in December. Another new species was ringed — this time a Jack Snipe trapped at Lunzjata Valley. A Wryneck ringed at Ghadira was one of the very few which remained to winter.

LIST OF BIRDS RINGED

Species	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1970 Total
Manx Shearwater	—	—	—	—	—	14
Cory's Shearwater	—	—	—	—	—	23
Storm Petrel	—	—	—	—	—	553
Kestrel	—	—	—	—	—	1
Water Rail	—	—	1	—	—	1
Little Ringed Plover	—	—	—	—	—	10
Little Stint	—	—	—	—	—	14
Green Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	2
Wood Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	4
Common Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	1
Snipe	—	—	—	—	1	2
Great Snipe	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jack Snipe	—	—	—	—	1	1
Herring Gull	—	—	—	—	—	3
Turtle Dove	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cuckoo	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scops Owl	—	—	—	1	—	2
Nightjar	—	—	—	—	—	1
Kingfisher	—	—	—	1	—	1
Hoopoe	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wryneck	—	4	2	—	1	10
Sand Martin	—	7	8	—	—	199
Swallow	—	57	156	—	—	732
Red-rumped Swallow	—	—	—	—	—	4
House Martin	—	—	—	—	—	304
Tree Pipit	—	5	3	—	—	32
Meadow Pipit	—	—	—	2	4	9
Yellow Wagtail	—	164	62	—	—	295
Grey Wagtail	—	—	6	12	3	22
White Wagtail	—	—	5	—	—	5
Red-backed Shrike	—	—	1	—	—	1
Woodchat Shrike	—	1	—	—	—	2

Wren	—	—	—	2	—	2
Duncock	—	—	10	21	1	34
Cetti's Warbler	3	2	2	1	2	12
Savi's Warbler	1	—	1	—	—	3
Moustached Warbler	—	—	1	2	—	6
Sedge Warbler	—	—	4	1	—	60
Reed Warbler	17	16	4	—	—	43
Great Reed Warbler	4	2	1	—	—	48
Icterine Warbler	—	—	1	—	—	12
Garden Warbler	5	73	7	1	—	119
Blackcap	—	1	3	11	1	100
Whitethroat	3	3	—	—	—	123
Sardinian Warbler	5	30	21	30	24	163
Subalpine Warbler	24	44	2	—	—	86
Spectacled Warbler	—	1	3	—	2	7
Dartford Warbler	—	—	—	2	8	10
Willow Warbler	—	7	5	—	—	51
Chiffchaff	—	—	30	148	109	491
Boneill's Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	3
Wood Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	31
Goldcrest	—	—	—	3	—	3
Firecrest	—	—	2	8	3	16
Pied Flycatcher	—	—	—	1	—	34
Collared Flycatcher	—	—	—	—	—	4
Spotted Flycatcher	—	—	1	—	—	28
Whinchat	—	—	1	—	—	30
Stonechat	—	—	2	12	3	18
Blue Rock Thrush	—	—	—	1	—	2
Black Redstart	—	—	—	2	—	3
Redstart	—	11	10	—	—	54
Robin	—	5	186	184	47	493
Nightingale	1	10	—	—	—	37
Bluethroat	—	—	1	1	—	3
Blackbird	—	—	—	2	—	4
Song Thrush	—	—	4	6	—	10
Corn Bunting	—	1	—	—	—	2
Chaffinch	—	—	3	10	2	18
Serin	—	—	—	—	—	1
Greenfinch	—	—	14	3	—	21
Linnet	—	1	36	18	—	117
Spanish Sparrow	2	23	13	11	2	142
Tree Sparrow	—	—	2	1	—	3
Starling	—	—	—	1	—	1
Golden Oriole	—	—	—	—	—	3
Totals	65	468	614	499	213	4,704

C. GAUCI