

took place. A Cream coloured Courser arrived on the 26th and a late Night Heron on the 30th.

June

As usual June was rather quiet, but a few late stragglers were recorded on most days. Swifts were seen daily in good numbers. Hirundines, Honey Buzzards, Hobbies, Red-footed Falcons, Kestrels, Ruffs, Redshanks Turtle Doves, Bee-Eaters, Woodchat Shrikes and Chaffinches were occasionally recorded. Other unusual birds for the month of June were Rock Thrush, Whitethroat, Spotted Redshank and Alpine Swift. More interesting were a Gull-billed Tern on 3rd, a Cream Coloured Courser on 14th and two Trumpeter Bull-

finches on 28th and 30th.

July

Redshanks, Green and Wood Sandpipers, Little Ringed Plovers and Little Stints were occasionally seen through July. Single Purple and Grey Herons were recorded on 9th and 11th respectively and a Whimbrel arrived on the 26th.

The contributors to the above Bird Notes were M. Beaman, B. German, S. Borg, C. Galea, C. Gauci, Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Hardman, D. Rushforth, J. Sultana and Mr. & Mrs. T.M. Watson.

Taxidermists C. Falzon, A. Sammut and S. Xuereb were also visited on several occasions

J. Sultana & C. Gauci

NEWS FROM THE RINGING GROUP

APRIL to JULY.

The months of April and May, the peak period of the spring migration, did not produce the number of birds a ringer would like. Only one significant fall of small passerines was recorded throughout the two months. With all ringers very active, however, over two thousand birds were ringed from April to June.

The first three weeks in April were one of the worst and with ringing taking place daily, less than two hundred birds were trapped for ringing. But a large fall took place on 24th and four ringers active on that day doubled the total for April. Very good catches were again obtained in the subsequent three days. Most of the birds were ringed at Wied Migra l-Ferha and Ghadira, in Malta and Ramla and Lunzjata Vall-eyes in Gozo. A new species added to the ringing list during the month was a Great Snipe trapped at Wied il-Lug.

Hirundines were certainly the most abundant birds about in

May. Ramla Valley, which was the best catching area during the first three months, again topped the list of best areas. It was tackled collectively by J. Sultana, Bro. Edmund and C. Gauci with very good results. The maximum catch was of over 150 hirundiunes in three hours. Hirundines in fact, constitute 85% of the birds ringed in May. Another new species was ringed this month. This was a Swift ringed at Ramla Valley.

The only ringing carried out in June was on a visit to Filfla which was originally scheduled to take place in mid-May, but had to be postponed three times owing to the strong winds. J. Sultana and C. Gauci also visited a Manx Shearwater colony in order to ring the young birds, but unfortunately it was attacked by rats and not a single one survived.

The active ringers during this period were M. Beaman, Bro. Edmund, C. Gauci, Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Hardman, J. Sultana, V. Vella Muskat and Mr. & Mrs. T.M. Watson.

LIST OF BIRDS RINGED:

Species	Jan-March	April	May	June	July	Total
Manx Shearwater	9	1	4	—	—	14
Cory's Shearwater	—	—	—	23	—	23
Storm Petrel	—	—	—	553	—	553
Kestrel	—	—	1	—	—	1
Little Ringed Plover	5	5	—	—	—	10
Little Stint	—	8	6	—	—	14
Green Sandpiper	—	2	—	—	—	2
Wood Sandpiper	—	3	1	—	—	4
Common Sandpiper	—	1	—	—	—	1
Snipe	—	1	—	—	—	1
Great Snipe	—	1	—	—	—	1
Herring Gull	—	—	—	3	—	3
Turtle Dove	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cuckoo	—	1	—	—	—	1
Scops Owl	—	1	—	—	—	1
Nightjar	—	—	1	—	—	1
Swift	—	—	1	—	—	1
Hoopoe	1	—	—	—	—	1
Wryneck	3	—	—	—	—	3
Sand Martin	3	8	173	—	—	184
Swallow	129	175	215	—	—	519
Red-rumped Swallow	1	1	2	—	—	4
House Martin	7	24	273	—	—	304
Tree Pipit	1	22	1	—	—	24
Meadow Pipit	3	—	—	—	—	3
Yellow Wagtail	1	64	4	—	—	69
Grey Wagtail	1	—	—	—	—	1
Woodchat Shrike	—	—	1	—	—	1
Dunnock	2	—	—	—	—	2
Cetti's Warbler	—	2	—	—	—	2
Savi's Warbler	—	1	—	—	—	1
Moustached Warbler	3	—	—	—	—	3
Sedge Warbler	7	39	9	—	—	55
Reed Warbler	—	5	1	—	—	6
Great Reed Warbler	—	27	14	—	—	41
Icterine Warbler	—	2	9	—	—	11
Garden Warbler	—	12	21	—	—	33
Blackcap	81	3	—	—	—	84
Whitethroat	1	103	13	—	—	117
Sardinian Warbler	19	28	6	—	—	53
Subalpine Warbler	7	8	1	—	—	16
Spectacled Warbler	—	1	—	—	—	1
Willow Warbler	6	28	5	—	—	39
Chiffchaff	202	2	—	—	—	204
Bonelli's Warbler	—	3	—	—	—	3
Wood Warbler	—	28	3	—	—	31
Firecrest	3	—	—	—	—	3
Pied Flycatcher	—	25	8	—	—	33
Collared Flycatcher	—	4	—	—	—	4
Spotted Flycatcher	—	20	7	—	—	27
Whinchat	—	28	1	—	—	29
Stonechat	1	—	—	—	—	1
Blue Rock Thrush	—	1	—	—	—	1
Black Redstart	1	—	—	—	—	1
Redstart	5	25	3	—	—	33

Robin	65	6	—	—	—	71
Nightingale	7	18	1	—	—	26
Bluethroat	1	—	—	—	—	1
Blackbird	2	—	—	—	—	2
Corn Bunting	—	—	1	—	—	1
Chaffinch	2	1	—	—	—	3
Serin	1	—	—	—	—	1
Greenfinch	1	—	—	—	3	4
Linnet	62	—	—	—	—	62
Spanish Sparrow	17	56	9	—	10	92
Golden Oriole	—	2	1	—	—	3
Total	660	797	796	579	13	2,755

RETRAPS

Few interesting retraps were obtained during the four months. The more interesting are given:

Species	Locality	Ringed	Wt. (gms)	Re-trapped	Wt.
Cory's Shearwater	Filfla	17.5.69.		14.6.70.	
Storm Petrel (Pull.)	Filfla	28.7.68.		13.6.70	
Great Reed Warbler	Wied il-Luq	13.4.70	21.7	17.4.70.	26.7
				18.4.70	28.7
				24.4.70	30
Sedge Warbler	Ramla Valley	30.3.70	11.6	3.4.70	10.8
Sedge Warbler	Ramla Valley	30.3.70	15.5	3.4.70	16.1
Redstart	Ghadira	26.3.70	13.8	2.4.70	15.7
Spanish Sparrow	Xaghra	7.2.67	—	26.4.70	—

(8 more adult Storm Petrels were retrapped after two years and 5 after one year)

BIRDS RECOVERED ABROAD

A Sedge Warbler ringed at Ramla Valley on 4th April, 1970 was controlled at Little Hallingbury, Essex, England on 28th April, 1970.

FOREIGN BIRDS RECOVERED IN MALTA

An Osprey ringed as a pullus at Haltia, Finland was shot at Bahar ic-Caghaq on 2nd April, 1970.

A Swallow ringed at Kain, Belgium was controlled at Ramla Valley on 8th May 1970.

ERRATA: The ringed total for Jan — March in Bulletin No I Page 14, should read 660 not 659.

C. GAUCI.