

# Bird's Eye View

A BirdLife Malta members' magazine

Issue 56 ▪ June 2018



## Let's not give up!

With summer approaching us you can already see the difference in our landscapes. The lush green fields are turning yellow and brown, the sporadic water streams and pools are drying up and the flowers that bloomed for months are now turning into seeds and fruits. But unfortunately this is not the only reason why our landscapes are changing. We are witnessing a frenzy of buildings and developments in all of our country. Be it the coastline, the urban areas and the rural settings. Even in Outside Development Zones. The problem relies on the fact that most of these are unsuitable buildings that will stress our natural resources even further. This stress will eventually transfer on to us as human beings with very few empty spaces where our minds can rest and our body can reenergise.

Very few people relate to natural resources as an economic factor or even health necessity. This is our biggest hurdle. How do we convince the Government and policymakers that every tree, every field, every valley, beach, coast, hillside and cliff edge has an economic value? I would agree with arguments that natural resources go beyond the financial value, but for our leaders today, that is too much to conceive.

The biggest risk is that we become a society with a nonchalant-attitude towards the destruction of nature. There is the fear that we will get tired of voicing our concerns, and more people complain that the path our country is taking is a wrong one, with respect to protecting our natural spaces.

I encourage you to become more participative. Write to the authorities, to the media, to your politicians. Attend discussions and debates. Encourage your friends and family to do the same and if possible also enrol in an eNGO like BirdLife Malta. The lobby group needs strengthening and I am counting on our members to help out.



**Mark Sultana** CEO

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## Summer vibes

Here is the summer issue of our members' magazine. What bird would fit better on our front page to mark the season than the Yellow-legged Gull, a very common resident and breeding bird symbolic of the seaside? BirdLife Malta volunteer and bird ringer Sean Bonello explains more about this bird on our page 4.

This issue's news page is full of exciting updates from the past months. It was quite a busy period with the spring hunting season and a lot of interesting initiatives taken by our education team, not to mention the adventures of the Maltese team led by our CEO who participated in the Champions of the Flyway challenge in Israel.

On page 5, Victor Falzon writes about Foresta 2000 and what to spot at this time of year, whilst our 'educate' spread is all about our new environmental educational project PINE. Since we are now in summer, we've decided to change our walking boots for a snorkelling mask to take you on a underwater tour led by Desirèe Falzon on pages 8-9 before giving you an update on the new phase of our LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija project. As usual, page 11 lists our upcoming events – including the summer's highlight – the Shearwater Boat Trips!

Finally, the back page is dedicated to the launch of our brand new bird adoption scheme that will support our efforts in conserving and protecting Malta's birds. We hope you enjoy reading this issue and enjoy the summer!

### The Editor

**Editorial Board** Nathaniel Attard (Editor), Victor Falzon (Field Teacher), Jessica Irwin (Communications Officer), Eleni Karatzia (Communications & Events Assistant), Kinga Kupska (Design & Digital Media Assistant)

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**Front cover photo** Yellow-legged Gull by Joe Sultana

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## Spring hunting season comes to an end

On the 21st April, the 2018 spring hunting season came to an end and with it a series of illegalities. A total of 18 known protected birds were confirmed illegally shot, rising further even after the season had closed, including a scarce Avocet that was shot during the night at Salina Nature Reserve. This year's victims included Turtle Doves, Common Kestrels and Lesser Kestrels. Despite the fact that the season was supposedly open only for Quail, the purposely chosen dates coincided with the peak migration period of the protected Turtle Dove. Amongst the evidence gathered we showed footage of an FKNK official illegally hunting a Turtle Dove in Mizieb which will be submitted alongside all other evidence collected during Spring Watch to the European Commission as part of a report on the 148 illegalities observed during the season. Our next bird monitoring camp will take place this autumn; if you wish to help us with our work or you want more information, please email [alice.tribe@birdlifemalta.org](mailto:alice.tribe@birdlifemalta.org).



► Shot Avocet

BirdLife Malta

## OWL in Brussels

One World Learning (OWL) project partners got together in Brussels at the end of April for the second transnational meeting. Over three days, the team worked together on developing the project in creating an international environmental education programme. The meeting was a great success and demonstrated the effectiveness of the collaborative approach of the project. We look forward to working with our partners again at the next meeting in Poland in September!

## Education Minister visits Simar Nature Reserve

In May, the Minister for Education and Employment Evarist Bartolo visited Simar Nature Reserve to see our work in connecting children with nature. Alongside a group of lively schoolchildren from Gharghur Primary's Year 3 class (Maria Regina College), the Minister was guided through the reserve to the birdwatching hide where the group did some birdwatching with BirdLife Malta Field Teacher Desiree Falzon. At the end of the visit Minister Bartolo was presented with BirdLife Malta's latest two environmental education publications – the highly illustrated *Ghasafar Madwarna* children's book and the publication about Natura 2000 sites in Malta *Post għan-Natura*.



Nathaniel Attard

► Education Minister visit to Simar

## BirdLife Malta and MCAST sign Memorandum of Understanding

Earlier this year, BirdLife Malta and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening the two organisations' collaborative relationship, working to enhance student knowledge about the environment. The official signing took place at MCAST's main campus in Paola, signed by the President of the MCAST Board of Governors Dr Silvio De Bono on behalf of the College, and by BirdLife Malta President Darryl Grima on behalf of BirdLife Malta. MCAST Principal and CEO Stephen Cachia, Vice-Principal Ing Vincent Maione and BirdLife Malta CEO Mark Sultana together with BirdLife Malta Education Manager Sarah Brady were also in attendance.

## Champions of the Flyway

In March, the Maltese Falcons travelled to Israel for the 2018 Champions of the Flyway event, organised by our partner the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. Led by BirdLife Malta CEO Mark Sultana, the group of enthusiastic birders joined teams from all over the world in spotting over 240 species in just 15 days. During the trip, the team enjoyed sightings of Spoonbills, Black Storks, Glossy Ibis, Steppe Buzzards, Steppe Eagles, and Griffon and Egyptian Vultures in some of Israel's most beautiful sites. All of the donations raised for the event will go to support BIOM (BirdLife Croatia) and the Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia (BirdLife Serbia) to protect critically important migration routes. Well done to all involved!

WORDS **Jessica Irwin** BirdLife Malta Communications Officer



BirdLife Malta

► Champions of the Flyway



# Yellow-legged Gull

**Maltese name:** Gawwija Prima

**Scientific name:** *Larus michahellis*

**Length:** 52-58 cm

**Wingspan:** 120-140 cm

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (IUCN), with population trend increasing

**Local Status:** Very common resident and breeding bird around the Maltese Islands

**Call:** Long call, guttural, fast and nasal – similar call to other large gull species such as Herring Gull

**Behaviour:** A ground-nesting gull species that feeds on both live and dead prey, often scavenging opportunistically. They are a coastal and inland species, but occasionally venture out to sea

**Habitat:** Breeds in temperate, steppe landscapes on rocky and sandy offshore islands, rocky coasts, cliffs, salt pans, brackish coastal marshes and sand dunes

Symbolic of the seaside, we often take this species for granted as we see it commonly circling above the waves. Its muted colours of grey, white and black are punctuated by a bright yellow eye with a red rim and of course the yellow legs for which the bird is named. Yellow-legged Gulls have a curious character, belligerent and confident, they have no fear of humans and will happily scavenge and beg for leftovers!

Their instincts have perfectly equipped them for living alongside highly populated areas. Although we don't have accurate population statistics, it is clear to those who monitor the number of bird species in the Maltese Islands that these birds are thriving. This contradicts current seabird population trends which indicate numbers are plummeting due to a range of threats, most notably plastic pollution and rodents in their breeding areas.

Their confidence isn't just aimed at humans, they will also fiercely defend their territory against other birds including

raptors and waders. Yellow-legged Gulls can be found in a vast range of habitats from rocky shores to marshland. There are very few natural areas in Malta which are completely undisturbed by human activity, therefore their adaptability to a wide range of areas allows them to flourish and expand where other species might not.

Yellow-legged Gulls have only recently been recognised as a full species in their own right. It was previously thought to be a race of Herring Gull, an almost-identical species commonly found in the UK.

Although this species may not be one of the most enigmatic of birds, their attitude and adaptability to life has enabled them to use our human-dominated planet to their advantage. So next time you hear their loud laughing call by the sea, take notice and admire this bird for their remarkable strategy for survival!

**WORDS Sean Bonello** BirdLife Malta volunteer and bird ringer



▶ Foresta 2000



Wild Artichoke ◀

## Nature in focus at Foresta 2000



▶ Collared Dove



Large Yellow-banded Scolid Wasp ◀

### Large Yellow-banded Scolid Wasp Qerd iż- Żaqquq *Megascolia flavifrons*

A hefty name for a hefty wasp! This customer really is massive, indeed it's the biggest wasp in Europe (some call it the Mammoth Wasp). One look at this hairy black apparition will send most people scurrying. But for all its menacing looks – especially the fabulous orange-headed female, which is substantially larger than the male – it's not particularly aggressive. At Foresta 2000 I regularly approach these beauties to photograph them binging on flower nectar (especially Cardoon – see below) and I have never been once molested. The *žaqquq* in its Maltese name refers to the larva of large beetles (Rhinoceros Beetle with this species) which the female wasps hunt out, sting, paralyze and lay their egg on, in this way securing a food supply for their young when they hatch. Nasty, eh! Let's just be thankful we're not Rhino Beetles.

### Collared Dove Gamiema tal-Kullar *Streptopelia decaocto*

The Collared Dove looks like a small, pale, slim pigeon. The landmark BirdLife Malta book *A New Guide to the Birds of Malta* by Joe Sultana and Charles Gauci described the species as "vagrant" meaning extremely rare. This was in 1982 and in 2003 all that changed when a pair nested in a garden in Mellieħa! Since then the species hasn't looked back and

has established a resident breeding population that is still growing. Its range is still relatively localised but the bird has spread and bred also in Gozo. The first nest at Foresta was located in 2010 and the woodland rapidly became a stronghold for this bird, which seems to prefer the groves of Aleppo Pine for nesting. Collared Doves are a familiar sight all over Europe, and you hear their soft "do-doooo-do" call in many residential areas with trees. May its gentle coo become just as familiar in our own countryside.

### Wild Artichoke Qaqoċċ tax-Xewk *Cynara cardunculus*

Amid the fast-drying vegetation across the clay steppe at Foresta 2000 grows a splendid plant that is currently adorned with multiple flowers of a most eye-catching electric violet colour. This is the Wild Artichoke (or Cardoon) and there's no mistaking this plant with the domestic *qaqoċċ* many of us find an appetising nibble. The Wild Artichoke's flowers, stalks and large leaves all bristle with long, sharp spines that discourage any form of handling or grazing by sheep. But those spines don't deter a multitude of insects that seem to find its nectar irresistible. Not least among its drooling fans is the Yellow-banded Scolid Wasp (outlined above). The Wild Artichoke grows in open unshaded country, preferring clayey steppe, which along with other sun-loving species of plants and animals give life to this habitat.

WORDS Victor Falzon BirdLife Malta Field Teacher

# Practical Innovative Nature Education

*Practical Innovative Nature Education or PINE, is BirdLife Malta's new international education project aimed towards youth's personal and professional development through nature connections. Through PINE, we want to show how learning in nature is the key for youth development and building together a sustainable future.*

There is a growing number of research, proving that connections with nature make us healthier, happier people and is also working as a tool against anxiety and depression. Being outdoors increases our creativity and focus, it makes us more productive and optimistic, and it improves our critical thinking, hence bringing added value to our personal and professional life!

Nowadays, youths in the European Union are more challenged when it comes to employability opportunities. According to the European Union's latest statistics, more than 4.2 million young people aged between 15-24 years were unemployed in 2016, meaning 19% of the youths in the European Union.

We believe that these numbers can be reduced! So, what's the best method if not blending together nature connections and skills' development that will boost youth's employability opportunities?

Through the PINE project we cater for increasing youth employability, by developing life skills and competences that would make them attractive to potential employers, using various approaches of learning blended with environmental education and outdoor activities as a medium. This will contribute to forming future adults eager to work towards environmental protection and potentially creating their own environmental enterprises!

The specific skills and competences targeted by the project are:

- **Entrepreneurship skills:** proactivity, leadership, social and communication skills, being able to turn ideas into reality and put in place sustainability projects
- **Communication skills:** ability to speak clearly, empathy, self-confidence, good attitude, listening, public speaking
- **Promoting values for inclusion and acceptance of**

**diversity:** developing respect and understanding for other people, eliminating prejudice

■ **Active Citizenship:** participation in decision process, increasing awareness, making youth responsible about environment and people around, increasing their motivation to take action for a better change

■ **Environmental awareness, appreciation and understanding:** sustainable use of the natural environment, taking decisions with smaller environmental impact, and being connected with nature.

Working with our partners EU Diaspora from Sweden, Positiva Milano from Italy, Pozitiva Samobor from Croatia, and our local partner the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology, we are all sharing various strengths, expertise, and networks in order to deliver the best outcome. Together we are focusing on creating a PINE handbook for youth workers containing best practices and resources to work with 15 to 24 years old youths.

The PINE Handbook will have a structure easy to follow by any youth worker, being divided in four different connected areas: **Explore - Observe - Action - Celebrate!**

Youths will improve a different set of skills and competences through various outdoors activities related to nature: ice breakers, team building, sensory activities, role plays, workshops, developing action plans, sharing information publicly, and increasing environmental awareness.



The focus is to deliver high quality informal and non-formal education, through experiential learning. This approach encompasses the process 'learning by doing' and by observing, working with different methods beyond the traditional formal education carried out in schools. Youth will acquire cognitive, emotional and specific competences and skills, it will help them to identify and trust their instincts, as well as developing self-confidence in everything they do!

Not to be forgotten, these activities involve a lot of fun, boosting motivation and thirst to experience and learn! To ensure the best way to achieve a change in behaviour towards environmental protection and nurturing love and respect for nature, it is made focusing on two interlinked directions: first one is the youth's own experience and intrinsic motivation and the second one is increasing awareness and environmental knowledge.

Only by blending the two there are greater chances to see things positively improving around us. Our PINE project aims to support this approach!

All the education team of BirdLife Malta and our partners are looking forward to work together and contribute to youth's empowerment and sustainable future!

WORDS **Stefania Papadopol** BirdLife Malta Education Officer  
**PHOTOS Kinga Kupska** BirdLife Malta Design & Digital Media Assistant



PINE partners at Ghadiria Nature Reserve ◀



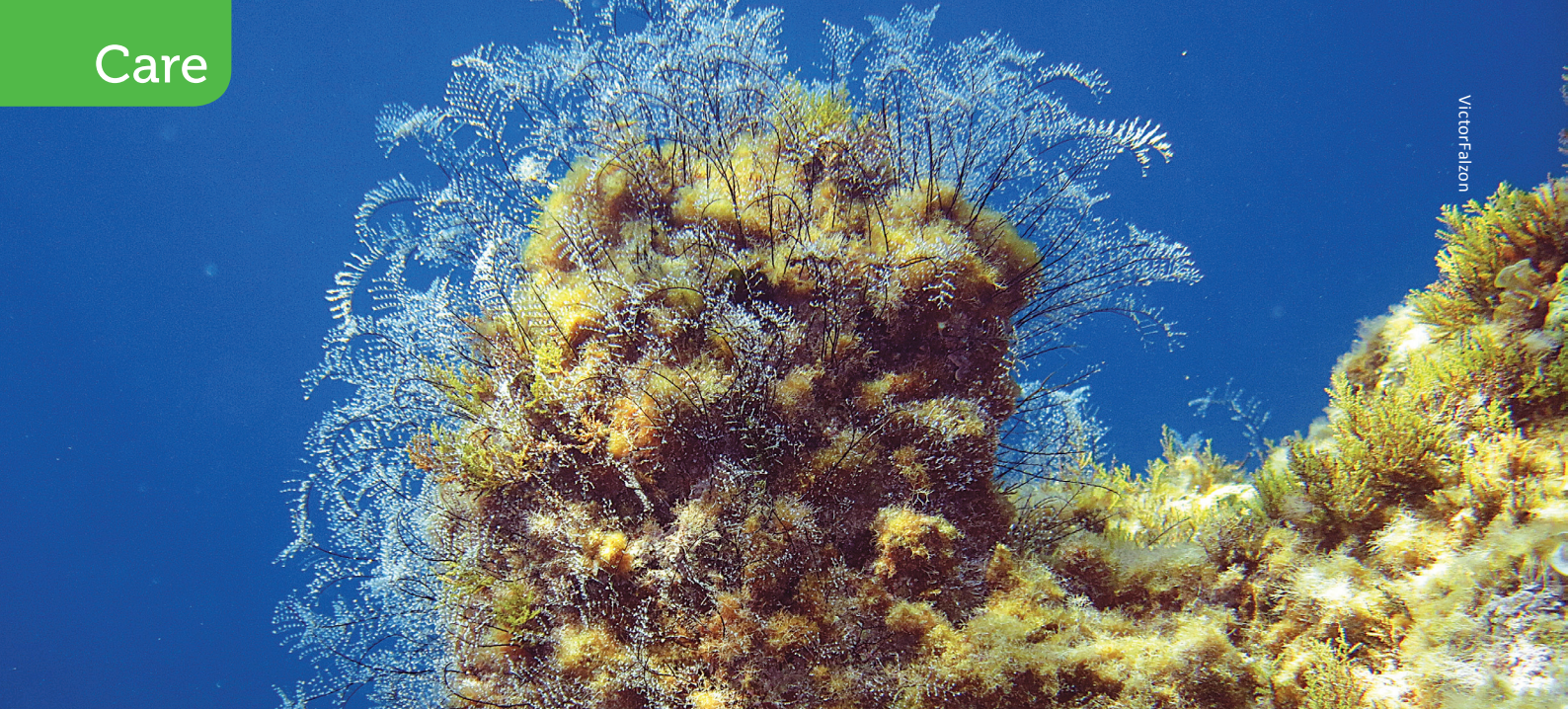
▶ Exploring and using senses



Field visit ▶



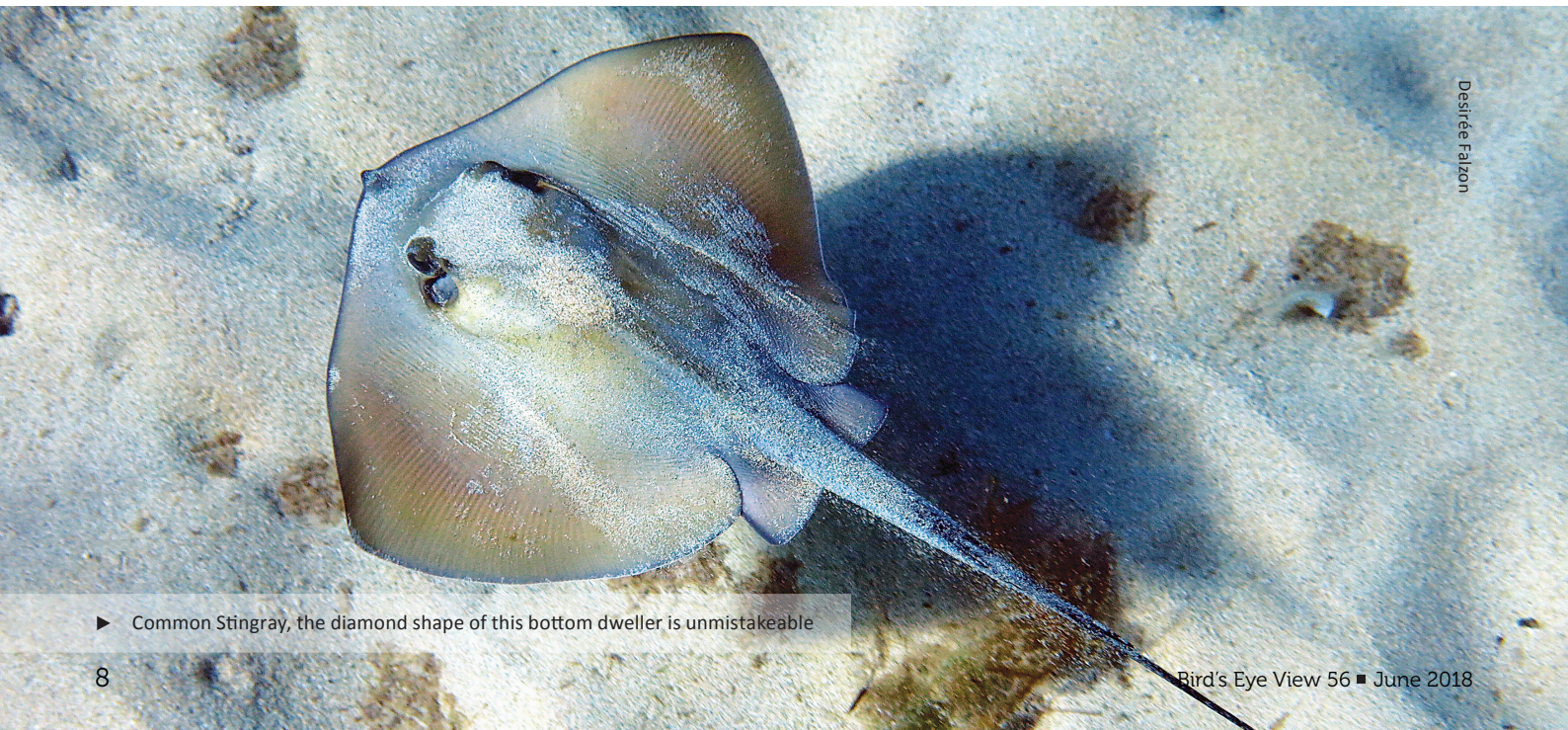
Bird ringing demonstration ▶



# Ir-Ramla tal-Mixquqa

**DOWN, UNDER AND AWAY FROM IT ALL**

*Malta is a challenging country to live in if you're a nature lover. Our small, over-populated country isn't synonymous with the perfect get-away-from-it-all holiday. But there is one magical place where you can lose yourself for hours and forget you are on a tiny rock with more people than wildlife.*



► Common Stingray, the diamond shape of this bottom dweller is unmistakable



## Rich biodiversity

Ir-Ramla tal-Mixquqa, known to tourists as Golden Bay, is one of Malta's marine Natura 2000 sites. The area's geomorphology gives rise to a rich patchwork of habitats, including the gold-coloured sandy beach that lends the bay its English name. Two upper coralline limestone plateaus and cliffs flank a wide valley that ends in a fine sand sloping gently into the sea. The bay is the perfect snorkelling destination, as its protected status and bio-rich waters provide hours of nature-watching fun and fascination. Look no further than the first three meters, where the penetrating sunlight gives life to a wealth of biodiversity.

## Life in the shade

Boulders from the cliffs that have tumbled into the bay create overhangs and cave-like spaces that offer excellent habitat for shade-loving and retiring animals like the octopus. This master of camouflage is best spotted during an early morning swim: look for the attendant Painted Comber 'pointing' at the octopus as it waits for scraps from the shells and crabs the animal's deft arms have prized off the rocks.

Peer under the overhangs and be dazzled by the bright yellows, oranges and crimson-reds of the sponges, star corals and encrusting algae that live in the shadows. Fallen boulders create great hiding spots for young groupers, with their golden-yellow blotched flanks, and curious but shy gaze. Small bright red blennies compensate for their dark surroundings with their beautiful livery.

Both the left and right rocky sides of the bay teem with shoals of mullets and sand smelt, attracting the occasional small groups of predatory garfish. Watch these pipe-like fish dart down from the surface in fast pursuit of their prey. If there's one fish you can't miss, it's the Ornate Wrasse, darting in and out among boulders looking for shells and small crustaceans. The young females populate the shady boulders but the showy older males also patrol open reefs flashing their tropical gaudy blues and yellows.

## Sandy bottom

Swim across the sunny bay over the sandy bottom and meet a whole new ecosystem. Two spectacular denizens easy to see on most days are the Common Stingray, gliding smoothly over the surface or leaving diamond-shaped depressions where it stops to sift sand and the Flying Gurnard, which opens a pair of electric blue wing-like fins when alarmed.



▶ Ornate Wrasse: the territorial male flaunts its showy tropical blues and greens



▶ Star Coral: the orange, fleshy arms open by day to catch tiny food particles

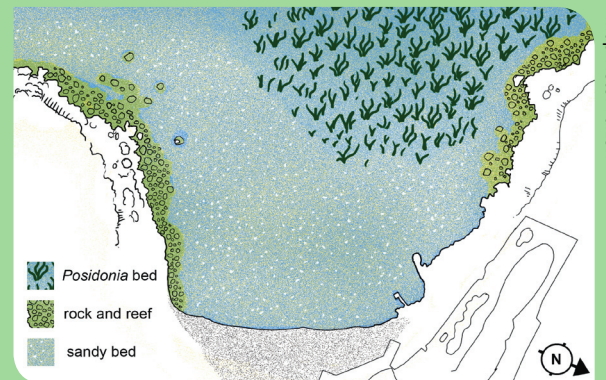


▶ Flying Gurnard: two modified fins open out to startle predators while the fish takes off

## HOW TO GET THERE

- Ir-Ramla tal-Mixquqa is easy to reach by public transport as it is one of the bays served on the bus route. Find your route from the Public Transport website at:

<https://www.publictransport.com.mt/en/routes-timetables>



Peer closely at the shallow bottom and you will find starfish tracks, sand mounds made by deeply-buried crustaceans and flounders in perfect camouflage with the grainy sand. Spot the telltale pairs of eyes of the Greater Weever lying almost buried in wait for passing prey.

A stopover at one of the alga-covered boulders that pepper the bay will reveal a variety of beautifully-patterned small blennies that cope with top-of-the-rock currents by holding on with hand-like belly fins.

## The cycle of life

Meadows of Neptune Grass – vital to the bay ecosystem – grow in relative shallows along the north side, serving as a nursery and harbour for the eggs and young of many fish that depend on the protection of the extensive, thick mat of grass. Make sure to always be a responsible snorkeller and play your part in keeping the cycle of life going: use sea-friendly sunscreen and take a net to collect floating plastic. After all, it is in the nature-lover's interest to preserve a hobby that provides a great way to enjoy four months of free time in summer!

WORDS **Desirée Falzon** BirdLife Malta Field Teacher

# New hope for Malta's Yelkouan Shearwaters

*After assessing this seabird's local population and the threats it faces, BirdLife Malta's LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija project will now start implementing conservation actions based on the findings of the first two years.*

BirdLife Malta's LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija project is the largest project that tackles the threats that Yelkouan Shearwater populations face in the Maltese Islands.



Victor Paris

► The Yelkouan Shearwater



Paulo Lago

► Predator control activities in Gozo



Paulo Lago

► Migra l-Ferha, where a Yelkouan Shearwater colony was discovered in 2017



Benjamin Metzger

► Monitoring activities at Majjistral Park during a bunkering event

Over the last two breeding seasons, the project has been collecting data to monitor and assess Yelkouan Shearwater populations and their threats around Malta and Gozo. The main threats identified in the breeding colonies were: predation by rats, light pollution from developed areas, littering left by visitors, and disturbance by boats.





Two years in, we are now moving on to its next phase which will see the implementation of conservation actions based on the data collected. This will include localised rat control programmes in colony sites to secure half of the Maltese population of Yelkouan Shearwaters and increase reproductive success.

*We recently launched #NestWatch through which the public can now follow the breeding cycle of these birds along the entire season with exclusive footage direct from the nesting sites in the cliffs*

Our team is working closely with local stakeholders and the general public to reduce littering close to colonies, mainly at Rdum tal-Madonna and Comino, that maintains the large rat populations that feed on eggs and young chicks at these important sites. This will also mean undertaking public engagement activities and speaking with visitors to encourage responsible disposal of litter in bins or bringing waste back home with them.

Project partners Transport Malta are also helping us to reduce the disturbance of recreational boats that pass close to breeding seabird colonies in the cliffs and enter sea caves with loud music and lights by increasing awareness among the boat users. We are now also addressing the threat of light pollution from land, mainly from developed areas such as St Paul's Bay, and from the sea originating from bunkering boats especially those refuelling in front of seabird colonies.

### Main threats and risks identified in the breeding colonies:

-  Predation by rats
-  Light pollution from developed areas
-  Littering left by visitors
-  Disturbance by boats

Along with these key conservation actions, we're also working hard to raise awareness and support amongst the general public for the protection of this amazing species! In spring we launched #NestWatch where the people can follow the intimate behaviour of Malta's Yelkouan Shearwaters through footage captured on specialised cameras situated within their nests! We'll continue to share these fascinating videos through the current breeding season, giving a unique insight into the secretive lives of this incredibly special species up until the chicks' maiden flight.

WORDS **Paulo Lago** LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija Project Manager

## Upcoming Events

### Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 27 June

18:30 – 21:00 | Salina Nature Reserve

During this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) there will be various presentations and video productions highlighting some of BirdLife Malta's work during the previous year. The event will also include the presentation of our last three publications together with a special presentation which will be announced on the day. The event is open only to members.

### LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija Shearwater Boat Trips

Friday 29 & Saturday 30 June, Friday 6 & Saturday 7 July

18:30 – 21:30 | Ta' Ċenċ Cliffs

One of BirdLife Malta's most anticipated activities is just around the corner! Join our LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija sunset boat rides and you will experience one of Malta's breathtaking natural spectacles – the Scopoli's Shearwater 'rafting' on the water before returning to their nests in Ta' Ċenċ cliffs. This year, BirdLife Malta will organise one trip (6th of July) to depart from and return to Gozo (Mġarr Harbour). Hurry up and book your place before it's sold out! For booking please check out our event page on our website.

### Young Explorers Club

Tuesdays & Thursdays, from 3 July to 30 August

08:00 – 12:00 | Simar Nature Reserve

To celebrate summer time, BirdLife Malta will launch a young explorers club where children will connect with nature through discovering our reserves and their wildlife! The programme will run for eight weeks (excluding the weekend) and is suitable for children aged 7 – 11 years old. You can learn more about this educational adventure and secure a place for your child on our website.

## Past Events

### Sicily Day Trips

This past April, BirdLife Malta's Events & Activities Group in collaboration with our Italian BirdLife partners LIPU and C.E.A Onlus Niscemi organised two day trips to Niscemi's Cork Oak Nature Reserve in Sicily – one of them for BirdLife members and the other for the BOV Sports & Social Club. The trips included a trek at the nature reserve during which participants enjoyed a variety of wildlife, from different trees to flowers and birds!



Aron Tanti

▶ Shearwater boat trip



Kinga Kupska

▶ Fly Rasta Reggae at Funky Monkey in aid of BirdLife Malta



Nathaniel Attard

▶ At Science in the Citadel



Eleni Karatzia

▶ Easter Egg-Citement at Simar Nature Reserve



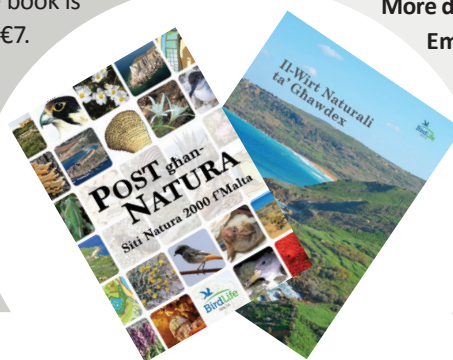
BirdLife Malta

▶ BirdLife Malta Sicily Trip

## BirdLife Malta has published another two books!

*Post għan-Natura – Siti Natura 2000 f'Malta* takes a look at Natura 2000 sites in the Maltese Islands and explains what makes them special for nature with amazing illustrations with photographs – making it a great resource for students and teachers of Geography, Environmental Studies, Science and Maltese! The book is in Maltese, printed in full colour and available for €7.

*Il-Wirt Naturali ta' Għawdex*, is a collection of 84 articles penned by Gozitan veteran ornithologist and former BirdLife Malta President Joe Sultana. The publication showcases nature's beauty with sections relating to important natural sites in Gozo and is on sale for €15.



### Want to help us continue our work?

Join: [www.birdlifemalta.org/become-member](http://www.birdlifemalta.org/become-member)

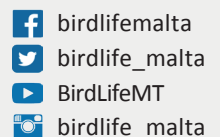
Donate: [www.birdlifemalta.org/donate](http://www.birdlifemalta.org/donate)

### Want to join an event?

More details: [www.birdlifemalta.org/events](http://www.birdlifemalta.org/events)

Email: [events@birdlifemalta.org](mailto:events@birdlifemalta.org)

Call: +356 2134 7646



# Become a #BirdHero today!

Do you want a gift that makes a difference to wildlife? Look no further! We have launched a brand new adoption scheme, so you can help us, help birds! Adopting a bird with us is a great way to support us and raise funds for our vital work whilst getting something back in return.

Take your pick of choosing to sponsor a Peregrine Falcon, Blue Rock Thrush or Scopoli's Shearwater and receive your personalised adoption pack with updates throughout the year on how you are helping us to protect these species in Malta!

Find out more or adopt today:

<https://birdlifemalta.org/get-involved/online-shop/adopt-a-bird-become-a-birdhero>

**Adopt a bird with BirdLife Malta  
and become a #BirdHero!**

