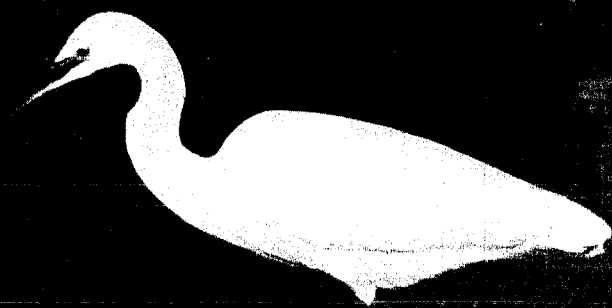


BIRD'S EYE VIEW



6
JANUARY 1983

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

JANUARY 1983

NO. 6

AN MOS PUBLICATION TO GIVE MEMBERS A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF WHAT HAPPENED, WHAT IS HAPPENING, AND WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING WITHIN THE MOS - THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY - THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY AND PROTECTION OF BIRDS IN MALTA.

Editorial Board

Editor : Joe Sultana

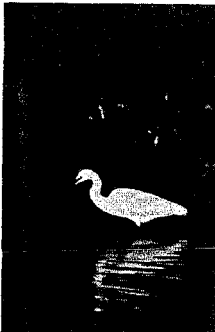
Members : Alfred E. Baldacchino
Saviour Balzan &
Natalino Fenech

Design & Artwork : Joe Sultana

Printed : Union Press

CONTENTS

Comment.....	3
Ghadira - The Making of a Reserve Part III.....	4
Opinions.....	9
ICRP News.....	10
News & Views.....	11
Annual General Meeting President's Address.....	18
Secretary's Report.....	19
Calendar of Activities.....	21
Treasurer's Report.....	22



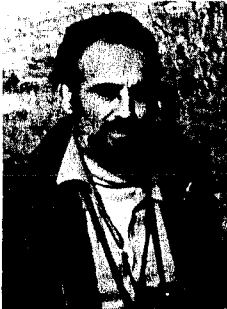
FRONT COVER : Little Egret at Ghadira (photo : Guido Bonetti).



BACK COVER : Immature Night Heron found shot at Buskett (photo : Raymond Gales).

The front and back covers' photos show a marked difference between a live bird and a dead one; one is the result of shooting with a camera, the other shows the result of shooting with a gun. Herons and Egrets are not legally protected in Malta and are commonly shot for fun or for mounted stuffed bird collections. These species are passage migrants, however some, especially Little Egrets, are induced to stay for several days at Ghadira, where bird-watching is being introduced for the first time in Malta to the public..

COMMENT

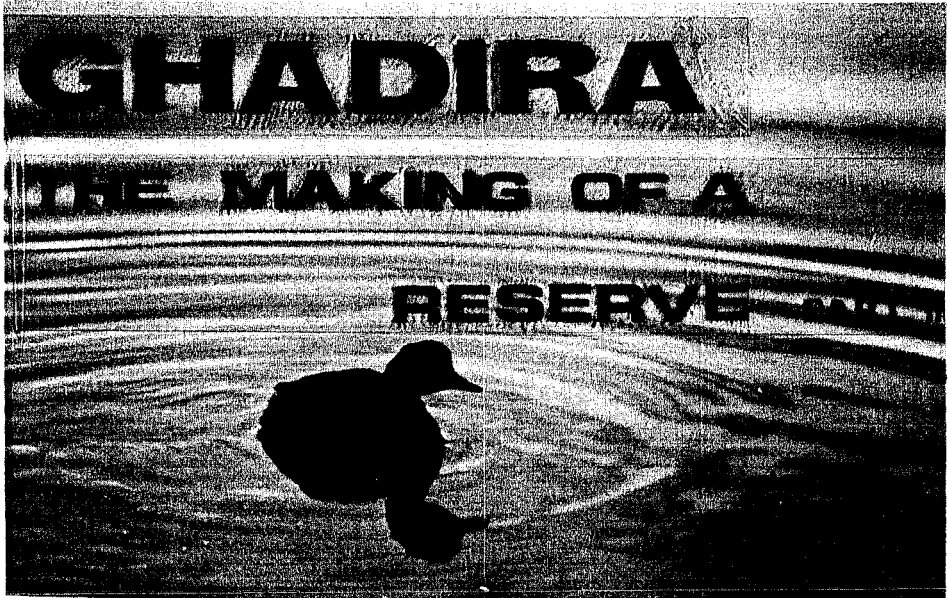


ILLEGAL BIRD SHOOTING IS PREVALENT

After the start of the close season on 21st May some Turtle Doves settled down in a few places mainly at Buskett. Their crooning was soon silenced for good. A pair of Black-eared Wheatears found Ta' Zuta ideal for their breeding requirements. This was the first breeding record for the islands for this species. The female was found lifeless on the cliffs above the breeding site in June. On examination it was found to have been shot. Several Honey Buzzards tried to roost at Buskett on 28th September. No fewer than 25 birds were shot down in and around the sanctuary. A White Stork sailed over Marsa in October and settled in the large Addolorata Cemetery. A few moments later it was shot dead. A Crane was pacing majestically one day in November at one of the far ends of the airfield. In a matter of minutes a bird shooter was rushing out through a hole in the fence with the dead bird. We could go on and on. These are but a few of many sad episodes which occur annually. Such illegal activities are not carried out, as claimed, by a FEW pseudo-hunters. The shooting of legally protected species is still the order of the day. And then to add insult to injury - the MOS is accused of attacking relentlessly the Maltese bird shooting community; the MOS is accused of trying to bring the Maltese bird shooter in disrepute; and above all the MOS is accused that it is besmirching Malta's image!!!

A quotation from the Editorial of NATUROPA by the former President of the Republic Mr A. Buttigieg reads "The success of any nature conservation programme ultimately depends not on the national legislating authority, but on the individual citizen, and it is solely through the creation and firm establishment of a sense of environmental awareness among populations as a whole that effective preservation of our national heritage can be achieved". This is quite true, but it is also equally true that proper enforcement of good legislation results in a high degree of awareness and respect. We may also ask who is responsible for the creation and firm establishment of a sense of environmental awareness among populations as a whole? Should this responsibility be shouldered only by small conservation bodies like MOS?

Joe Sultana
January 1983



Mr. Herbert E. Axell MBE, whose development plan of Ghadira as a nature reserve was submitted to and accepted by the Maltese authorities in 1978, once again supervised the third and final phase of engineering work which was carried out this summer (1982). His services were freely given and only his travel and accommodation expenses were covered by MOS. All the work was carried out with the approval of the Environment Protection Centre of the Health Department. Mr. Axell prepared this article specifically for BEV.

The final stage of the heavy engineering work necessary for the conversion of the old Ghadira salt-pan area into Malta's first National Nature Reserve was made possible by a most generous donation from the Deutscher Bund für Vogelschutz, through the European Committee for the Prevention of Mass Destruction of Migratory Birds. Ghadira is one of the smallest of reserve-making projects but it is also one of the most important, most difficult - and most expensive.

The World Wildlife Fund and the International Council for Bird Preservation had made possible the considerable amount of work done in 1980 and 1981 but still much more habitat manipulation was desirable if every part of the reserve's six hectares was to provide the best possible conditions for Malta's wildlife and, especially, its migrant birds. Malta is the blackest of the black spots now remaining in the path of birds trying to cross the Mediterranean and hundreds of thousands are still shot or trapped here each year. The effective existence of Ghadira as a sanctuary becomes increasingly urgent as the numbers of some species of Europe's birds are seen to diminish.

Earth-moving machines can only operate on the reserve when the area is at its driest and the passing of any high-summer period when no work was done would mean a whole year's delay. DBV's contribution of EM10,000, the largest sum received, was therefore most timely and the money was most gratefully put to work during August and the first half of September, enabling the completion of all the planned heavy work in three consecutive summer periods.

Two excavators, one bulldozer-loader and 3-5 tip-up trucks were again hired on a daily basis from Mr. C. Vella of Mellieha. Work with large machines on soft, clayey soil and wet sand is strange to most Maltese operators. Some of them had worked here in the previous two years however, and this experience, coupled with appreciation of the obvious value and growing popularity of the reserve, produced an excellent working team-spirit. This was especially necessary where a machine was liable to sink sideways into mud and water so that skill, ingenuity and co-operation were required to extricate it. These accidents, always acceptable if the best work is to be achieved, occurred no more frequently than is usual in these difficult operations and there were no delays of any consequence.

A particularly good piece of fortune was that Mr E-M Andersen, manager of the adjacent Danish Mellieha Holiday Centre, was again willing to accept all of the spoil we cared to transport to the rocky surrounds of his village of honey-coloured stone bungalows. The large amount of salty, sandy soil, for whose transportation from Ghadira he had paid in 1981 was, within a year, already producing shrubs and flowers, much salt having leached away in the previous winter's rains. They included many fine specimens of Malta's indigenous flowers. Soon, the area of the holiday village will be so well vegetated as to be able to hold good numbers of migrant, wintering and breeding birds where none could have stayed before or would have soon been shot if they had occurred there. The plants and the many birds and butterflies they attract are much appreciated by the resident holiday-makers from the colder north and the area forms a most useful adjunct to the nearby, low-lying Ghadira reserve where such an abundance of plants will be more slowly achieved because of the greater difficulty of de-salination. Built on grey, eroded rock and absorbing what had been an ugly old army barracks, the Mellieha Holiday Centre is seen as the one building development in Malta which is actually helping wildlife. It lies within Ghadira's no-shooting buffer zone and thus helps effectively to protect the reserve. We could wish for another such safe section of our buffer zone on the opposite side of the valley where there is now a large conglomeration of so-called caravans, painted in various shades of billious green, brightly lit and noisy.

About one third of Ghadira's dry area, dusty and plantless for much of the year, remained to be converted in the final operation this year. It was a most difficult area for the machines but soon the mosaic of islands and open water was extended from the main scrape to add further nesting and feeding capability for birds and greatly to improve the view from the hides, present and future. New shallows were made, those out in the lake to become areas of soft, exposed mud for waders in summer and autumn and those around the edge to become platforms on which reed-beds could spread.

Two sets of four large concrete pipes were laid, one to allow controlled flow of water from the reservoir on to the scrape and the other from the boundary ditch to the open water area below the visitor centre. A main function of these inlets is to reduce salinity in the scrape in summer when evaporation is at its highest and water levels are low.

A service road, essential for future daily management and to act as part of the nature trail, was completed around the inside edge of the reserve, following the outer embankment. Where long stretches of the inner side of this road were unscreened by trees, reeds or other tall plants, another roadside bank was made, with a gutter to take away rainwater which otherwise would lie in the valley between these parallel banks.

The deeper water channel around the outside of the scrape was completed and so forms a further deterrent to human trespass and incursions by other ground predators. The problem of swimming snakes will need to be tackled by trapping and translocation as and when it becomes necessary, as no doubt it will. The control of hedgehogs and rats will also be aided by the presence of this deeper water. Apart from these Ghadira should be remarkably free of pests, always excepting for a few more years yet, that most dangerous animal of all, the man with the gun.

Work done by hand by the MOS in the previous winter had been highly successful. Almost all of the several thousand seedlings of bianca readily took root alongside the boundary ditch atop its accompanying bank, alongside the new high wire fence at the car park and elsewhere where screening and defence were required as quickly as possible. Within two more years the line of bianca will be sufficiently tall and thick to form an impenetrable ring around the reserve. While the plant's tolerance of a wide range of soil conditions and, it would seem, its appreciation of Malta's wonderful climate are providential, it does present the drab appearance of a wall of unrelieved olive-grey. This will be improved, in the near future, by the irregular accompaniment of tamarisk, pine and other trees and also with the addition of flowering shrubs, even including oleander and lantana, disliked by some botanists but now so long and well established throughout the Mediterranean as to be expected and appreciated by tourists to these islands where so much is shades of grey and brown. These one-time exotics are, too, splendid food plants for a wide variety of butterflies and other insects and are thus excellent feeding sites for birds.

The large quantity of seedlings and cuttings mainly of tamarisk but also including some of poplar were again available through the good offices of Messrs. Joe Borg and David D'Andria of the Department of Agriculture. Bramble and reed-mace were again tried but failed because the general environment is still too saline. Common reed, golden sapphire, spiny rush, suaeda, salicornia and other salt-loving plants spread and are covering the surface wounds made earlier by the machines. Ghadira's rarest plant, the arrow grass *Triglochin bulbosum* continues to flourish on the large island reserved for it. To help ensure its survival in Malta and so that live colonies can be seen from the nature trail, transplants to other areas of the reserve will soon be made. Ghadira National Nature Reserve is to be a place of real-life education as well as a sanctuary for all forms of wildlife.



Black-necked Grebes are becoming regular winter visitors at Ghadira (photo : N. Fenech).

Equally encouraging as the spread of plants was the self-maintenance of the water level. The water is still too saline, though much less so than it was, to enable the growth of the essential wide variety of plants but many animal forms were able to make use of it throughout the long summer, when previously the entire area has been dry. All sections of the new water areas, from the nearly-fresh boundary ditch and the reservoir to the salty pool near the sea below the visitor centre, teemed with tiny killifish. Small beetles and other insects were on the water surface and on the algae and worms proliferated among the cockles massed around the shores and shallows. The early autumn migration of water birds through Malta was thin this year (1982) with only small number of stints, sandpipers and plovers and a single Kingfisher. A Caspian Plover stayed to feed on August 26th, the first of its species known at Ghadira and a seventh record for Malta. Four Little Terns together on one day, the biggest group ever recorded in the islands, and single Black Terns on several days, fished happily while the work was in progress, as did a Black-necked Grebe which became a resident. A flock of 17 Black-winged Stilts, not usually a shy species, flew around the scrape for several hours but did not land, perhaps because of the activity.

The Future

The wet-land of Ghadira, by far its largest part, is being developed from an area of salt-saturated mud. Most important for the continued successful development of the reserve is the need to reduce this salinity so that, as a basic ecological requirement, a much wider range of oxygen-producing plants can grow in the water and around its edge. Floating, emergent and pond-edge plants are not only necessary to increase the number and variety of crustaceans, insects and vertebrates but also to provide desperately needed cover and nesting sites for birds. It will be a milestone in the history of the work of the MOS when the first family party of Moorhens or Mallards can be seen at Ghadira. This is a common enough sight elsewhere in the world but it is one not yet enjoyed by existing generations of Maltese people because they continue to shoot down these birds as soon as they arrive in their islands.

The opening to the public of their first National Nature Reserve is anticipated for the near future. Before this historic event occurs, full screening of the nature trail from the visitor centre to the west hide must be completed and will require much work by MOS members and other volunteers. Within a few years, this nature trail will encircle the main lake, the tamarisk grove and other plantations. The reservoir, which eventually will be bordered by reed-beds and a variety of trees, will be by-passed so that this smaller, separate lake will be kept as an undisturbed breeding area but good views into it will be possible from two new hides which are yet to be built, and for which money has yet to be found.

The most urgent and necessary requirement for a building, however, is a home for a resident naturalist-manager and his family. Only the continued on-the-spot presence of such a warden will ensure that the reserve and its buffer zone will be fully respected by the

shooters. His presence is also necessary for the proper daily management of the reserve, a full-time job mainly involving the control of water levels, plants and predators and, as an equally important part of his work, the care and instruction of visitors. His job as a public relations officer will be vital.

As was shown to be the case in most other European countries where bird killing has been rife, public opinion and respect for ones country's heritage can be encouraged to take voice and overcome political expedience. There are still many in Malta who, impressed by the all-too-evident difficulty of enforcing the more stringent 1980 Regulations for Bird Protection, despair of their country ever catching up with present-day feeling for wild-life in the western world. They see that still more shot-guns are licensed every year; that regular migrant birds like Turtle Doves are now less abundant; that the noise of gun-fire still rings throughout the islands, even during the new closed season and even from the newly-declared no-shooting areas; that tourists still write letters of complaint to the papers but still run the risk of being peppered by falling shot and that many of these visitors do not come back here for their holiday. But Ghadira Reserve, a government project developed with the practical expertise of the MOS, is being given more and more sympathetic coverage by the country's media and is earning respect at home and abroad. Membership of The Ornithological Society (MOS) and especially its Youth Section (MOSY), continues to expand, a considerable part of the recruitment arising from visits to the reserve during its construction. It is indeed impressive to see birds quietly feeding where recently they would have been shot on arrival. Ghadira was Malta's chief bird killing-ground - a stone shooting-butt has been left on an island out in the new lake as a memorial for all to see of the bad old days here - and now the reserve is rising like a phoenix as a place of life from the ashes of death.

Soon, school and family parties will be sitting in the hides, seeing wild birds more closely than they would have dreamed was possible outside the television box and a warden will be on hand to explain how these birds came to be there. This method of practical, enforced education effectively stirs the conscience of most people but, at first, few converts are expected among the male population whose national sport of bird killing is so popular.

Well it may be that the present image of the macho Malta man is the dressed-up bandolero, sitting by his car on Dingli Cliffs, shooting down little migrants like Swifts, breaking the law just for fun and the ability to boast about it among his confreres in the bars. He has the security of numbers and, blustering and protesting, does not want to know that it



*MOSY members giving a hand at Ghadira by removing salt from the islands in summer.
(photo : H.E.Axell)*

is now the 1980s. But already the children of some of these people are bravely wearing MOS T-shirts boldly acclaiming 'I Love Birds'. The child is the father of the man: in other countries where democracy allows the licensed possession of a shot-gun, it has taken three or four generations for public opinion to look with scorn upon the man who shoots birds without economic reason. Perhaps it will take a long time in Malta, too, for the witless bird-killer to be ostracised and for the voice of the public to be able to demand that politicians and magistrates enforce their punitive laws.

Ghadira is designed to help bring forward these happier days. A large part of the necessary education will be by helping birds to help in their own protection by being seen to be taking advantage of safe environments: to gain moral and practical support, conservation must not only be done but must be seen to be done. But Ghadira is very small, an oasis in alien territory. There is room, and the crying need, for more than one real national nature reserve in Malta.

.....
ED.: Dr. Wolfgang Erz of the Fed. Rep. of Germany, merits the MOS thanks. On his return to Germany after attending the XII Conference of the European Continental Section of the ICBP in Malta in 1980, he was instrumental in starting the ball running so that MOS could acquire the generous donation towards Ghadira from DBV.

The bomb disposal unit of the Malta Armed Forces also merits a mention. Twice they were called to Ghadira to remove small unexploded butterfly bombs which were excavated by the machines while working in the area.

All the major engineering work, except for a small area by the reservoir, which still holds an electricity pylon, and the covering of the inner service road by hard core has been finalized. But the rainstorms which occurred in late October, with well over 8 inches of rain in a few hours in the north of Malta, caused a lot of damage at both ends of the ditch in the front area. The damage, which cannot be assessed properly due to the present high level of water, can be repaired from next spring when the water level would be lower.

The area needs proper wardening urgently. Some shooters wreaked havoc on several occasions among the ducks, grebes and coots which had nicely settled down by mid-November. Moreover on two occasions unidentified shooters shot in the direction of MOS members who arrived on the scene and chased them away.

The place was also raided once during the night. At least two persons forced the door of the watching hide in and stole, amongst others, three pairs of binoculars (two donated by Dr. W. Thiede and one by Mr. H. Thompson), a monocular (donated by Dr. W. Ristow), bird guides (donated by Mr. F. Scrimgeour), a tripod and about LM100 worth of bird rings and ringing equipment. All these belonged to the MOS.



A pair of Swallowtail Butterflies. Ghadira and its surroundings, besides being of ornithological importance, also provide habitat for a wide variety of other species of flora and fauna. (Photo : Joe Sultana).

Bird shooters and trappers urge amendments to law

By a Staff Reporter

Bird shooters and trappers, members of the Association of Shooters and Trappers, yesterday approved a five-point resolution during a general meeting held at the Plaza Theatre, Sliema.

The resolution deplored the actions being taken locally and abroad by various organizations but principally by the Ornithological Society (MOS) which it was alleged, were reflecting poorly on Maltese and Gozitan shooters and trappers as well as on the country.

Point two of the resolution said that the Association of Shooters and Trappers was the sole organization which was competent to talk on the sport of shooting and trapping in Malta, and thus ex-

pected that local and foreign authorities consult this Association only, on such a sport.

The resolution also said that amendments should be made in the law which regulates bird shooting and trapping. The Association had always said that parts of this law were not suitable for Malta, as it claimed, was shown over the past two years.

The resolution appealed to the authorities concerned to introduce the necessary amendments as soon as possible, and before the next shooting season (passa).

The final clause said that the resolution will be presented to the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Nationalist Party, the Commissioner of Police and the Press.

WAR ON SHOOTING AND TRAPPING

Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Laurence Vella, the Association's president, spoke on what he said were the efforts being made by the Ornithological Society (MOS) to destroy bird shooting and trapping in Malta. Mr. Vella said that this society, which represented only some 300 members, had "declared war" on the Association, which represented 16,000 shooters and trappers and which was striving to obtain freedom to practise a sport. The efforts by the MOS were such that they had managed to stop a TV programme which had been compiled by the Association to educate local bird shooters and trappers.

Referring to the recent events, where some bird shooters had their firearms confiscated by the Police, Mr. Vella described the successful efforts which had been made by the Association's committee to get the firearms back. He appealed to the authorities seeing into alleged infringements of the law by the shooters, to educate the investigators so that they would not interpret the law incorrectly, because a shooter who had his gun confiscated at the beginning of a season would end up suffering the consequences for a whole year, until the next season, even though he was not guilty of any crime.

ASSOCIATION'S PROPOSALS

The secretary, Mr. Alfred Zammit, in his report spoke on the meetings which the Association had held with the authorities. The most important point discussed during the meeting was a contribution which the authorities had said would be given to the association when the licences were increased. The licences had in fact been increased but the Association had as yet received no contribution.

Other points put forward during the meeting included proposals that the Buskett Gardens and Ta' Qali be open to bird shooters up to noon on weekdays and up to 9 a.m. on weekends, that the closed season, which the Association was against, should be limited and not extended as the MOS wished. The question of offshore bird shooting was also discussed.

THE SHOOTERS
THE TIMES 31.5.82

opinions

EDITORIAL
THE TIMES 3.6.82

Shooters and trappers

The Association of Shooters and Trappers has strongly protested at what it considers as tight measures which severely restrict its activities. It has called for amendments to the "Protection of Birds and Wild Rabbits Regulations, 1980". The Association has also harshly criticized, most undeservedly in our view, the Ornithological Society (MOS) which works for the protection of birds.

The Association of Shooters and Trappers claims a membership of 16,000. It considers itself as the only body competent to speak on game shooting and trapping.

What stands out starkly, and no doubt surprisingly, is that so many are licensed to shoot at or trap birds. Sixteen thousand is far too excessive a number on the Maltese Islands with a combined area of 112 square miles and with open spaces ever shrinking through the building of new towns and the extension of others.

It was high time, two years ago, when the authorities finally came out with their regulations. The authorities were doing their duty, protecting bird life and in several cases, people, from indiscriminate game shooters whose habit had often been to blaze at anything that flew and in areas, like Buskett, frequented by families.

The more irresponsible shooters even adopted menacing attitudes towards people who dared to point out to them the illegality and danger of their activity. Numerous have also been the complaints by people whose privacy and peace have been repeatedly disturbed by shooting too close to built-up areas.

The 1980 Regulations sought to minimize, if not to completely bring to an end such lawlessness and to avert possible danger. The game shooters are barred from firing their guns within 200 metres from inhabited areas.

Very rightly, the authorities also barred them from various areas like the Airport, public gardens and cemeteries. No one restricted the shooters and trappers from pursuing their activity in open areas even though there are few such areas which do not see visitors particularly over the weekend.

In introducing the close season, the authorities were following the practice in other countries, and showing an awareness that game, hitherto plentiful, was decreasing year in, year out. The establishment of a game reserve at Mellicha Bay was a laudable effort to provide the means to those who prefer to see a bird alive rather than dead or stuffed.

If the Ornithological Society led the hue and cry against indiscriminate shooting of birds, it did so in the knowledge that there was a need for bird preservation and, more importantly, that it had behind it the support of a large sector of the population. It certainly speaks for a much greater number than its 300 members.

Various species of birds, including some varieties which regularly bred in Malta and Gozo, have virtually become non-existent. It would be unfair to place the entire blame for the dearth of bird-life on the shooters and trappers. They are not the only cause. Migratory birds lose many of their number passing over other countries on their way south or north.

The Ornithological Society deserves to be encouraged in its efforts at preserving bird-life. Indeed there is much that can be achieved if the shooters, the ornithologists and the authorities get together and work out a solution to the problems of shooting and trapping. Definitely the close season has to stay. So must the ban on shooting and trapping in areas like Buskett, the cemeteries, public gardens and other places where the general public can be placed in danger.



icbp

NEWS

Since the XII Conference of the ICBP European Continental Section, which was held in Malta in 1980 (see REV No. 4 pp 6-9), the International Council for Bird Preservation had a full programme of activities including the organisation of a world conference.

The XIII Conference of the ICBP European Continental Section was held in Doorn, Holland. It was opened on 27 November and included discussions on (a) the inventory of Important Areas in Europe Project; (b) model management plan for the Bonn Convention; (c) the implementation of the EC Directive on the conservation of Wild Birds; and (d) the Council of Europe Convention. The effectiveness of the resolutions and letters sent from the Malta Conference were also discussed. It was noted that these generated publicity and political pressure and it was emphasised that national sections of ICBP are responsible for the follow-up of letters. Mr B.K. German, former Chairman of ICBP Malta Section and Mr A.E. Baldacchino, MOS Hon. General Secretary attended the Conference. The Conference adopted five resolutions, one of which calls on various countries, including Malta, to become contracting parties to the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance. The letter accompanying this resolution to Malta also referred the Government's attention to Resolution No. 9 which was adopted in the Malta Conference and which urged the Malta Government to take the necessary steps to ratify the four outstanding Conventions on Wildlife and Habitats.

An ICBP World Conference on Birds of Prey was held in Thessaloniki, Greece from 24-29 April 1982. 125 participants discussed various conservation problems facing Birds of Prey in a series of workshops covering amongst others, the Mediterranean, migration and education. This was a very important event for raptor enthusiasts and was quite successful. Unfortunately due to financial difficulties none from ICBP Malta or MOS could attend the meeting. One of the nineteen resolutions passed urges the governments, including the Maltese, which have not ratified the European Wildlife Convention, to do so as soon as possible.

The XVIII ICBP World Conference was held in Cambridge from 6-12 August and was attended by a record number of almost 300 participants from 47 countries, among them many famous ornithologists and conservation experts. The Conference discussed major international bird conservation issues and decided on ICBP's activities in the next four years. The UK Secretary of State for the Environment, who opened the conference, spoke in detail of the need for more nature reserves everywhere, and for international aid programmes to have environmental elements built in. He stressed that one task of ICBP is to channel bird conservation expertise and money from wealthier countries to where they are most needed, while another job is to mobilise the weight of international scientific opinion to convince governments of the need for conservation action. The Conference elected an Executive Council and discussed reports by national and continental sections as well as by working groups on particular species. In particular the Conference discussed and passed the work programme and budget of ICBP and resolved on the part of National Sections and Member Organisations to make every effort to help ICBP sustain this programme through finding the money necessary. The Conference heard about the different approaches to bird conservation used for different species as well as about the problems which are quite varied and which include the widespread and massive use in the developing world of persistent pesticides, long banned in developed countries. There were vociferous pleas from conservationists in the developing world in particular, to ban all commercial bird trade, except in a few common and readily recognisable species. This Conference marked the end of an era. Professor Dillon Ripley of the Smithsonian Institution stepped down as President after 24 years and was succeeded by Russell Peterson, President of the US National Audubon Society, as President and by Ian Prestif, Director of RSPB, as Chairman. A meeting of the European Continental Section was also held at the Cambridge Conference and matters arising from the Doorn meeting (Netherlands) were discussed. Mr. A.E. Baldacchino, Hon. Treasurer of ICBP Malta Section and Hon. Gen. Secretary of the MOS, attended the Conference on behalf of ICBP Malta.

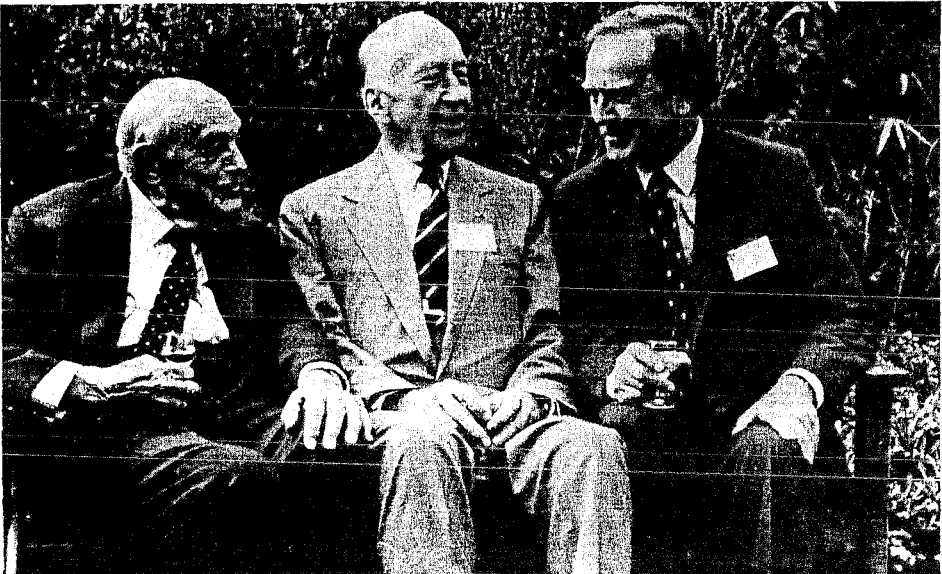
NEWS & VIEWS

PACKED BIRDS

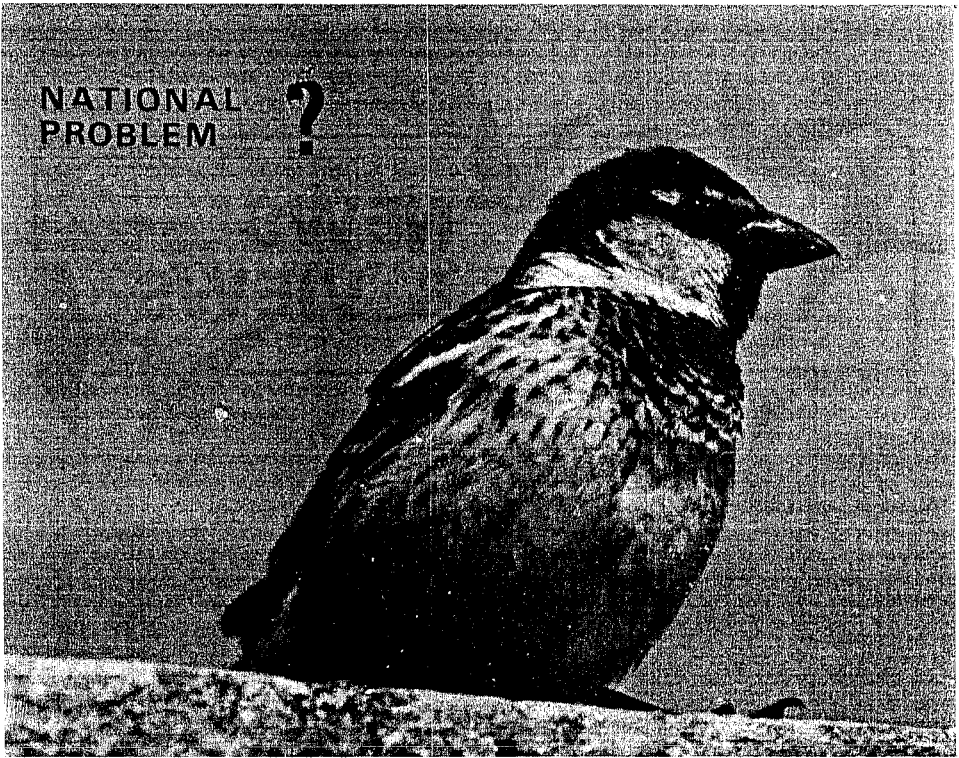
'HORROR OF 300 BIRDS PACKED IN SUITCASES' was a title in bold letters of an article carried in the UK paper DAILY MIRROR of September 28, 1982. These birds which included many greenfinches and goldfinches were found packed tightly together in three suitcases at London's Heathrow Airport. They had their wings taped to stop them struggling and some were already dead. The poor creatures were being smuggled out of Britain and were detected by baggage handlers who heard distress bird calls coming from the cases while these were being loaded on a flight for Malta. Customs and airport officials were unable to trace the owner of the unclaimed suitcases among the 70 passengers booked for the flight. All the rescued birds, except a few which couldn't fly, were set free in a nearby park.

Since the importation of finches has been banned, although a person is allowed to bring in up to 12 birds after acquiring a licence, finches fetch high prices especially before the autumn migration. Keeping finches as cage birds and as decoys for finch trapping is legal and very popular in Malta. Male Greenfinches were being sold at about £M20 in summer but the price fell down drastically due to the large numbers caught by most trappers last autumn.

ICBP Presidents - past President Jean Delacour, outgoing President S. Dillon Ripley and new President Dr Russell W. Peterson.



NATIONAL PROBLEM



The 1980 bird protection regulations introduced for the first time a close season for shooting and trapping from 21st May until 31st August. It is not a long season, yet it is being opposed by those who seem not only to be satisfied by shooting at anything that flies but wants to indulge in this all the year round.

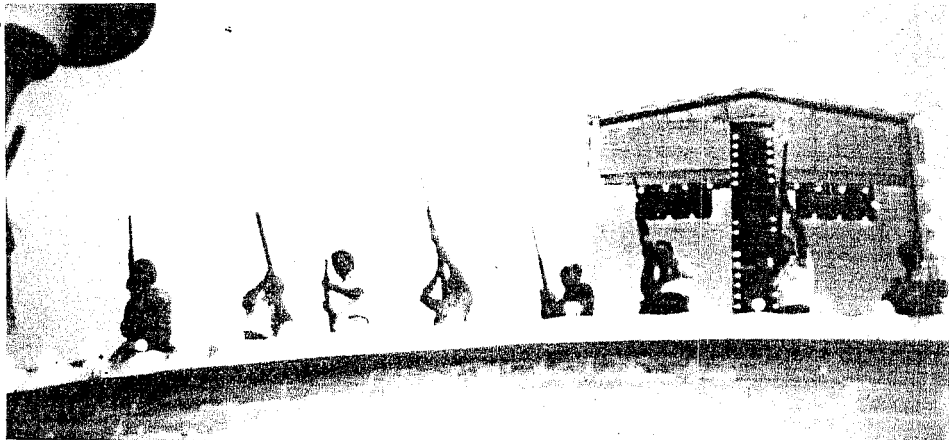
One excuse used is the Sparrow - the Spanish Sparrow in our case. It is being claimed that it is a 'pest' and a 'national problem'. So said a special correspondent in The Times, suggesting that 'the shooting of the ubiquitous sparrow should be allowed during the months of July and August so as to reduce the numbers of these pests' (sic). We strongly say NO because it is not this species which is producing a national problem but those bird shooters who shoot illegally during the close season; those who shoot at anything that flies; those who shoot at protected species including birds of prey; those who shoot in protected areas such as Buskett; those who kill all species to replenish their glass cases with stuffed and mounted birds; and these pseudo-hunters are not just a few as it is claimed by shooters themselves. (photo : Natalino Fenech).

NATUROPA

Issue No 40 - 1982 of Naturopa, the journal of the European Information Centre for Nature Conservation of the Council of Europe, is a special number devoted to Birds of Prey. It carries various interesting articles by distinguished conservationists and ornithologists. This issue is also of special interest to us in Malta as the Editorial is written by Dr. Anton Buttigieg, the former President of the Republic and patron of MOS, who amongst other things wrote 'However, as many of us know from bitter experience, the enactment of legislation and its subsequent enforcement, constitute two different things altogether'. And how right he is! Birds of Prey are legally protected, but it seems that they are only so on paper. Those who once again witnessed the shooting of Birds of Prey at Buskett this autumn can vouch for this.

KESTRELS FLY AIR MALTA

Five Kestrels which were found injured by shotgun pellets in various localities and were being cared for by Natalino Fenech of the MOS were flown to Italy with the collaboration of Air Malta. MOS is grateful to Malta's national airline. The destination of the birds was the 'Centro Rapaci' of the Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli which runs two hospital centres for injured birds of Prey which are subsequently released in the wild.



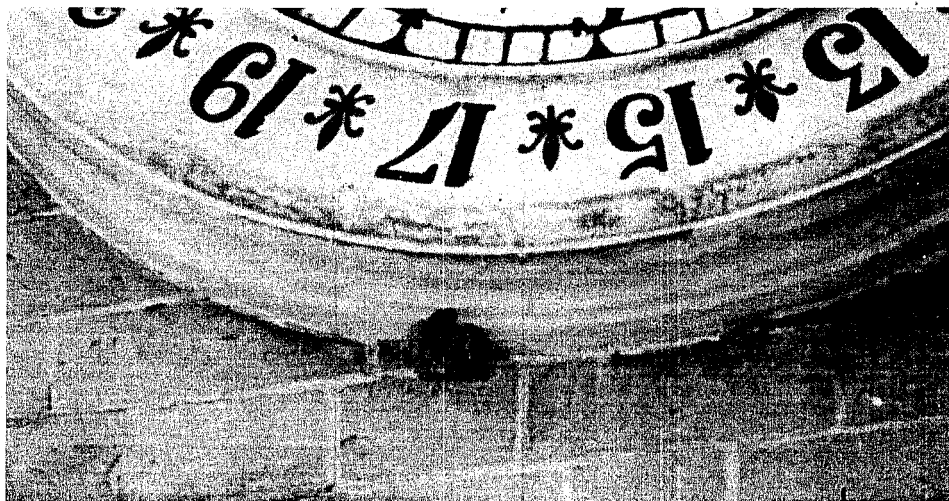
On Sunday, August 29, during St. Julian's village feast, the statue of St. Julian was greeted with gunshots as it approached the main door of the church on its way out for the procession. The 'blank' cartridges were fired by bird shooters, including a member of the clergy, from the roof of the church to honour St. Julian who, it is claimed, is the patron saint of hunters. St. Julian, who in his days must have used a bow and arrow to catch his prey for food, surely envied the efficient modern repeaters used in his honour. Acts like this demonstrate in a most glaring manner the type of mentality still prevailing in certain quarters. One would not be digressing here if a mention is made that 1962 happened to be the seventh centenary of St. Francis, the saint who cared for the animals especially birds. And was it not Jesus who said 'Observe the birds of the air' as well as 'Not a sparrow falls to earth without your Father knows it' (photo : Paul Portelli).

NEW TREASURER

Mr Brian K. German has had to tender his resignation as Treasurer of the MOS due to pressure of work. Brian served as Treasurer for several years and devoted a lot of his spare time towards the welfare of our Society. As a small gesture of thanks the Council elected him Hon. Life Member. Mr Denis Cachia, a young banker, was elected to succeed Brian. Denis joined the MOS as a young member and in 1977 was appointed to serve on the Committee of the Young Members Section. He has served as P.R.O. as well as Secretary of the Section. In 1980 he was elected on the MOS Council and for the past two years served as Asst. Secretary. Denis, our new Treasurer, is a keen bird ringer and a dedicated conservationist who has frequently put pen to paper to defend birds in the local press.



Denis (right) is seen here when he was still a young member in October 1974, distributing MOS leaflets outside the City Gate, Valletta during a protest with placards by MOSY against indiscriminate bird shooting.



House Martins have nested for the second time in Malta. BEV No.5 carried a report on the breeding of House Martins for the first time in 1981. Last year (1982) they did it again - two pairs bred at Mdina and Filfla respectively (a full report will appear in Il-Merill No.22 which is in preparation). The picture shows the pair below the dial of the Cathedral clock at Mdina (photo : Joe Doublet).

MOS JOURNALS

When the MOS was founded in 1962 it started to publish a cyclostyled annual report with interesting ornithological articles as well as with information about MOS activities. These continued to be issued annually until 1967 when monthly newsletters were introduced. The following year the MOS started publishing quarterly bulletins in cyclostyled form and eight issues were produced. In 1970 the quarterly bulletins made way for IL-MERILL which since then has retained the status as the official ornithological bulletin of the MOS. Issue number 22 is presently in press. The first few issues of IL-MERILL contained a mixture of news and ornithological and conservation articles, later evolving into a journal carrying only papers, articles and notes mainly on Maltese Ornithology. This necessitated a different bulletin - BIRD'S EYE VIEW - which emerged in 1977, to convey to MOS members and supporters the Society's news and views. The thriving Young Members Section, now known as MOSY - MOS Youths - also required their own regular publication. After various leaflets and newsletters they have now two publications - IL-KANGU (Storm Petrel) and L-GHASFUR U L-AMBJENT NATURALI (The Bird and the Natural Environment). The former is a cyclostyled bulletin, original in style and quite interesting, while L-GHASFUR is a printed magazine which is nicely presented and packed with information on local birds. Both publications should go a long way to help MOS enroll more youths.





DOI

The MOS publication - A NEW GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF MALTA - was awarded the 'Malta Literary Award 1982'. The award is being shared with Dr Anton Buttigieg for his Maltese Book 'Mill-Album Ta' Hajji' which also received a recommendation from the Adjudication Board of the Ministry of Education. Joe Sultana and Charles Gauci, authors of the MOS publication, were presented with the award by the President of the Republic, Miss Agatha Barbara, at the Palace Valetta on November 13 during the ceremony of the presentation of the International Trade Trophy. The Minister of Education, Dr P. Muscat, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Culture, Dr. A. Sciberras Trigona, were among the distinguished guests present for the ceremony.

VISITING RESERVES

Charles Gauci, Council Member and Ringing Secretary, visited UK for 10 days in July to have a 'look' at the management and daily running of some wetland reserves. His visit was made possible through the generous help of the Malta Bird Reserves Overseas Committee who paid a substantial part of his airfare (the rest was made good from MOS funds) and of Mr. Herbert E. Axell who hosted Charles during his stay and showed him round the reserves. Since work on the setting up of Ghadira National Nature Reserve started in 1980, Charles has been involved in all the voluntary work carried there by MOS and it was the Society's intention that he should get some first hand information on careful management. Various reserves were visited including Dungeness Bird Reserve and Hickling Broad National Nature Reserve where in both places careful management could be witnessed. Cases of mismanagement in other areas were pointed out by Mr. Axell who guided Charles during his visit. Ghadira will surely benefit from what Charles have learnt.

BOS EXPEDITION

The MOS always had good connections with the Banbury Ornithological Society (UK). The MOS-BOS connection was maintained this year by Glyn Davies who led a small group of BOS members, namely Doreen Knight, John Middleton and Hanna Middleton, for a fortnight's expedition to Gozo in April. The object of the expedition was to obtain information on the pattern of movement of birds on spring migration. Various areas of Gozo were visited to observe and make sample catches for ringing, but the main ringing programme was carried out at Lunzjata for hirundines in the late afternoons and evenings. The total of species observed and the number of individual birds ringed provided a small sample of the whole migration pattern during the survey period. Assistance to the group was given by members of the MOS.



IYF SEMINAR

The International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation organised a Seminar with the theme 'Hunting & Wildlife Management'. This was sponsored by the Council of Europe and held at the Youth Centre, Strasbourg from 28 March to 4 April.

29 participants, including three MOS members - Guido Bonetti, Saviour Balzan and Raymond Galea - from 12 countries attended the Seminar. The participants were addressed by various personalities including Mr Roger Arnhem of the CCPO Belgium, and held several discussions and working groups on conservation and hunting problems.

Amongst the resolutions which were adopted one urged the Maltese Government (a) to enforce the bird protection laws, (b) to sign the Berne Convention and (c) to delete the Herons, Egrets and Nightjar from the list of species that may be shot. These resolutions, which were sent by various European Conservation Societies as well as the National German Hunting Organisation (DJV), have not had the desired effect as yet.

IYF CAMP

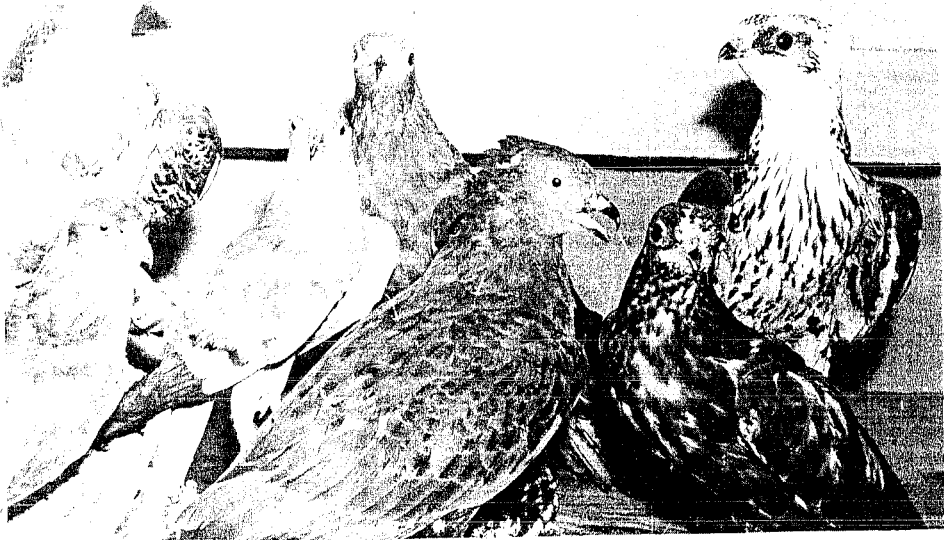


Paul Portelli and Tania Casha, two MOSY members attended an International Youth Federation Camp in Germany. This was organised on Norderoog, one of the Frisian Islands, by Verein Jordsand, a German organisation whose aim is the protection of sea-birds. This island is a good breeding place for a large number of birds such as the Oystercatcher, terns and ducks, as well as an important resting place for migrating waders. The work done during this camp consisted mainly of building wooden hedges to stop the erosion by the waves. Before going to Norderoog the members spent some days as guests of Verein Jordsand at its headquarters. During their stay they made contacts with various officials of this organisation and prepared an article on bird hunting in Malta which was included in the magazine SEEvogel. Another article was also published in Nachrichten, a magazine of the German Hunters Association - Deutscher Jagdschutz Verband. Before leaving for Malta the two members were also interviewed about nature conservation in Malta by a German newspaper.



Members of the MOS Council, of the MOSY Committee, and of other sub-Committees held a full day seminar on the 13th December 1982, at the Santa Maria Novitiate, Mellieha. MOS future policies and functions were discussed at length. Group photo shows front row l. to r. Louis Cassar, Charles Gauci, Paul Portelli, Bro. Edmund, Guido Bonetti, Joe Sultana, Alfred F. Baldacchino, Joe M. Attard, Raymond Galea, Victor Cilia, and back row l. to r. Odolon Scerri, Richard Cachia Zammit, Natalino Fenech, Victor Falzon, Saviour Balzan, Michael Grima, Denis Cachia, and Joe Doublet.

STUFFED BIRDS



QUOTATION - "The state of raptors is worsening by some people's wish to own stuffed raptors for decoration. Obviously they are unaware of the fact that stuffed 'trophy' birds are a certificate for ecological and nature conservation illiteracy and ignorance" (N.Boev & T.Michew - from Naturopa 40/1982).

AGM

THE 20TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH MARCH 1982, AT THE BRITISH LEGION HEADQUARTERS, MALTA BRANCH, VALLETTA.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Council, I welcome you to the 20th Annual General Meeting. This year the MOS is 20 years old and it is most befitting to pay tribute to the small band of people who in 1962 got together to form the Society. If today we are still climbing uphill against great odds, we can imagine how difficult it was for them 20 years ago. We do hope that nowadays we are fulfilling our obligations in such a way to do them credit. Unfortunately, our guest of honour this evening, Mr. J.M. Attard, one of the co-founders, could not attend due to illness. His message to the MOS, which reached me on the phone this afternoon, says AD MULTOS ANMOS.

As has been the custom in previous years, it is not my intention to dwell on the achievements of the past year, let alone dwelling on the 20-year history of the MOS. The activities since our last general meeting will be detailed in the reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer. I shall mainly take the opportunity to forward and expand on some proposals which may be taken in consideration by the future Council.

The educational campaign, which has always been included as part of the main work of the MOS, should be more intensified. More ways and means should be sought to reach more forcefully the people, especially the young. The idea of having teachers as MOS school delegates which was started last year and is still in its infancy, should be given its due importance and expanded on to reach as much as possible the core of the schools. The MOS Youths, whose movement has moved forward in leaps and bounds in the past two years, is a credit to its leaders. This section should be given the utmost care and attention. There should be no limit to its expansion. The future of the MOS and its ideals can only be secured by strengthening and enlarging the MOS Youths, or as we affectionately call them MOSY. With this in mind, the outgoing Council finalised the production of a printed magazine L-GHASFUR U L-AMBJENT NATURALI - aimed at the young and full of information on birds and their appreciation. Presently it is in press. It should be seen that this publication is printed regularly and possibly in larger form and in a larger number, so as to reach more and more young people. Together with the cyclo-styled Bulletin, THE STORM PETREL, whose producers should also be congratulated, it can provide the required link between MOS and many Youths.

Our involvement in the Ghadira project and as the title of the new magazine - The Bird And Its Natural Environment - suggests, the MOS is in the slow process of shedding its old skin and acquiring a new one with a more outward look. We cannot be successful in our bird conservation movement if we do not care for, or even more so, if we are not prepared to help in the conservation of the natural environment. The MOS has reached the stage to search more intensively for the beauty of the natural surroundings. The Ghadira Project will again this year feature prominently in the MOS activities. Our request for more funds from the European Committee for the Prevention of Mass Destruction of Migratory Birds has been met with and the MOS will be in a position to continue the work which it started to carry last year on the continuation of the scrape. A full report on the work carried out there last summer and through the winter may be found in the issue of BEV 5 which has just been circulated.

There is one thing in which the MOS has so far failed miserably and that is the acquisition of a premises. It is said that charity begins at home. It would be of a great benefit indeed for the MOS to acquire its own premises. Without this the MOS will not grow as much as we would like it to. The future Council should leave no stone unturned in its efforts to try and find a place for MOS. Members, too, should help to seek an opportunity to reach this aim.

The educational campaign, the Ghadira project, the MOS Youths, the Ringing Scheme, MOS publications, etc. narrow towards one angle - MOS Funds. However this problem has so far always been solved through the generosity of members and supporters - locally and abroad.

Membership fees and donations are contributed by members and supporters ranging from those who attend our meetings regularly to those who have hardly ever visited the Maltese Islands. This help, without which the MOS would not be able to function, has always reached us. There are others who help the MOS in many other ways. The list of contributors is too long to acknowledge here. It would be unfair, however, not to mention the management of the Danish Village Centre at Ghadira, the Malta Bird Reserves Overseas Committee, the European Committee for the Prevention of Mass Destruction of Migratory Birds of the ICBP and the management of the Malia Branch of the British Legion.

Thank you also for attending this meeting and for your attention.

Joe Sultana
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary's Report for the period 24th February 1981 to 10th March 1982.

The period under review can be considered as a most quiet period where the MOS consolidated all its efforts and projects of previous years. The MOS is now at a stage when it can concentrate more on increasing its members with the hope that more willing hands will be found to involve themselves in the running of the Society, be it directly as members on the Council or on its various committees. The MOS has today grown into a fully national society, with a good image beyond our shores. However, as emphasized in last year's report, such image can only be retained and improved upon by the involvement of more new blood.

INTERNAL ACTIVITIES

The usual administrative activities were undertaken on the same scale as in previous years. The MOS Council held 9 Council Meetings, besides another three unofficial ones. The various MOS Committees held 10 Committee meetings in all. MOS members participated in 5 programmes on the broadcasting media. 18 indoor/outdoor meetings were organised for the various MOS members, while 10 illustrated talks were given to other organisations. MOS members received 7 circulars, while 10 press releases were issued to the mass media. 5 MOS delegations were held during the year. A breakdown of all activities follows this report. 1981 was a good year with regards to the increase in membership. A record number of 157 new members was enrolled, bringing the total number of MOS members to 447, an overall increase of 131 over the previous year. Pride of place goes to the Young Members Section who enrolled 112 new members, almost trebling the previous years' number. The following is a breakdown of MOS membership :

	1980	1981	+/- over 1980	new during 1980	outstanding from 1980	resigned deceased during 1981
LOCAL						
· full members	136	156	+20	32	15	10
life members	13	14	+1	1	-	-
hon. life members	1	1	-	-	-	-
young members	70	166	+96	112	23	1
OVERSEAS						
full members	59	73	+14	10	5	2
life members	31	31	-	1	-	1
hon. life members	6	6	-	1	-	1
TOTAL	316	447	131	157	43	15

17 school delegates were also appointed during the year.

PUBLICATIONS

The MOS publication IL-MERILL No.21 and BIRD'S EYE VIEW No.4 were both published and distributed during the year. BIRD'S EYE VIEW No.5 is also being distributed tonight. Furthermore 3 issues of the young members' newsletter STORM PETREL were circulated to the young members. Four issues of the ringing newsletter were also published. During the period under review the MOS also published three new stickers and a T-shirt with the educational message in Maltese Sbiegħ Jittajru Hielga (Beautiful flying free). A NEW GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF MALTA by Joe Sultana and Charles Gauci is the latest MOS publication and will be launched tonight.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. The MOS public relations stand was again present at the usual fairs: two days at the Fur & Feather Show at San Anton Gardens and fifteen days at the Malta International Trade Fair.
2. Following the help received from the European Committee for the Prevention of Mass Destruction of Migratory Birds to the tune of £2000, the MOS was heavily committed during the hot summer months in the continuation of habitat engineering works at the Ghadira Nature Reserve. The work was carried out with the approval of the Department of Health and Environment.
3. Two MOS young members attended an environment course in Denmark. This course was again sponsored by the International Youth Federation.
4. Two MOS Council members attended the XIII ICBP European Continental Section Meeting and the meeting of the Working Group of European Bird Protection Societies (WEBS) held in Doorn, Holland, during November/December 1981.

COMMITTEES

The committees which were set up during the year were :

1) The Young Members Section Committee -

This Committee was under the guidance of Michael Grima with Natalino Fenech as Secretary. The Committee held 9 meetings and issued 8 circulars to its members. The Committee organised 15 activities for the young members, besides contributing 8 illustrated talks to other associations. A wine and pizza evening was also organised by the Section. During July 1981 the Young Members Section in conjunction with the International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF) organised a 12-day Youth Leadership Training Course. An ad hoc committee was set up to see to the organisation of this course and met 8 times. I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the YMS for their hard work which bore so much fruit by the enrolment of 112 new members - a record which I am sure that the young members will be only too happy to increase next year. Lately the Young Members Section changed their name to MOS Youths.

2) Valletta Ringing Scheme Committee -

The Valletta Ringing Scheme continued to function according to the agreement signed with the Ministry of Culture. Mr J. Sultana was Ringing Officer while Mr C. Gauci was Ringing Secretary. The Committee met once during the period under review. The scheme had seventeen ringing-permit holders including two new entrants and also taking into consideration that two withdrew from the scheme. 8733 birds of 98 species were ringed during 1982, an increase of 1000 birds over the previous year. The grand total of birds ringed as at the end of 1981 was 114,705 of 143 species. 4 new species were also added to the list of ringed birds. These were the Night Heron, Stone Curlew, Short-eared Owl and Little Bunting. 8 recoveries were reported from overseas during the year.

3) Rarities Committee -

The Rarities Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. Sultana, met once during the period. 14 records of bird species were approved by the Committee.

This in short is what the MOS has done during the above mentioned period for the better appreciation and the study of birds in Malta. This was another step nearer towards achieving our aims; but we still have a long way to go and we cannot proceed without the help of each and every MOS member. I would here like to thank all those who have in one way or other contributed towards the MOS' efforts.

Alfred E. Baldacchino
Hon. General Secretary

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

25TH FEBRUARY 1981 TO MARCH 1982

FEBRUARY 1981

- 25 - Illustrated talk at Tarxien Youth Centre 'Appreciating Birds' (SB/RG).

MARCH 1981

- 1 - YMS Outing to Buskett.
- 2 - Meeting of Editorial Board of 'Il-Merill'.
- 5 - Illustrated talk at Villa Psaigon 'Bird Conservation' (NF/RG).
- 11 - ICBP Malta Meeting (AEB/JS).
- 12 - Illustrated talk at Seminary 'Birds' (NF/RG).
 - 5th TV Programme 'Mahlug Ghall-Ajru' (JS/CG).
- 15 - YMS Outing to Ghadira.
- 16 - 9th MOS Council Meeting.
- 18 - MOS Press Release re AGM (1/81).
- 21 - Illustrated talk to Sliema Scouts Group 'Bird Life & Conservation' (NF/RG).
- 26 - 6th TV Programme 'Mahlug Ghall-Ajru' (JS/CG).
- 29 - Illustrated talk at Villa Psaigon to Scouts Association 'Birds of Prey' (JS).
- 31 - Issue of Storm Petrel No.3.

APRIL 1981

- 9 - Illustrated talk to Geographical Society 'Bird-watching in Tunisia' (JS).
- 12 - Discussion on Cable Radio 'Bird Situation in Malta' (AEB).
- 18 - YMS Outing to Ghadira.
- 22 - Illustrated talk to Scouts Cubs Sliema 'Bird Appreciation' (NF/RG).
 - 10th MOS Council Meeting.
- 29 - YMS Committee Meeting followed by Annual General Meeting for young members and filmshow 'Private Life of a Robin'.

MAY 1981

- 1 - YMS Outing to Ghadira.
 - MOS Press Release (2/81) Bird's Eye View.
- 6 - Illustrated talk to deaf and dumb children at Pieta (MG/SB).
- 7 - 11th MOS Council Meeting.
- 13 - Illustrated talk to Pieta Primary School children (SB).
- 15 - MOS delegation to Ministry of Culture - Presentation of Mist-nets to MOS.
- 19 - MOS delegation to Minister of Health Presentation of keys of Ghadira hide to Minister (Mrs.Coxon/AEB/CG/JS).

- 24 - MOS Outing to Ghadira.
- 26 - Council Members' meeting with Mrs. E. Coxon.
- 30-31 - MOS Stand at San Anton Gardens at Fur & Feather Show.

JUNE 1981

- 5 - Council Members' meeting with Mr. R. Ingram.
- 14 - MOS Council workshop at Villa Psaigon on enforcement of bird regulations.
- 18 - YMS Committee Meeting.
- 29 - 12th MOS Council Meeting.

JULY 1981

- 1-15 - MOS Stand at Malta International Trade Fair.
 - 1 - MOS delegation to Department of Agriculture (AEB/CG/JS).
 - 2 - MOS delegation to Mellieha Holiday Centre's management (CG/JS)
 - 8 - MOS Press Release (3/81) House Martins - new breeding record.
 - 15 - MOS Press Release (4/81) IYF Camp.
 - 17-29 - IYF Camp organised by MOS Youths i.c.w. IYF.

AUGUST 1981

- 17 - Issue of Storm Petrel No.4.
- 18 - MOS Press Release 5/81 - Il-Merill No.21.
 - YMS Outing to Ghadira.
- 19 - YMS Committee Meeting.
- 24 - Interview on Cable Radio re Ghadira Nature Reserve (CG).
- 26 - YMS Outing to Ghadira.
- 27 - Interview on cable radio re Ghadira Nature Reserve (H.E.Axell).

SEPTEMBER 1981

- 13 - YMS Outing to Buskett.
- 14 - MOS Press Release (6/81) Bird Shooting at Buskett.
- 15 - YMS Outing at Buskett.
- 20 - YMS Outing at Buskett.
- 21 - 13th MOS Council Meeting.
- 27 - YMS Outing at Buskett.
- 29 - MOS Press Release (7/81) Extension of closed season.

OCTOBER 1981

- 5 - YMS Committee Meeting.
- 10 - YMS Wine & Pizza Evening at Boys Scouts Headquarters, Floriana.
- 12 - MOS Press Release (8/81) Robin Trapping.
- 25 - YMS Outing to Ghadira.
- 28 - Illustrated talk 'Expedition to Masira' to MOS members by C.A. Pomeroy.

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1981

Publications	note 5	52,000	Subscriptions & donations		842,078
Sundries	note 1	253,265	Educational material sales	note 6	592,910
Loss on exchange		200,412	Publication sales	note 7	753,331
Postages		216,898	Other sales	note 8	148,890
Stationery		30,970	Interest received		140,220
Travelling 50,000	note 2	-----			
- Reserves 50,000					
Excess Income c/f to Appropriation A/C		1723,884			
		1477,429			2477,429

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT NO. 1

Depreciation	25,000	Excess Income b/f	1723,884
Balance c/f Appr. No. 2	1698,884		
	1723,884		1723,884

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT NO. 2

Il-Merill reserve a/c	400,000	Balance b/f from Appropriation No. 1	1698,884
Bird's Eye View reserve a/c	150,000		
Balance to Capital a/c	1148,884		
	1698,884		1698,884

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1981

Capital Account			Fixed Assets		
Balance from 31.12.80			Book value 200,000		175,000
3457,611			- depreciation 25,000		
+ Appr. No.2 1148,884		4606,495	Groups		1014,380
General reserve a/c	note 9	2661,219	Current Assets		
Current liabilities			Cash 4015,872		
Advance subscriptions			Debtors 146,946		
192,760	note 3		Stocks 5866,997		10029,815
Loan 1049,334					
Creditors 2709,387	note 4	3951,481			
		11219,195			11219,195

NOTES ON 1981 ACCOUNTS

Note 1. SUNDRIES EM253,265. This is made up of the following items : Books of account EM12, Ledger fees/Bank charges EM17, P.O. Box rent EM10, Photos /photocopies EM18, Stick & brown paper EM6, Telephone EM47, ICBP Malta Subscription EM13, Projection-ist fee EM1, Complimentaries EM48, Index cards EM3, Fair stand EM62, Travelling EM3, Others EM13.

Note 2. TRAVELLING EM50,000. Expenses in connection with the sending of one representative to the ICBP Conference in Holland.

Note 3. ADVANCE SUBSCRIPTIONS £M192,760. This is made up as follows : 1982 - £M156,760, 1983 - £M16,000, 1984 - £M8,500, 1985 - £M3,500, 1986-89 - £M8,000.

Note 4. CREDITORS £M2709,387. This includes £M2620,000 due to Messrs Printex Ltd in connection with the 'New Guide to the Birds of Malta'.

Note 5. PUBLICATIONS £M52,000.

Item	Il-Merill	Bird's Eye View	Storm Petrel	Regulations Booklet
Cost	352,000	202,280	41,720	1006,092
- Reserves	<u>300,000</u>	<u>202,280</u>	<u>41,720</u>	<u>1006,092</u>
	52,000	---	---	---

Note 6. EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL SALES. K.S.P. Stickers £M133,405, Other Stickers £M140,555, Breeding Birds Charts £M53,500, Il-Merill £M3,000, Posters £M158,000, Other sales £M104,450.

Note 7. PUBLICATION SALES £M753,331.

Item	L-Aghsafar	A New Guide To The Birds Of Malta
Sales	909,642	509,047
- Cost of sales	<u>534,750</u>	<u>130,608</u>
	<u>374,892</u>	<u>378,439</u>

Note 8. OTHER SALES £M148,890.

Item	First Day Covers	T-Shirts
Sales	104,050	335,000
- Cost of sales	<u>48,960</u>	<u>241,200</u>
	<u>55,090</u>	<u>93,800</u>

Note 9. GENERAL RESERVES £M2661,219. This amount is made up as follows : Il-Merill £M400,000, Posters £M60,000, Young Members £M119,780, Travel £M395,000, Bird's Eye View £M247,720, Exercise Books £M13,133, Ghadira £M923,965, Maltese Guide £M18,583, Ringing Group £M11,000, Stickers £M156,360, Educational Publications £M196,908, Printing Machine £M118,770.

Brian K. German
Hon. Treasurer

NOVEMBER 1981

- 4 - Valletta Ringing Scheme Committee Meeting at Ministry of Culture.
- 8 - YMS Outing to Ghadira.
- 10 - 14th MOS Council Meeting.
- 18 - Illustrated talk on Ghadira Nature Reserve to MOS members (CG).
- 22 - YMS bird-watching walk to Selmun.
- 26 - YMS Committee Meeting.
- Attending ICBP/WEBS Conference at Doorn, Holland (AEB/BKG).

DECEMBER 1981

- 1 - MOS Press Release (9/81) MOS attending Conference in Holland.
- 19 - YMS illustrated talk to handicapped children at Villa Mons. Gonzi.
- 20 - YMS Outing to Mizleb.
- 22 - 15th MOS Council Meeting.
- 31 - Issue of Storm Petrel No.5.

JANUARY 1982

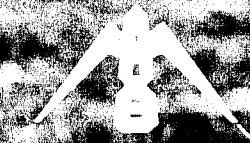
- 9 - MOS Circular 1/82.
- 10 - MOS Rarities Committee Meeting.
- 14 - YMS Committee Meeting.
- 15 - MOS Press Release 1/82 MOS disapproval of stuffed birds exhibition.
- 19 - 16th MOS Council Meeting.
- 24 - YMS Outing to Buskett.

FEBRUARY 1982

- 10 - 17th MOS Council Meeting.
- 11 - YMS Committee Meeting.
- 14 - MOS Circular 2/82.

MARCH 1982

- 10 - Annual General Meeting.



AN MOS PUBLICATION

PO BOX 498 VALLETTA MALTA