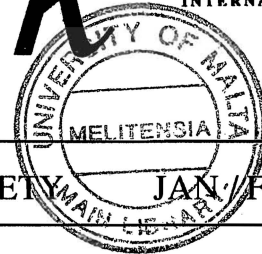




# BirdTalk



NEWSLETTER OF THE MALTA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY JAN / FEB '94

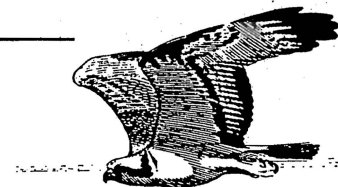


... people who care for the environment !!!

Vandals in mid-January threw paint and wrote uncomplimentary messages on national monuments, historic buildings and traffic signs around Malta. The writings were directed against MOS and the Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment. This sheer disregard for our national heritage surely does not help anyone's credibility.

## RENEWALS

In this issue those members whose subscription is due shortly, will find attached, their renewal form. This form of reminder, is saving MOS hundreds of Liri. You will not be sent a second reminder until some time later, so as not to incur additional expenses. We would appreciate your early renewal. We thank you for your continued co-operation and much needed support to sustain the pressure in this crucial period.



MOS would like to remind its members that the closed season started on the 1st February, this means that no hunting and trapping is allowed until 31st August. Except for Turtle Dove shooting between 10 April & 20 May.

Should you notice any such activity during the closed season, you are kindly asked to report it either to the Environment Police on 240707 or MOS on 230684.



## BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

Choose from a wide range of tours throughout Europe and selected destinations worldwide.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT :

Travelcare Ltd. 26, Old Bakery Street, Valletta, Malta. Tel: 224820, 245874, 240361. Fax: 241334.

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# MOS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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*The 32nd Annual General Meeting of MOS will be held on Wednesday 16th March at 6.00pm at G. Despott Hall at the Ministry of Education in Floriana.*

*The Agenda for the meeting is:*

- Address by the MOS President;
- Reading of Minutes;
- Reading of Director's Report for 1993;
- Reading of Financial Report;
- Appointment of Auditors;
- Statute Amendments;
- Resolutions;
- Election of New Council.

*The MOS is proposing the following amendments to the statute:*

5a1: A meeting of the Society's general membership shall be called at least annually by the Hon. Secretary or his/her deputy at the request of the Council, to elect the Council to make recommendations, take decisions, or adopt resolutions as deemed necessary.

6a: The Society shall be run by a Council, eleven members of which are duly elected and/or conferred during an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

6a2: *to become* 6a1.

6a2: *to read* "No person may be a Council Member for a continuous period exceeding five years but thereafter shall be eligible for re-election to the Council at the expiration of one year for his last ceasing to be a Council Member."

6a3: *to read* "For the purposes of this statute:

- 'year' means the period between the AGM of the Society and the next AGM.
- Any Council member who has been co-opted on Council shall be deemed to have become a

Council member at the AGM preceding his appointment by the Council.

- Any Council member who resigns or retires otherwise than at the end of a year shall be deemed nevertheless to have been a Council Member continuously until the end of that year."

6a4: *to read* "A Council member who fails to attend three consecutive Council Meetings without a valid reason shall be deemed to have resigned from his/her post as a Council Member."

6b2: *to read* "At least four months before the AGM the Council shall appoint an electoral commission."

6b5: "The Council may co-opt any Society's member to fill any vacancy in the Council in which case the co-opted person will be deemed a full member of the Council."

6b7: *to be deleted*

7b6: *to read* "Deeds of whatever nature engaging the Society and all other documents purporting to bind the Society including bank documents, cheques, promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchanges, and other negotiable instruments shall be signed, drawn and accepted, endorsed or otherwise executed, as the case may be by two persons."

7c3: "The Council may employ any person or persons to implement its policy and manage the Society."

7c4: *to become* "The Council may appoint any committee whenever it is felt that such a committee can deal more efficiently with any particular matter. The Chairman of such a committee is to be answerable to the Council."

7c5, 7c6 and 7c7 to be deleted.

# Falko - MOS Youths

## News & Activities

### Gozo Camp

A 3-day camp in Gozo is being organised from the 11th to the 13th March. So come, bring your friends and join in the fun! If interested, phone Ruth Sultana on 440278 or Elaine Bonello on 320435 by the 28th February. Hurry up or else it will be too late!

### Day Trip

During Spring, Falko is also organising a day trip to Comino. This will give us the opportunity to observe a number of migrants such as various species of passerines, birds of prey, herons and the like. We will be meeting on the 17th April at 07.15 am at Cirkewwa — in time for the 07.30 am ferry. Do not forget to bring money for the ferry, a packed lunch and binoculars.

### International Camps

A number of international camps dealing with various topics related to the environment are being held all over Europe. These camps all have special student/youth prices. Interested? Yes? The quick! Give us a ring for more information!



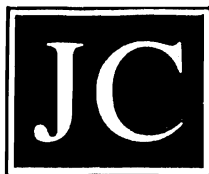
### Protest March

Falko youths took part in a protest march organised by the University Students Council (KSU) on the 21st January against the recent spate of vandalism. Several Falko/MOS members from University and the New Lyceum Complex turned up making the demonstration a big success. The great majority of the Maltese people are definitely angry at the recent instances of vandalism which have been going on and which most probably have been perpetrated by shooters angry at the new bird-protection laws — judging by the anti-MOS graffiti scrawled over a number of walls and historic sites.

### NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Electoral Commissioner has received the following nominations for the MOS Council:

Mr. John Borg, Mr Dennis Cachia, Mr Alex Casha, Mr Joe Doublet, Mrs Desiree Falzon, Mr Victor Falzon, Mr Raymond Galea, Mr John Grech, Ms Ruth Sultana, Dr Antoine Vella, Mr William Waite.



**JOS. CAMILLERI**  
O P T I C I A N

38/39, OLD BAKERY STREET, VALLETTA VLT 09, MALTA.  
TEL: 236953 - FAX: (0356) 247597

Paul Camilleri, F.A.D.O. (Hons.)  
Managing Director



## Members' Day

The members' day held on the 16th January was an encouraging success. Over 70 members attended a series of talks about birds, nature and habitats.

### Activity at Buskett

As a follow up to our last activity we shall be organising a walk in Buskett. This will be on Saturday 9th April in the afternoon. The walk will give you the opportunity to appreciate this unique habitat. You will also be able to see birds migrating on their way north. For more information please contact our office on 23 06 84.

### A visit to Comino

In May we will be organising two full day excursions to the largest Maltese bird sanctuary, Comino. The dates are Sunday 1st and 8th May. More information will be given in the next newsletter, so keep these days free.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### Part-Time Warden

A vacancy has arisen for a part-time warden to be responsible for the opening of the Ghadira Nature Reserve, on weekends.

The right candidate would be co-ordinating volunteers. Ability to work with people and knowledge of nature will be essential.

Interested persons should write to:

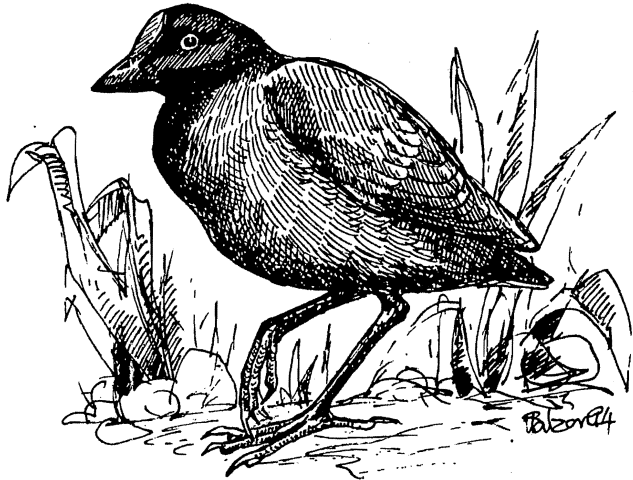
**The Director of MOS  
MOS PO Box 498  
Valletta, CMR 01**

by not later than 9th March 1994.

## Unwanted Pet Birds



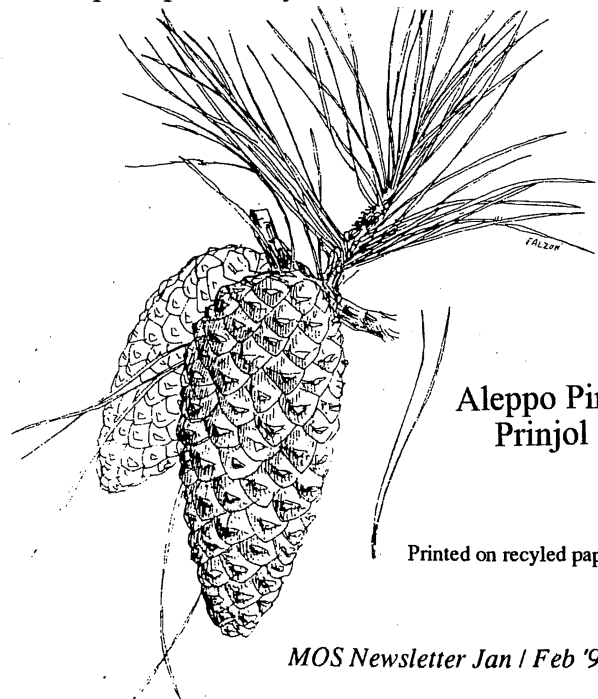
Should you have any unwanted pet birds, in particular ducks, you are asked to contact the MOS office. These pets should not be abandoned at the Ghadira Nature Reserve, as has happened lately. Arrangements can be made to find them an alternative home.



Allen's Gallinule

## New species recorded in Malta

The MOS birder, Mr John Grech, had the good fortune of ringing for the first time a previously unknown visitor to our Islands. The bird, the Allen's Gallinule, is normally found south of the Sahara across East to West Africa. Since the bird had never been recorded in Malta before, no Maltese name exists. The MOS research group will therefore give it a Maltese name. Several specimens have been recorded in Europe in previous years.



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