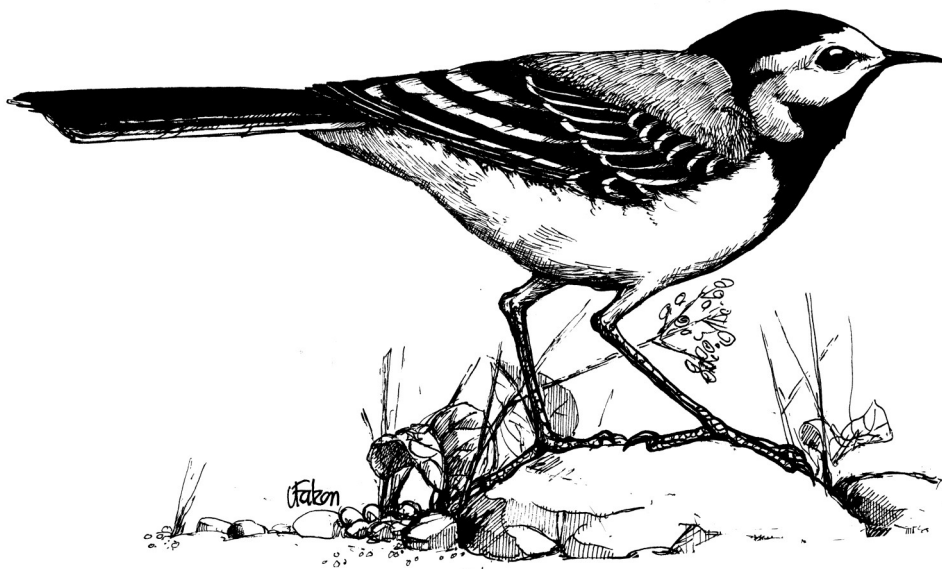


Il-Merill

The ornithological journal of BirdLife Malta

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Il-Merill is the ornithological journal of **BirdLife Malta**. It serves as a medium for the publication of articles and short notes dealing with any aspect of ornithology having a bearing on the Maltese Islands and the Mediterranean. It also carries systematic lists of birds recorded in the Maltese Islands as well as bird ringing reports. Articles and short notes for publication should be addressed to:

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Curry-Lindahl, K. 1981. *Bird migration in Africa*. Academic Press, London.

Stettenheim, P. 1972. The integument of birds. In *Avian Biology*, D.S. Farner & King, J.R. eds., pp 2-54, Academic Press, London.



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ERRATA

II-Merill No. 22 (1981-83)

Foreign Ringed Birds Recovered in Malta

Page 54: Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (ring no. Helsinki D-85.226). This is a misprint and should read **Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus***. (NB. This recovery appeared correctly as Honey Buzzard in the more recent IL-MERILL No. 24 page 46).

II-Merill No. 28 (1992-94)

Ringling Recoveries

Page 71: Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* Ring no. **S4.121** should read **S4181**.

II-Merill No. 30 (2002)

C. Galea Bonavia & C. Gauci. Population of Common Chiffchaffs *Phylloscopus collybita* occurring in the Maltese islands.

page 18: Significance level "**p < 0.05**" in Table 4 should read "**p > 0.05**".

R. Galea. Breeding records of Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* for the period 1992 to 2001.

Page 37, 2nd paragraph: San Anton Gardens. The sentence "In **1995** this pair had **1 fledged young**" should read "In **1996** this pair **was seen feeding a single fledged young on 6 August**".

R. Galea. The Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* nesting on Comino.

page 39: The date "**8 April 1990**" (1st line, 2nd Paragraph) is a misprint and should read "**8 April 1995**"

ADDENDA

The following records of birds were inadvertently left out from the systematic lists published in earlier issues of this journal.

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*

1 (ringed recovery) was found dead off Delimara on 10 October 1998.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

1 ringed at Lunzjata on 24 October 1995.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

1 ringed at Tarġa Gap on 8 November 1994.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

1 ringed at Lunzjata on 21 September 1995.

Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*

1 ringed at Lunzjata on 13 April 1992.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

2 singles ringed at Lunzjata on 1st and 5 November respectively in 1993.

CONTENTS

page

D. Ristow. Up-date on breeding status and review on Eleonora's Falcon <i>Falco eleonorae</i> when away from the breeding sites.....	1
J. Sultana. A review of the status of the Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i> in Maltese waters.....	6
J.J. Borg, H. Raine & A. Raine. Records in Malta of European Storm-petrels <i>Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis</i> during the breeding season away from known breeding sites.....	11
J.J. Borg & J. Sultana. Extended Laying Period by the European Storm-petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis</i> on Filfla Island.....	15
D. Ristow. Day and night pattern of burrow attendance in Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i> seven weeks prior to egg laying.....	17
N. Galea & R. Galea. A review of the status of Audouin's Gull <i>Larus audouinii</i> around the Maltese Islands.....	19
A. Raine & D. Cachia. Observations from a long term White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba alba</i> roost in Valletta, Malta.....	22
A. Raine, H. Raine Ana Meirinho & J.J. Borg. Rafting behaviour of Yelkouan Shearwater <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> breeding at Rdum tal-Madonna, Malta.....	26
SHORT NOTES	
J.J. Borg. Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata tyrrhenica</i> breeding in Malta.....	31
R. Vella. Unusual nesting behaviour in Zitting Cisticolas <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	32
R. Galea. An unusually large influx of Ruff.....	33
S. Zammit Lupi. New breeding site for Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	33
J.J. Borg & J. Sultana. Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i> preying on Maltese Wall Lizards <i>Podarcis filfolensis filfolensis</i> on Filfla Island.....	34
G. Haber & R. Galea. <i>Lanius</i> hybrid ringed on Comino Island.....	35
R. Galea & N. Galea. Five New Breeding Bird Species for the Maltese Islands.....	36
J.J. Borg. Re-assessment of the Rock Sparrow <i>Petronia petronia</i> record of 1957.....	38
C. Gauci. First record of the Greenish Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i> in the Maltese Islands.....	39
M. Gauci & M. Mallia. First Record of the Siberian Rubythroat <i>Luscinia calliope</i> in the Maltese Islands.....	40
R. Galea & C. Coleiro. First record of the Balearic Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> in the Maltese Islands.....	40
E. Bonavia & D. Attard. Second record of the Balearic Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> in the Maltese Islands.....	41
R. Vella & A Casha. First Record of the Purple Swamp-hen in the Maltese Islands.....	41
J.J. Borg. First record of the Blue-winged Teal <i>Anas discors</i> in the Maltese islands.....	42
A. Vassallo. First record of the Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> and Lesser Crested Tern <i>Sterna bengalensis</i> in the Maltese islands.....	43
J.J. Borg. First record of the Pygmy Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> in the Maltese Islands.....	44
J.J. Borg & D. Cachia. First records of the Striped Crake <i>Porzana marginalis</i> in the Maltese Islands.....	45
J. Sultana. First record of Red-breasted Goose <i>Branta ruficollis</i> in the Maltese Islands.....	46
National Rarities Committee - Malta 1 st Report.....	47
Systematic List 2000-2005.....	55
Ringing Report 2000-2005.....	110

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10 Euro

Up-date on breeding status and review on Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora* when away from the breeding sites

Dietrich Ristow

Introduction

This journal has already carried a comprehensive account on Eleonora's Falcon as to its status at the breeding colonies and the available data about migration patterns and wintering grounds (Ristow & Wink 1992-94). The article could be summarised as follows: While immatures are typically hundreds of miles away from the native island in the year after fledging, as adults they show extreme natal philopatry when breeding. Their main winter quarters are in Madagascar, and data during migration are scarce (Ristow & Wink 1992-94). It is not the purpose of the present contribution to repeat the same general information about the occurrence by presenting new data when sufficient data had already been published. Rather, this review focuses on new information and publications when these are supplemental to the former.

Breeding population status

The population at the northern colony in Morocco is down to 12 pairs, but numbers in the southern colony have tripled as a result of conservation measures (Aghnaj 2002). Numbers were stable in Tunisia (Azafzaf 2004), Italy (A. Baldami, F. Spina pers. comm.), Croatia (Piasevoli & Scetavic 2001), and Cyprus (Warne 2000; Paton 2002; Wilson 2004). However they showed a gradual decline in Crete (Ristow 1999) followed by a dramatic acceleration in decline of 15 % per year in two large colonies off Crete which was linked to the wide-spread illegal use of a nerve poison (Ristow 2001; Tsatsakis *et al.* 2001). The world population previous to the poisoning was estimated at 6300 breeding pairs (Ristow 1999), but cannot be given presently, because Greece harbours 75 % of the falcon's world population and the extent of the poison abuse is unknown. Furthermore, NGOs in Turkey failed for two decades to confirm the report made of a single breeding site in their country. When a reward was posted on the internet raptor discussion group in March 2003 to be paid if a second person could be named who had seen the breeding site, the deadline passed without an attempt to collect the money. So the correct status is that at present there has been no breeding record of this species in Turkey up till now.

Vagrants

That immatures at the breeding season show up far away from their native colony was demonstrated again by two records from the Cape Verde Islands (Heinze & Ristow 2003; Thomsett 2005). 2 individuals south of Bica da Cana in Madeira on 18 August were also vagrants during the breeding season (Birding World 15: 374). 1 and 2 individuals at Janzour in Libya on 22 and 27 July 2004 (Gaskell 2005) were non-breeding vagrants during the laying season; also singles at Wadi Kaam on 10 October 1965 and 17 October 1966 (Bundy 1976) were a bit too early for normal migrants. A single falcon above the Azraq wetland in Jordan on 14 June 1995 (Andrews *et al.* 1999) was a typical vagrant in the Mediterranean for June (compare also new ring recoveries below); similarly singles in Israel on 20 and 29 June and even one on the Golan 12 July 1986 (Shirihai 1996). A dark morph individual was seen on Mayotte/Comores July 1992, an archipelago within the wintering range of this species (F. Néri in Louette 2004). There is a second record for Hungary at Kunmadaras 22 September 1987 (Magyar *et al.* 1998), a first for Cameroon of a dark morph adult heading south in the savannah region near Mapanja 2400 m above sea level on the south-western slopes of Mt Cameroon in the afternoon of 29 November 1996 (Hivekovics & Palatitz 1998), and a first for Ivory Coast on 12 April 2001 (Thomsett 2005). There are several sightings logged in Germany, but doubts persist on their correct identification.

Migration and Wintering

For north-western Africa, definitive migration observations are scarce. There is still only one sighting from Mauretania at Banc d'Arguin on 4 November (Mahé 1985). In Morocco, when the sightings in the Atlantic coastal range near the breeding sites are left aside, then there remain only two sightings at the Mediterranean coast near Melilla on 5 April

1990 and near Mdiq on 30 April 1993 (Thévenot *et al.* 2003). There is a possible winter record from Algeria of a bird seen on 17 December 1977 at Colombi Islet (Isenmann & Moali 2000). In Tunisia, apart from the few though well known migration observations at Cap Bon, single falcons were seen inland, apparently on migration, at Bou Hedma on 14 April 1985 and at Selja/Gafsa on 25 April 1995 (Isenmann *et al.* 2005), but flight directions were not given.

New observations in the Middle East are as follows. In Lebanon there are 2 records in April, 1 in September, and 2 in October (Ramadan-Jaradi & Ramadan-Jaradi 1999). In Syria, 3 individuals were sighted over Palmyra oasis on 7 November 2002, and the assumed date for a captured juvenile as “mid”-October 2002 (Serra *et al.* 2005) seems to be too early for the season. In Jordan there are four records - on 25 April 1996 at an unspecified location (Andrews *et al.* 1999), 1 individual near Dana village 22 April 2000 (I. Andrews), 1 individual in April/May 2004 at Dibbin Forest (C. Hewson), and 1 dark morph individual at Aqaba sewage works 20 Apr 2004 (I. Andrews). In Israel the total per season had been up to 21 individuals in spring and up to 44 individuals in autumn (Leshem 1994; Yosef 1995; Shirihai 1996). The daily maximum were 33 adults on 23 April 1999, counted on migration at 900 m altitude on Mt Yoash/Eilat; these were singles during the morning, 7 individuals between 12:30 and 14:30, 18 in parties of 5-6 individuals between 14:30 and 15:30, and singles during the evening (B. Granit). All these data show a regular passage in the Middle East, but numbers are too small and in autumn too early in the season to explain substantial migration of the Mediterranean breeding population. For Egypt, a separate account of the observations is in preparation (T. Coles). There are no records from the Sudan (Nikolaus 1987, pers. comm. 2005).

A clarifying statement about Eleonora's Falcons wintering in the Mediterranean seems to be appropriate. G. Cant (1978) wrote about a sizeable wintering population in the south Aegean Sea, which was quoted in Cramp & Simmons (1980, page 329) with the remark “confirmation desirable”. Gilbert Cant was a journalist by profession, and it was his job to report what other people say. That is why Ristow & Wink (1992-94), when quoting Cant in their review, acknowledged Cant's own observations, but simply deleted the rest. In the meantime, his unsubstantiated comments regarding wintering Eleonora's Falcons was revived in two serious scientific publications without a note of caution. Since the publication of Cant's comments however, and in spite of increased observers' activity, nobody confirmed Cant's claim by a similar observation. The status should be considered to remain unchanged, i.e. ‘exceptionally only single falcons may be seen in the Mediterranean during winter’.

Additional or new data from the East Africa/Madagascar region are as follows. A total of 7 individuals on Hadibu plain, Socotra Island/Yemen on 14+16.Nov. 1997 (Clouet *et al.* 1998); several December/January records in Ethiopia and Kenya (Thomsett 2005), an accidental capture of a juvenile at Kiambu outside of Nairobi on 28 February 1988 (T. Coles), and another Kenya sighting at the golf course by the lake of Kakamenga Forest, Kisumu on 1 Dec. 1991 (P. R. Bono); 3 records from Mozambique in March/April (Parker 1995); four to six records from South Africa, i.e. an imprecise one in “summer” 1977 (Macleane 1988), 1 individual at Kwa Zulu-Natal on 2 November-18 December 2001, 1 individual at Vaalkop Dam on 10-12 January 2002 (Bull. ABC 9, 2002, 150), and a further light morph and an hour later a dark morph adult near St Lucia on 2 April 2002 (M. Wink), and finally 1 individual on 6 February 2005 in Kruger National Park (Bull. ABC 12, 2005, 189). A supposed sighting in Zimbabwe was not accepted by the national rarity committee (Hustler *et al.* 1990).

There were no recent publications with better data about the status in Madagascar. This is a pity since the wintering quarters could serve to monitor trends in the world population of the species, at a fairly low level of effort. For example, from standardized raptor counts of wintering migrant and resident species in Madagascar's open habitats, the frequency ratio between species such as Eleonora's Falcon, Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*, and Madagascar Kestrel *Falco newtoni* would be a convenient tool to evaluate population trends. It is desirable that such monitoring be initiated. There are better data now from the Indian Ocean archipelagos. There are at least 16 records on the Comores in October-January and 3 in April-May during 1983-2003, all of between 1-4 individuals each (Louette 2004). The Seychelles Rarity Committee accepted 23 records from 1971-2002. These were all sightings between 31 October-17 February, and all of single birds except one record of 3 individuals (A. Skerrett pers. comm.). From Mauritius there are another 29 records from 1993-2002, all between 10 December-20 February and all of 1-4 individuals each (M. Nicoll). For Reunion see the section on ring recoveries below. No record from Rodrigues (Showler 2002, *pers. com.* 2005). – An alleged record out in the Indian Ocean (Beaux & Voisin 1983) referred in reality to a Hobby *Falco subbuteo* as can clearly be seen from the facial pattern in the published photograph when comparing this with the diagnostic differences for the two species illustrated in Figure 2 of Ristow & Wink (1992-94).

Ring Recoveries and Migration

New ring recoveries became available from nestlings marked on the Canary Islands (Rodriguez Godoy 2000), Columbretes (Belenguer *et al.* 2004), and Crete (Table 1), adding 14 records to the former total of 34. Three June recoveries of the Canary falcons are remarkable. These were birds in Morocco after almost 2 and 6 years from the date of ringing respectively, and in Algeria after 9 years, demonstrating the distance away from the (native) breeding sites in this month. A fourth recovery is of a 23 month old individual in Morocco in mid-July 2002 (A. Martin, F. Rodriguez Godoy pers. comm.). Fortunately, the recoveries of three 3-5 months old juveniles from the Columbretes give information on migration and wintering: One was found 30 km inland, east of Relizane/Algeria, i.e. strictly south of the Columbretes, on 31 Nov. 1988; the second found dead in Madagascar January 2003, and a live bird in Bras Panon/Reunion on 30 November 2000. Four of the new Cretan recoveries (Table 1) conform to the former results reported on immatures and breeders.

Ringed (Sept)	Date of Recovery	Recovery Site	Distance travelled (km)	Sex	Age
2000	17/11/2000	Busia Kenya	4,065	male	2.5 months
1996	28/08/1998	Misilmeri/Palermo, Italy	1,171		1 year
1996	20/05/1998	Patara/Fethiye, Turkey	293		1 year, 9 months
1996	16/07/2004	Crete	29	female	8 years
1986	07/08/1996	Crete	57		10 years

Table 1. Recent recoveries of Eleonora's Falcons, ringed as nestlings off Crete.

However, the female recovery deserves a more detailed description because extra-pair-fertilization has not been proven yet in this colonial species (Swatschek *et al.* 1993), and the 8 year old individual was over 25 km away from the nearest breeding island in the courtship season. It was in very good condition with big fat reserves (Keiser's fat score: 6.5) and bulging breast muscles. The multigranulated ovary measured 25x20 mm, average ova size was 3 mm, and a single ovum of 8 mm was in the beginning of the Fallopian tube. The specimen is now with the Iraklion Natural History Museum to determine its cause of death (M. Ivovic).

The fifth Cretan record is of a live juvenile during migration in Busia/Kenya at the border between Uganda and Kenya, just 50 km north of Lake Victoria, the locality lying more or less on the shortest route between Crete and Madagascar. This matches with the well-known recovery of a Canary falcon shot in Mali which had been just south of the shortest route between the Canaries and Madagascar. All these recoveries on migration are not really surprising, as with no prior data available the assumption of a simple straight migration route is reasonable. Why, then, is there the wide-spread belief that all Eleonora's Falcons including the Atlantic population, migrate through the Red Sea and then along the African east coast to Madagascar?

To understand why such an error could be perpetuated so persistently, it is worthwhile to study the history of the case. After quoting the sighting of a single individual from the gulf of Suez and 3+2 individuals from Sheikh/Somali, i.e. 50 km inland, Stresemann (1954) wrote in a magazine that on their way to Madagascar, the falcons "*migrate presumably along the rocky coast of the Red Sea and Somalia ...*" and later finished his essay "*... as there is no record from the west coast of tropical Africa, we must presume that the Atlantic population circumvents Africa in the north to reach Madagascar.*" For reasons not explained, Stresemann was fixated on the idea that Eleonora's Falcons must migrate along coastlines. Perhaps he had been led astray by the archipelagic breeding habits of the species, but as with all falcons the Eleonora's Falcon is a land bird by origin and should migrate in a similar fashion to other falcon species. The fact that raptors in general can migrate through the North African desert and Sahel belt has become readily apparent from raptor counts at Cap Bon in Tunisia. However Walter (1979) overlooked these points. In his book, he began with two correct scientific statements "*we know nothing about the migration route in the late fall period or how the falcons migrate*" (Walter 1979, page 272), and continued to quote Vaughan's sceptical remark in 1961 about Stresemann's suggestion "*it is unlikely*" (page 274), but then finished with a map of the "*probable migration route*" (Fig. 49, page 276), i.e. as much above the sea as possible: from the Canary Islands and Morocco to Gibraltar, through the Mediterranean and Red Seas, along the coast of Africa to Mozambique and finally to Madagascar. Without a single piece of data to support this supposition, the advertising appeal of the drawn figure repressed the published words of caution and failed to explain how the falcons would be able to roost without drowning. It also ignored the simple conclusion to the contra-

ry "that Eleonora's Falcon normally migrates inland as any other raptor species does" (Ristow & Wink 1992-94, page 8). It is because of this that serious future publications presented data which, their authors claimed, lent support to Walter's hypothesis, when, in reality, they simply demonstrated the distribution of field workers' favourite watch sites. This is why the wrong migration route is still being published in colourful pictures for example in Spain (*Biologia* 7, 1997, 44), Greece (*Oxygen* 14, 2000, 67), and Germany (*Geo* 4, 2002, 48).

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Il-Merill 32 2010

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Editorial note

Due to the delay in publishing this issue of il-Merill, there are several recent developments and observations pertinent to *Falco eleonora* research that should be highlighted as they are relevant to the content of this paper. Sadly, Tom Coles died before evaluating the more than 150 sightings of this species that he had compiled from Egypt, including the recovery in Egypt of a nestling ringed on the Canary Islands. Other interesting sightings include a dark morph individual recorded in Armenia on 2 June 2005 (Ananian, V. *et al.*: *Sandgrouse* 29, 2007, 103-105) and two records from Romania – a dark morph adult at the Danube delta on 29 August 2003 (Laszlo Szabo, Baczo Zoltan) and three individuals above the Babadag forest on 21 August 2008. Photographs of two of these birds have allowed identification of these birds as a light morph yearling female and a dark morph yearling female (Gyorgy Szimuly, Peter Csonka). The Bulgarian Rarity Committee have ceased assessing records of this species as there are now more than 100 sightings in the country since 1975. These sightings come from 18 locations at rocky shores of the Black Sea and from 62 locations at inland rocks preferentially near river valleys north of the Eastern and Western Rhodopi mountains (Ankov P. (Ed.) 2007. *Atlas of breeding birds in Bulgaria*. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Conservation series, Book 10, Sofia, pages 182-183). There have also been single records of this species from the Czech Republic (Sylvia 39, 2003, 155-157) and one near Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen in Belgium on 5 or 6 June 1997 (Dutch Birding 19, 1997, 134+210). In Malta, the National Museum of Natural History holds three ringed specimens taken locally: one (Vogelwarte 509 38 44) was ringed as a juvenile in a colony off Crete on 17.09.1965 and according to its plumage was probably shot in its first two years of life; the second (Radolfzell GN52276) was ringed as a chick aged *ca.* three weeks at Toro Island, Sardinia, on 22.09.2005 and shot in the same year of fledging; and the third (Athens E003824) ringed as a chick SE Aegean on 16.09.2005 was shot in 2006. Lastly, in the 2004-2006 survey of the Turkish coast 9 breeding sites and 5 possible breeding sites were found, giving a total of perhaps 50 pairs for the country (Ortaç Onmuş at Naxos workshop June 2007).

There is also a Turkish addition to Table 1 in this paper. A male nestling ringed in September 2000 was found exhausted near Işikli on 29 June 2007, approximately 500 km away from its native islet off Crete. Two aspects are worth commenting on regarding this recovery. Firstly, this falcon still had a subcutaneous implanted transponder chip, meaning it had carried this device for more than 6 years. Secondly, males of this age are breeders in their native colony and occupy nest territories in May, but in June the islet colonies are almost deserted of falcons. It therefore appears that during this period, some breeders tend to be further away from their nests than previously thought. Compare the four Canary falcons highlighted above which were recovered in Algeria and Morocco. In the 2004-2006 Greek census a total of 12,300 breeding pairs were counted (Dimalexis, T. *et al.*: *J. Ornithol.* 149, 2008, 23-30), this result being achieved through standardised methods as had been recommended by the BirdLife experts in Ristow (1999). Finally, the likely migration behaviour as stated by these experts is now being revealed by satellite tracking. Studies involve (i) for Sardinian falcons 2003-2005 (Gschweng, M. *et al.*: *Proc. R. Soc. B* 275, 2008, 2887-2896), (ii) for Balearic falcons in 2007 (Lopez-Lopez, P. *et al.*: *Zoological Studies* 48(4), 2009, 485-491), and (iii) for Greek falcons in 2009 as published on the internet at <http://www.ornithologiki.gr/life/falcoel/en/program/satellite.htm>.

A review of the status of the Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* in Maltese waters

Joe Sultana

The Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* is a widespread but patchily distributed summer visitor to much of Europe, which accounts for less than half of its global breeding range (BirdLife International 2004). It winters in Africa.

Since the publication of the earliest scientific checklist (Schembri 1843), it has always figured in the ornithological literature of the birds of Malta, except in Gibb (1951), who did not record it while he was serving with the British Forces in Malta from August 1941 to July 1945. Table 1 shows the status of the species in published literature since 1843.

Author	Status & remarks
Schembri (1843)	Common arriving in September
Wright (1864)	"Occasionally observed in autumn and later". 3 on 23 July 1858, at Fort Manoel.
Wright (1874)	Large numbers in July 1870 in the harbours. First noticed them on 29 July and remained until about the end of September.
Blasius (1895)	Only quoted Wright (1864)
Despott (1917)	Met with only occasionally; did not see more than two or three specimens.
Roberts (1954)	Apparently irregular. A marked passage in 1950 reaching its peak in mid-August. Four birds first appeared in the Grand Harbour on 31 July, and then numbers increased rapidly to 120 by mid-August. By 22 August ca. 60 were still present, dwindling down to 15 by 4 September. A late bird on 2 October 1950. A similar passage occurred but on a much smaller scale in August 1951: in the Grand Harbour 1 on 12 th , 3 on 14 th , 6 on 16 th , ca. 20 on 18 th , but only 6 remained on 22 nd , "though many were scattered about off-shore". In 1952 only one record: Single on 25 May at Salina (first spring record).
DeLucca (1969)	Passage migrant: rare in spring, common in autumn, August to September.
Sultana <i>et. al.</i> (1975)	Scarce autumn migrant from late July to early October. 1-6 on up to 12 dates. Not infrequently observed offshore and probably somewhat overlooked. Rare and irregular in spring (May and early June), with 4 records from 1966 to 1973. Up to 8 on a few days in May 1975.
Bannerman & Vella Gaffiero (1976)	Frequent autumn passage migrant during August and September. Very scarce and irregular in spring.
Sultana & Gauci (1982)	Scarce autumn migrant from mid-July to early October, with up to 10 birds seen on up to 12 dates. Not infrequently observed offshore and probably somewhat overlooked. Rare and irregular in spring (May and early June), with 7 records of 1-2 from 1966 to 1978, but up to 8 on a few days in May 1975. Sporadic influxes occur in late July and August. 250+ were counted off Marsaxlokk on 27 July 1975. In 1976 70+ on 31 July and 40+ on 5 August reported as <i>Chlidonias</i> sp. were probably this species. 21 on 28 August 1977 off I-Aħrax Pt.

Table 1. Status according to various authors from 1843 to 1982.

Sultana & Gauci (1982), while stating that it is not infrequently observed offshore, remarked that it was probably overlooked. Contemporary birdwatching started in the late 1960s after the Malta Ornithological Society (now BirdLife Malta) was set up in 1962. In spite of this development the number of 'keen' bird watchers always remained very low up to the late 1980s, and to this date there are still less than 20 birdwatchers who go out bird-watching regularly. Offshore bird-watching from the coast started in the late 1980s, and increased slightly in the 1990s. In spite of this the offshore records of Black Terns remained fairly low in most years.

Figure 1 shows the annual total number of Black Terns recorded from 1977 to 1999 taken from the published annual systematic lists (Bonavia *et al.* 2005; Cachia Zammit & Attard Montalto 1980; Cachia Zammit 1981-83; Gauci 1984-85; Gauci 1986-87; Coleiro 1988; Coleiro 1989; Coleiro 1990-91; Coleiro & Attard Montalto 1992-94; Mercieca, *et al.* 1999). Spring records were scarce and irregular, with between one and three birds on nine dates recorded in seven years over the entire period. In autumn, most birds have occurred in August and September mostly in single figures, except on four dates with low double figures of up to 25. 1995 was exceptional with 30-50 birds almost daily from 11th to 16 August, and up to six almost daily from 17 August to 7 September. Between one and two birds were observed on only four dates in October up to 4th, and a very late bird occurred on 16 November 1986. Most birds were observed from the coast but a number of records (approximately 15 records, each of between one and three birds) have been logged at Ghadira Nature Reserve.

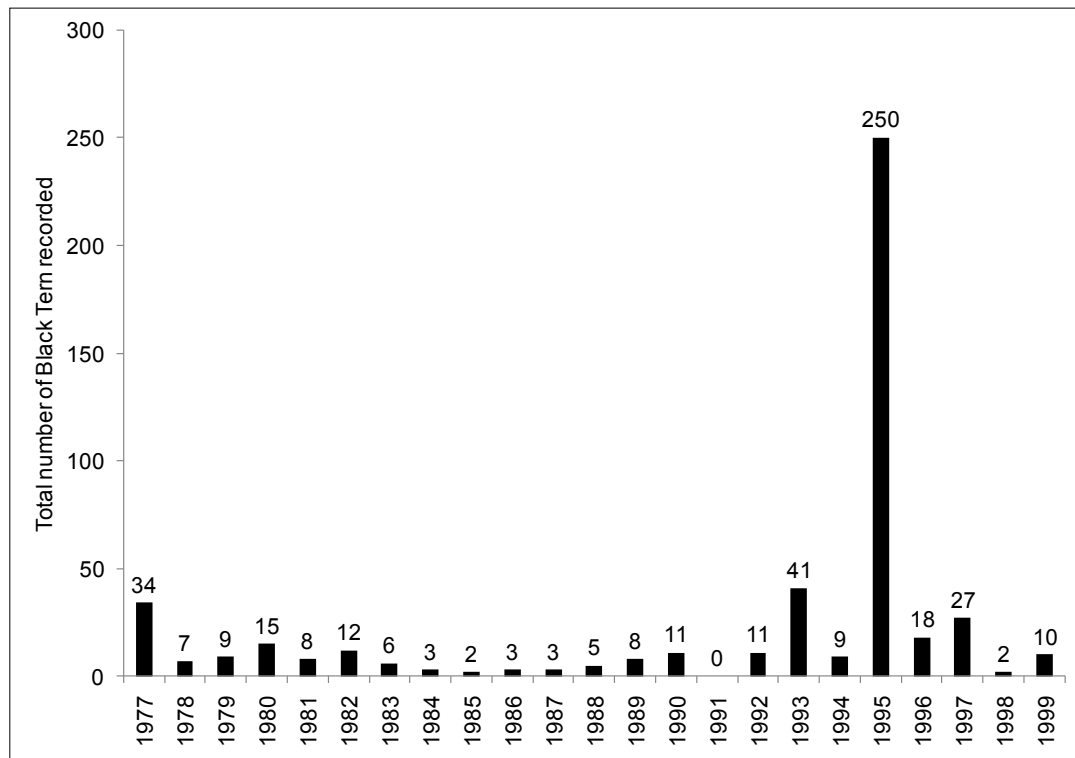


Figure 1. Total annual number of Black Terns recorded (land-based counts) from 1977 to 1999

From 2000 onwards records of this species increased dramatically in some years as land-based offshore observations increased (Figure 2). An average of 785 ± 207.7 birds was recorded per year (from land only) during this period. In four of these years the total number recorded was over 1,000 individuals, with a maximum of 1,972 in 2002. This is significantly higher than the maximum for the period 1977 to 1999, which was of 250 individuals in 1995.

Autumn migration occurs predominantly in the latter half of August and beginning of September. Figure 3 gives the numbers of birds observed (land-based counts only) from 2000 to 2009 in five-day periods during August and September when the species southern migration takes place. During this 10-year period very few birds were observed in autumn outside this main passage period (singles on eight dates in October in three years and a late bird on 20th November 2004 at San Luċġan). There was only one spring record (an adult in summer plumage at Simar on 7th May 2009), and one winter record (single bird off Qawra on 29th and 30 December 2000).

While counts have increased from land-based observations, very large numbers of birds were also recorded at sea. A number of boat-based observations were carried out in 2008 and 2009, either (i) as part of an on-going EU LIFE project on Yelkouan Shearwaters *Puffinus yelkouan* which carried out transects around the island between one and six nautical miles, or (ii) several boat trips to fish farms approximately six kilometres off the SE coast of Malta. Data recorded from these boat-based observations highlight the fact that large numbers of Black Terns may pass during their north-south journey in autumn, well in territorial waters, but out of sight from land (Table 2).

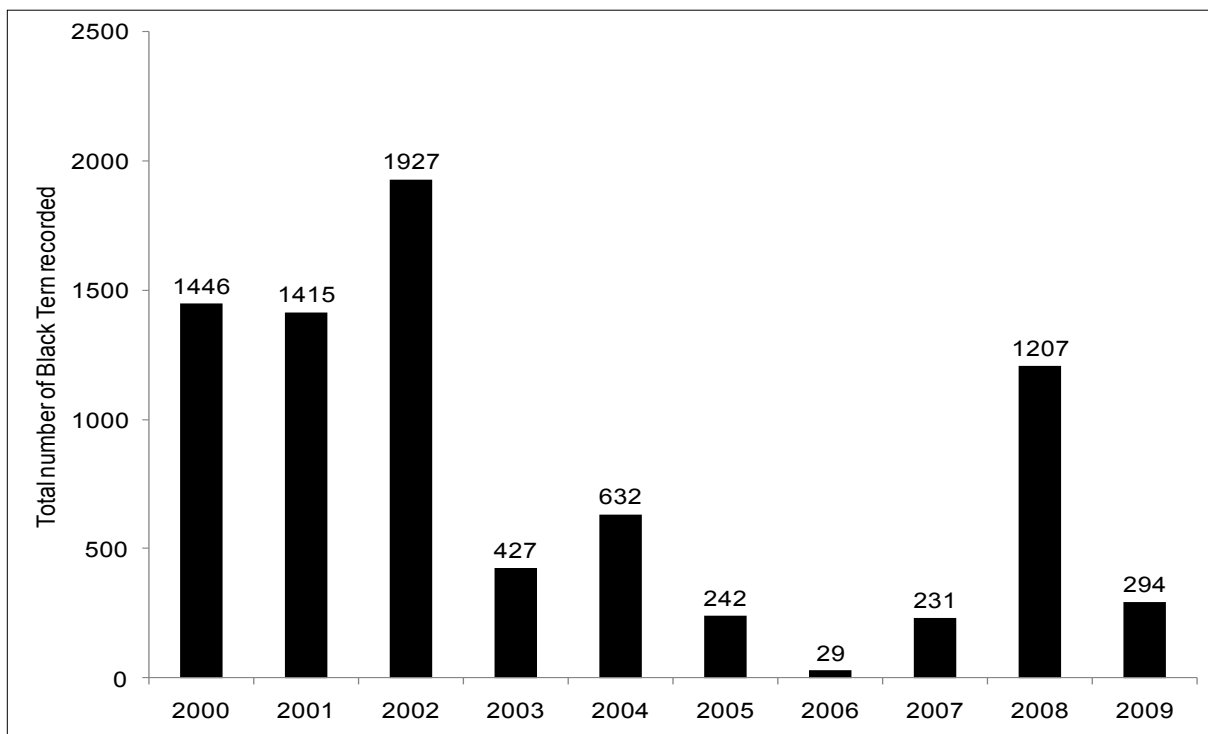


Figure 2. Total annual number of Black Terns recorded (land-based counts only) from 2000 to 2009.

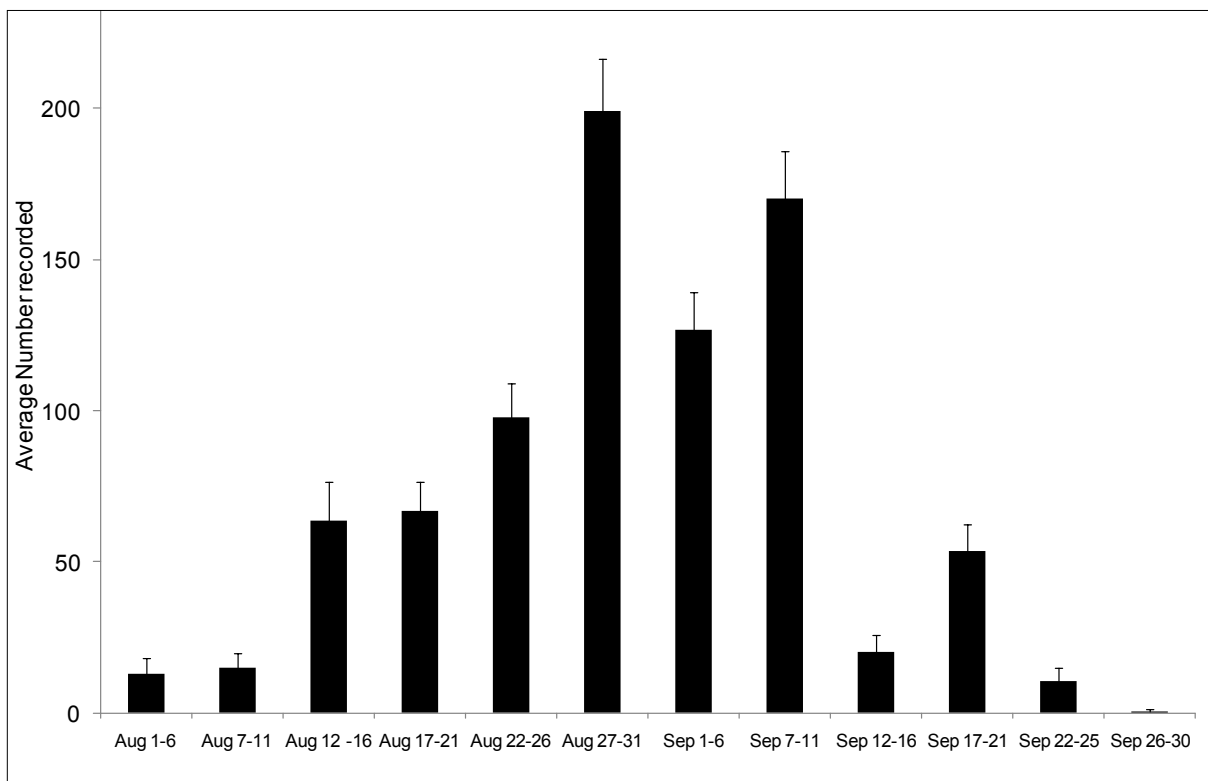


Figure 3. Average number of Black Terns recorded from land per 5-day period from 2000 to 2009 (with standard error bars).

The figures of 1,100 and 2,000 birds seen near the tuna pens, which are situated 6 km off Żonqor Point, on 24th and 28th in August 2009 (J.J. Borg and M. Sammut, *in litt.* respectively) are quite impressive, as is the count of 1,477 during boat-based observations on transects in the south of Malta on 24th August 2008 as part of the EU LIFE project. No Black Terns were reported to have been seen offshore from south eastern coast during that week.

Date	Total	Source
06/08/2008	23	LIFE boat-based observations
06/08/2008	88	Fish farm observations
08/09/2008	120+	Fish farm observations
13/09/2008	28	LIFE boat-based observations
27/07/2009	2	LIFE boat-based observations
18/08/2009	89	LIFE boat-based observations
19/08/2009	67	LIFE boat-based observations
20/08/2009	20	Fish farm observations
24/08/2009	1,477	LIFE boat-based observations
24/08/2009	1,100	Fish farm observations
25/08/2009	939	LIFE boat-based observations
28/08/2009	2,000	Fish farm observations
20/09/2009	200	Fish farm observations
11/10/2009	1	LIFE boat-based observations

Table 2. Black Terns recorded at sea from boat-based observations. These numbers could not have been observed from land and are not included in Figure 2.

Discussion

The recent addition of fish farms around the Maltese islands is known to attract various sea-birds, including Black Terns. They offer Black Terns a source of food and a resting place for a few days while they are undertaking this inland sea crossing. They use the pens also for roosting and at sunrise some of these birds head out at sea in small flocks. In the evening double figures have been noted coming in from out at sea and converging on the tuna pens (J.J. Borg pers. comm.).

The first fish farm was set up in 2000 close to Selmunett Islands, followed by another in 2002 close to Comino in the south Comino Channel. The ones in the south, two 1.2 km off Munxar and Hofriet, and another two (for tuna farming) 6 km off Żonqor Point, were set up in 2004 and 2006 respectively. The latter may have become a regular resting and roosting spot during the Black Terns' passage in autumn. Black Terns will immediately take the opportunity at sea to rest when a resting place is available. They have been observed frequently in autumn settling on fishing floats at sea. One bird was seen resting on the back of a Loggerhead Turtle *Caretta caretta* some 3.5 nautical miles offshore on 6th August 2008 (E. Bonavia pers. comm.).

The Maltese Islands, with a landmass area of about 316km², are relatively small and such birds can easily migrate a few kilometres offshore and pass by undetected from land. It is not surprising that along the years they have been overlooked and recorded only when occasionally they passed closer to the coast. They are usually more in evidence during strong winds, as in the case of other seabirds. It would be of interest to investigate if there are special weather conditions that make them come closer to land during their north-south crossing. The rocky coast of the islands, particularly the cliffs on the south side, does not provide them with an ideal habitat and is not attractive to such a marsh species.

The Black Tern is very abundant in Tunisia on both spring and autumn passage, but more records and much larger numbers are quoted for autumn than for spring, when its migration takes place between early April and late May (Isenmann *et al.* 2005). For Sicily, Iapichino and Massa (1989) state that it is a fairly common spring passage migrant to wetlands and reservoirs in tens, up to 150 together, but very few in some years. It is much more common on autumn passage in tens and hundreds at the eastern wetlands, with usually around 500 individuals but sometimes up to 1,300 together. Corso (2005) also states that it is a spring and autumn passage migrant in Sicily and that it is more numerous in autumn in the eastern part of the island mainly at the salt pans, coastal wetlands and at sea. He gives large numbers for autumn (highest 9000+ at the river mouth of Simeto on 28th August 1999), but none for spring. Another indication why there is such a paucity of spring records in Malta is found in Brichetti & Fracasso (2006). The authors state that the spring migration of Black Terns is more in evidence in the regions of the Thyrrenian Sea and in Pianura Padana.

At present the Black Tern's status in Maltese waters can be best described as a very scarce and irregular passage migrant in spring but fairly frequent in autumn with peaks and sporadic influxes in August and September. The increase in number of birds observed since 2000 due to an improvement of land-based offshore bird-watching, combined

with occasional boat-based observations, seems to suggest that it was augmented by the recent creation of the above mentioned fish farms.

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Records in Malta of European Storm-petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis* during the breeding season away from known breeding sites

John J Borg, Helen Raine & André Raine

Introduction

The Mediterranean sub-species of the European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis* is a localised common breeding visitor with two known contemporary breeding colonies in the Maltese Islands: Filfla islet (5,000-8,000 bp) and Ta' Cenc cliffs in Gozo (>25bp) (Borg & Sultana 1992-1994; Borg & Sultana 2002; Raine *et al.*, 2009). Schembri (1843) was informed that the storm-petrel breeds only on the island of Filfla, while Wright (1864) stated that the species is sedentary and very common on the south side of the islands, and also breeds on Filfla. Despott (1916) believed that it could 'be met with all around the Maltese islands'. Fifteen years later he noted that it was becoming rare on the mainland (Despott 1932-34). Both Wright and Despott failed to mention any localities on the main islands.

This paper deals with sightings in the Maltese islands of European Storm-petrel outside the known breeding areas (between the period 1968 to 2010) and discusses their significance. Rđum tal-Madonna was the focus of an intensive four year study on Yelkouan Shearwaters as part of an EU LIFE Project that started in 2007 (Borg *et al.* 2010). Sightings from this locality are treated separately from those recorded at other sites.

Methods

Systematic visits to breeding colonies of Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* and Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* during the storm-petrel's breeding season, which in Malta extends from February to late October (Borg 1989), have been carried out since 1983. Sporadic visits to a smaller number of sites were also carried out from 1968 to 1982 (Sultana & Cilia pers. comm.). While these visits were predominantly undertaken to carry out research on shearwaters, sightings of other species, including European Storm-petrel, were also recorded. These sightings are presented below.

Results: All areas, excluding Rđum tal-Madonna

There have been seven sightings of European Storm-petrel (amounting to a total of 11 birds, of which nine were adults and two juveniles) recorded from 1968 to 2010 away from the known breeding colonies (Table 1)

Date	Location	Number	Age	Observers
29.08.1978	Għar Lapsi	2	juvenile	Sultana & Gauci 1982
03.02.1983	Hal Far	1	adult	JJB pers.obs.
19.06.1992	Għar Lapsi	3	adult	Coleiro & Attard Montalto 1990
20.06.1992	Għar Lapsi	1	adult	Coleiro & Attard Montalto 1990
21.02.1992	Għarb (Gozo)	1	adult	Coleiro & Attard Montalto 1990
05.09.1994	Off Lapsi	1	adult	Borg & Sultana 2002
12.06.2005	Għar Lapsi	2	adult	JJB pers. obs.

Table 1. Observations of European Storm-petrel during the breeding season away from known breeding colonies

Għar Lapsi is located opposite Filfla Island which lies some 5km offshore. The two juvenile birds recorded on 29 August 1978 could have been fledglings from Filfla as suggested by Sultana and Gauci (1982). In the same locality, single birds have been observed flying in front of a narrow deep cave in June 1992 and again in 2005. Two sightings of a

single bird were also noted on two consecutive days on the 17 and 18 August 2009 on the upper slopes of Ghar Lapsi, over the above mentioned cave. On 3 February 1983 a single bird was found sitting under a boulder along the south cliffs of Malta, but during successive site visits, no other birds were observed. In Gozo there has only been one other confirmed sighting away from the Ta' Cenc colony – a single bird flying close to the cliffs at night on the north-west coast on 21 February 1992.

Storm-petrels at Rdum tal-Madonna

Rdum tal-Madonna is located on the north-east coast of Malta at 36°00'N; 14°22'E. It is a promontory at the eastern side of L-Ahrax tal-Mellieha, with a 200m stretch cliffs (up to 25m high) with numerous caves, fissures and crags as well as areas with scattered boulder and rubble scree. Rdum tal-Madonna is classified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) holding between 398 and 602 pairs of Yelkouan Shearwaters and 5-10 pairs of Cory's Shearwaters. It is protected under European legislation as a Special Area of Protection (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The site was also the main focus of a four year EU-funded LIFE project (LIFE06 NAT/MT/000097 SPA Site and Sea Actions Saving *Puffinus yelkouan* in Malta) which started in 2007.

From 1969 to 2006 no storm-petrels were recorded by fieldworkers visiting Rdum tal-Madonna (J.J. Borg pers. obs.). Following the rat eradication program carried out as part of the EU LIFE project in early 2007, a total of 34 sightings of storm-petrels have been recorded close to the cliff face in the four year period (Figure 1). The average number of birds seen each night when birds were recorded was of between one and two birds, but five to ten birds were noted on 30 May 2009.

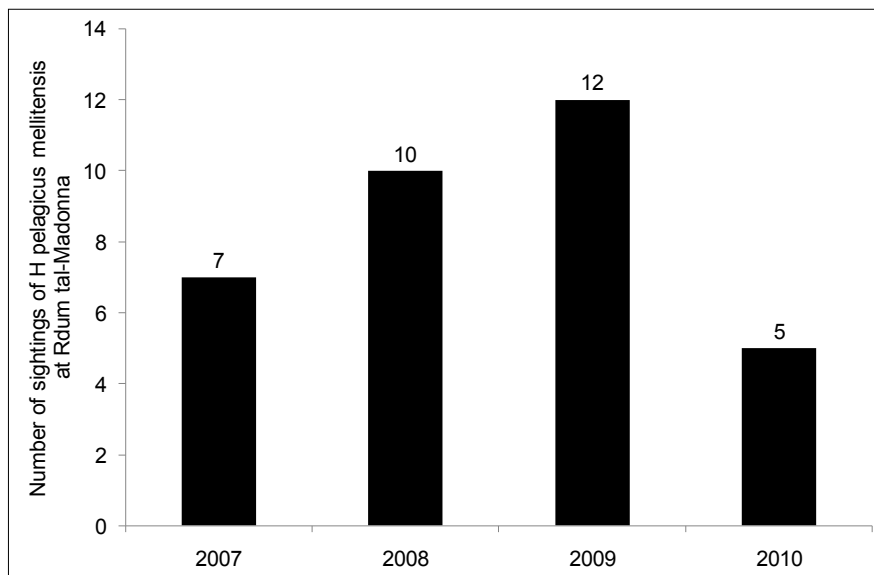


Figure 1. Number of sightings of European Storm-petrel at Rdum tal-Madonna over a four year period from 2007 to 2010.

A six metre long mist-net was set up parallel to the cliffs in front of *P. yelkouan* burrows to catch incoming shearwaters as part of the LIFE project. The study ledge was situated approximately ten metres below the cliff's edge and ten metres above water level. On two occasions a mist-net was erected lower down the cliffs among the boulder scree and two adult birds were mist-netted. Generally, the mist-net was erected at 21.00 and dismantled on average at 02.00 (with the earliest start time at 20.35 and the latest end time at 04.15). When Storm-petrels were noted flying around the net a pre-recorded call on an i-Pod Nano was played at low volume. These calls were only used to attract the birds into the net, and not to attract them to the site from a distance.

The earliest birds were recorded on 10 March 2008 where at least three individuals were observed. The last birds were seen in the first two weeks of July when visits to the colony ceased. The peak period with the highest number of sightings and birds was in May with a total of 13 sightings of up to 34 birds (Figure 2).

A total of 11 individual birds have been ringed at Rdum tal-Madonna - 7 in June 2007, 3 in May and June 2008 and 1 in June 2009. There was also a re-capture of a bird ringed on Filfla Island on 12 June 2007 and controlled at Rdum tal-

Madonna six nights later (18 June). Playback calls were played each time a bird was seen close to the cliffs, but birds responded to these calls only in May and June. During other months, birds carried out a quick inquisitive circular flight and continued on their way. Only 1 bird was mist-netted in May; the rest were caught in June. Eight of these 11 birds displayed a well defined brood-patch.

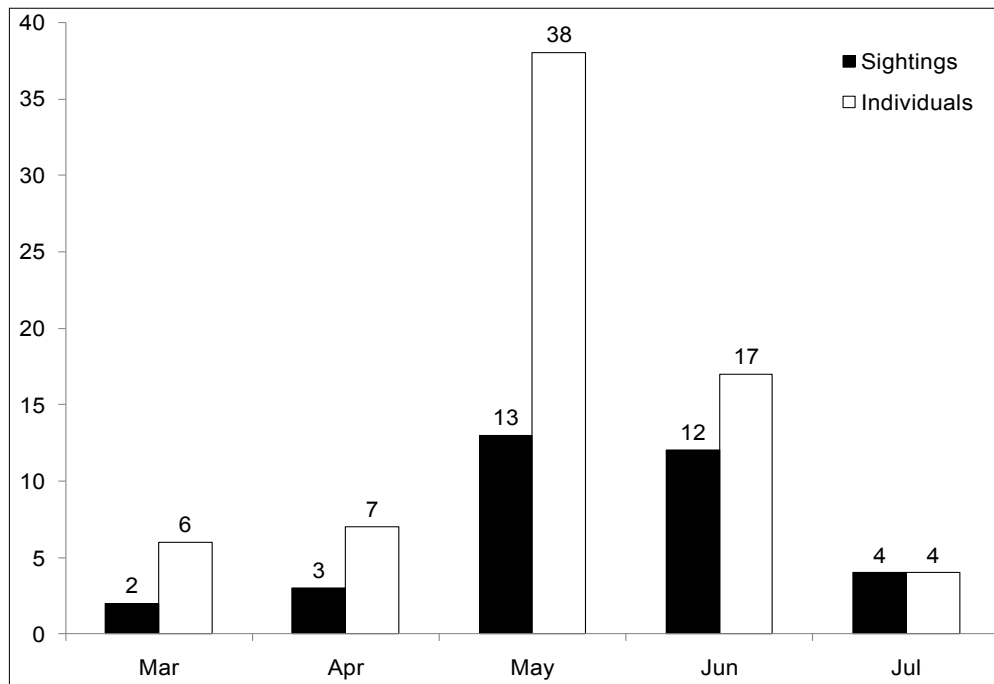


Figure 2. Combined monthly sightings and number of birds at Rdim tal-Madonna in the four year period from 2007 to 2010.

Discussion

Although sightings of storm-petrels away from their known breeding colonies in the Maltese islands are rare, it is evident that this species has been recorded during the breeding season at several other locations in Malta. As this species is often over-looked on land due to its cryptic and nocturnal habits it is therefore possible that there may be other breeding colonies that have so far been over-looked.

This is particularly true for Rdim ta-Madonna, where storm-petrels were recorded on multiple occasions during the breeding season from 2007 to 2010. The continuous and increasing presence of storm-petrels at Rdim tal-Madonna may be attributed to a rodent eradication program which has already been shown to have had a positive impact on the Yelkouan Shearwater (Borg *et al.* 2010). However, in June and early July the main study area as well as the boulder scree beneath was investigated for any possible breeding activity. The absence of the birds' characteristic odour, and the negative response to the pre-recorded calls played, near boulders and other possible breeding areas produced no evidence of breeding to date.

Many of the birds that were mist-netted at Rdim tal-Madonna also had brood patches. It should however be noted that the presence of a brood-patch in storm-petrels does not necessarily indicate that the birds are breeding as immature birds also display a brood patch (Scott 1970). The presence of prospecting storm-petrels away from known breeding colonies during night-time as well as their attraction to pre-recorded calls has been documented by various authors such as Mainwood (1978), Fowler *et al.* (1982), and Insley *et al.* (2002).

This paper has shown that storm-petrels have been recorded, during the breeding season, in areas outside the known breeding colonies in the Maltese Islands. Areas such as Hal Far, Ghar Lapsi, Rdim tal-Madonna and Gharb (Gozo), provide suitable breeding habitat for this species and could hold currently un-recorded breeding colonies. However, rat predation on these mainland sites would cause a serious problem for storm-petrels and is certainly a limiting factor for the colonisation of this species on the mainland. Further research work (including intensive surveys and the use of

play-back during the day in suitable breeding habitat) would help to provide more information on the distribution of this species in the Maltese islands.

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Extended Laying Period by the European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis* on Filfla Island

John J. Borg & Joe Sultana

Introduction

Most members of the Order Procellariiformes breed once a year with many colonial nesting species being highly synchronous in their breeding cycle (Warham 1990). Some tropical species such as the Madeiran Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma castro* have extended laying periods with two cycles of laying (Snow & Snow 1966). Observations carried out in the last sixteen years (1990-2006) have shown that the Mediterranean European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis* breeding on Filfla Island also undergoes an extended laying period.

The storm-petrel is a common breeding visitor to the Maltese Islands reported as breeding in large numbers among the boulder and rubble scree of Filfla Islet (Sultana & Gauci 1982). A small colony of over 25 pairs was discovered in a cave in Gozo (Borg & Sultana 1992-94) while evidence of breeding has also been noted in another nearby cave in the summer of 2006 (pers.obs). In the last three years there have also been regular sightings of this species during the breeding season at Rđum tal-Madonna on mainland Malta (Borg *et al.* 2010).

Filfla, which is situated about 5km south of Malta, holds the largest known storm-petrel colony in the Mediterranean with an estimated 5,000-8,000 breeding pairs breeding in the boulder and rubble scree that surrounds the islet (Massa & Sultana 1993, Borg & Sultana 2000). Erosion and weathering are causing dramatic changes to the topography of the island resulting in reduced breeding areas for the storm-petrels. Night visits to Filfla have always been carried out from May and September due to strong winds and rough seas, which prevented researchers from visiting the island from February to April. The majority of the birds have been handled during mist-netting sessions. A small number of study areas were identified but because of the rugged terrain it was difficult to locate significant numbers of incubating birds.

Arrival at colonies

The storm-petrel returns to the breeding colonies in the latter half of February (Borg 1989). This early arrival, two months before egg laying, has been recorded in many Procellariids. The Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* lays in the latter half of May but the first birds arrive in late February, while the Yelkouan Shearwaters *Puffinus yelkouan* arrive in October and egg laying starts in the last days of February (Cachia-Zammit & Borg 1986-86 and Borg *et al* 2002).

Egg laying

Egg-laying takes place from late April to mid-July (Borg 1989). Sultana & Gauci (1970) stated that birds laying late in the season are first-time, inexperienced breeders. In Sicily, egg-laying starts at the end of April and finishes by in mid-July (Iapichino & Massa 1989), while according to Cramp & Simmons (1977) egg laying in the Balearic Islands starts around the second week of May. An adult with a very young chick was found on Filfla in June 1949 (Trail 1949-50) and an adult with a day old chick was found on Corsica, on 7th June 1981 (Brichetti 1981). As the incubation lasts an average of 38 days (see below) in both cases the egg would have been laid in the last ten days of April.

Incubation

Incubation lasts 38 days, or even longer if the egg is not incubated regularly (Sultana & Gauci 1970). In Cramp *et al.* (1974) a period of 30-40 days is given while Davis (1957) gives 40.6 ± 2 days. One egg which had undergone chilling for 11 days hatched after 50 days (Cramp *et al.* 1974). Chicks spend $62.8 + 3.5$ (56.73) days in the nest according to Davis (1957), while Scott (1977) gives 70 days (min 61, max 86); both had studied storm-petrels off the Welsh coast in the North Atlantic.

Fledging

Young birds have been reported to leave the colony on Filfla by mid-August (Sultana & Gauci 1982). During the study period, a two-day old chick was found on 11 August and downy chicks still in the nest in mid-September. Taking into consideration the relatively young age of these chicks in September, they would have fledged in the middle of October, as reported elsewhere (Massa & Catalisano 1986, Iapichino & Massa 1989).

Results

Taking into consideration (i) a complete breeding season, (ii) the approximate number of days from the first landfall by precocious birds (which occurs around the third week of February) and (iii) to the last recorded fledging date (the middle of October) amounts to an extended period of approximately 244 days. The number of days spent visiting the nest by birds undergoing a normal incubation and fledging period is of about 91 days. Therefore two periods of 91 days each will fit perfectly in two breeding cycles.

Table 1 gives a breakdown of the full 244 day period in which storm-petrels visit the Filfla breeding colony. This table demonstrates that this period can hold two breeding cycles, one starting from mid-April to mid-July and a second from Mid-July to mid-October with some overlap.

Months	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
244 Days	10	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	20
Group A						Group B			

Table 1. Two breeding cycles of storm-petrels on Filfla Island.

Conclusion

This study has shown that there are two different groups of birds nesting in two different periods on Filfla. Because of the inaccessibility of nesting sites it is very difficult to gather enough material to conclude if this is related to age. There may be a possibility that old experienced birds (Group A in Table 1) nest earlier in the season while younger and/or first-time breeders (Group B) nest later.

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Day and night pattern of burrow attendance in Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* seven weeks prior to egg laying

Dietrich Ristow

The wintering quarters of Cory's Shearwaters *Calonectris d. diomedea* are in the south Atlantic from where they return to their Mediterranean breeding range in March (Cramp and Simmons 1977). Flight activity above the colony island is during night hours only, preferentially during moonless parts of the night. A high rate of nest site tenacity and pair bond from year to year is characteristic of this long lived seabird. Single eggs per nest are typically laid in the last week of May, whilst young pairs tend to occupy lower quality nest sites and produce the egg a bit later than experienced breeders. Quantitative data in the literature are missing which describe the activity at the nests during the two months prior to egg laying. So, during an attempt to retrap adults which had been equipped with a satellite transmitter (Ristow *et al.* 2000), the occasion was used to obtain an estimate for the frequency of nest attendance early in the nuptial season and possibly answer the question in this colonial species whether this behaviour is more important for fending off competitors or for forming pair bond.

From the stated circumstance, data collection was restricted to a 5 day visit of a Cretan colony on 3-7 April 1999; full moon had been on 1 April. The plot of 2 ha contained 100 accessible nest sites in the slopes of the limestone islet. As the colony had been subject to an intense study during the past years with ringed adults and chicks at marked nests (Swatschek *et al.* 1994, Ristow 1998), nest quality could be classified in two categories: a "good" nest had had at least 6 chicks during the previous 10 years and the rest were termed "inferior" nests, i.e. these had had at least once an egg during the same years. More than 95 % of the caught shearwaters had been banded in the past and were classified as "likely future breeders" or "likely prospectors" from their past retrap records and behaviour (Ristow 1998).

The first bird caught at a nest in 1999 received a tiny dot of white paint on the forehead and the second bird got two dots arranged in a line. In the case of a third individual appearing, it received three dots arranged in a triangle. All such marked shearwaters were not handled again when met later on, but were checked by means of a torch (regardless whether being checked during day or during night). The paint dots remained visible for about a month. Table 1 lists the sum of controlled shearwaters during the night and the portion controlled during the day.

Description	Male	Female
Nocturnal nest attendance	36	44
Likely prospectors	10	9
Future breeders	26	35
Diurnal nest attendance of prospectors	0	0
Diurnal nest attendance of future breeders	16	15
Nocturnal nest attendance rate of breeders	52%	70%
Diurnal nest attendance rate of breeders	32%	30%

Table 1. Number of Cory's Shearwaters controlled in 50 'good' nests of a Cretan colony during 3-7 April (see text for definition of 'good' and 'inferior' nests).

50 'good' nests were checked 3 times in the first half of each night, when the moon was not shining. 36 males and 44 females were caught at or in these nests, which were further separated into prospectors and breeders respectively (Table 1). During diurnal checks of the same nests, none of the prospectors was re-trapped whereas a well sized portion of breeders were also present on at least one day during the 5 day check. There was no new individual in this latter group, an indication that it was sufficient to do the night work during moonless hours.

II-Merill 32 2010

In order to find out if the nocturnal handling of birds had any effect on their nest occupancy during day time later on, another 50 nests (split into 25 'good' and 25 'inferior' nests) were checked during day time only. No shearwaters were recorded in 'inferior' nests, whereas in 'good' nests a total of 10 males (40% of good nests) and 7 females (28% of good nests) were found. For these again, the nest attendance rate was therefore of comparable magnitude to the sample presented in Table 1, so there was no apparent effect from handling. In summary the diurnal nest attendance frequency during 5 days was about 30 % for males as well as females, and the nocturnal nest occupancy was twice as high (Table 1).

The anecdote of a trio is worth reporting. In two good nests with entrances to the burrows about 3 m apart, a male and a former breeder female were encountered in different nights, the same individuals as singles in both nests. In one of the nests, a second single female was controlled – the only case that three different individuals were found inside the same nest burrow during this study. It is probably not a coincidence that these two nests were empty in the following summer.

One might have expected that the territorial behaviour of males would be more pronounced than that of females. However, in multiple attendance counts as an indicator of time spent in the nest, there was no marked difference between the sexes (Table 2). Single birds present in the night, do not tend to be present during the day. However, when pairs meet in the nest during the night, a substantial fraction of them stay during the following day (Table 2). These results suggest that nest attendance is more important for stabilizing pair bond than for fending off competitors.

	Day	Night
Pair	19	36
Single male	4	26
Single female	3	31

Table 2. Day and night frequency of nest occupancy by single birds and pairs in 50 'good' nests of a Cretan colony 3-7 April. Multiple counts of the same individuals are included when they were present on different days and nights.

Indeed from Table 1, the proportion of prospectors to nests was 19 to 50, or only 0.4 per nest in April, whilst this value becomes 1.5 in June (Ristow 1998) and even higher in July (Wink et al. 1982). Yet, prospectors early in the nuptial season are experienced prospectors and serious competitors as such. In three dried carcasses found in nest entrances (2 males, 1 female) the 10th primary was 1 cm short from the tip of the wing, whilst all individuals from Table 1 had already fully grown wing feathers in early April, with the tip of the 10th primary extending beyond the 9th primary. This difference in feather length demonstrates that the 10th primary after moult is not yet fully grown when the shearwaters arrive at their breeding colony in March, and the most severe fights for burrows occur right after arrival.

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A review of the status of Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii* around the Maltese Islands

Nicholas Galea & Ray Galea

Audouin's Gull, *Larus audouinii*, is a large gull restricted to the Mediterranean and the western coast of Saharan Africa (Tucker & Heath 1994). It is considered to be one of the world's rarest gulls and is currently listed as 'Near Threatened' under the IUCN Red List (BirdLife International 2008). The Audouin's Gull used to be considered as a very rare bird to the Maltese islands before the year 2000, but in the last 10 years this bird's status has changed significantly.

The species was first recorded in Malta by Wright in 1864 when he wrote "I have a note from Mr. Tristram saying that he had observed this species in Malta" (Wright 1864). It was then reported by Despott in 1917. He wrote "I, too, have been informed by Mr. Micallef that he handled a specimen some years ago, and he called it by the local name." (Despott 1917).

The first documented record was in 1945, with a single bird recorded on 16th March off Tigne (Gibb 1951). In the 55-year period from 1945 to 1999 there were a total of 20 records, with the majority being of single birds (with only three sightings of two birds). These records are shown in Table 1. The 1998 record was a ringed recovery, which was found dead. It had been ringed as a chick on 23.06.1998 at Fournoi, in Greece (Gauci *et al.* 2005).

Date	Location	Total
16.03.1945	Tigne	1
14.02.1954	Marsaxlokk	1
05.10.1967	Marsascale	1
21.11.1968	Selmun	1
27.02.1971	Qawra	1
20.08.1973	Marsascale	2
16.07.1975	Marsaxlokk	1
23.09.1975	Marsascale	1
10.10.1977	Munxar Point	2
17.10.1979	offshore	1
00.10.1979	offshore	1
13.03.1980	south-west coast	1
04.02.1981	Delimara	1
19.02.1984	Għadira N.R.	1
27.10.1986	Cirkewwa	1
26.09.1993	Għallis	2
21.01.1996	Għadira N.R.	1
24-25.04.1997	Għadira N.R.	1
07-08.12.1997	Qawra	1
10.10.1998	Delimara	1

Table 1. All records of Audouin's Gull from 1945 to 1998.

In the last ten years however, there has been a marked increase in sightings. From 2000 to 2009 there were 311 records (of 535 individuals). Sightings have increased steadily throughout this period, with a maximum of 184 in 2007 (Figure 1). Although there are records in all months (except June) the species was mostly recorded between July and December, peaking in August and September (Figure 2).

Of the 535 birds recorded, 333 of these were aged. The majority of the birds (77%) were juvenile/first-year birds, while only 14% were adults. Furthermore, the majority of sightings in July, August and September were of juvenile birds. This may suggest that young birds from breeding colonies in countries such as Greece, Italy and Tunisia pass through Maltese waters in the post-fledging period. The few adult Audouin's Gulls recorded in Malta are mainly from early spring (particularly March). This is probably due to the fact that these birds winter on the north-western Coast of Africa (from Libya west to Morocco and south to Mauritania, Gambia, Senegal and Gabon) and return to western and central Mediterranean in spring to breed (Tucker & Heath 1994).

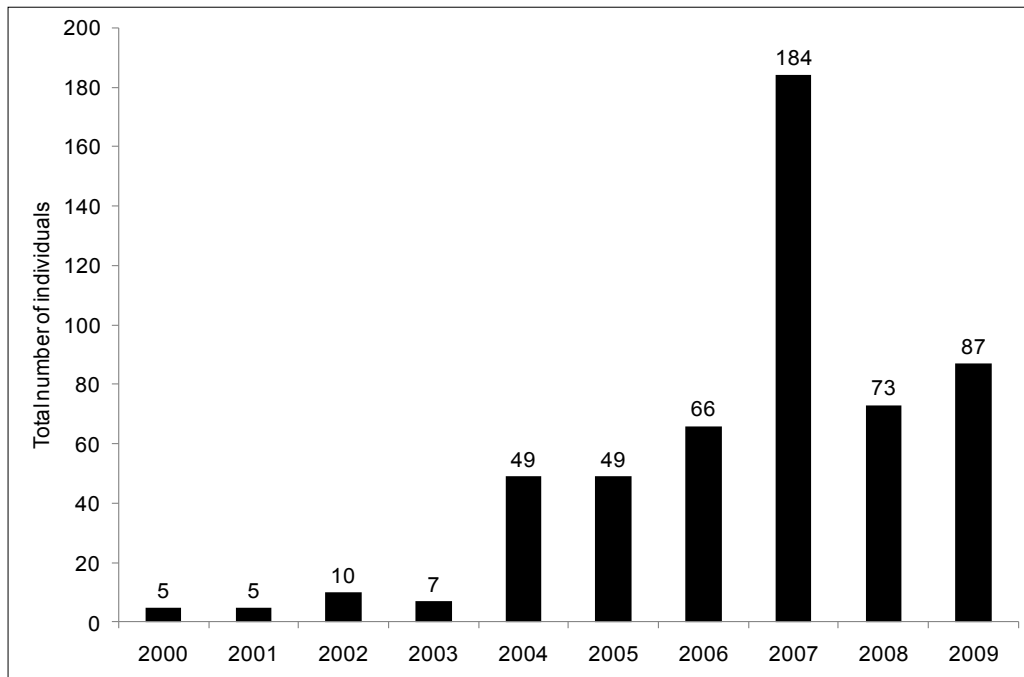


Figure 1. Total number of Audouin's Gull recorded each year between 2000 and 2009.

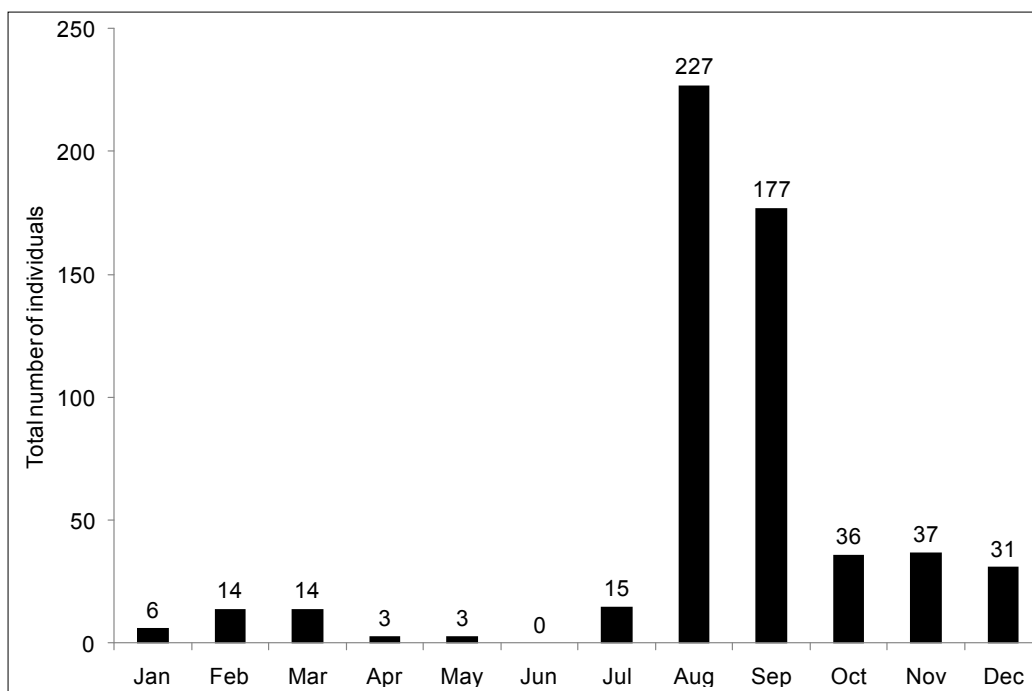


Figure 2. number of individuals recorded per month between 2000 and 2009. Total

Discussion

In recent years, the majority of sightings of this species in Malta have been of juvenile and first-year birds. This large proportion of young birds suggests that the increase of Audouin's Gulls recorded in Malta is due to an increase of juveniles wandering in the Mediterranean Sea after the breeding season, suggesting that the increase in sightings is tied to an overall increase of the global population of this species. The European population estimate of the species in 1975 was of 1,000 pairs (Tucker & Heath 1994) while the most recent assessment of the European population is 20,500-21,000 pairs (Birdlife International 2010). This significant increase is mainly attributed to effectively protected areas and to the large amounts of fish dumped by trawlers, especially around the Ebro Delta in Spain, which holds 65% of the global population (Birdlife International 2010).

II-Merill 32 2010

This increase in the population has probably caused the breeding population in other parts of the Mediterranean to increase. In fact, new colonies have recently been discovered in Croatia and even out of the Mediterranean in southern Portugal (Birdlife International 2010). In Sicily the status of Audouin's Gull has also changed, with it being listed as a very rare bird prior to the 1990s and now considered as a regular migrant in spring and a regular summer visitor (Corso 2005). Indeed, a new small colony (estimated at about 10 pairs) was discovered in south-east Sicily in spring 2010 (R.lentile, pers. comm.). As with Malta, after the breeding season, many juvenile birds are recorded in southern Sicily. In Tunisia, where there are three known nesting sites, there has also been an increase in the population. For example, the colony at Galite, holding 40 pairs in May 1983, held more than 80 pairs in June 2001 (Isenmann *et al.* 2005). The passage and wintering trends of Audouin's Gull along the coasts of Tunisia is very similar to that observed in Malta, with the majority observed in March, August and September and very low numbers in winter months (Isenmann *et al.* 2005). The wintering location of the Tunisian birds is unknown, but it is thought that they join other birds from Western Europe and winter on the shores of north-west Africa.

The overall population increase and the range expansion of Audouin's Gull in the Mediterranean, could in theory result in this species establishing itself as a breeding bird in the Maltese Islands in the future, as has recently happened in Sicily. Areas such as Għallis and Cominotto, for example, offer suitable habitat for the Audouin's Gull to breed. However, unless the widespread problem of illegal hunting is brought under control in the Maltese islands, it is unlikely that this would happen in the near future.

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Observations from a long term White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* roost in Valletta, Malta.

André Raine & Denis Cachia

Abstract

Data is presented on a long-term roost site used by wintering White Wagtails *Motacilla alba alba* in Valletta, Malta. Historical data shows that this site has been in regular usage since at least 1967 and is the main roost site for this species in Malta. For this reason the site is designated as a national Important Bird Area. The maximum count for this roost was made in 2009 of 7,761 individuals. Since 2001 when standardised counts began, on average $5,007 \pm 626$ individuals have been recorded annually using the roost. Birds predominantly come into the roosting area in a fifteen minute period between five minutes before sunset and ten minutes after sunset, with an average of 73.4% of birds coming in to roost during this time period alone. The majority of birds come from a west, south-west and southerly direction, suggesting that key feeding areas lie in this direction. Significantly fewer birds came from the south-east and easterly direction. A consideration of ring recovery data showed that birds wintering in Malta come from at least five countries; Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Denmark and Sweden. Despite the importance of the Valletta roost site for this species, in May 2010 the roost site was severely pruned by the Environment Landscape Consortium (ELC) and the canopy of the trees almost completely removed. This action will almost certainly have a serious detrimental effect on White Wagtails attempting to roost in the area in the winter of 2010 and beyond.

Introduction

The White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* is a common autumn migrant and winter visitor to Malta, arriving in late September and departing in April with most birds being present from October to February (Sultana & Gauci 1982). During the day the species is found in singles and small groups in a wide range of habitats, from urban areas to agricultural land. However, at night birds aggregate into communal roosts, of which the Valletta roost is known to be the main roost site for all wintering White Wagtails in Malta. Communal roosting behaviour is found in many bird species and is thought to have developed to reduce thermoregulation costs, reduce the risk of predation, or increase foraging efficiency among roost members (Ydenberg & Prins 1984), although the true function of roosts is still open to debate (Richner & Hebb 1996, Beauchamp 1999). Large roosts of *Motacilla alba* are commonly recorded in winter in Europe (eg. Broom *et al.* 1976, Davies 1976, Fleming 1981).

This paper considers the main roost site for this species in Malta, which is located in several large *Ficus* trees in the Great Siege Square in Valletta, Malta's capital city. Records of this roost date back at least as far as 1967 (Gauci & Sultana 1971). A secondary roost site has developed in recent years adjacent to these trees along the side of St John's Co-cathedral. Due to the large number of White Wagtails using the site, and its importance to this species on a national level, the site is designated as a national Important Bird Area (Borg & Sultana 2004).

Methods

Counts for the White Wagtail roost have been undertaken as far back as December 1973, although data collection has been intermittent. Since 2001 however the White Wagtail roost in the Great Siege Square has been monitored on a near-annual basis by BirdLife Malta using a standardised five-minute count methodology. In total, nine roost counts have been undertaken since 2001. Counts are always held between the 12th and 23rd of January to ensure that the counts cover the same general time period.

Observers are placed in one of up to 19 different point count sites. These sites are arrayed on the bastions around Valletta and are positioned so that they cover all possible entry routes into the core of the city. All observers are in position at count sites by 16:25 and counts continue until 17:35. The number of birds passing over the count site is recorded during every five-minute interval. To prevent double counting of birds each count site has pre-defined boundaries. Birds passing outside these boundaries, and thus in a different section, are ignored by the observer. Data is recorded onto standard data sheets.

To assess the origin of White Wagtails in Malta, ring recovery data was also considered from the ringing database of the Valletta Ringing Scheme, run by BirdLife Malta as the Maltese EURING representative. Scientific bird ringing studies have been carried out in Malta since 1965.

Results

Ring recovery data : There are nine international White Wagtail ring recoveries in the BirdLife Malta database (Table 1). Of these, two were ringed in Malta and recovered overseas (one from the Czech Republic and one from Denmark) and the rest ringed overseas and recovered in Malta. White Wagtails from five countries have been recorded in Malta, with birds from the Czech Republic being the most frequent recovery.

Country of origin	No. of recoveries	% of total recoveries
Czech Republic	3	33.3
Hungary	2	22.2
Poland	2	22.2
Denmark	1	11.1
Sweden	1	11.1

Table 1. Ring recoveries of White Wagtails either ringed in Malta and recovered overseas, or ringed overseas and recovered in Malta.

Roost counts : Roost count data exists from 1973 to 2010, although data collected prior to 2001 was carried out in a sporadic fashion. The roost site was counted in 16 years during this period (Figure 1).

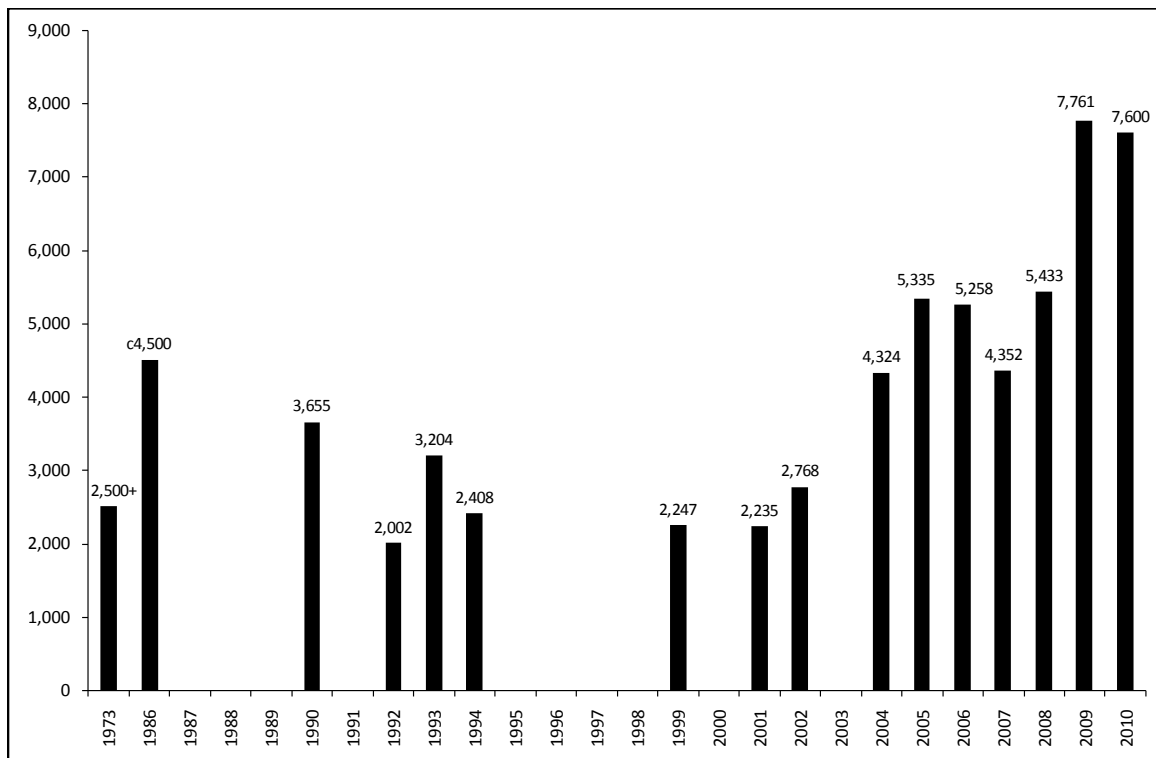


Figure 1. Yearly roost counts of White Wagtails using the long-established roost site in Great Siege Square, Valletta. An estimate was made of birds using the roost in December 1973. This has been included in this figure to show the longevity of this roost site (which was active as early as 1967).

A total of nine roost counts have been carried out by BirdLife Malta since 2001 on a near-yearly basis using the standardised count methodology (Figure 1). During this period, the maximum roost count, of 7,761 individuals, was recorded on the 14th of January 2009. The minimum count, of 2,235 individuals, was recorded on 13th of January 2001. On average (\pm SE), 5,007 \pm 626 individuals have been recorded using the roost each year.

The majority of birds come in to the roost in a fifteen minute period between five minutes before sunset and ten minutes after sunset, with an average of 73.4% of birds coming in to roost during this time period alone (Figure 2).

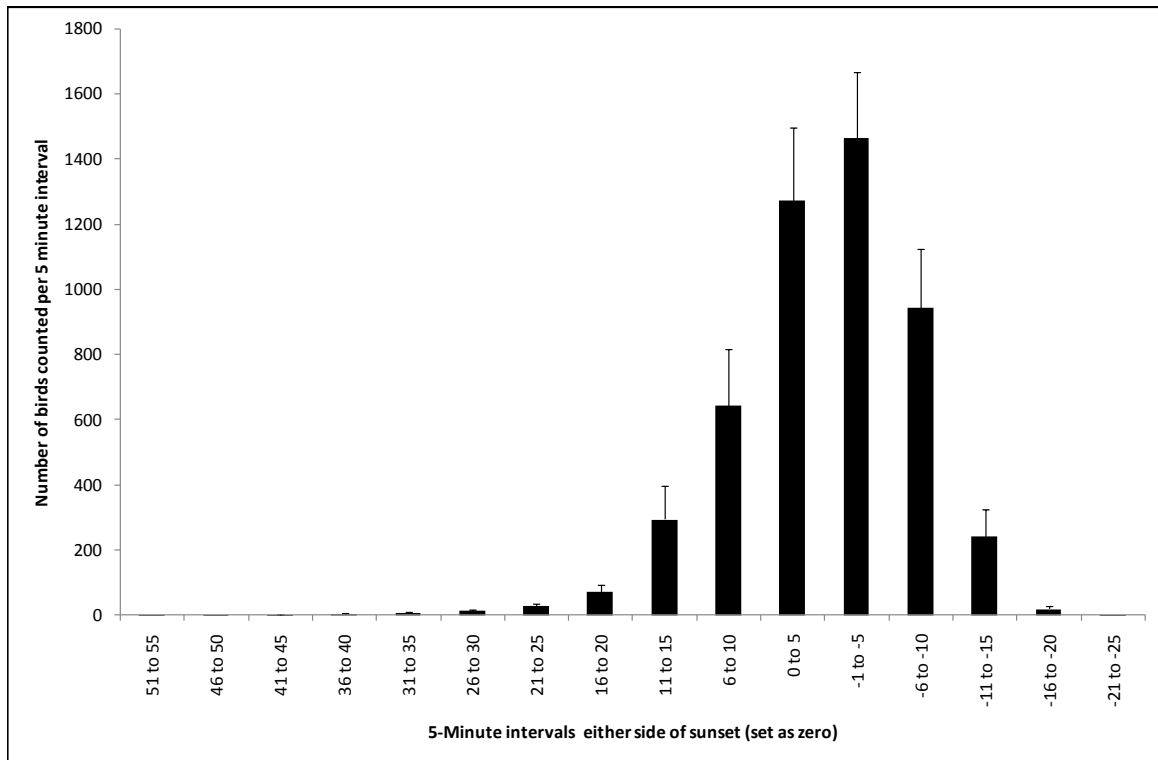


Figure 2. Total number (with standard error bars) of White Wagtails recorded in each five-minute interval before (+) and after (-) that year’s sunset (set as zero). Data from 2001 onwards.

Direction of travel: The direction of travel was also considered for White Wagtails coming in to roost to ascertain if birds were coming in from specific directions. The 19 point count locations were divided into six equal sized sections, A through F. Two sections, E & F, were not covered by observers every year, and were thus excluded from the analysis. The total count of birds passing over each section was considered using a Chi-squared test. It was found that significantly (χ^2 , $p < 0.001$) more birds were coming in over sections B and C, while significantly fewer birds were found coming into the roost over D (Figure 3).

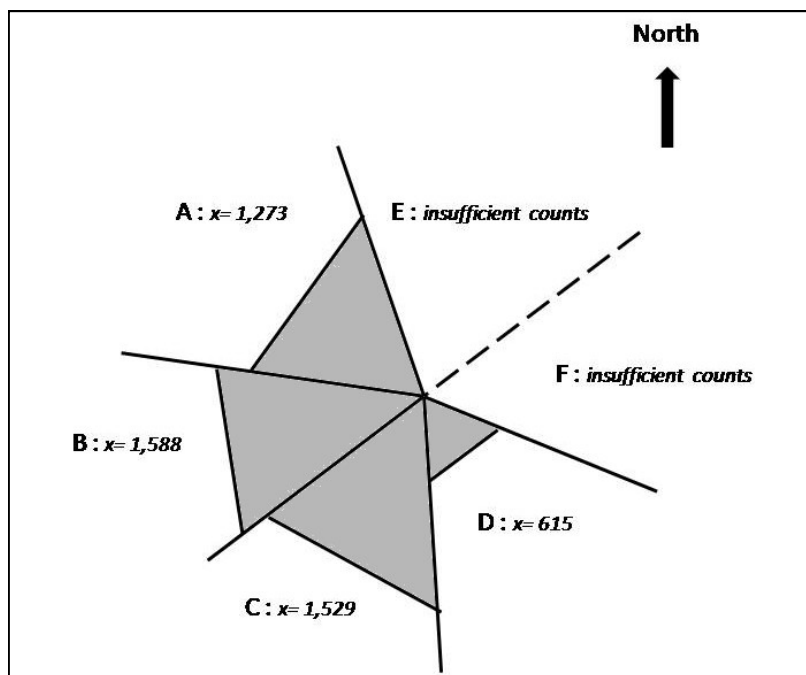


Figure 3. Average count per year of White Wagtails recorded passing over each segment during standardised counts between 2001 and 2010.

Discussion

This study clearly demonstrates the importance of the *Ficus* trees in the Great Siege Square of Valletta for wintering White Wagtails in Malta. The fact that this is the largest known roost site for this species in Malta (with smaller roost sites known from Lunzjata Valley and Victoria in Gozo in recent years) suggests that the majority of wintering White Wagtails in Malta use this roost site to rest during the night. That this could be the case is highlighted by a study of Pied Wagtails (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*) – the subspecies found in Britain and Ireland - showed that birds gathering at an English winter roost site could travel up to 15km to forage during the day (Broom *et al*, 1976). This demonstrates that the birds using the Valletta roost site could conceivably come from all parts of the island. Not only that, but it is evident that some of the birds seen during the day in Gozo could also come from the Valletta roost. A White Wagtail ringed in Lunzjata Gozo was found dead under the Valletta roost the following winter (Sultana & Gauci 1970, 1971). Sultana & Gauci also remarked that small flocks of White Wagtail were regularly seen crossing the Malta-Gozo Channel in the mornings and afternoon, suggesting that these birds were in transit from their roost site in Malta. However, the presence of smaller roosts in Lunzjata and Victoria mean that many of the birds in Gozo roost there overnight rather than continuing on to Valletta. It is also of note that a roost site was identified at Marsa Industrial Estates (in Malta) in the mid-1970s, which contained 1,650 birds in December 1976 (Curmi 1977). However only small intermittent numbers of this species have been recorded at the site in recent years and the roost is no longer active.

Ring recoveries of White Wagtails have been recorded from five different European countries, particularly the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. This suggests that the majority of White Wagtails wintering in Malta come from central and eastern Europe. It should be noted that none of these birds were caught or ringed at this roost site. However due to the small size of the Maltese archipelago, there is no reason to assume that the countries indicated by the ring recoveries would not be representative of individuals using the roost site, particularly as already indicated the Valletta roost is the main winter roost site for this species in Malta.

The Valletta roost site is therefore of critical importance to the wintering population of this species in Malta. Despite this, on the 23rd of May 2010 the Environment Landscape Consortium (ELC) severely pruned the *Ficus* trees, completely removing the canopy on which the wagtails depend. This was undertaken without a permit from the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA). This action has caused severe damage to the roost site and it is doubtful that there will be sufficient re-growth of the canopy in time for the arrival of White Wagtails in the following winter. It remains to be seen what effect this will have on Malta's wintering population of White Wagtails and whether the roost site will ever recover.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank all of the BirdLife Malta volunteers who have helped to carry out these counts on a yearly basis. This paper would not be possible without their time and effort. We would also like to thank the Valletta Ringing Scheme, administered by BirdLife Malta, for access to ringing records for this species.

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Rafting behaviour of Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* breeding at Rđum tal-Madonna, Malta

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Introduction

The Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* is listed as Near Threatened under the IUCN Red List (IUCN 2010). Malta holds internationally important breeding populations of this species, with between 1,660 and 1,980 breeding pairs, equating to approximately 10% of the world population (Borg *et al.* 2010). The largest colony in the Maltese islands is found at Rđum tal-Madonna, in the north-east of Malta, which is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species. As this area holds over one-third of the Maltese population, the site has been the subject of a four year EU LIFE project, focussed on the conservation of the species on land and at sea. As part of the project, intensive work was carried out using a range of telemetry techniques to ascertain important marine areas for this species.

This paper examines one aspect of this research – the identification of rafting areas for Yelkouan Shearwater during the breeding season, specifically birds nesting at the colony located at Rđum tal-Madonna in the north of the island. In Malta, Yelkouan Shearwaters begin returning to their nesting sites in October, with egg-laying beginning in March. Chicks hatch in late April and by late July the last juvenile birds have fledged (Borg *et al.* 2010). Rafting behaviour is common amongst shearwaters during the breeding season, with adult birds often forming large aggregations in the waters near to their colonies in the hours before darkness prior to returning to their nest sites. It is not clear why these birds form rafts and some scientists have hypothesised that this behaviour may have developed to reduce the chances of predation of birds returning to nest sites, with the birds remaining in their rafts until nightfall and the cover of darkness (Klomp *et al.* 1992). Alternatively, it could be because birds which are away for several days at distant food sources cannot time their returns precisely, so assemble to wait until it is safe to return to the nests in groups (Warham 1990). Rafts of Cory's Shearwaters *Calonectris diomedea* offshore from colonies in Malta can be very large, with the rafts of this species off Ta Cenc (one of the largest colonies) often numbering in the 1,000s in summer (Bonavia *et al.* 2005). Rafts of Yelkouan Shearwaters tend to be smaller and less obvious than those of the Cory's Shearwater. Consequently, they are often overlooked and limited data is available.

This paper considers data collected from data loggers on the location of rafting sites for Yelkouan Shearwaters breeding at Rđum tal-Madonna prior to returning to their nest sites after nightfall. Rafting sites at other times of the year or for other reasons, such as prior to the breeding season, at offshore feeding sites, or in the post-breeding season moulting period are not included here.

Methodology

Back-mounted GPS data loggers, manufactured by Technosmart, were deployed on adult Yelkouan Shearwaters during the breeding seasons of 2008 and 2009. GPS data loggers were encased in water-proof plastic and then affixed with duct tape to the back feathers in a series of thin strips. The loggers were attached as low down the back of the bird as possible but above (and out of the way of) the preen gland. The sensor of the data logger was kept facing upwards to effectively receive data. Data loggers weighed 12g and were fitted to birds up to a maximum of 3.2% of their body weight. It should be noted that each bird was presumed to be carrying a 60g fish meal based on the average weight of a fish meal carried by adults (*unpublished data*) and this was subtracted from the total weight of the bird prior to assessment of whether it was of sufficient weight to safely carry a tag. Furthermore, only birds in accessible or visible nests were used for the study to (i) confirm that the birds were definitely breeding, (ii) increase the chances of recapture and (iii) minimise disturbance to other breeding birds.

Data loggers can be set to different recording frequencies (from once a second up to once an hour or an even longer duration), but have limited battery power and a trade off has to be made between duration of battery and number of signals. Different recording frequencies were therefore trialled before the tags were fitted and it was decided that hourly and half hourly recording was the most effective use of battery, especially during the early part of the breeding season when the birds were spending considerable time in the burrows which depleted battery power without signals being obtained. The majority of tags were programmed for hourly recording, as a precautionary measure to ensure maximum battery length.

A total of 42 data loggers were deployed on breeding birds at Rđum tal-Madonna in 2008 and 2009, between the months of April and June. Rafting locations were identified using two different analyses, and were considered to be any point where the bird was travelling at a speed of less than 2.5km/hr. In the first analysis, all locations under 2.5km/hr within a 7km radius of the colony were plotted. Only those points within a 7km radius of the colony were used, to exclude rafting sites of birds not returning to their nest site, as rafts of birds feeding at sea for several days could be 100s of kilometres away from land. A 7km radius was also identified as the 75% kernel limit for rafting data points – a method used by other authors to define the limit (BirdLife International 2010). This analysis would however potentially weight the key rafting areas towards birds with multiple points, so to control for this a second analysis was also carried out. In this case, the very last point registered by the data logger before the bird returned to its nest site was used. This resulted in each foraging trip being represented by a single point, thus ensuring that all trips had equal weight. This also identified the key rafting areas for birds immediately prior to their return to the nest. The speed of the bird at each of these points was also considered to ascertain whether the point indicated a rafting bird or not. Those with a speed below 2.5km/hr could safely be considered to be rafting at such slow speeds.

Results

Of the 42 data loggers deployed, useable data was recovered from 24 birds (representing 31 trips) – other tags failed to collect data due to technical problems or became water-logged. Due to the limit imposed by battery power, several of these loggers stopped collecting data before the birds returned to the nest and thus rafting data could not be extracted from them. Data on rafting site locations was identified for 15 birds. In the first analysis, a total of 138 rafting locations, up to the maximum distance from the colony of 7km, were identified for all birds combined (Figure 1). The majority of rafting sites were situated in a band of sea directly opposite the colony, across the waters off the eastern end of the Malta-Gozo Channel and up to the south-eastern tip of Gozo. The average distance (\pm SE) to the colony of these locations was 3.1 ± 0.2 km (min 0.7km, median 2.8km, max 7.0km).

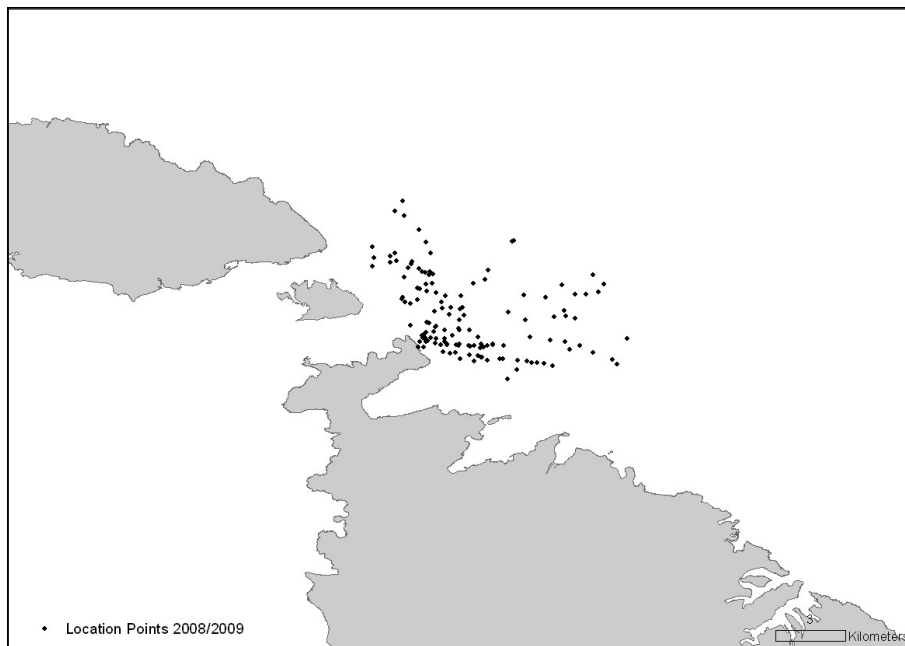


Figure 1. All rafting locations of Yelkouan Shearwater nesting at Rđum tal-Madonna in 2008 and 2009 from GPS data logger fixes up to 7 km from colony. Multiple points can be represented by a single bird.

The timings of rafts were also considered. Birds were found to predominantly raft between 19:00 and 03:59, with 92.8% of rafts occurring during this period (Figure 2) and over two-thirds (68.1%) found between 21:00 and 02:59. Only 5 points (3.6%) occurred after 03:59 and birds were not recorded rafting near the colony during the day (between 10:00 and 18:00), presumably as the birds were at favoured fishing sites far offshore.

For the second analysis, the last rafting location of each trip was plotted. Of these, all locational points except one had a speed of less than 2.5km.hr, with a single point between 2.5 and 10 km/hr. The latter point is likely to have been that of a rafting bird (perhaps while sitting on waters under the influence of a strong current) but may also have been a bird in flight. It has been retained in this analysis based on the criteria outlined in the methods. These locations are presented

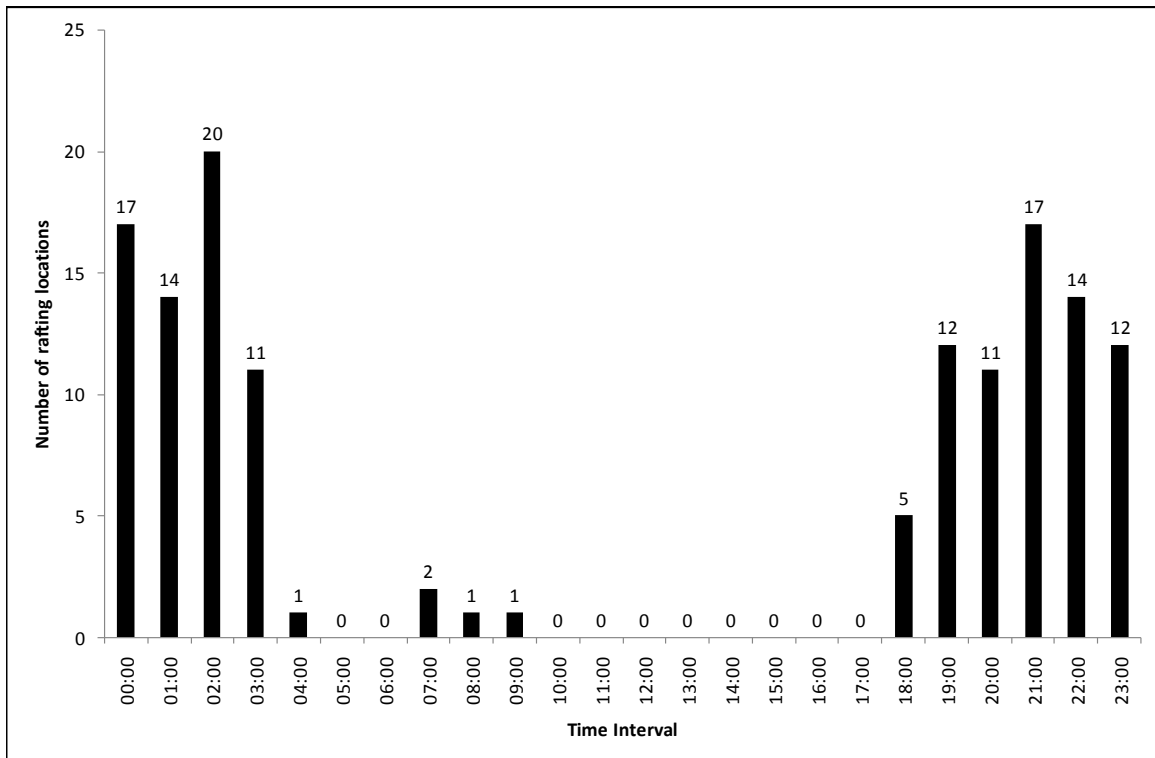


Figure 2. Timings of all rafting locations of Yelkouan Shearwater nesting at Rдум tal-Madonna in 2008 and 2009 from GPS data logger fixes up to 7 km from colony.

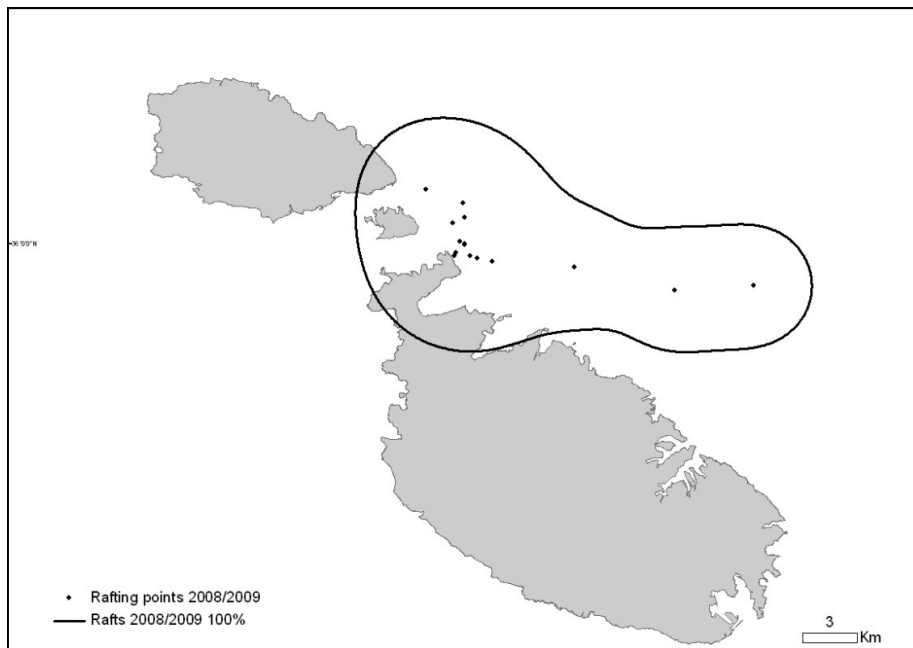


Figure 3. Rafting locations of Yelkouan Shearwater nesting at Rдум tal-Madonna in 2008 and 2009 from GPS data logger fixes. Each point represents a single trip. The 100% kernel limit is also shown on the map.

in Figure 3, while Figure 4 shows an expanded view of the waters immediately off-shore from Rдум tal-Madonna where the majority of rafts were located. The vast majority of individual birds (80.0%) for which a rafting location was identified were found to raft in the waters adjacent to the colony up to 4.5km offshore. The average distance of a rafting site to the breeding colony in this analysis was 3.7 ± 1.2 km (min 0.2km, median 2.0km, max 16.6km). The vast majority of these rafting sites were situated directly opposite the colony, with a smaller number in the waters off the eastern end of the Malta-Goza Channel.

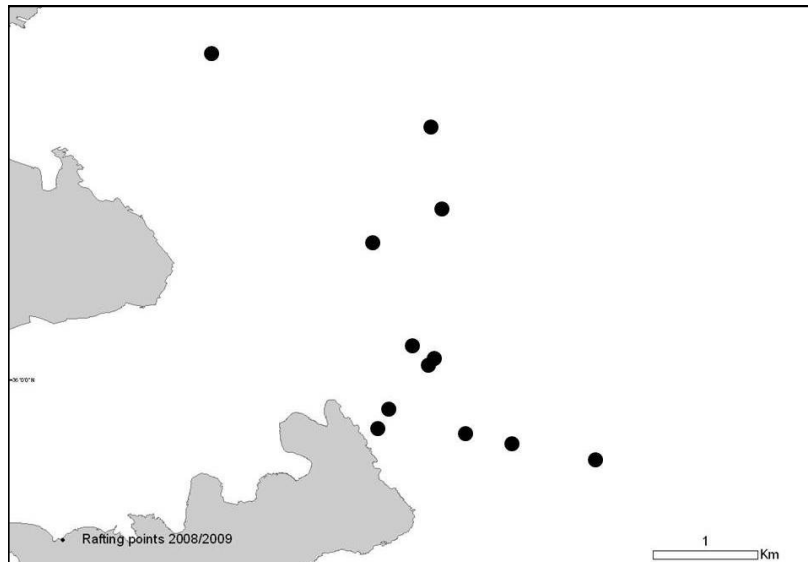


Figure 4. Map showing the majority of rafting sites as pinpointed from GPS data loggers. Each point represents a single trip. These positions are the last known rafting location of the bird before it entered the nest.

Discussion

Fixes from the data loggers show that the majority of tagged Yelkouan Shearwaters returning to their nest sites rafted in the waters directly opposite the Rđum tal-Madonna breeding grounds and the eastern end of the Malta-Gozo Channel. Two analysis were used; (i) all rafting sites for tagged birds within a 7km radius of the colony, where multiple points could be the same bird and (ii) last recorded point by the logger before the bird went to the nest, where all trips were thus given equal weight. The average distance of rafting sites from the colony were $3.1 \pm 0.2\text{km}$ (first analysis) and $3.7 \pm 1.2\text{km}$ (second analysis). As this was the case for every bird that had been tagged and which provided data on rafting locations, it is therefore reasonable to assume that the vast majority (if not all) of birds breeding at Rđum tal-Madonna use this area to raft prior to returning to nest sites. It was also found that there were multiple rafting points for many of the birds, showing that individuals often rafted in several locations within the area of sea immediately off of Rđum tal-Madonna before returning to their nests.

Considering the timings when birds rafted, the vast majority of rafting locations occurred during the hours of darkness - between 19:00 and 03:59. Only 5 rafting locations (3.6%) were recorded after 03:59 and no rafts were recorded in the vicinity of the colony between 10:00 and 17:59, when the birds were out at sea fishing. The timings also suggest that while all of the birds rafted in the area at night prior to returning to their nests, some birds also rafted in the area after leaving their nest site and before returning to offshore feeding grounds. It is possible that this was so that birds could gather in flocks before heading out to sea. While this behaviour was less frequent, it is thus apparent that some early morning rafting also occurs in the vicinity of the colony.

These results compare well with a land-based study carried out on shearwater rafts by Sultana & Borg (2000) and Wigmore (2008) who found that the inshore waters opposite Rđum tal-Madonna were particularly important for rafting Yelkouan. It has also been noted that many adult birds returning to their nests had wet belly feathers when caught by field workers (both during the LIFE Project and in previous studies), suggesting that they had been rafting close to the colony prior to flying up to their nest sites. The authors have also personally observed rafting Yelkouan Shearwaters within 2.5km of the colony, including a raft of over 35 birds recorded on the 19th May 2009 (AR pers obs). Four raft sites were also identified during LIFE project boat-based observations between 2007 and 2009 (unpublished data). These rafts included 30 birds located 5.1km directly off of Rđum tal-Madonna, and three single rafting birds between 5.5 and 5.9km from the colony. It should be noted that these boat based observations took place during daylight hours with the result that they would have missed the majority of rafts, which as the analysis has shown occur from late afternoon and during the hours of darkness.

It is therefore evident from this study that the waters adjacent to Rđum tal-Madonna from the shore up to at least 7km represent a critically important area for Yelkouan Shearwaters breeding in this internationally important colony, with a concentration of rafting sites within the first 4km from the colony. The waters off the eastern end of the Malta-Gozo Channel are also evidently of importance to these birds as well.

Any developments in the area (such as the offshore wind farm that has been proposed for Sikka I-Bajda, which falls within the rafting zone) should therefore take this into account, especially in light of the fact that the Rdum tal-Madonna site is classified as a Special Protection Area under European Union law for the two nesting shearwater species (Cory's Shearwater also breed at Rdum tal-Madonna. Using data loggers, the LIFE project also identified this area as an important commuting route for birds entering and leaving the colony, meaning that birds are constantly moving back and forth through the area (unpublished data). It is not known what impact human disturbance would have on rafting Yelkouan Shearwaters, such as the presence of a series of large wind turbines from the proposed Sikka I-Bajda offshore wind farm project.

The proposal of an offshore wind farm at Sikka I-Bajda should therefore be considered carefully in light of the results of this study, as it is now evident that this area is critically important for rafting shearwaters from the Rdum tal-Madonna SPA. Any studies on the potential effects of such a development would therefore need to utilise appropriate methodologies if they were to accurately consider the impact of a windfarm on the rafting behaviour of Yelkouan Shearwaters from the colony. The use of tracking techniques, such as the data loggers used in this study, would provide the most reliable sources of data. Surveys from land would not be appropriate for such studies as they would almost certainly miss the majority of activity at such a distance away from the land (Sikka I-Bajda lies between 2 and 4km from Rdum tal-Madonna, and is thus beyond the effective range for land-based surveys). This is particularly true in the low light conditions when birds are concentrating in rafts, with the results of the study showing that rafts predominantly occur in the hours of dusk and darkness. Counts occurring during the afternoon would therefore miss the majority of rafts. It is also imperative that these studies would be carried out over several years and throughout the full breeding season (October to July), to take into account temporal fluctuations in usage. Most critically, sea-based counts within Sikka I-Bajda of calling birds would also need to be undertaken during the hours of darkness because, as shown in this study, the vast majority of rafts occur during this time and would be completely missed by diurnal studies. Likewise, studies should be carried out to ascertain other potential sources of disturbance, such as the impact of tankers bunkering in the waters off Rdum tal-Madonna, as their bright lights may have a negative impact on these light-sensitive birds.

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Short Notes

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata tyrrhenica* breeding in Malta

The Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* is polytypic with the nominate race *striata* occurring in Europe with the exception of Corsica, Sardinia and the Balkans, and spreads east across the Ural Mountains. On the islands of Crete and Cyprus along with the Levant east to the Caucasus one finds the race *neumanni*. The race *inexpectata* occurs in the Crimea while the race *balearica* is confined to the Balearics. The race *sarudnyi* occurs in Transcaspiya and eastern Iran east to the Himalayas while the race *mongola* occurs in the south-east Altai, east through northern Mongolia. The race *tyrrhenica* occurs on Sardinia and Corsica (Cramp & Perrins 1993). Apart from Corsica and Sardinia *tyrrhenica* also occurs in the Tuscany archipelago, and presumably along the Tyrrhenian coast of mainland Italy and on the island of Ischia (Brichetti & Fracasso 2008). Iapichino and Massa (1989) gives only the nominate as occurring in Sicily, but Corso (2005) reports that some individuals approaching *tyrrhenica* are seen along the western side of the island (Trapani, Mt. Cofano, Zingaro and on Pantelleria), but also claiming that some of these may belong to the race *neumanni*.

In Malta, the Spotted Flycatcher is a common spring passage migrant from mid-April to early June. It returns in smaller numbers in autumn from mid-August to mid-November; it is a rare but annual breeding visitor (Sultana & Gauci 1982). For a complete review of past breeding records the reader should refer to Sultana & Gauci (1973, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1983) and Galea (1987, 1991, 2002). To date only the nominate race has been noted to occur in the Maltese Islands (De Lucca 1966; Sultana & Gauci 1982).

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Figure 1. Inner courtyard of the NMNH and location of broods 1 and 2.

On the 29th May 2009, a pair of Spotted Flycatchers was noted courting inside the inner courtyard of the National Museum of Natural History in Mdina. The courtyard with its 20 metres high walls, water fountain and potted plants appeared to provide few places where such a pair could build a nest and breed. Nevertheless, on the 2nd of June an almost completed nest was located at the base of a hanging chandelier under the alcoves in a secluded part of the courtyard; the nest was 280cm above ground. For the following three days both birds kept adding material and at the same time, the male kept offering morsels to the female which she readily accepted.

On the 6th June the first egg was laid and two days later the nest contained three eggs, coloured light blue with dark red lines; one was slightly smaller than the other two. Two chicks hatched around the 23rd of June while the third egg never hatched. The two pulli fledged on the 30th June. In the meantime another incomplete nest was located in another chandelier on the opposite side of the courtyard; this nest was also about 280cm above ground but in a more disturbed area of the courtyard. In the following weeks both adult birds were still present close to the first nest and an inspection of the nest on 20th July revealed 3 eggs, same size and colour of the two larger eggs from the previous brood. On 16th August all three chicks fledged successfully and the following days were regularly seen on the roof of the museum until the 28th when no sign of adults or chicks was noted.

On close examination of the Mdina pair, these birds were mainly rusty-brownish in coloration unlike the greyish

plumage seen in the usual migrant birds of the nominate *striata*. Darker rusty shades were noted along the flanks and throat. The throat markings were finely streaked rather than spotted as in *striata* and these almost merged with the rest of the flank feathers; this plumage is characteristic of the race *tyrrhenica* (Brichetti & Fracasso 2008). All Spotted Flycatcher nests found locally have always been located in wooded areas (Buskett, Addolorata Cemetery, Howard Gardens, San Anton Gardens and Ta'Qali National Park). This pair chose to nest inside a building surrounded by high walls with the only access to the outside is by flying up onto the roof.

This is the first time that the race *tyrrhenica* is reported from the Maltese islands not only as a passage migrant but also breeding.

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Unusual nesting behaviour in Zitting Cisticolas *Cisticola juncidis*

In Malta, Zitting Cisticolas *Cisticola juncidis* typically nest in rushes, grasses or shrubs, where they build a bottle-shaped nest out of grasses and cobwebs (Sultana & Gauci 1982). In 2010, I recorded two nests of this species built in sapling Aleppo pines (*Pinus halapensis*). Both nests were approximately 95 cm off the ground and were woven into the upper branches of young pines. They were found on the 29th of May and were 5 metres apart. The first nest was completely built and appeared to have already been used (the young seemed to have fledged), while the second nest was in the process of being built by a male. A few days later it was completed but was never used. This area is part of the first plantings carried out in the Foresta 2000 afforestation project, with tree planting undertaken six years ago and there are many Lentisk (*Pistacia lentiscus*) shrubs which are now over a metre high. The Aleppo Pines that the nests were located in were replanted three years ago after a vandal attack destroyed 1000s of tree saplings in the area.

In 2009, a used Zitting Cisticola nest was also found in a metre high Aleppo Pine, in a Cypress/Pine grove where long grass is not usually present. Nests found previously in the area have always been in various grasses or Fleabane (*Dittrichia viscosa*) and always at a much lower height above the ground. The area in question holds up to 5-6 singing males in spring, but the population surrounding the area is much higher.

There is only one published record of a Zitting Cisticola nest in Malta situated in similar conditions – a nest found in a grove of Tamarisk trees and situated two metres above the ground (Sultana & Gauci 1982). However, there are no published records of this species nesting in the tops of Aleppo saplings in Malta.

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An unusually large influx of Ruff

The Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* is a common spring migrant to the Maltese Islands from late February and early March to mid-June with normally up to 20 - 50 birds in a day, sometimes up to 130, but c.300 were at Hal Far and Luqa airfields in spring 1973 (Sultana & Gauci 1982), and 200+ were recorded at Luqa on 2nd April 1979 (Cachia Zammit 1983). It is less common in autumn from mid-July to mid-October with daily maximum recorded being of 30 birds. A large flock of c.300 birds occurred at Salina in mid-July 1973.

10th March 2001 was thus exceptional as 1060+ birds were recorded from Cirkewwa during a three-hour period between 11:20hrs and 14:35hrs (Table 1). 5 Flocks were observed all coming from a South Westerly direction and all heading to the North-North-East direction, mostly crossing the channel between Malta and Gozo, as most of the other migrating ducks and other species do at this time of the year.

Time	Number	Notes
11.25	60	
11.39	C.500	10 Duck species with the flock
13.00	200+	1 Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> with the flock
13.10	150+	
14.35	150+	

Table 1. Counts of Ruff flocks recorded at Cirkewwa on 10th March 2001

Observations on that day started at 0700 hrs and ended at 14:45 hrs, although Ruff were not recorded until 11:25. Other migrating birds and numbers observed on that day included:

35 Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	95+ Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> (3 flocks)
2 Great Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	18 Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>
1345+ Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i> (in 14 different flocks)	170+ Unidentified duck Sp (<i>Anas sp</i>) (3 flocks)
100+ Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> (3 flocks)	80+ Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> (2 flocks)

The weather for the day was mainly overcast with showers and drizzling rain at times, with the visibility poor during the rain and due to the low clouds. Wind was light to moderate east-southeast.

Thanks to C.Coleiro who accompanied the author during the observations.

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New breeding site for Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

The Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* is a fairly common passage migrant from March to May and from late August to November (Sultana & Gauci 1982). It is considered as a rare breeder mainly confined to wetlands and areas with water that remains present even during the summer period (Raine *et al.* 2009). The first confirmed breeding record of this species in the Maltese Islands was in 1984, when a nest was found in a flooded quarry in the south-eastern part of Malta. Since then it has established itself as a regular breeder at Ghadira (approximately 10 pairs) and Simar Nature Reserves (between 10 and 12 pairs) with a small but healthy population. Also in recent years, it has bred in abandoned quarries holding water, as well as in a few new other restricted and undisturbed areas (Raine 2009; Raine & Webb 2010).

In late October 2008, one adult bird was noted at Wied Qirda. Wied Qirda is located in mainland Malta, in the limits of Haz-Zebbug and Siggiewi. Until 23rd December no less than two birds were overwintering in the area along with two Water Rails *Rallus aquaticus*. Again on 12th March 2009 another bird was sighted and on 18th March three were seen. During visits made to the site in the following two months, up to two birds were again recorded. On 19th June breeding

II-Merill 32 2010

was confirmed, when one chick close to an adult bird was observed in a pond. No searches were carried out to find the nest due to the inaccessibility of the site. The chick could be heard chirping from a few metres away and was also seen swimming.

The pond is situated near a small dam surrounded by high rocks. A lot of thick vegetation is present along with dense reeds. The pond never dries up, not even in the summer months. The pond is not easily accessible and human disturbance is minimal.

The site was re-visited in 2010, and breeding was again confirmed on the 16th April when five newly hatched chicks and an adult were found swimming in the pond. Two visits were made on the 20th and 29th April and 3 chicks were present. On 2nd May two chicks were noted and on another two visits on 12th and 15th May, one young bird was present.

The Moorhen is a legally hunted species in Malta and during the winter it is heavily targeted by local hunters. It is also shot illegally in spring and summer months when birds are trying to breed. This heavy persecution has probably restricted the range of the species in Malta. There are no documented records of Moorhens breeding at Wied Qir-da prior to 2009 although this may be due to the lack of observations made at this site.

Thanks are due to Joe Micallef, a local farmer for first informing the author of the birds' presence.

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Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* preying on Maltese Wall Lizards *Podarcis filfolensis filfolensis* on Filfla Island

The scavenging behaviour by gulls is well documented (Cramp 1978) and the Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* is no exception. Diet analysis on the Filfla colony have been carried out and apart from birds, which form a large portion of the gull's diet (Borg & Cachia-Zammit 1987, Borg *et al.* 1995) other organisms have been recorded; including, rats, rabbits, various marine organisms and inorganic objects such as plastics (Borg *et al.* 1995, and pers. obs.).

On 19 May 2006, the authors visited the top part of the island to ring the chicks of the Yellow-legged Gulls as part of a long-term research project. While searching for the young gulls in the herbage, a male specimen of the Maltese Wall Lizard *Podarcis filfolensis filfolensis* was found dead on the rocks. It had been eaten and regurgitated. On the same occasion while handling a young gull for ringing, the young bird regurgitated a freshly taken male lizard. The tail was missing from the rest of the lizard's body which had an overall length of 8cm.

This is the first time since 1968, when Filfla was first visited by BirdLife Malta bird ringers, that lizards have been recorded as being predated by the Yellow-legged Gull.

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Lanius hybrid ringed on Comino Island

On the 27th of April 2007, whilst taking part in the annual BirdLife Malta spring ringing project at Wied I-Ahmar on Comino Island, the authors captured and ringed a hybrid shrike of the *Lanius* genus. This was the first time that such a hybrid was recorded in Malta.

On first impression the bird's plumage and size was of a typical male Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*, complete with the pinkish flanks typical of this species at this time of year. Upon further examination however, the prominent white scapulars of this bird could not be attributed to *Lanius minor*, and furthermore the biometrics taken did not correspond within the range stipulated for *Lanius minor* in Svenson (1992). The grey head feathers of this specimen were tipped reddish, giving them a rusty tinge, especially towards the back of the head. At this stage it became apparent that the bird was not a pure *Lanius sp* but a hybrid. The white scapulars and rusty tinge on the head are typical of the Woodchat shrike *Lanius senator* and it was thus suspected that the bird was in fact a hybrid *Lanius senator*. This was further confirmed by an illustration in the book by Lefranc and Worfolk (1997) that closely resembled the bird captured on Comino and was listed as a hybrid *L. senator x L. collurio* (Red-backed Shrike).

Following this, the opinion of several experts in this field including Norbert Lefranc and Lars Svenson was sought. Both of the aforementioned ornithologists agreed that the bird was a hybrid *L. senator*, with hybridization probably having occurred with *L. collurio*. The same experts also stated that the possibility of an *L. senator x L. minor* hybrid could not be completely excluded. Further discussions on several bird-watching fora were initiated and expert opinions followed. The *L. senator x L. collurio* hybrid theory was the most commonly suggested, however always with a great deal of caution. Furthermore, the breeding biology of a brood of *L. senator x L. collurio* in Germany was recently described by Foltz *et al.* (2007) and photos of the Comino bird were included in this publication for comparison purposes, again with no definitive conclusions. It is thus apparent that although this bird was probably a hybrid *L. senator x L. collurio*, its origin could not ultimately be confirmed.

Acknowledgments

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Five New Breeding Bird Species for the Maltese Islands

Between 2003 and 2009, no fewer than five new species of birds bred for the first time in Malta. These were the Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* in 2003 (Sultana 2003), the Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* in 2006, the Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* in 2007 (attempt failed) and 2010 (attempt succeeded), the Coot *Fulica atra* in 2008 (Raine *et al.* 2009) and the Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* in 2009. This short note details the first confirmed breeding records of each of these species, using the standard categories of breeding evidence used throughout Europe and as specified by the European Bird Census Council (EBCC).

Collared Dove

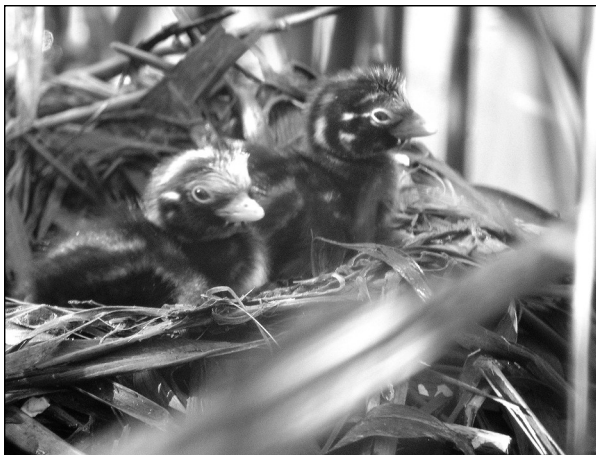
With only eight records up to 1994, the Collared Dove was a vagrant before the year 1999 (there are no records between 1995 and 1998). From 1999 onwards it was recorded annually, with sightings increasing each year (Sultana & Gauci 1982, Coleiro 1990-91, Coleiro & Attard Montalto 1992-94, Mercieca, Mallia & Sultana 1999). This increase of sightings in Malta corresponds to the range expansion of the Collared Dove, which started spreading from its original range in Western Asia reaching Europe in the early 1930s (Snow & Perrins 1998). By the late 1990s it had colonised most of Europe and North Africa.

Following a phone call to one of the authors (RG) by a Santa Maria Estate (Għajn Żejtuna) resident on 16th August 2003 saying that “doves” were present in his garden, the site was visited early in the morning of the following day. Five adult Collared Doves were present in the area and a nest, containing two almost fully feathered chicks, was found in the garden, confirming the first breeding record. The nest site was located in an Aleppo Pine Tree *Pinus halepensis*, 3.5 meters above the ground.

Little Grebe

The Little Grebe was considered as a very scarce migrant in the past as their preferred habitat was very scarce. After the creation of Simar Nature Reserve by Birdlife Malta in 1992, the Little Grebe was recorded more often as it started to winter at the reserve.

Raymond Galea



On 16 December 2005, five adult birds were recorded at Simar Nature Reserve. Two birds were seen engaged in territorial behaviour and the presumed pair was also seen performing a courtship display and carrying nest material. On 20th December the presumed pair was seen chasing away a male Wigeon *Anas penelope* from their territory and on 22nd December, one adult Little Grebe was seen carrying nesting material. On 10th February 2006, a nest with two recently hatched chicks was finally located by one of the authors (RG), thus confirming successful breeding. On 17th February, three chicks were seen along with one of the adults, suggesting that one of the chicks was away from the nest site when it was initially discovered on the 10th. This record is also of interest in

that it is a very early breeding record of the Little Grebe in Europe, which normally breeds much later, between late February and May (Snow & Perrins 1998).

Little Egret

Although the Little Egret is a regular migrant, both in spring and autumn, it is very difficult for this species to breed in the Maltese Islands. This is because it is a colonial bird and therefore, due to the lack of suitable, undisturbed habitat, it is very difficult for a colony to be established. This is also exacerbated by widespread illegal hunting in the islands, with Little Egrets often being targeted by poachers.

On 24th June 2007, following a report that Little Egrets were present in the vicinity of a private bird park at Salina, the area was visited in the morning. A pair with a nest containing three eggs were shown to Denis Cachia and the authors by the owner of the Salina Bird Park. This Bird Park includes several large aviaries containing a wide range of imported bird species, including Little and Cattle *Bubulcus ibis* Egrets breeding colonies. The pair of Little Egrets were breeding

II-Merill 32 2010

inside the bird park area, on top of a big aviary where the captive egret colony were breeding. The location was revisited again on 2nd July and the adult female was still incubating. On the 25th July, an adult was still incubating the eggs. As this was longer than the incubation period should have taken, it was expected that the eggs were not going to hatch. The authors later learned that one of the adults was shot illegally by poachers. It was later confirmed by the owner of the Bird Park, after the nest was abandoned, that two of the eggs were fertilised and one was addled (K. Mallia pers. comm.). This record confirmed the first breeding attempt by this species, although it was not successful.



Raymond Galea

The failed nest in 2007

On 29th May 2010 the nest of a pair of Little Egrets was again located from outside the Salina Bird Park by Denis Cachia and an adult bird was seen incubating. As in 2007, the Little Egrets were breeding on top of the aviary, just above the mixed captive-bred egret colony inside.

Raymond Galea



The successful nest in 2010

On 5th June 2010 the nest was still under incubation (D. Cachia pers. comm.). When the park was visited on 26th June 2010 the nest contained four young. The owner of the park confirmed that the nest had contained four eggs in early June 2010. On 21st July 2010, four almost fully fledged young were present, and were seen moving about on top of the aviary (D. Cachia pers. comm.). This record confirmed the first successful breeding by this species. Unfortunately, most of the newly fledged birds were eventually illegally shot by hunters adjacent to the Bird Park, along with at least one of the breeding pair.

It is to be noted that besides the breeding pair, there were up to seven more wild Little Egrets in the area of the park, using the bird park for their roost and visiting Ghadira Nature Reserve daily for feeding. It is likely that the food for the young was also brought from Ghadira Reserve, which is about 6km from the nesting area. Furthermore, two of these Little Egrets were regularly seen carrying nesting material to a corner of Ghadira Nature Reserve in late July and early August (R. Vella pers. comm.). However, the birds eventually left the area.

Coot

A small number of Coots winter at Simar Nature Reserve each year, arriving in late October and leaving by the end of March. On 23rd March 2008 an adult Coot was seen carrying nesting material (a long reed stem) at Simar Nature Reserve.

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On the 16th April it was observed behaving in a territorial manner as it was very aggressive towards a Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* and a Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* and breeding was suspected. On 19th April breeding was confirmed as a family party of two adults and five chicks were observed by F. Grice, N. Carter and S. Downing. On 20th April, six chicks (not five as seen previously) were observed accompanied by their parents. These chicks eventually fledged and remained at the reserve throughout summer.

Pallid Swift

The Pallid Swift, a species which could have been overlooked in the past, is a regular migrant in Spring and Autumn.

On 24th May 2009 the cliffs at Dwejra Gozo were visited and three Pallid Swifts were observed calling and chasing each other and going under the area known as the Azure Window. Breeding of Pallid Swift was thus suspected. On 7th June the area was visited again in the morning by the authors, accompanied by Gilbert Haber. Over 15 Pallid Swifts were observed entering a large cave further along the cliffs from the Azure Window. The birds were seen entering crevices in the cave's walls with food balls in their mouths. On the 4th July 2009 the site was revisited and 25+ Pallid Swifts were seen entering the sea cave with most of them carrying food balls in their mouths further confirming that they had young in the nests. These sightings were sufficient to confirm breeding under the EBCC criteria 'ON' – "Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indication Occupied Nest (including high nest or nest holes, the contents of which cannot be seen) or adults incubating".

Also of note was an illegally shot Pallid Swift that was found at Marsascula Chapel on the 26th June 2009. Several Pallid Swifts had been noted at this site on multiple occasions over the previous weeks and were seen actively prospecting. The dead Pallid Swift was found to have a brood patch, indicating probable breeding (Jean Paul Fiott pers. comm.). Pallid Swifts with brood patches were also caught in the summer of 2009 during ringing studies in Mdina (Mario V Gauci pers. comm.).

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Re-assessment of the Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia* record of 1957

A thorough examination of the National Ornithological collections housed at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) in Mdina was undertaken by the author from 2002 to 2006. This entailed taking a photographic record for each specimen, as well as a new digitized cataloguing system. This exercise also included the identification of every individual specimen as well as cross-referencing dates and any previous publication references. Several interesting specimens, previously unreported or misidentified and reported in past works were found in the reference collection. Among these specimens the author found one bird listed as a Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*, which was labelled as taken at Tal-Handaq on 2nd November 1957. This specimen was first reported by Vella-Gaffiero (1975) on whose authority the record was also published by subsequent authors (Bannerman & Vella Gaffiero 1976 and Sultana & Gauci 1982).

In the old acquisition register of the museum there are three entries for Rock Sparrows (0442, 0443 and 1682). The first two are undated but are labelled as belonging to the late A. Sammut of Naxxar, whose collection was acquired by the museum in 1974. The third bird was the Tal-Handaq specimen, as mentioned above. On close examination the first two birds were correctly identified as Rock Sparrows but the 1957 specimen was misidentified. The latter bird turned out to be a female Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* covered with greenish-yellow dye on the throat, wings and flanks. In view of this the 1957 record of Rock Sparrow must be omitted from the Malta list.

Vella-Gaffiero (1975) mentions two skins housed at the NMNH; the 1957 one and another taken by Dr. De Lucca on 17 October 1955. However the later specimen is not included with the list of specimens donated to the National Museum by V. DeLucca and C. DeLucca (Ms. at NMNH), and attempts to locate it has proved futile.



In the meantime a new undated specimen has been included in the Museum collection (catalogue reference Orn.2869). This bird formed part of a confiscated collection of illegally shot birds that was received by the Museum on 4th June 2008. The presence of a number of North African birds accompanying this specimen throws strong doubts on whether this particular bird was taken locally, and it is suggested that this particular record is not accepted. It can therefore be concluded by the above review that there are only two Rock Sparrow specimens confirmed as taken in Malta housed in the NMNH collection.

The Rock Sparrow is listed as a vagrant to the Maltese Islands, with at least 10 records. A review of past records up to 1982 is found in Sultana & Gauci (1982).

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First record of the Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* in the Maltese Islands

On 9th December, 2002 a bird which when extracted from a mist-net at the Ghadira Nature Reserve was presumed to be a Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, the only leaf warbler usually present at the time, on closer examination turned out to be a Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*. When the bird was taken out of the bird-bag to be ringed it was immediately noticed that it had very white underparts and a conspicuous broad wing bar. Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* initially came to mind; however, the wing formula did not agree with this species.

Description of the bird: Chiffchaff-sized. Upperparts olive-green with a greenish wash on mantle and a conspicuous rather bright greenish tinge to edges of flight feathers. The greater coverts were broadly tipped buffish-white forming a conspicuous wing-bar. The three outer median coverts were also narrowly tipped buffish-white giving a hint of a second, faint wing bar. The underparts were conspicuously white with a few very faint yellowish streaks. The bird had a broad buffish-white supercilium above a rather dark eye-stripe. The outer four tail feathers had a narrow whitish edge on the inner web. The plumage was fresh, indicating the bird was in its first year.

Colour of soft parts: Iris: dark brown; Upper mandible: brown; Lower mandible: yellowish, tipped brown; Mouth: yellow; Tarsus: dark brown, but toes paler (yellowish-brown).

Wing formula and measurements: Emarginated 3rd to 6th pp, 1st p = 7 > pc, Wp = 4-5th pp, 2nd p = 7-8. Wing length: 58mm. Bill to skull: 11.8mm.

Range and movements: The species breeds in N.E. Europe and Turkestan, the Caucasus and N. Iranian regions, the Himalayan massif from Kashmir east to Kansu, and throughout east Siberia and winters throughout the Indian peninsula east to Thailand. Six subspecies are recognized. (Cramp, S (ed.) (1992) *The Birds of the Western Palearctic* Vol. VI). The National Rarities Committee forwarded the description of the bird to Lars Svensson and to Kevin Baker for their comments. Lars Svensson was of the opinion that there is much in favour of *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus*, the subspecies breeding in the westernmost part of its range, but other points are closer to the subspecies *P. t. plumbeitarsus*, which breeds in the easternmost parts of its range. He was therefore of the opinion that in the probable eventuality that these subspecies are split into separate species this record would have to be reviewed. Kevin Baker commented that the description pointed very strongly to *P.t. viridanus*.

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First Record of the Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* in the Maltese Islands

During a bird ringing session at Rabat on 25th January 2004 a Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* was caught in a single shelf net placed amongst low grass in a semi flooded field. The site habitat consisted of a small valley characterized mainly with giant reeds surrounded by a number of semi-flooded and uncultivated fields. The bird was immediately suspected to be a Siberian Rubythroat with the conspicuous eye stripe and pinkish tinge to the throat being the main indicators. This was soon confirmed when the bird was compared with an identification guide (Collins Field Guide 1st edition). The bird in question was in fact a second calendar year female. Full measurements and a set of photos were taken and the record was submitted to the Rarities Committee who accepted the record.

The weight and measurements were: Weight - 21.2g; Wing - 76mm; Tail - 61mm; Tarsus - 31mm; and Bill - skull to tip 17mm, and feathering to tip 12.5mm. It had a fat score of 2 and its breast muscle was 3.

The species has an extremely large range but breeds mainly in mixed coniferous forests with undergrowth in Siberia and is a rare vagrant to Western Europe. The above was the first record of the species for the Maltese Islands. From 1826-1995 there were only 18 European records noted outside Russia, with two in spring (1st March and 1st May) and the remainder in autumn and winter). The geographical distribution reveals no pattern with birds recorded in the United Kingdom, Italy, Estonia, Finland, Germany and France.

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First record of the Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* in the Maltese Islands

Whilst sea-watching on 24 October 2002 at 1630hrs at Qawra Point, three shearwater species were seen in the distance, moving North-West. We could not identify them at first as they were not typical Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* or Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*, the two shearwater species that we normally and commonly see around Malta's shores.

The flight, shape and jizz were almost like that of a Yelkouan (a few of which we had seen some minutes before and a species of which we were very familiar with), but the colour was very different. They were brownish, almost like Cory's, but even browner than that species. Cory's Shearwater was however excluded, based on its much larger size than the birds in question and flight. Also the other shearwater species recorded in the Mediterranean, the Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, was also excluded as this is totally black and white in colour, contrary to our brownish birds. They were a bit bigger and more robust than Yelkouan but smaller than Cory's. No shearwater except Balearic shows such characters in the Mediterranean. The birds were seen well by means of telescope (specifications: Nikon 15-45x) for about 1.5 minutes. The wind was strong North-West and it was clear and sunny which gave us good views of the birds.

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Second record of the Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* in the Maltese Islands

On the 29th November 2003, a Balearic Shearwater was identified while sea-watching at Ghallis. On first impression, the bird looked like a small Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* with similar coloration and markings - brownish upperparts and buffish below giving a relatively small whitish belly patch. The bird's profile was also like a small Cory's Shearwater, ie. rather narrow and longer winged and longer necked compared to Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*. Furthermore, it didn't show the compactness of the latter species. The differences were further confirmed when approximately 15 minutes later, two Yelkouan Shearwaters passed at the same distance showing much darker upperparts and cleaner white below.

The Balearic Shearwater had overall browner tones without neat limits between the upperparts and lowerparts, unlike the Yelkouan Shearwaters which were relatively well defined. The bird was observed for at least two minutes and flew north-westerly. There were good light conditions, which consequently gave good scope (Nikon ED Fieldcope with 20-45x zoom lens) views.

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First Record of the Purple Swamp-hen *Porphyrio porphyrio* in the Maltese Islands

On the 1st of April 2010 while scanning the Ghadira Nature Reserve at around 6.15 a.m. a large bird was seen on the north side of the reserve. At first glance it seemed like a very large Moorhen but immediately both of us realized that we were looking at a Purple Swamp-hen *Porphyrio porphyrio*. The colours were unmistakable, deep purplish blue, white under tail coverts and the red bill, legs and head plate. The bird was about twice the size of a Moorhen, a few of which were close by for size comparison. After walking towards the reservoir at the back it disappeared. About six hours later it reappeared in the reservoir and freshly cut reed leaves were also found on the ground indicating that it had been feeding in the area. This bird feeds mainly on reed leaves and is usually found in large reed beds and extensive marshes.

It was seen on at least five different days at Ghadira by many bird watchers, both local and foreign, up to the 7th of April. After that it was not recorded for a few days, until it reappeared at Simar Nature Reserve on the 10th of April, where it was seen again on five separate days up until the 21st of April. After this the bird was no longer seen.



Denis Cachia

Although there were several records of other southern vagrants which showed up during the same period the origin of this wild bird cannot exactly be determined. The probability of it being perhaps of Sicilian origin also cannot be excluded. The species has been reintroduced successfully into Sicily in 2000 (Corso 2005) and has spread into many new areas on its own, including the southern lakes of Pacchino, Gela and Saline di Priolo (Lentile, pers comm.).

The species, although not a true migrant, will disperse on its own when food decreases or due to drought or overpopulation.

The species had never been confirmed in Malta. Some very old records were rejected due to the fact that six wild dead specimens were later found to have been imported into Malta in 1869 by a sailor from Siracuse, Sicily. One of these is still to be found at the Natural History Museum (Sultana *et*

al. 1975). De Lucca claimed that it was a straggler to Malta but Wright (1869) was informed of the foreign origin of these birds (Sultana & Gauci 1982).

Also of interest is an American Purple Gallinule *Porphyryula martinica* which was shot at Salina November 1977, but an examination of the stomach contents revealed canary seed, indicating captivity (Attard Montalto 1977-78).

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Editorial Note: Some of the records in this section involve birds that were illegally shot in Malta. Illegal hunting is a serious and widespread problem in the Maltese islands, and can have a significant impact on both local and international conservation efforts. While such records are presented here for ornithological interest (as they represent the first confirmed records in Malta for the species) BirdLife Malta condemns the illegal killing of protected species and will continue to work both locally and internationally to put an end to this practice. It should also be noted that several of these records are of old specimens housed at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) in Mdina, which were the subject of a thorough re-examination by the Museum's curator between 2002 to 2006 to assess veracity of identification and origin. These records have been discussed and accepted by the National Rarities Committee under guidelines issued by the AERC.

First record of the Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* in the Maltese islands

In 2002, while undertaking a re-examination of the National Museum of Natural History collections, a nondescript female duck but with a distinct cerulean blue coloured upper wing coverts extending down to almost half of its wings was noted in the collections housed in the National Museum of Natural History in Mdina. On close examination the bird turned out to be a female Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*, a species which to date had never been recorded from the Maltese Islands. The data label on the specimen showed that it was shot at Qawra on the 19th November 1980.

The Blue-winged Teal is a native of the Americas but it is also known to occur away from that continent. It has been recorded in the following countries: Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, United Kingdom and Senegal (BirdLife International 2009). This record was submitted to the National Rarities Committee and accepted during the meeting of 10th December 2007.

John J Borg



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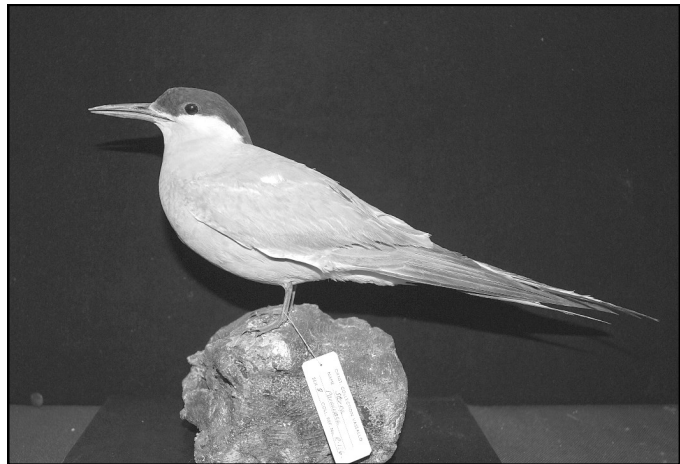
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First record of the Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* and Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* in the Maltese islands

Arctic Tern

A medium-sized tern was shot on 25th July 1985 at Marsaxlokk very close to the old fishponds referred to as "Il-Magħluq". The specimen was brought to my attention and at first glance it looked like an adult Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*. But on close examination and comparing it with a mounted specimen of the Common Tern I noticed different characteristics and concluded it was an Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* based on the following parameters. The upper breast and underparts were pearl grey as compared to a much lighter tinge on the Common Tern. The grey margin next to the shaft of the inner web of the two longest primaries was narrower than that of the Common Tern. Unfortunately the long tail streamers were extensively worn and could not be used for identification purposes.



Alfred Vassallo

The measurements of the specimen were as follows: Bill feathers to tip = 33mm, Bill height at gonys = 6.5mm, Bill height at base = 8.5mm; Tarsus = 18mm, Wing = 267mm; Tail = 146mm (tips much abraded), Tail fork = 74mm (tips much abraded).

In the Western Palearctic, the Arctic Tern breeds mainly on the northernmost parts of Europe and winters chiefly in Antarctic waters. Its main passage is on the Atlantic seaboard, but it is accidental to several European and Mediterranean countries (Cramp 1985). There are four dated records from Sicily, three of which occurred in July and once in November (Corso 2005). It has never been recorded in Tunisia (Isenmann *et al* 2005).

Lesser Crested Tern

In September 1989 I examined a 'tern' specimen which had been shot by a fisherman from a boat very close to the shore at Munxar Point, limits of St. Thomas Bay. The size and plumage looked very similar to an adult Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. The bird, which still assumed much of an adult summer plumage, that is grey upper parts and a black hood and crest but with a white forehead, had two particular characteristics: (i) The bill was wholly yellow and not black with a yellowish tip; and (ii) the rump and upper tail were light grey not white.



Alfred Vassallo

After referring to identification guidebooks (Beaman & Madge 1998, Mullarney *et al* 1999) the bird was identified as a Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* in post breeding plumage. The measurements of the specimen were as follows: Bill tip to feathers = 57mm, Bill height at gonys = 10.5mm, Bill height at base = 12.5mm; Tarsus = 25mm, Wing = 305mm; Tail = 140mm, Tail fork = 55mm .

Since that time I have seen two other such specimens in full adult breeding plumage in local private collections and was informed by Marsaxlokk fishermen, that the same kind of tern is sometimes encountered, even in small flocks, amongst tuna pens at sea off the SW coast during late summer. However, I cannot confirm the veracity of this statement.

The Lesser Crested Tern has a wide distribution from Australia through the Indian Ocean to the Gulf and the Red Sea. The Mediterranean population, which belongs to the subspecies *emigrata*, has one of the smallest global populations and its restricted breeding range is found in Libya. During a survey carried out in 2007 in Libya the breeding population

was estimated at 1600 – 2080 pairs, with the largest colony of 1500-1800 pairs on Gezirat Garah (Hamza *et al* 2008). The birds which nest in the Gulf of Sirte migrate and pass along the coast of Tunisia on their way to and from their winter quarters on the West African coast (Cramp 1985) and there is a single breeding record in Tunisia in May 1983 (Isenmann *et al.* 2005). There are eight records from Sicily from 1933 to 1998; once in March, July and August respectively, twice in May and three times in June (Corso 2005).

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First record of the Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in the Maltese Islands

In 2002, while undertaking a re-examination of the National Museum of Natural History collections it was noted that there were two Pygmy Cormorants; one was on display and another in the reference collection. The one on display was an imported specimen (from Holland Zoo, reference number Orn.2500) but the one in the reference collection, an adult in non-breeding plumage was labelled as taken at Ġnejna (North-west Malta) in October 1983 bearing catalogue number 1298 (new reference number = Orn.0316). In addition a third specimen (reference number Orn.2653) was added to the museum's collection in 2008. However it was a confiscated bird that had almost certainly been imported along with other specimens from eastern Europe (which were all included in the confiscated collection) and cannot therefore be considered to have been taken in Malta.

Biometrics of Orn.0316: Bill 30.5mm; tarsus 37mm; tail 13.5mm; wing length 220mm.

John J Borg



In 1959, De Lucca and De Lucca reported that two Pygmy Cormorants, one of which was shot and preserved, were found in a pond at Buskett in the winter of 1935. The specimen was later acquired by NMNH along with the rest of the De Lucca collection in 1969. This specimen however turned out to be a juvenile Shag *P. aristotelis* (Sultana *et al.* 1975).

The Pygmy Cormorant breeds in south-east Europe (east from Italy), Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, and winters primarily in Albania, Greece, the Balkan states, Turkey, Cyprus, Iraq, Iran, Azerbaijan and also Israel, Bulgaria, Romania and Syria (BirdLife International 2009). Brichetti and Fracasso (2003) give the wintering population in Italy at

400-600 individuals, with a marked increase starting in the late 1990s. There are six sightings in Sicily (Brichetti & Fracasso 2003). This record was submitted and accepted by the National Rarities Committee on 10th December 2007.

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First records of the Striped Crake *Porzana marginalis* in the Maltese Islands

The Striped Crake *Porzana marginalis* is native to Ethiopian Africa but its actual range is poorly known. It has been recorded from sub-Saharan savannahs to South Africa, accidental to Algeria and Libya (Cramp & Simmons 1979). There is also one unconfirmed record from Morocco (Thevenot *et al.* 2003). In Europe it has been recorded only once, an adult female at Livorno, Italy on 4 January 1997 (Brichetti & Fracasso 2004).

Two birds shot locally and hitherto unrecorded recently came to the authors' attention. The first bird identified during a re-assessment of the collections housed at the National Museum of Natural History in Mdina. This bird, a female, was shot at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on 29 March 1981 and is registered by the museum as NMNH/Om.1000. The measurements of the bird were as follows: bill length 17.1mm; wing 10.5mm, tail 40.5mm, tarsus 38.3mm.

The second bird, which was identified as a sub-adult female from the conditions of the plumage, was found in a private collection and was shot at Siġġiewi in April 2004. Photographs of the bird were taken and passed on to the National Rarities Committee. It should be noted that both birds were shot illegally, a practice that is a serious and widespread problem in the Maltese islands.

The two records were submitted to the National Rarities Committee and were accepted during the meeting of the 10th December 2007.

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Denis Cachia



The NMNH bird on the left and the Siġġiewi bird on the right.

First record of Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* in the Maltese Islands

The breeding population of Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* is found in Siberian tundra, mainly restricted within the Taymyr peninsula. It is highly migratory and winters mostly around the Black Sea (particularly in Bulgaria and Romania) and to a lesser extent around the Caspian, with some birds reaching SE Europe (Greece and Turkey) (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). In Italy It has been recorded more than 30 times, including once in Sicily in January 1992, whose origin is uncertain (Brichetti & Fracasso 2003).

In December 2001 there were unusual influxes of *Anser* sp. in the Maltese Islands. Two flocks of 53 Greylag Goose *Anser anser* and 60 'grey geese' *Anser* sp. respectively were seen flying over Victoria, Gozo on 20 December 2001 (observations G. Haber) (see also systematic list of birds occurring in the Maltese Islands during the years 2000-2005 published in this issue). Information reached BirdLife Malta that on the same day (20 December 2001) a 'red goose', which was flying in the company of two larger 'grey geese', left the group and landed at a rain-water filled dam at Marsalforn Valley, where it was illegally shot. Photographs of the bird, which had been subsequently skinned and mounted, were passed on to the National Rarities Committee.

The record was submitted to the National Rarities Committee and was accepted during the meeting of the 10th December 2007.

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National Rarities Committee - Malta

1st Report

Preamble

The Malta Ornithological Society (MOS) - now BirdLife Malta - was founded in 1962. Until then bird-watching was virtually non-existent amongst local people, in spite of the fact that there was always great interest in birds in the Maltese Islands. However, this interest was always manifestly expressed in widespread bird shooting and trapping, and in Victorian-style mounted bird collections. Unfortunately these relatively numerous private bird collections cannot be regarded as scientific and most of the specimens are not even labeled. Apart from this several specimens of birds which had never been locally recorded, or which are rare visitors and vagrants to the Islands, have been illegally imported along the years from various countries, mainly European and North African, some of which claimed to have been taken in Malta to fetch more money from collectors (Sultana & Gauci 1982). Furthermore sea hunting has become an increasingly popular past-time (for both legal and protected species) and hunters are often equipped with powerful speedboats that can take them many miles outside of Maltese territorial waters where they kill a wide range of species, both legal and protected. This has been identified as a serious conservation problem. The same is true for some fishermen, hailing particularly from the south-east of Malta who are also keen bird hunters. It is known that some of these individuals take their guns out with them while at sea and target protected species that happen to pass by. On many occasions they would be miles and miles beyond Maltese territorial waters, with the result that several specimens of rare or vagrant sea birds to the islands have ended up in local private collections, where although they are claimed to have been taken in Malta or just offshore, there is no data to prove this.

Up to the 1960s, the compiling of records of rarities was mainly based on the birds which were shot or trapped. This continued to a large extent even up to the early 1980's, as until then very few local birds and some common migrants were legally protected. This meant that all the other species, including scarce and irregular migrants and accidentals could be shot or trapped at liberty and most of these ended up in private collections of stuffed mounted birds. Prior to the 1960s bird watching was only carried out for a period of a few years in the late 1940s and early 1950s by a few British servicemen who were stationed in the Islands (see Gibb 1951; Roberts 1954).

In the meantime MOS created a licensed bird-ringing scheme in 1965 with the help of the British Trust for Ornithology and as the Maltese member of EURING (European Union for Bird Ringing). Not only did bird ringing allow for scientific studies contributing to an international understanding of bird migration, but it also meant that licensed ringers recorded several rarities, mostly passerines, some of which are regarded as accidentals to the Islands. It was after this development that bird-watching started to be taken up by a few young people when they were attracted by bird-ringing to join the society as a means to study birds. In spite of this development the number of 'keen' bird watchers always remained very low particularly up to the late 1980s, and to this date they still do not exceed thirty in number. A Rarities Committee has always formed part of the organisation since 1966 following the strict guidelines of, and being the Maltese representative of, the Association of European Rarities Committee (AERC). In the mid 1990s the Rarities Committee went through a metamorphosis, due to an increase in bird-watching, particularly offshore bird-watching.

Administrative Matters

This is the first report of the National Rarities Committee covering the years 2000 to 2010. During this 11-year period, 11 Committee meetings were held: 19.01.2000; 12.02.2001; 02.03.2001; 15.01.2003; 02.02.2004; 01.07.2004; 23.01.2006; 06.03.2006; 14.12.2006; 10.12.2007 and 05.10.2010. Discussions and decisions on some of the submitted records were also carried out online, particularly during the last four years covered by this report.

The members serving on the Committee (listed in alphabetical order and with the numbers of years serving on the Committee) were: John Attard Montalto 2000-2010; Edward Bonavia 2006-2010; John J. Borg 2006-2010; Denis Cachia 2000-2010; Charles Coleiro 2000-2004; Raymond Galea 2000-2010; Charles Gauci 2000-2006; Caldon Mercieca 2000-2006; and Joe Sultana 2000-2010.

The co-ordinator of the Rarities Committee was John Attard Montalto who was also the official focal point for the AERC. Caldon Mercieca and Edward Bonavia acted as Secretaries in the years 2000-2005 and 2006-2010 respectively.

II-Merill 32 2010

Observers, who had no vote, attended various meetings at the request of the Committee. These were John J. Borg (2001-2005) in his capacity as Secretary of BirdLife Malta Research Group; Mark Gauci (2004) in his capacity as Head of the Ringing Scheme; Joseph M. Mangion (2006) in his capacity as co-ordinator of the Research Group; and Andre Raine (2007 & 2010) in his capacity as Birdlife Malta Conservation Manager, who is also responsible for all research activities carried out by the organisation. On several occasions the Rarities Committee sought the advice of international experts before taking a decision on some records.

During the Rarities Committee Meeting held on 10th December 2007 it was decided that the official name for the rarities committee should be: The National Rarities Committee Malta (NRCM) and it should include a representative of the National Museum of Natural History (JJB). The official email addresses of NRCM should be those of the Co-ordinator and the Secretary. This was done so that the committee fully works independently from its sponsoring organization (Birdlife Malta) as stipulated in the regulations, as well as to be in line with the AERC.

Regulations

- The regulations of the National Rarities Committee, which have been revised in 2006, are based on the AERC guidelines.
1. The Malta's Rarities Committee works independently from its sponsoring organization (BirdLife Malta) and when possible should include a representative of the National Museum of Natural History.
 2. The Committee should consist of at least five members, but not more than ten members. It may ask any other members to attend as observers when deemed necessary.
 3. Members should be elected by the Committee when the need arises. Every member should have qualifications that contribute to the work of the committee, e.g. extensive field experience, knowledge of the current literature, skills in ringing or in examining museums skins and knowledge of the current birding scene.
 4. Decisions should be reached unanimously or nearly so. A record should not be accepted with more than one negative vote. Reconsideration of any record can be raised at any time by any Committee Member.
 5. The Committee should decide which species require submitted reports for acceptance, and should provide this information on the sponsoring organisation's website and/or publications related to rarities.
 6. Submitted reports of rarities should be distributed by the Rarities Committee Co-ordinator or Secretary to the Committee Members who are requested to send their remarks. If all members are in agreement the record is accepted or rejected as the case may be. If there are conflicting opinions the record should be discussed at a full committee meeting. A Committee Member may ask for a full discussion on any submitted record.
 7. Whenever possible, the first (and preferably the first three) records should be proved by photographs, video films or sound recordings. In some cases, descriptions by highly qualified observers might suffice.
 8. The Committee should give reasons for non acceptance of a record on request by the submitter.
 9. All Committee, consultants and specialist comments should be confidential prior to publication of any decisions. Information concerning records under consideration, or decisions prior to publication, or other Committee matters should normally not be discussed outside the committee, except through the Rarities Committee Co-ordinator to whom all outside enquiries should be directed.
 10. Reports of Rarities Committees should be published in each issue of *Il-Merill* (BirdLife Malta's ornithological journal), so long as there have been new records since the previous issue. All the relevant information on a record should be given when available (species/subspecies, date, place, province, number of individuals, age, sex, names of responsible observers, documentation (photographs, video films, tape recordings), bird caught or found dead, in which case locality of the specimen and collection number).
 11. The first record should always be published in detail in *Il-Merill* as a short note, including full description and photographs (even if of poor quality). The full documentation of every record should be kept in a permanent file and may be viewed on request.
 12. The report should give the numbers of at least the three previous records and individuals for each species. It should be clearly stated in the report which period these figures refer to (1800-1949, since 1950 or since the committee began to work).
 13. A list of species that are considered by the Committee should be published when appropriate.
 14. The following categories should be used for the Malta's national list:
 - A. species which has been recorded in an apparently wild state at least once since 01.01.1950
 - B. species which has been recorded in an apparently wild state only between 1800 and 1949
 - C. released or escaped species which has established a self-supporting breeding population in the own country; also birds coming from a category C population of another country (with the species not breeding in the own country).
 - D. every species unless it is almost certainly a genuine vagrant (in which case it enters Cat. A), or almost certainly an escape from captivity (Cat. E).
 - E. escapes from captivity(Category D should always be published in the annual report, even if it is not a part of the national list. Category E should be kept in file and published to help other European countries to evaluate the possibilities of escapes).
 15. The Committee should check the old exceptional records when possible. In particular, reports of difficult species for which new identification criteria have been established should be reconsidered.
 16. The Committee should take care that rejected records are not referred to in the official literature.
 17. If the Committee has difficulties in judging a report with respect to identity or origin, it should ask specialists for help instead of reaching an unsatisfactory decision.
 18. The Committee should send its reports to every other AERC Rarities Committee in Europe.
 19. The Committee should provide its data to the AERC on request (in a compatible format).

Species requiring a description by the Rarities Committee

Ideally all records of very scarce species should be submitted to the rarities committee with a field description and if available with a photograph. Species, which have been recorded less than 20 times in the islands, require a description. However there are some species listed below that, in spite of being recorded more than 20 times, still require a description to be officially recognised as these are very difficult to identify in the field. Furthermore, the first (and preferably the first three) records should be **proved** by photographs, video films or tape recordings (but see regulation 7 above).

Previous to the re-organisation of the Rarities Committee in the 1990s, the list of vagrant species in "A new guide to the Birds of Malta" published by the Malta Ornithological Society(now BirdLife Malta) in 1982, was used as a benchmark for those species deemed to require a description to be accepted officially. Since then, due to an increase in bird-watchers, and in bird-watching proficiency, records of a number of species, which were regarded as vagrants, have greatly increased. These are now not considered as accidentals. The following list, which has been recently compiled by the Rarities Committee, includes those species, which have been recorded at least once in the Maltese islands, and which require a description. Regarding new species to the list of the Birds of Malta one should refer to regulation 7 above. The Rarities Committee may also ask for a description of other species when it deems necessary.

Bean Goose <i>Anser fabalis</i>	Broad-billed Sandpiper <i>Limicola falcinellus</i>
Bar-headed Goose <i>Anser indicus</i>	Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>
White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i>	Slender-billed Curlew <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>
Red-Breasted Goose <i>Branta ruficollis</i>	Upland Sandpiper <i>Bartramia longicauda</i>
Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	Terek Sandpiper <i>Xenus cinereus</i>
Ruddy Shelduck <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
Falcated Duck <i>Anas falcata</i>	Grey Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>
Baikal Teal <i>Anas formosa</i>	Arctic Skua <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
Blue-Winged Teal <i>Anas discors</i>	Long-tailed Skua <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>
Marbled Duck <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	Great Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>
Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>	Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>
Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Caspian Gull <i>Larus cachinnans</i>
Greater Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	Glaucous Gull <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>
Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Lesser Crested Tern <i>Sterna bengalensis</i>
Common Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>
Smew <i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i>	Common Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>
White-headed Duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i>
Red-throated Diver <i>Gavia stellata</i>	Little Auk <i>Alle alle</i>
Sooty Shearwater <i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Atlantic Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i>
Manx Shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Black-bellied Sandgrouse <i>Pterocles orientalis</i>
Balearic Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse <i>Pterocles alchata</i>
Leach's Storm-petrel <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	Laughing Dove <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>
Pygmy Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	Red-necked Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>
White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Egyptian Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>
Western Reef Heron <i>Egretta gularis</i>	White-throated Needletail Swift <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	White-rumped Swift <i>Apus caffer</i>
White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Little Swift <i>Apus affinis</i>
Griffon Vulture <i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater <i>Merops superciliosus</i>
Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>
Rough-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Great Grey Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>
American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius</i>	Southern Grey Shrike <i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
Sooty Falcon <i>Falco concolor</i>	Masked Shrike <i>Lanius nubicus</i>
Lanner Falcon <i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Eurasian Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Barbary Falcon <i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>	Eurasian Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>
Striped Crake <i>Porzana marginalis</i>	Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
Allen's Gallinule <i>Porphyryla alleni</i>	Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>
American Purple Gallinule <i>Porphyryla martinica</i>	Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>
Purple Swamp-Hen <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Blue Tit <i>Parus caeruleus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot <i>Fulica cristata</i>	Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>
Demoiselle Crane <i>Anthropoides virgo</i>	Bar-tailed Desert Lark <i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>
Little Bustard <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	Hoopoe Lark <i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>
Houbara Bustard <i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>	Dupont's Lark <i>Chersophilus duponti</i>
Great Bustard <i>Otis tarda</i>	White-winged Lark <i>Melanocorypha leucoptera</i>
Greater Sand Plover <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Black Lark <i>Melanocorypha yeltoniensis</i>
Caspian Plover <i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>	Lesser Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella rufescens</i>
Pacific Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Crested Lark <i>Galerida</i>
Spur-winged Lapwing <i>Hoplopterus spinosus</i>	Horned Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
Sociable Lapwing <i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Temminck's Horned Lark <i>Eremophila bilopha</i>
White-tailed Lapwing <i>Vanellus</i>	Arctic Warbler <i>Phylloscopus</i>
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	Pallas's Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Tringa melanotos</i>	Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>
Purple Sandpiper <i>Calidris maritime</i>	Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>

II-Merill 32 2010

Iberian Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	Pied Wheatear <i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>
Greenish Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	Desert Wheatear <i>Oenanthe deserti</i>
Marmora's Warbler <i>Sylvia sarda</i>	White-crowned Black Wheatear <i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>
Tristram's Warbler <i>Sylvia deserticola</i>	Black Wheatear <i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
Barred Warbler <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	Semi-collared Flycatcher <i>Ficedula semitorquata</i> (female)
Orphean Warbler <i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	Rock Sparrow <i>Petronia petronia</i>
African Desert Warbler <i>Sylvia deserti</i>	Snowfinch <i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>
Rüppell's Warbler <i>Sylvia ruepelli</i>	Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>
River Warbler <i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	Common Redpoll <i>Carduelis flammea</i>
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler <i>Hippolais pallida</i>	Common Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
Western Olivaceous Warbler <i>Hippolais opaca</i>	Common Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Melodious Warbler <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	Snow Bunting <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>
Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	Lapland Bunting <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>
Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak <i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>
Blyth's Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	White Throated Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>
Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	Pine Bunting <i>Eberiza leucocephalos</i>
Bohemian Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
Wallcreeper <i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	Cirl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
Rose-coloured Starling <i>Pastor roseus</i>	Rock Bunting <i>Emberiza cia</i>
Spotless Starling <i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Cretzschmar's Bunting <i>Emberiza caesia</i>
Dipper <i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Rustic Bunting <i>Emberiza rustica</i>
Siberian Thrush <i>Zoothera sibirica</i>	Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>
Eyebrowed Thrush <i>Turdus obscurus</i>	Chestnut Bunting <i>Emberiza rutila</i>
Thrush Nightingale <i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	Yellow-breasted Bunting <i>Emberiza aureola</i>
Siberian Rubythroat <i>Luscinia calliope</i>	Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>
Moussier's Redstart <i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>	

Accepted Records

The following records have been discussed either during meetings of the Rarities Committee or by discussions online. Some of these records did not require a description and do not appear in the above list. However as these were submitted to the Committee with a description, it was felt that they should not be ignored and thus figure in the accepted list of records. All the records include, where applicable, the observers' initials. **Those records of rarities which are made public but which are not submitted to the Rarities Committee are not discussed and do not appear in the official annual systematic list of birds recorded in the Islands. However note is taken of them for any future consideration.**

Six of the accepted records relate to specimens at the National Museum of Natural History submitted by J. J. Borg, principal curator at the Museum. Three of them are first records for the Maltese Islands and were not previously reported or published:

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*: 1 on 19.03.1991 off Comino/Cirkewwa).

Blue-Winged Teal *Anas discors*: 1 on 19.11.1980 at Qawra. (**1st record for Malta**).

Striped Crake *Porzana marginalis*: 1 on 29.03.1981 at Bahar lċ-Ġaġħaq. (**1st record for Malta**).

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*: 1 in Oct.1983 at Ġnejna. (**1st record for Malta**).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*: 1 on 01.08.1990 off I-Aħrax Point.

Eye-Browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*: 1 on 31st October 1990 at Mellieħa.

Most of the accepted records which have occurred during the years 1996-1999 have appeared in the Systematic List 1996-1999 (*Il-Merill* (2005) No. 31 pp.1-34). Following is the list of accepted records.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*: 1 on 17.12.2002 Qawra (EB) and Aħrax (CC).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*: 1 wounded juv at Ġhadira from 17-19.11.1999 (died on 20.11.1999) (CG *et al.*).

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*: 1 on 20.01.2001 at Marsalforn Valley, Gozo (**1st record for Malta**). Photograph of specimen examined by RC

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*: 3 at Ġhadira on 17.12.2004 (CG *et al.*). 3 at Salina on 09.05.2009 (EB/RG/AR).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*: 2 on 18.11.2001 at Qawra (CC/MS).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*: 2 on 18-11-05 at St.Thomas Bay (photograph of 1 specimen examined by RC).

Smew *Mergellus albellus*: 1 on 20.12.2001 at Ġhadira (CG).

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*: 3 on 24-10-02 at Qawra (CC/RG); 1 on 29-11-03 at Ġħallis (EB/DA) (**1st & 2nd records for Malta**).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* **race lucidus/moroccanus**: 1 on 19.11.2004 at Qawra (RG/CC).

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*: 3 on 19.11.2004 at Qawra (RG/CC).

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*: 1 on 07.09.1996 at Tas-Safra (MS/MS)

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: 1 on 27-11-04 at Qawra (RG/NG); 1 on 03-11-07 at Ramla Bay (GH/JS).

Great White Heron *Egretta alba*: 1 on 21.08.1996 at St.Elmo Pt.(CM); 1 on 08.09.1996 at St.Elmo Pt. (CM).

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*: 1 on 20.03.1999 at Luqa Airfield (MS/MS/DA).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*: 1 on 13.09.1998 at Marsascula (JS); 1(juv.) on 26.09.1998 at Qawra (CC/MS).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*: Immature male on 01.09.96 at Ġħallis (MS/MS); female on 20.10.1996 at Ġħallis (MS/MS);

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*: 1 on 14.09.1997 at Mdina (MS); 1 on 28.09.1997 at Buskett (MS); 1 on 28.09.1998 at Dwejra (Malta), (CC); 1 at Ta' Pinu on 01/04/05 (IB/DA).

Booted Eagle *Aquila pennata*: 1 dark phase on 13.09.1998 at Baħar iċ-Ċaghak (MS); 1 on 30.09.2001 at St. Elmo (MS).

Saker *Falco cherrug*: 1 on 27.10.2002 at Qawra (MS); 1 on 25.03.2005 at Mizieb (RV).

Striped Crake *Porzana marginalis*: 1 shot in Apr 2004 at Siggiewi – photograph of specimen examined by RC. (2nd record for Malta).

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*: 1 found freshly dead on 08.01.2010 at Santa Venera (specimen and photograph examined). 2nd record for Malta.

Purple Swamp-hen *Porphyrio porphyrio*: 1 from 01-07.04.2010 (AC/RV et al.) (1st record for Malta).

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*: 1 on 21.05.2008 at Luqa Airfield (EB et al.). 2 on 04-05.02.2009 at Luqa Airfield (EB et al.); 1 on 17.02.09 at Luqa Airfield (RC).

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*: 1 on 05.11.1999 at B'Kara (MS).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*: 1 at Għadira on 13.05.2002 (CG); 19 on 16.09.2002 at M'Scala (EB/DA); 2 (ad & juv) at Salina on 18.09.2004 (RG/CC/NG); 2 on 12.05.2005 at Xrobb il-Għagin (JPF).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*: 1 on 30.09.1998 at Żejtun - specimen and photograph examined by RC; 1 on 13.06.2009 at Għadira (RG et al.)

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*: 1 on 15 to 16 Jul 2002 Għadira (CG et al.); 1 from 10.05 to 14.05.2006 Għadira (CG/RG et al.)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subbrifcollis*: 1 in September 1998 at Wied Ghar dalam l/o Għaxaq (SS/JS/JJB) (specimen at NMNH).

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*: 1 at Marsa on 16-17.03.1996 (CM).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*: 1 on 11-08-06 at Qawra (JEP); 49 on 31.03.2010 off Cirkewwa (RG et al.).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*: 1 found dead on 04.01.1997 at St. Elmo Pt. (MS).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*: 1 on 31.03.1996 at North Comino Channel (MAF/MC/PA); 1 on 25.04.1996 at Qrejten Pt. (MS); 1 on 19.03.1999 at Qammieħ (MS et al.); 1 on 11.04.1999 at Qawra (MS/MS); 1 at Qawra on 14.11.1999 (CC et al.).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*: 1 on 03.02.2002 off Qawra (MS, RG)

Long-Tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*: 1 on 16.08.2005 at M'Scala (EB/RG)

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*: Qammieħ; 1 on 31.03.1999 (CC/MS/RG); 1 on 18.03.2000 at Qammieħ (EB, CC, MS);

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*: 1 on 21.01.1996 at Għadira (DC); 1 sub-adult on 24-25 ta' April 1997 at Għadira (CG); 1 on 31.01.2005 at Għadira (CG).

Common Gull *Larus canus*: 1 from 20.01 to 19.02.1996 at Għadira (CG et al.); 1 (1st year) on 05.11.1997 at Għadira (CG); 1 on 23.12.2002 at Qawra (EB/RG/CC); 1 on 28.12.2002 at Pt. St. Elmo (MS); 1 on 04.02.2003 Għadira (CG); 2 on 15.11.2004 M'Scala (EB/RG); 1 on 19.11.2004 at Marsascala (EB); 1 on 20.11.2004 at San Luġjan (EB/DA); 1 on 07-04.2006 M'Scala (EB); 1 on 26-01.2007 Għadira (VF/RV et al.).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*: 1 on 02.01.2000 at Għallis (MS); 1 on 09.11.2002 at Pt. St. Elmo (MS); 1 on 25.01.2003 off Pt. St. Elmo (MS et al.); 1 on 04.02.2003 at Sliema (JAM); 1 from 22.12 to 26.12.05 Qawra (EB/RG/CC).

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*: 1 on 23.04.1997 at Għadira (CG); 1 on 02.05.1998 at Għadira (CG); 1 adult on 03.05.1998 at Għadira (DC); 1 on 04.05.1998 at Għadira Bay (CG).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*: 1 on 30.05.1997 at Għadira (CG); 1 on 01.06.1997 at Għadira (CG); 3 on 02.04.1998 at Għadira (CG); 1 on 29.05.1998 at Għadira (CG); 1 on 09.06.1999 at Manoel Island (JAM).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: 1 on 07.10.1996 at St. Elmo Pt. (CM/JV).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*: 1 on 25/07/85 at M'Xlokk (specimen and photograph examined). (1st record for Malta).

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*: 1 in September 1989 at Munxar Pt. (specimen and photograph examined). (1st record for Malta).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*: 1 found dead in February 1980 at Għadira (specimen and photograph examined).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*: 1 found dead on 21.02.1999 at Salina (MS); 1 mist-netted (had lead shot, died later) on 23.04.1999 at Comino (JMM/MG/VC); 1 on 02.07.2000 at Għadira (DC); 1 on 13.10.2000 at Simar (DA).

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*: 1 on 05.05.1997 at Comino (JJB/CM); 1 on 15.07.2001 at Għadira (DC); 1 on 04.07.2002 at Għadira (CG) (records accepted but origin uncertain).

Little Swift *Apus affinis*: 1 at Buskett on 13.09.2003 (RG et al.); 1 on 05.06.2009 at Dwejra, Gozo (JS/JJB).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*: 1 on 13.02.1997 at San Gwann (MS); 1 on 18.02.1997 at San Gwann (MS); 1 from 03.07 to 06.07.2006 at Ta' Lambert Gozo (ringed & photographed - JS/GH); 1 on 06 July 2008 at Buskett (RG).

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*: 1 on 09.04.2004 at Salina (EB et al.)

Bar-tailed Desert Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*: 1 from 31.03.2010 to 05.04.2010 at Delimara (JB/EB/RG et al.).

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*: 1 on 27.10.1996 at St. Elmo Pt. (IB/MS/MS);

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens*: 1 from 02-03.04.2010 at Ta' Ċenċ (JS et al.)

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*: 1 on 02-03.06.2007 at Xaġħra L-Ħamra (RG et al.)

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*: 2 on 29.11.2004 at Buskett (RG).

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*: 1 ringed on 09-12-02 at Għadira (CG) (1st record for Malta).

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*: 1 ringed on 12.10.1997 at Lunzjata (JG).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*: 1 ringed on 03.04.1997 on Lunzjata (JG); 1 on 02.11.1996 at Addolorata Cemetery (MS); 1 on 17.10.2000 at Għadira (CG); 1 ringed on 19.10.2000 at Simar (CC); 1 on 19.11.2004 at Targa Gap (MS).

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*: 1 ringed at Lunzjata on 23.10.1999 (JG/JM); 1 ringed on 02.11.2007 at Comino (AR) (2nd & 3rd records for Malta).

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*: 1 ringed on 02.11.1997 at Simar (RG); 1 from 29.01 to 05.05.2000 at Għadira - ringed (CG); 1 from 06.01 to 06.04.2004 Simar – ringed (CC); 1 from 31.10.2008 to 19.11.2008 at Għadira (CG et al.); 1 ringed on 01.11.2009 at Rabat (Saqqajja) (MVG/RG/IB).

- Iberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus ibericus*: 1 at Buskett on 20.05.2005 to 20.07.2005 (RG/NG/MG/MVG/OC/MS *et al.*); 1 at Simar from 27.02.2010 to 18.03.2010 (EB/CC/RG); 1 at Ghadira on 27.02.2010 to 06.03.2010 (DC/RG). (**1st records for Malta**).
- Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*: 1 ringed on 12.05.2003 at Comino (JS/JG); 1 1st year bird ringed on 14.09.2007 at Ghadira (CG) (**3rd & 4th records for Malta**).
- Rüppell's Warbler** *Sylvia rueppelli*: 1 on 15.03.1996 at Clapham Junction (CM); 1 on 23.03.1999 at Żabbar (Mas.S); 1 from 27.03 to 01.04.2006 at Dwejra (Malta) (RG/EB/CC).
- Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*: 1 ringed on 02.05.1997 at Comino (CC); 1 ringed on 11.05.2000 (KC/CM at Comino); 1 ringed on 19.08.2000 at Ghadira (CG).
- River Warbler** *Locustella fluviatilis*: 1 ringed on 21.09.2004 at Rabat (MM).
- Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*: 1 ringed on 20-21st May 2001 at Ghadira (DC); 1 ringed on 30.04.07 at Sarraflu (EB/RG *et al.*)
- Western Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais opaca*: 1 ringed on 05.05.1998 at Comino (JMM/JV); 1 ringed on 08.05.1998 at Comino (JMM); 1 ringed on 04.05.1999 at Comino (JMM/JS/JJB); 1 on 08.05.2002 at Comino (JJB); 1 ringed on 05.05.2004 at Lunzjata (JS/JG).
- Eastern/Western Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida/opaca*: 1 ringed at Ghadira on 13-14.05.1998 (CG).
- Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*: 1 on 26.04.1997 at Ghadira (CG); 1 on 04.05.1998 at Comino (JMM); 1 on 01.05.2001 at Comino (JJB/MM/RG/EB/DA); 1 on 08.05.2002 at Comino (JJB/JPF); all records of birds ringed.
- Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*: 1 on 28.09.1997, 1 on 04.09.1998, 1 on 09.09.1998, & 3 on 16.09.1998, all at Lunzjata (JG) 1 on 15.09.2000, & 1 on 26.09.2000 both at Lunzjata (JG/JS/GH); 1 on 26.08.2001 at Wied il-Luq (JMM/MM/IB/AC); 1 on 09.09.2004 at Mellieħa (DC); 1 on 31.08.2005 at Buskett (JAM); 1 on 08.09.2005 at Rabat (MVG); all records of birds ringed.
- Blyth's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*: 1 ringed on 13.10.1998 at Lunzjata (JG). (**3rd record for Malta**).
- Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus Agricola*: 1 ringed on 11.09.2000 at Ghadira (CG). (**3rd record for Malta**).
- Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria*: 1 at Sliema on 28.09.1998 (FB).
- Siberian Rubythroat** *Luscinia calliope*: 1 ringed on 25.01.2004 at Rabat (MG/MM) (**1st record for Malta**).
- Moussier's Redstart** *Phoenicurus moussieri*: 4+ on 09.04.2000 at Dwejra, Gozo (JG/GH); 1 on 15.03.2005 at Żebbug (Gozo) (EH/EAH *et al.*); 1 from 30.11.2008 to 01.03.2009 at Xagħra I-Ħamra (AR *et al.*).
- Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*: 1 on 31.08.1996 at Marsa (CM/SS); 1 on 26.03.2000 at Qawra (MS).
- Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*: 1 on 13.12.2001 at St. Lucian (EB); 1 from 11.12 to 25.12.2005 Migra Ferha (MM *et al.*); 1 from 05.12 to 09.12.2007 at Qammieħ (RG/EB *et al.*).
- Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*: 2 on 23 Nov 2002 at Qammieħ (MS/JPF).
- Eye-browed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus*: 1 in January 1999 at Mtaħleb (live specimen photographed); 1 in Oct 1999 or 2000 Wardija (specimen and photograph examined).
- Semi-collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula semitorquata*: 1 ringed on 12.04.1997 at Lunzjata (JG); 1 (female) ringed on 13.04.1997 at Simar(RG); 1 ringed on 29.04.1998 at Ghadira (CG); 1 on 13 Apr 2002 at Kennedy Grove (MS/MP); 1 on 24.04.2002 at Wied Il-Mielħa (Gozo) (RI); 1 ringed on 25.04.2002 at Lunzjata (JG/JM); 1 ringed on 15.04.2003 at Ghadira (CG); 1 ringed on 16.04.2003 at Ghadira (CG); 1 ringed on 14.04.2004 at Comino (MG); 1 ringed on 07.10.2004 at Buskett (MM); 1 ringed on 23.03.2005 Ghadira (CG); 1 photographed on 30.03.06 at Mosta (SF); 1 female on 07.04.10 at Comino (NG).
- Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris*: 1 on 10.11.2004 at Għar Ħasan (specimen examined).
- Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodsgoni*: 1 ringed on 30.11.2003 at Buskett (MG/MM); 1 ringed on 12.12.2005 at Buskett (JAM/MVG); 1 from 17.02 to 25.02.2007 at Saqqajja, Rabat (ringed) (MVG/CGB); 1 ringed on 08.11.2008 at Rabat (MVG/CGB).
- Water Pipit** (*Anthus spinoletta*): 1 on 18.02.1996 at Ta' Qali (MS/MS); 1 ringed on 27.10.1997 at Rabat (MVG); 1 on 08.02.1998 at Anchor Bay (MS); 31.10.1999 at Ta' Qali (MS/MS).
- Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*: 6 (flock) on 06.10.1996 at Kennedy Grove, Salina (MS/MS).
- Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus*: 1 on 12.03.2010 at Mnajdra (NH).
- Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*: 1 immature male on 04.09.1998 at Mdina (MS); 1 juv ringed on 14.09.1998 at Ghadira (CG); 1 (imm.) ringed on 27.09.1998 at Rabat (MVG); 1 ringed on 18.10.1998 at Lunzjata (JG/JM).
- Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*: 1 on 24.01.1993 at Manikata (specimen examined); 1 on 07.10.1999 at Dwejra (Malta) (RG); 1 on 23.09.2000 at Qawra (MS/ CC).
- Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*: 1 on 18-19.11.2001 at Il-Mielħa (Xagħra) (specimen and photograph examined).
- Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos*: 1 trapped in early October 2008 at l/o Qrendi (seized by Police on 11.10.2008 – ringed and released at Ghadira on 13.10.2008 - specimen and photograph examined).
- Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*: 1 male trapped on 09.11.1998 at ix-Xatt I-Aħmar (Gozo) (specimen examined). 1 on 22.10.07 at Ta' L-Għejjun, Gozo (JT/JS).
- Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus*: 1 on 23.10.2003 at Comino (JS/MG).
- Rock Bunting** *Emberiza cia*: 1 on 06.11.2003 at Nadur, Gozo (specimen and photograph examined).
- Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*: 1 on 04.05.2000 at Fomm ir-Riħ (JV).
- Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*: 1 ringed on 04.11.1997 at Lunzjata (JG/JS); 1 ringed on 03.11.1998 at Lunzjata (JG).
- Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*: 1 ringed on 02.11.1998 at Lunzjata (JG); 1 ringed at Salina on 19/11/08 (MVG); 1 ringed at Ghadira on 29/10/09 (CG).
- Black-Headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala*: 1 male at Cirkewwa on 03.04.2004(RG/CC).

Rejected Records

The following records have been discussed during meetings of the Rarities Committee and rejected as they were not felt to have had sufficient evidence to be accepted under the criteria of the AERC. In some cases, submissions with the descriptions were sent to experts abroad for their comment before a final decision was taken. The submitters and the reasons for refusals are not included in this report.

White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*: 2 on 22.09.1999 over Mdina.
Lanner *falco biarmicus*: 1 found shot (injured) on 15.11.2004 at Ghajn Żejtuna.
Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*: 1 on 15.10.2002 Buskett; 1 on 02.10.2004 at Buskett.
Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*: 1 on 15.10.2002 at San Ġwann.
Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*: 1 on 25.06.2000 at Salina.
Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*: 1 on 11.11.2001 off Qawra.
Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*: 1 on 17 Jan 1999 off Pt.St.Elmo; 1 on 29.12.2001 at Qawra; 1 on 26.01.2002 off Pt.St.Elmo.
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*: 1 on 26.12.1999 at Qawra. 1 (1st winter) on 18.01.2003 at Pt. St. Elmo.
Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*: 1 on 31 Dec 2002 off Pt St. Elmo.
Razorbill *Alca torda*: 1 on 16.12.2002 off NE Coast.
Puffin *Fratercula arctica*: 1 on 09.12.2001 off Qawra.
Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*: 1 on 12 Sep 2002 San Ġwann
Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*: 1 on 07.04.2000 at B'kara
Black-browed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*: 1 at San Anton Gardens on 02.05.1993.
Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*: 1 on 26.10.2000 at B'kara.
Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*: 1 female on 02.04.2000 at Ġerma.
Fulvous Babbler *Turdoides fulvus*: 1 on 19.04.2005 at Ghadira.

Revisited Records

A record of a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* (April 1999) which was accepted at the meeting of the National Rarities Committee held on 02.03.01 (and which has appeared in print elsewhere) was recently revisited after new photos of the specimen were presented to the Committee. The Committee were also given the opportunity to examine the specimen itself, which now forms part of the collections at the National Museum of Natural History, and compared it with skins and photos of confirmed Buff-breasted Sandpipers. On the basis of these comparisons the record was rejected.

Pending Records

The following is a list of records which have been submitted to the Rarities Committee but have not yet been discussed. These will be dealt with at the next Rarities Committee meeting.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*: 1 on 18.07.2009 at Ġhallis.
Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*: 1 on 15.02.2005 at Qawra.
Red Knot *Calidris canutus*: 1 (injured) on 02.09.2010 at Ghadira.
Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*: 2 specimens in private collections (December 2005 – off Wied il-Ghajn, and late September 2007 off M'Xlokk) – specimens in private collections – photographed.
Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*: 1 on 11.01.2009 at B'buġa.
Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius*: 1 on 19.10.2009 at Rabat.
Bar-tailed Desert Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*: 1 on 11.11.2010 l.o. Xlendi.
Western Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis*: 1 from 27.05.2010 to 06.06.2010 at Buskett.
African Desert *Sylvia deserti*: 1 on 22-23.04.2010 at Miġra l-Ferħa.
Marmora's Warbler *Sylvia sarda*: 1 on 27-30.10.2010 at Comino.
Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*: 1 trapped in Nov 2010 at Għarb (confiscated by police) released on 20.11.2001.
Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* on 01&03.11.2010 at Ghadira.

Discussions & other Decisions

It was decided that

- (a) the **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*, a specimen of which was shot in December 1993 at St. Thomas Bay when it was seen coming from offshore, should be kept in Category D.
- (b) the **Chukar** *Alectoris chukar* is kept in Category C as this species seems to have established itself on Comino after its introduction and numbers have increased. (See regulation 14 above).
- (c) the **Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis* accepted records above should be kept in category D.

Conclusion

One of the main problems of Rarities Committees in Europe is that some bird watchers do not submit descriptions for official recognition and that a number of records will in due course probably be lost owing to lack of any supporting documentation. This problem also preoccupies the Rarities Committee in Malta. Apart from this some bird-watchers do not consider that a notebook and a pencil are essential tools as much as a pair of binoculars is and more often than not descriptions are jotted down later from memory. Very often records are too poorly documented for a good decision to be

Il-Merill 32 2010

reached. The use of digital photography has helped immensely in the last years, but this should mainly support and not replace totally reliable conventional methods as the origin of photographs can also be questioned. Fortunately in Malta there is only one established ornithological association (BirdLife Malta – formerly Malta Ornithological Society) and only one ornithological journal (*Il-Merill*). As the Rarities Committee is administered by this association only officially accepted records by this Committee are published in this journal, although local newspapers and foreign journals do occasionally carry unverified reports of rare birds.

One of the main tasks of the Rarities Committee should be to update and maintain the national list of the birds of Malta, allocating species to various categories, and detailing accepted records of rare and vagrant species. The Committee will not abstain from reviewing accepted or rejected records during its period of existence if new evidence is presented. It should also embark on a re-assessment of old records published in earlier literature, and if there is clear evidence that a mistake was made or that records were published without proper documentation, will, without being outright ruthless, grade such records as doubtful and/or rejected.

Some European Rarities Committees are very stringent for firsts or whole scale species reviews. This Committee is now following this line and where possible requires photographic evidence. So far the Committee has not taken on board observer reviews, such as have been carried out by some European Committees where an observer is considered unreliable when evidence has built up to that stage. So far the Rarities Committee have not commented on records which have not been submitted but which have appeared in the public domain. It may have to do so in future to clear any doubts and to put the record straight as it is done by some European Rarities Committees.

Acknowledgements

First of all I would like to thank all those bird watchers who co-operated with the Rarities Committee by regularly submitting their records with descriptions and/or photographs. Without their co-operation the Rarities Committee would be superfluous. I would also like to thank Joe Sultana who prepared the first draft of this report, Edward Bonavia who thoroughly checked all the records, and all the members of the Rarities Committee for being patient in examining all the submissions and for their valid comments to this report. Any member who would like any further information on all the above mentioned records should contact the undersigned

John Attard Montalto
(Rarities Committee Co-ordinator)
o.b.o the Members of the Rarities Committee

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Systematic List 2000-2005

Compiled by

Edward Bonavia, John J. Borg, Charles Coleiro, Charles Gauci, Matt Johnson, Andre Raine & Joe Sultana

This list of birds occurring in the Maltese Islands during the years 2000-2005 has been compiled from the observation records, which were submitted by several observers, as well as from the daily log of birds of the Nature Reserves at Għadira and Simar. A list of birds occurring from 2006 to 2010 will appear in the next issue of *II-Merill*. The regular contributors for the six years under review were: Jason Aloisio, David Attard, John Attard Montalto, Ian Balzan, Edward Bonavia, John J. Borg, Denis Cachia, Alex Casha, Charles Coleiro, Raymond Galea, Charles Gauci, Mark Gauci, Gilbert Haber, Manuel Mallia, Joseph M. Mangion, Caldon Mercieca, Michael Sammut, Joe Sultana, and Raymond Vella. Other contributors were Patrick Abela, John Azzopardi, Stefan Azzopardi, Dustin Balzan, Saviour Balzan, Ray Bishop, Norman Bonavia, Guido Bonett, Matthew Borg Cardona, Richard Cachia Zammit, Carl Camillieri, Oliver Cardona, Charmaine Casha, Norman Chetcuti, Victor Cilia, Philip Clay, Ron Clevely, Kevin Crisp, Emanuel Curmi, Denis Degiovanni, Joe Doublet, Desire Falzon, Mark Anthony Falzon, Victor Falzon, Jean Paul Farrugia, Jean-Paul Fiott, Charles Galea Bonavia, Sylvia Falzon, Nicholas Galea, Antoine Gatt, Stanley Gatt, Kevin Gauci, Graziella Grech, Joe Grech, John Grech, John Hayes, Rodney Ingram, Jerry Lewis, Mario Mizzi, Juan Ellul Pirotta, Flath Rouger, Marvic Sammut, Glenn Micallef, John & Hanna Middleton, Silvio Scicluna, Simon Suda, Mark Sultana, Steve Sutcliffe, Aron Tanti, Justin Vassallo, Joseph Vella, and Louis Vella.

The **sequence and the scientific nomenclature** of the last systematic list, which covered the years 1996-1999, and which was published in 2005 (*II-Merill* 31: 1-34), followed the recommendations of the British Ornithologists Union (*Ibis* (2002), 144:707-710; *Ibis* (2004), 146: 153-157; and *Ibis* (2005), 147: 821-826). These entailed, *inter alia*, a new taxonomic order, in which Anseriformes and Galliformes were placed at the start of the list, the correction of the of various scientific names, and the reappraisal of various taxa. Since then there have been three other taxonomic reports (*Ibis* (2007), 149:853-857; *Ibis* (2008), 150: 833-835; and *Ibis* (2010), 152: 180-186), which have been taken up also for this systematic list.

In these reports we find, amongst others, the following recommendations:

- (a) That *Porphyryla* be treated as a sub-genus within *Porphyrio*; thus **Allen's Gallinule** becomes *Porphyrio alleni*.
- (b) Due to phylogenetic analyses of mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences and morphology the shank species in the genera *Xenus*, *Actitis* and *Tringa* should be listed in the following sequence: **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*, **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*, **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*, **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*, **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*, **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*, **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*, **Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*
- (c) To recognise the following species to better reflect recent advances in knowledge of the evolution and systematic of large gulls: **Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans* (monotypic); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* (polytypic, including *fuscus*, *intermedius*, *graellsii*, *heuglini*, *taimyrensis*, *barabensis*); **American Herring Gull** *Larus smithsonianus* (polytypic, including *smithsonianus*, *vegae*, *mongolicus*); **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis* (polytypic, including *michahellis*, *atlantis*); **Armenian Gull** *Larus armenicus* (monotypic); and **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* (polytypic, including *argentatus*, *argenteus*).
- (d) The genus *Chroicocephalus* is recommended for **Slender-billed Gull** and **Black-headed Gull**, amongst others, and the genus *Hydrocoloeus* for **Little Gull**. So the scientific nomenclature for 3 former *Larus* gulls become: **Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus genei*, **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, and **Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*. In compiling this list we have taken up these recommendations, some of which are widely adopted.
- (e) To treat **Green Warbler** *Phylloscopus nitidus* (monotypic) and **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (polytypic with subspecies *trochiloides*, *ludlowi*, *obscuratus*, *plumbeitarsus* and *viridanus*) as two separate species.
- (f) A total revision of the taxonomic sequence of the passerines (as can be noted in the present systematic list).

The **English names** used in this systematic list are those found in the reviewed and updated list of English names (Brit. Birds (2004) 97: 2-5). This list can be down-loaded from www.britishbirds.co.uk (the *British Birds* Website).

All records of rare and vagrant species which appear in this list have been approved by the National Rarities Committee. For those rare species which were not recorded in one or more of the six years under review, the year during which the species was not recorded has been omitted. (M) or (G) following a place name refer to Malta and Gozo respectively.

Mute Swan *Cynus olor*

2002: 9 at St. Thomas Bay (of which at least 6 shot) and 2 at Ta' Gajdorù Xagħra on 20 Jan. 1 at Qawra and Aħrax on 17 Dec.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

2001: flock of 53 over Victoria on 20 Dec.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

2001: 1 shot at Marsalforn Valley on 20 Dec. (1st record for Malta).

***Anser* sp.**

2001: Flock of 60 "grey geese" over Victoria on 20 Dec .

2002: Flock of 12 over Victoria on 27 Nov .

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

2000: 1 from 1 Jan to 16 Feb, 6 on 17-18 Feb and 2 on 19-22 Feb, all at Għadira. 12 at Qammieħ on 11 Mar and 8 at B'Bugia on 16 Apr. In autumn, 3 at Qawra on 22 Oct, then up to 6 on 12 dates from 12 Nov to 26 Dec, but 11 on 22 Nov and on 24 Dec, both at Qawra.

2001: 8 at Ċirkewwa on 12 Mar. Then in single or low double figures on 17 dates from 2 Nov till 29 Dec (all at Għadira and Qawra (except for 5 at San Luċjan on 13 Dec) with max. of 19 on 17 Nov, and 20 on 5th and 18 on 12 Dec, all at Qawra.

2002: 1 at Salina on 5 Jan and 6 at Pt St Elmo on 12 Jan. 5 sightings in spring: 7 on 23 Feb, 7 on 9 Mar, 38 on 23 Mar, 6 on 26 Mar and 6 on 30 Mar, all in Malta-Gozo channel. In autumn, 18 on 27 Oct and 3 on 28 Oct, both at Qawra, then up to 7 at Qawra and Għallis on 8 dates from 25 Nov to 21 Dec, but 25 at Għallis and 24 at Qawra on 8 Dec.

2003: 8 at Ċirkewwa on 21 Mar. In autumn, 3 at Qawra on 3 Nov, then 1-4 on 4 days from 4-10 Dec, mostly at Qawra.

2004: One at Għadira on 13 Jan; then in Mar with 6 on 6th and 16 on 9th, both at Ċirkewwa. Early sightings with 2 at Comino on 25 Jul and in Sep with 3 at Delimara on 22nd. Then 1-6 on 12 dates in Nov from 7 – 30th but 32 on 7th and 18 on 8th at Qawra, 46 at Pt. St Elmo on 21st and 16 over Red Tower on 22nd. Singles at Għadira from 25 Nov to 17 Dec and 2 from 21-31 Dec with 3 on 29th. Outside Għadira in Dec: singles on 17-19th and 5 at Qawra on 20th and 31st. Most sightings from the East coast.

2005: 1-3 on 4 dates from 1 Jan to 14 Jan. In autumn, 7 on 16 Oct at Qawra, then up to 9 on 12 dates from 7 Nov to 29 Dec, but 25 at Qawra on 28 Nov and 19 at Sliema and 52 at Bahar iċ-Ċagħaq on 17 Dec.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas Penelope*

2000: 35 at Qammieħ on 18 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on 15-16 Oct, 13 at Qawra on 18 Oct and singles again at Għadira on 1 Nov and 18-19 Nov. In Dec: 1 at Simar on 1 Dec, then up to 5 daily from 12-18 Dec, but 29 at Qawra on 14 Dec. 19 at Qawra on 24 Dec. **2001:** In spring on 3 dates in March: 19 on 4th, 11 on 9th and 1 on 14th at Ċirkewwa/Qammieħ. Then single at Simar daily from 12 Oct till 8 Nov and at Għadira from 7-21 Nov. Up to 4 also at Simar on 10 dates from 30 Nov to 12 Dec. At Qawra in single, double or low treble figures on 19 scattered dates from 28 Oct to 22 Dec, max. 105 on 1st, 107 on 4th and 94 on 5 Dec. The only record outside the above locations was a single at Xgħajra on 2 Nov.

2002: 2 records in spring: 25 at Ċirkewwa on 22 Feb and 14 at Qammieħ on 23 Mar. In autumn, up to 10 on 9 dates from 20 Oct to 22 Nov, but 25 on 25 Oct and 30+ on 27 Oct, both at Qawra.

2003: On 11 days from 12 Oct to 26 Dec, with most sightings at Qawra, mostly 1-5 but 10 on 11 Nov and 18 on 3 Dec.

2004: First sightings in Sep with 1 at Għadira on 27th and 2 at Qawra on 29th, then singles in Oct at Luqa on 7th and at Qawra on 9th. 3 at Qawra on 25 Oct; then 1-7 on 7 dates in Nov but max. 75 on 3rd, 22 on 19th and 11 on 27th, all at Qawra. 1-2 at Għadira from 27 Nov increasing to 3-4 from 10-28 Dec. 1-2 from other sites in Dec on 8-9th and 20th.

2005: 1 record in spring: 25 at Ċirkewwa on 25 Feb. In autumn, up to 6 on 14 dates from 19 Oct to 26 Dec (mainly of a single female at Simar), but 30 at Pt. St. Elmo on 7 Nov.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

2000: 3 at Qawra on 24 Dec.

2001: 7 on 10th and 5 on 13 Dec at Qawra and 1-2 daily at Għadira from 15-18 Dec.

2004: Two sightings at Qawra with 2 on 21 Nov and flock of 8 on 24 Dec.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

2000: Up to six birds at Għadira from 1 Jan to 23 Feb. Single birds on most days from 26 Aug to end of year at Simar and Għadira. 5 at Qawra on 24 Dec. only sighting away from the two reserves.

2001: 1-6 at Għadira and Simar almost daily from 1 Jan to 18 Feb. Only 1 sighting outside the reserves: 1 at Wied I-Għasri on 4 Jan. Then 1 at Ċirkewwa on 6 Mar. 1-2 almost daily from 27 Aug to 10 Sep, all at Simar except for singles at Buskett on 1 Sep and at Għadira on 5 Sep. Then single figures on most days at Għadira, Qawra and Simar from 23 Sep to 31 Dec, but 25 on 30 Sep and 12 on 3 Nov, both at Qawra.

2002: Up to 6 at Simar almost daily from 1 Jan to 2 Apr, but 9 on 31 Jan. Outside Simar: 3 at Għadira on 19 Feb, singles at Ċirkewwa on 4 Mar, and singles at Qammieħ on 23-24 Mar. 1 at Simar on 11 Apr. In autumn, up to 7 on 4 dates from 20-28 Oct, most from Qawra. Then daily from 20-23 Nov, in singles but 10 at Simar and 11 at Qawra on 21 Nov. 1-2 at Simar on 11 dates in Dec from 2-17 Dec. 11 at Għallis on 11 Dec.

2003: Singles at Simar on 1-2 Feb and at Għadira on 16 Mar. In autumn 1-3, mainly at Għadira, on 4 days from 1 Sep to 4 Oct, then up to 8 on 12 days from 1-26 Nov but 14 at Qawra on first date and 20 at Qawra on 5 Nov. All sightings from Għadira, Simar and Qawra. Singles at Simar on 18 Dec and at Għadira on 20 Dec.

II-Merill 32 2010

2004: Singles at Simar in Jan from 1-11th and 27-29th, in Feb from 7-19th, in Aug from 13-27th and on 5 dates from 16 Sep to 7 Oct. Again at Simar with 1-2 daily from 3 Nov to end of year but 3 on 1-9 Dec. At Għadira singles on 9 May and 19-27 Sep, then 1-4 from 24 Oct to 21 Nov but 5 on 3 Nov. 4 on 21 Dec. Outside Simar and Għadira: 17 on 27 Aug at Qawra and in Sep with 1 on 11th at Tigne and 5 on 19th at Qawra. Then in Nov with 9 on 3rd, 5 on 4th and 10 on 5th, all at Qawra and 11 on 4th and 1 on 5th at M'scala whilst 2 at Red Tower on 5th. Singles at 2 sites on 21st and 2 at Salina on 25th, both in Nov.

2005: 2 at Simar almost daily from 2 Jan to 13 Feb. Outside Simar, 1 at Għadira on 2 Jan and 1 from 20 Mar to 26 Mar. 1 at Simar almost daily from 15-21 Jul. In autumn, up to 9 on 18 dates from 17 Aug to 8 Sep, all at Simar, except for a single at Għadira. At Simar, 1-3 almost daily from 21 Sep to 31 Dec, but 6 on 16-17 Nov. Outside Simar, 1-2 regularly at Għadira from 8 Sep to 18 Dec, 6 at Ġnejna Bay on 25 Sep, 4 at Pembroke on 15 Sep, up to 5 on 4 dates at Qawra from 16 Oct to 23 Nov, and single at Salina on 26 Dec.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

2000: Singles on 3-5 Jan, and from 19-29 Dec at Simar. 1 female at Għadira on 28 Nov.

2001: Singles at Għadira on 21 Nov and at Qawra on 23 Nov, then 7 at Qawra on 11 Dec, 7 at Għadira and 6 at Qawra on 12 Dec, 1 at Simar on 13-15 Dec and 1 at Qawra on 22 Dec.

2002: 2 on 2 Jan and 1 on 3-4 Jan, both at Simar. Singles at Għadira on 7 Jan and at Simar on 22-23 Apr. 1 at Simar from 16 Aug to 23 Dec and 2 at Għadira on 15 Nov.

2004: 1 on 23 Aug, then 5 on 11-12th and 1-2 in Nov – Dec, all at Għadira. Other sightings in Nov with 1 at M'scala on 5th and 2 at Qawra on 6th, then singles at Simar on 15-16th and at Pt.St. Elmo on 21st. Also 10 at Ramla Valley on 27th and 2 at Pt.St.Elmo on 28th.

2005: Singles at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 10 Apr and at Salina on 28 Aug. In Nov, 5 at Simar on 22 Nov, 1 at Qawra on 23 Nov and 2 at Simar on 24 Nov.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

2000: First birds in Gozo Channel on 19 Feb with 73 birds seen, 115 recorded in the same area in the following day. Single bird at Għadira from 23-26 Feb. 9 sightings in March mainly off Qammieħ Point: highest being 100 on 16th, 93 on 18th, 80 on 20th and 61 on 21st. First autumn birds on 6 Oct with 33 off Qawra. Recorded on most days in Oct with 112 off Qawra on 14 Oct highest. Up to 2 birds at Għadira throughout Dec.

2001: 1 at Għadira from 1-6 Jan, and 5-35 daily at Ċirkewwa from 9-13 Feb. Then in double or treble figures almost daily off Ċirkewwa from 3-16 Mar (max 337 on 5th, 353 on 6th, 448 on 8th, 110 on 15th) but 1500 on 9th. Last spring record: 40 off Ċirkewwa on 5 Apr. 1 at Qawra on 24 Aug and 8 at Tigne on 17 Sep. Then in single or low double figures of up to 35 on most dates from 1 Oct to 20 Nov, but 158 at Qawra on 3 Nov. 19 on 1st and 9 on 12 Dec at Qawra. 1 injured bird released at Għadira on 10 Mar stayed till 2 Aug.

2002: 10-53 on 7 dates from 22 Feb to 4 Mar, but 160 on 1 Mar, 307 on 2 Mar and 390 on 3 Mar, all at Ċirkewwa. Daily from 23-29 Mar, highest 221 on 25 Mar and 244 on 26 Mar, both at Qammieħ, otherwise up to 150. In autumn, 3 at Simar and 1 at Żebbuġ (M) on 13 Sep, then almost daily from 1-26 Oct, mainly at Simar and Qawra, in single or double figures of up to 72 but 384 on 20 Oct and 286 on 21 Oct, both at Qawra. 1 on 2 Nov, 15 on 21 Nov and 1 on 20 Dec, all from Qawra.

2003: Spring passage from 9 Feb to 19 Mar, with peaks on 20-24 Feb and 11-14 Mar. Treble figures in south Comino Channel on 8 days: 278 on 21 Feb, 145 on 22 Feb, 662 on 23 Feb (when 250 also at Fomm ir-Riħ) and 128 on 24 Feb; and 310 on 11 Mar, 1000+ on 12 Mar, 665 on 13 Mar and 150 on 14 Mar. In autumn 1 on 16 Sep and 8 on 19 Sep, 1 on 4 Oct, 3 on 13 Oct, 1 on 14 Oct, and 2 on 18 Oct, all at Qawra, and singles at Għadira on 11 Oct and 17 Oct. Then on 15 days, mostly at Qawra, from 30 Oct to 16 Nov when mostly in single to low double figures, but 156 on 1 Nov. Singles on 28 Nov and 4 Dec.

2004: All sightings in spring in Mar with 108 on 3rd, 13 on 6th, 141 on 8th, 2400 on 9th, 1300 on 10th, 610 on 11th and 200 on 12th, all at Ċirkewwa except 35 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 3rd. Then in Sep with 6 on 8th, 19 on 26th and 22 on 30th, all at Qawra. Again at Qawra in Oct with 1 on 9th and 10 on 16th, then 2 at Simar from 10-23 Oct. Double figures of up to 70 daily from 25 Oct to 6 Nov mainly from the East coast but 458 at Qawra and 316 at M'scala on 4th, 207 on 3rd and 236 on 5th, both at Qawra. 1 at Għadira from 7-15 Nov and 7 on 12th and 6 on 21st from the East Coast.

2005: 1-4 on 7 dates from 18 Feb to 6 Mar, but 50 on 24 Feb and 130+ on 25 Feb, both at Ċirkewwa. Almost daily from 15-25 Mar, highest 147 on 15 Mar and 254 on 19 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa., otherwise up to 124. Singles at Simar on 25 and 27 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Marsascula on 24 Aug, 8 at Għadira on 21 Sep and 26 at Qawra on 4 Oct, then almost daily from 16 Oct to 11 Nov, mainly at Simar and Qawra, in single or double figures of up to 32, but 58 at Sliema on 16 Oct, 61 at Qawra on 17 Oct and 40 at Qawra on 25 Oct. 1 at Simar on 15 Nov, 36 at Pt.St. Elmo on 16 Nov, 11 on 22 Nov and 9 on 23 Nov, both from Qawra.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

2000: Spring passage from 16-24 Mar with most sightings from Qammieħ. Highest counts include: 160 on 16th and 140 on 17th 200 on 18th and 500 on 24th March, all at Qammieħ. 29 birds were seen at Ċirkewwa on 12 Apr. One to two birds at Simar on 2-4 May and 5-10 Aug. 1 at Għadira on 23-24 Aug. Single bird at Simar from 23 Aug to 16 Oct. 1 bird off Qawra on 10 Sep.

2001: In single, double or treble figures daily from 3-29 Mar; max. 110 on 9th, 300 on 11th, 890 on 14th, and 125 on 15th, but 2366 on 10th, all Qammieħ, Ċirkewwa, Gozo Channel area. Then 78 on 5th, 1000 on 6th, 114 on 7th and 20 on 8th, all in Apr again all from Qammieħ, Ċirkewwa, Gozo Channel area. In autumn, in single or low double figures of up to 12 on 10 dates from 12 Aug to 6 Sep, but 16 at Simar on 5 Sep. Then 4 at Qawra on 28 Sep, 2 at Qawra on 12 Oct and 1 at Xgħajra on 3 Nov.

2002: 3 on 1 Mar and 20 on 5 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa, then up to 420 recorded on 10 dates from 21-31 Mar, mostly from Malta-Gozo channel, but 1450 on 22 Mar, 3700 on 23 Mar, 3800 on 24 Mar, 2500 on 25 Mar, and 1500 on 26 Mar. 2 records in autumn: 5 at M'Scala on 9 Aug and 12 at Qawra on 29 Sep.

2003: 54 on 23 Feb and 27 on 24 Feb at Ċirkewwa, then heavy passage from 8-20 Mar with highest concentrations at Ċirkewwa where numbers ran into four figures on 5 days with max of 3000 on 18 Mar. Then 70 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar, 20 at Miġra l-Ferġa and 1 at Għadira on 1 Apr, and a late bird at Simar on 23-29 May. In autumn 1-4 on 5 days from 12-20 Sep; but 26 on 15 Sep and 42 on 16 Sep, both at Qawra.

2004: Daily at Ċirkewwa in Mar from 9-13th with max. 684 on 12th and 270 on 9th, otherwise 5-20. Then almost daily again at Ċirkewwa from 23 Mar to 3 Apr when mostly in double figures but max.400 on 23rd, 220 on 24th and 130 on 26th. In autumn from Aug with 1 at Għadira on 4th, then 9 at Qawra on 22nd, 8 over Għadira on 24th and 24 at Qawra on 28th. In Sep, 22 at Qawra on 5th, 12 at Pt.St.Elmo and 25 at Qawra on 19th, and 2 at Qawra on 26th. 1 at Simar from 19 Sep to 15 Oct with 2 on last date.

2005: 50+ on 25 Feb at Ċirkewwa, then up to 87 almost daily from 13 Mar to 2 Apr, mostly from Malta-Gozo Channel, but 127 on 13 Mar and 173 on 16 Mar. 1 at Simar almost daily from 3-15 Apr. In autumn, 1-3 almost daily between 16 Aug to 8 Sep, mainly from Simar, but 7 at Għallis on 16 Aug, 3 on 20 Aug and singles on 27 Aug and 31 Aug all at Qawra, and 1 on 3 Sep at Xlendi. 10 on 10 Sep and 6 on 25 Sep at Qawra and 9 on 25 Sep at Pt.St. Elmo.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

2000: Singles at Qammieħ on 29 Jan and at Għadira from 29 Jan to 14 Feb. 3 sightings in March at Qammieħ: 2 on 11 Mar, 10 on 16 Mar, and 30 on 19 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Salina on 30-31 Aug, 3 on 17 Sep, 6 on 7 Oct, 12 on 8 Oct, 14 on 18 Oct, and 54 on 11 Nov, all from Qawra. 8 sightings in Dec from 13-26 Dec, all of singles except for 24 on first date and 36 on 24 Dec, both at Qawra.

2001: In single or double figures of up to 50 on 5 dates from 5-15 Mar, but 140 on 9 Mar and 123 on 10 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa. Then up to 20 on 3 dates at Ċirkewwa from 5-8 Apr. 3 on 12 Aug and 10 on 2 Oct, both at Qawra. Then in single or low double figures of up to 30 on 18 dates from 27 Oct to 9 Dec, but 83 on 3rd and 73 on 30 Nov, and 68 on 1st and 41 on 6 Dec, all at Qawra. 1 at Għadira on 22 Dec.

2002: 1 at Simar on 4 Jan and 2 at Ċirkewwa on 16 Feb. 2 daily at Għadira and Simar (same birds) from 19 Feb to 18 Mar, 35 on 1 Mar and 17 on 3 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa, and 2 at Msida on 6 Mar. Then in single or double figures on 6 dates at Ċirkewwa from 21-27 Mar, highest 79 on 26 Mar, otherwise up to 56. In autumn, 25 on 24 Sep, 3 on 26 Sep, 7 on 30 Sep, 2 on 22 Oct, 30 on 23 Oct, 2 on 26 Oct, 25 on 27 Oct, 7 on 20 Nov, 10 on 21 Nov, and 1 on 16 Dec, all from Qawra.

2003: 1 at Simar on 13-15 Feb, then on 5 days at Ċirkewwa: 60 on 21 Feb; and 20 on 13 Mar, 117 on 14 Mar, 6 on 18 Mar and 5 on 19 Mar. In autumn 1 at Qawra on 16 Sep, then on 16 days, mostly at Qawra, from 12 Oct to 12 Dec; single to very low double figures, but 50 on 6 Nov and 70 on 11 Nov.

2004: 1 at Għadira on 3 Jan. Then in Mar with 2-20 daily at Ċirkewwa from 8-12th but 200 on 9th. 13 on 23 Mar also at Ċirkewwa. In autumn 5 at Qawra on 27 Aug, then singles at Simar from 8-24 Sep and from 10-30 Oct. On 3 dates at Qawra with 9 on 22 Sep, then 3 on 29 Sep and 3 Oct. Almost daily from 30 Oct to 24 Nov with low double figures on most days mainly from the East coast. Usually up to 16 but 32 at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on 30 Oct, 34 at M'scala and 27 at Qawra on 4th, 25 at Qawra on 5th and 22 at Għallis on 24th. Singles at Simar from 6-24th. In Dec singles on 9th and 21st, then 18 on 28th all at Qawra.

2005: 1 at Pembroke on 1 Feb, 10 at Ċirkewwa on 25 Feb, singles on 15-16 Mar at Ċirkewwa, 4 on 16-17 Mar at Għadira, 14 on 19 Mar and 1 on 5 Apr, both at Ċirkewwa. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on 29 Aug, 7 at Qawra on 17 Sep, 15 on 16 Oct at Sliema and 4 on 17 Oct at Qawra. Singles at Simar regularly from 19 Oct-2 Nov, and almost daily from 2-14 Dec. Outside Simar: 3 on 19 Oct and 9 on 29 Oct, both at Qawra, 4 on 19 Nov at Pt.St. Elmo, 1 on 23 Nov, 2 on 28 Nov and 6 on 12 Dec, all at Qawra, 1 on 15 Dec at Għadira and 4 on 23 Dec at Qawra.

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

2004: 3 at Għadira on 17 Dec.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

2000: Singles at Simar from 16-26 Feb, and on 8-9 Mar. Singles at Simar on 6 dates from 21 Jul to 30 Aug, at Għar Lapsi on 15 Aug and at Salina and Qawra on 26 Oct. 1 again at Simar on most dates from 6-31 Dec.

2001: 1-2 almost daily at Għadira and Simar from 2 Jan to 2 Mar. Then 1 at Simar on most dates from 11-29 Sep and 1 at Qawra on 21 Sep. 2 on 7th and 1 on 22 Nov at Għadira, and singles at Għadira and Simar on 5 dates from 20-29 Dec.

2002: Singles at Simar from 1 Jan to 28 Feb and from 22 Nov to 19 Dec. 1-2 at Għadira from 16-30 Dec.

2003: 1-2 on and off at Għadira from 1 Jan to 13 Feb and at Simar from 8 Jan to 20 Feb, then 7 at Ċirkewwa on 21 Feb and 1 at Għadira on 22 Mar, 26 Mar and 28 Mar and from 31 Mar to 3 Apr. In autumn, 9 on 13 Oct and 20 on 5 Nov, both at Qawra and 1 alternating between Għadira and Simar from 11 Nov to 31 Dec.

2004: Male at Għadira from Jan-Mar till 7th but 2 males in Feb from 19-28th. Singles males at Simar in Feb on 19th and 27th.

2005: 1-2 at Simar on 3 dates from 13-16 Apr. In autumn, singles regularly at Simar from 5-14 Oct, 3 at Qawra on 6 Oct, 2 at Għallis on 26 Nov, 1 at Għadira on 9 Dec and singles on 11 Dec at Qawra and Pt.St. Elmo.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

2000: 1 at Għadira on 26 Feb. Migration between 16-21 March off Qammieħ with 205 on 18 Mar highest. 1 on 1 Apr and 17 Jun, 2 on 8 July than one bird from 21 Jul to 30 Aug almost daily all at Simar. 1 on 1 Aug at Għadira, 3 at Qawra on 22 Oct, single bird at Simar from 24 Oct to 7 Dec, and one bird at Għadira from 11th to 30 Dec.

2001: 1 at Għadira from 1-28 Jan and 1-2 almost daily at Simar from 29 Jan to 24 Mar, but 3 at same place on 12 Feb. Then in double figures on 7 dates at Ċirkewwa from 5 Mar to 5 Apr, max. 42 on 5 Mar^h and 30 on 10 Mar. Singles at Għadira on 26 Jun and at Simar on 11 Jul. In autumn 3 sightings from Qawra: 18 on 12 Sep, 25 on 3 Oct and 24 on 24 Oct.

II-Merill 32 2010

2002: Only recorded in spring: 25 on 5 Mar, then 24-70 daily at Malta-Gozo Channel from 23-29 Mar, but 220 on 28 Mar. 1 at Simar from 2-7 Apr and 3 at same place on 16 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 17 May and on 14 Jun.

2003: 1 at Għadira on 20 Jan and 23-25 Jan, then on 8 days at Ċirkewwa from 9-18 Mar, with 160 on 12 Mar and 10-50 on other days. Then singles at Simar from 24 Mar to 11 Apr and 1 at Għadira on 6 Apr. In autumn 2 on 8 Sep, 13 on 14 Oct and 28 on 8 Nov at Qawra.

2004: First spring sightings at Simar in Mar with 2 males from 2-7th. Then at Ċirkewwa, also in Mar, with 70 on 9th, 15 on 10th, 20 on 12th and 21 on 29th. 1-2 at Għadira from 30 Mar to 1 Apr and singles at Simar on 30th and Miġra l-Ferġa on 31st, both in Mar. Flock of 30 at Ċirkewwa on 3 Apr. Then in Oct with 12 at Qawra on 1st and 1 at Simar from 8-22nd, followed by 1 at Qawra on 27th. In Nov 5 at M'scala and 4 at Qawra on 4th, then 1 at M'scala and flock of 35 at Qawra on 5th. 1 at Għadira on 25-27 Nov.

2005: 30 on 25 Feb at Ċirkewwa, then up to 105 almost daily at Malta-Gozo Channel from 15-21 Mar, but 171 on 16 Mar and 145 on 19 Mar. Only one record outside the channel: 1 at Għadira on 20 Mar. 1-2 almost daily from 10-18 June at Simar. In autumn, 1 at Simar almost daily from 28 Aug to 3 Sep, and 10 on 29 Oct at Qawra.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

2001: 2 at Qawra on 18 Nov.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

2005: 2 (1 shot) at St. Thomas Bay on 18 Nov.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

2001: 1 at Għadira on 20 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

2000: 2 at Qawra on 13 Nov.

2001: 2 on 13th, 1 on 14th, 2 on 20th, and 4 on 26th, all at Qawra in Nov.

2002: 1 at Ċirkewwa on 22 Mar. 1-2 on 9 dates from 15 Nov to 22 Dec, but 2 on 13th and 6 on 21st both in Nov at Qawra.

2003: 6 on 15 Nov, then 1 on 4 Dec, 2 on 6 Dec and 1 on 7-9 Dec, all at Qawra.

2004: On 6 dates in Nov with 2 at M'scala on 5th, 1 at Qawra on 6th, 6 at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on 17th and 3 at Qawra on 20th. Then singles at M'scala and Pt. St Elmo on 21st, followed by 2 at Għallis and 1 at Qawra on 24th.

2005: 1-3 on 11 dates from 19 Nov to 18 Dec, but 4 at Comino on 4 Dec and 4 at Qawra on 9 Dec.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

2000: Recorded in all months except for June. One early bird on 3 Jan at Għadira, then present in same location on various dates from 03 Feb to 23 Mar. Single birds from different localities in Malta, Gozo and Comino throughout Apr; highest number 8 at Qawra on 15 Apr. One on Comino on 10 May last spring sighting. 1 at Għadira on 3 July than recorded on most days, mainly in single figures from 13 Aug to 8 Nov. Maxima 8 at Qawra on 1 Oct. Single birds at Għadira on 3 and 8 Dec.

2001: Singles at Simar and Ta' Gajdoru on 9 Feb and again at Ta' Gajdoru on 20 Feb. Then 1 at Mizieb on 13 Mar, and 1-2 on 17 dates (20 localities) from 5 Apr to 12 May; an influx of ca. 150 on 8 Apr in the NW part of Gozo and 6 at Mellieħa on 12 Apr. 1 at Simar on 29 Jun. In autumn, singles at Tigne on 22nd and at Sliema on 30 Sep and at Qawra on 21st and 25 Oct and 3 Nov.

2002: 1-3 on most days from 3 Mar to 15 Apr, and singles on 3 dates from 2-15 May. In autumn, singles on 5 Sep, 7 Oct and 23 Oct.

2003: 1 on 25 Feb, then 1-2 on 31 days from 10 Mar to 6 May and singles on 27 May and 31 May and on 13 Jun. In autumn 1 on 14 Aug, 1 at Qawra on 17 Sep, 10+ at Qawra on 19 Sep, then singles on 4 days from 28 Sep to 23 Oct. 1 on 26 Dec.

2004: Singles at 4 sites on 6 dates in Feb from 10-28th but 3 at Għadira on 27th. Singles again on 5 dates from 17 Mar to 1 Apr from 5 sites, then 3 on 10th and 2 on 11th both at Dwejra, Malta. Singles almost daily in Apr from 11-28th, then in May on 3-4th and 8th but 2 at Salina 25 Apr. In autumn in singles again at 2 sites on 6th and 21 Sep, and also at 2 sites in Oct on 30-31st. Then in Nov with 6 at M'scala on 4th and singles on 7th and 12th.

2005: 1-2 on 6 days from 4-23 Jan at Għadira, but 2 at Cumnija on 10 Jan. 1-3 on most days from 22 Feb to 1 May, and singles on 3 dates from 9-22 May. Singles at Għadira on 5 Jun and at Chadwick Lakes on 12 Jun. In autumn, 1 on 3 Sep, 5 on 18 Sep, 1 on 29 Sep, 4 at Daħlet Qorrot and 9 at Qawra on 7 Oct and 1 on 29 Oct.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

2000: Single bird on 4 dates in January and 3 dates in February at Simar, 2 birds at Simar from 10 Oct till end of year and one bird at Għadira from 22 Oct till end of year. Only one sighting away from the two nature reserves; 1 at Għadira Bay on 2 Nov.

2001: 1-2 at Għadira and Simar almost daily from 1 Jan to 8 Feb, then 1 at Għadira from 18 Feb to 4 Mar. 1 at Simar on 1 Oct.

2003: 1 at Għadira from 19 Sep to 6 Oct, then 2 on to 31 Dec. Also 1 at Simar seen on most days from 16 Oct to 31 Dec.

2004: 2 wintered at Għadira between Jan – Mar till 13th, decreasing to 1 till 18 Mar. 1 wintering at Simar stayed between Jan – Feb till 23rd. 1 at Salina during summer from 23-28 Jul and irregularly from 5-17 Aug. 1 again at Simar from 26 Oct to end of year.

2005: 1 at Simar from Jan to 19 Mar. Singles at Salina on 27-28 Aug and again at Simar from 19 Sep to 8 Nov but 2 on 24th and 27 Oct. 1-2 at Simar from 9-27 Nov with 3 on 22nd. Counts of 6 on 28 Nov and 5 on 16 Dec, otherwise 4 till end of year, all at Simar. At Għadira, singles on 12 Oct and from 9-20 Dec when found dead.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

2000: 1 spring record; 1 at Qammieħ on 20 Mar. Recorded 7 times in autumn between 26 Oct and 14 Dec all at Qawra. 11 birds on 26 Oct highest.

2001: 1 at Qawra on 1 Jan. 5 records of 1-3 on 5 dates from 5 Mar to 3 Apr and 21 in Gozo Channel on 3 Apr. Then 2 at Tigne on 10 Oct and 1-4 on 13 dates at Qawra from 12 Oct to end of year, but 33 on 6th, 17 on 8th and 10 on 25 Nov.

2002: 2 records in spring: 2 at Ċirkewwa on 23 Feb and 2 at Mġarr (G) on 18 Mar. Singles at Ramla on 20 Sep and at Qawra on 29 Sep, then in single or low double figures of up to 25 on 13 dates from 18 Oct to 25 Dec, but 87 at Qawra on 28 Oct.

2003: 2 on 8 Mar and 3 on 12 Mar at Ċirkewwa. 5 at Qawra on 19 Sep, then 1-8 on 7 days from 26 Oct to 6 Dec, with most at Qawra.

2004: All spring sightings at Ċirkewwa with 4 on 8th, 1 on 10th, 3 on 12th and 2 on 31st; all in Mar. Then in Apr with 20 on 1st and 1 on 3rd. In autumn singles at Qawra on 29-30 Sep, 24th and 27 Oct but also at Pt.St.Elmo on 24 Oct. Then 1-3 on 5 dates in Nov from 3-10 but 20 at Qawra on 7th. Almost daily from 19 Nov to 15 Dec but daily at Għadira between 27 Nov and 5 Dec with 3 till 3 Dec and 1 on 4-5th. Otherwise 1-6 from various sites mainly on the East coast but 90 at Qawra on 19 Nov. 1 at Għadira Bay on 21-23 Dec.

2005: 5 at Qawra on 4 Oct and 7 at Qawra on 17 Oct, then 1-3 almost daily from 4-11 Nov at Qawra, but 7 on 8 Nov. 1-3 at 4 locations on 9 days from 19 Nov - 27 Dec.

Black Necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

2000: Two birds present at Għadira from 1 Jan to 3 Mar. 1-2 at Għadira and Simar from 1 Sep till end of year. Outside the reserves: 1-2 at Salina on various dates from 14 Sep to 26 Oct, 3 at Marsaxlokk on 5 Oct, 1 at Qawra on 23 Oct, 10 at Qawra on 14 Nov and 1 at Msida Creek on 2 Dec.

2001: Singles at Għadira from 1 Jan to 4 Feb, at Salina from 20 Aug to 8 Sep and at Simar from 10 Sep to 2 Oct. Then 1-2 almost daily, mainly at Għadira and Simar, from 17 Nov till end of year, but 15 on 8 Nov and 6 on 1 Dec, both records at Qawra.

2002: 1 at Simar from 1-8 Jan and up to 3 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 5 Mar. Singles at Tigne' on 5 Sep, at Qawra on 28 Sep, at Għadira on 1 Oct and at Qawra on 20 Oct. 4 at Qawra on 26 Oct then singles at Simar daily from 28 Oct to 2 Nov and on most days from 10 Nov to 14 Dec but 2 on 18 Nov. 1 at Għadira almost daily from 19 Nov till end of year. Outside the reserves: 2 on 2 Nov and 1 on 12 Nov, both at Pt St Elmo, and singles at Qawra on 14 Nov, 18 Nov and 20 Nov, and at Salina on 27 Nov.

2003: 1 at Għadira on 1-2 Jan, 2 on 4-10 Jan, and 1 from 11 Jan-7 Feb. 10 at Miġra L-Ferħa on 2 Apr. In autumn 2 at Għadira on 22 Aug, then 1 till 1 Sep; 3 from 20 Sep, increasing to 4 on 30 Sep, then down to 3 on 6 Oct and 2 on 7-19 Oct. Again 3 from 20 Oct, increasing to 4 on 24 Oct and 5 on 17-31 Dec. 8 sightings outside Għadira, with 1 at Qawra on 16 Sep, 4 at Qawra on 10 Oct, 1 at Qawra on 13 Nov and 1 staying at Simar from 15-29 Nov.

2004: 5 wintering at Għadira during Jan-Feb, then decreasing gradually in Mar till 22nd. Only other sighting in spring at Ċirkewwa with 15 on 7 Mar. In autumn singles at Għadira from 28 Aug to 30 Sep, occasionally 2 but 3 on 24-26 Sep. Again at Għadira with 1 increasing to 2 between 16 Nov and 5 Dec but 3 on 18 Nov. 8 sightings outside Għadira with singles at Simar on 30 Aug and at Xlendi on 4 Sep; then at Qawra on 12 Sep, 8 Oct and 7 Nov. 1 at Salina on 18th but 25 at Ricasoli on 20th, both in Nov. 1 at Pembroke on 3 Dec.

2005: 15 on 1 Mar and 2 on 2 Apr, both at Ċirkewwa. 1-3 at Simar almost daily from 24 Aug to 30 Sep and singles regularly from 10-20 Oct and again on 26 Dec. Singles at Għadira almost daily from 29 Nov to 9 Dec, and again from 29-31 Dec. Outside reserves: 1 on 26-28 Aug and on 5 dates between 4 Sep and 16 Oct at Salina. 1-3 on 12 dates from 17 Nov to 18 Dec, but 4 on 5 Dec, also at Salina. 1 at Xwejni on 30 Aug, 1 at Għar Lapsi on 21 Sep, 4 on 2 Dec and 2 on 12 Dec, both at Qawra, and 1 on 26 Dec at Rinella.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

2000: First bird sighted on 20 Feb off Lapsi, Recorded daily offshore or at breeding colonies from 2 March to 28 Nov (last sighting). Low treble figures counted offshore with highest count being 1000+ off Għar Ħasan on 21 Jul,

2001: First single seen off Qawra on 12 Feb then present regularly until final sighting also off Qawra on 13 Nov. Triple figures on 32 dates from 11 Mar to 28 Sep and up to 3000 on 6 dates, max. 2000 off Hal Far on 12 Mar and 3000 off Għar Lapsi on 10 Apr.

2002: 1 at Miġra L-Ferħa on 16 Feb. Regularly present from 23 Feb till 15 Nov. Best counts: 3000+ off Miġra L-Ferħa on 10 Apr and 3000+ off Delimara and Qawra on 12 Aug. 1 at Qawra on 14 Dec was unusual.

2003: First on 18 Feb, then in varying numbers, mainly at Ċirkewwa, from 21 Feb to late Apr with max of 1000 on 10 Mar. Frequent offshore from May to Jul with another max of 1000 at Għallis on 29 Jul. Then almost daily in Aug-Oct and on to 5 Nov, often in low to medium treble figures. As usual a few newly-fledged young found inland, the last on 7 Nov. Bred in usual colonies.

2004: Breeding visitor. First sighting at Ċirkewwa on 10 Feb then regular offshore sightings till 26 Nov. Up to 200 already in Feb with treble figures regularly from various sites. Usually up to 300, mainly between Apr-Sep, but max.500 off Ta' Ċenċ on 11 Apr, and in Jul off Għar Ħasan on 6th and Għallis on 14th. Lower numbers in Oct -Nov but 200 on 7 Nov.

2005: Regularly present from 17 Feb to 29 Oct. Maxima: 6000+ off Marsascala on 24 Aug and 4000+ off Pt.St. Elmo on 21 Sep.

Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

2000: Recorded in almost all months except in June and August; 40 birds off Qammieħ on 27 Feb highest numbers offshore, followed by 30 off Kemmuna on 20 Feb. Single and low double figures offshore throughout the year. 2 summer sightings; 1 and 2 off Qawra on 05th and 24 Sept. *Breeding colonies:* 20 birds at L-Aħrax on 29 Jan, single and double figures from November to July at Hal-Far, Lapsi, L-Aħrax, Kemmuna and several sites in Gozo.

II-Merill 32 2010

2001: In single or double figures seen on several days offshore from 1 Jan to 22 May, but in treble figures on 5 dates in April max. 362 on 12th and 400 on 14th and 16th, all off Qawra. Singles on 16 Jun and 7 July with 20 at Għar Lapsi on 19 Jun. In Autumn 5 off Qawra on 24 Oct then 1-8 regularly until 29 Dec with 11 on 31 Dec, again off Qawra.

2002: Single to double figures were sighted offshore in Jan-May but 171 on 25 Feb and 135 on 27 Mar, both off Qawra, and 200+ off Comino on 31 Mar. Singles at Migra L-Ferha on 8 Jun, at Għar Lapsi on 10 Jun, at Qawra on 11 Jun and 15 Jul, and at Delimara on 31 Aug. Then in single figures on most dates from 6 Oct till end of year but 13-15 on 3 dates from 8-18 Dec.

2003: Regular offshore in Jan-late Apr, when often in double figures and 140 at Qawra on 4 Feb. Then 5 on 7 May and 15 on 14 May and 10 on 21 Jun. Single birds on 6 Aug, 20 Sep, 6 Oct and 8 Oct, then single figures regularly from 27 Oct to 31 Dec, and 10 at Qawra on 29 Nov. Bred in usual colonies.

2004: Regular offshore sightings between Jan –Apr when in double figures of up to 70 on most days but max.200 off Għar Hasan on 21 Feb and off Ċirkewwa on 10 Mar. Present in colonies till end Jun. Singles on 30 Jun and 14 Aug. Regular offshore sightings again between Nov – Dec when in singles figures of up to 8 but 12 off M'scala on 14 Nov and 15 off Qawra on 21 Dec.

2005: Singles on 13 Jan and 31 Jan at Qawra. Then single to double figures sighted regularly offshore in Feb-May, but 100+ on 4 Mar at Ċirkewwa. Pullus at L-iRdum tal-Madonna on 2 Jun. 1 at Qawra on 3 Sep, then in single figures regularly from 16 Oct to end of year, but 15 at Qawra on 27 Nov.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

2002: 3 at Qawra on 24 Oct. (**1st record for Malta**).

2003: 1 at Għallis on 29 Nov .

European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

2000: 1 at Marsalforn on 24 July, and 1 light disoriented juvenile found at Żurrieq on 30 August. 2 visits to Filfla produced over 400 birds on 12 May and 144 on 26 July.

2001: One at Għar Lapsi on 10 Apr, up to 4 on 7 dates off Qawra from 22 Aug to 29 Sep (but 15 on 9th), and singles on 5th and 30 Dec at Qawra and Gozo Channel respectively. At its breeding colonies ca. 1000 on 31 May and ca. 200 on 18 Jul both on Filfla and 16 on 8 Jul at Ta' Ċenċ.

2002: 5 at Ta' Ċenċ colony on 17 May and 1 at Qawra on 9 Jun. c.300 were estimated at Filfla on the night of 5-6 Jul.

2003: Sightings outside Filfla: single birds on 30 Jul; 1 Aug, 2 Aug and 5 Aug, and 2 on 14 Sep, all at Qawra.

2004: 200+ adults and ca. 50 pulli (heard) on the night of 8 Jul.

2005: At main breeding colony on Filfla: 300+ on 11 Jul and 50+ on 9 Aug. Away from Filfla, 1 at Għar Lapsi on 11 Aug.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

2000: 2 spring records; single birds off Qammieħ on 17th and 25 Mar. 18 sightings of single birds from 10 Sept to 31 Dec, mainly off Qawra.

2001: Singles recorded on 13 dates from 2 Jan to 14 Mar mainly off Qawra and Qammieħ. Then up to 3 on 22 dates from 25 Oct to 30 Dec most off Qawra.

2002: On 9 dates from 5 Jan to 22 Mar and on 13 dates from 18 Oct till end of year, all in singles except for 2 at Pt. St. Elmo on 31 Dec.

2003: 19 sightings of 1-2 on 18 dates from 2 Jan to 17 Mar but 4 at Pt. St. Elmo on 18 Jan. In autumn 26 sightings on 22 days from 19 Oct to 30 Dec, with 7 at Qawra on 13 Nov and 3 at Pt. St. Elmo on 19 Oct, otherwise 1-2.

2004: Singles on 5 dates in Jan from 2-19th but 2 adults at Qawra on 4th, then in Feb with singles at 6 sites on 4 dates from 7-29th. At Ċirkewwa in Mar with 2 on 9th, and singles on 10th, 23rd and 25th. In autumn singles on 4 dates from 16-29 Oct, then on most days in Nov from 12-30th; mostly in singles but 2 at Qawra on 19th and 30th. In Dec singles on 18-19th and 2 at Pembroke on 31st. All autumn sightings from the East coast.

2005: Singles on 17 dates from 2 Jan to 31 Mar, but 3 on 16 Feb at Pembroke, 2 on 18 Feb at Marfa, 3 on 2 Mar at Ċirkewwa and 2 on 31 Mar at Marsalforn. 1 at M'Scala on 18 May was unusual. 1-2 on 10 dates from 1 Oct to 26 Dec, but 3 on 18 Dec at Pt. St. Elmo and 4 on 23 Dec at Qawra.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

2000: 2 at St. Julian's on 18 Jan, then singles at Għadira on 19 Jan and at Reqqa Pt. I/o Żebbuġ (G) on 21 Feb and 8 at Qammieħ on 20 Mar. Recorded in single figures on most days from 22 Sep to end of year. Highest number being; 7 birds at Qawra on 6 Nov, 2nd and 12 Dec.

2001: 6 at Qawra on 2 Jan, then 1-3 on 21 dates from 18 Jan and 6 Apr, but 8 on 10 Feb at M'Xlokk and a flock of ca.80 off Qawra and Għadira on 21 Feb. In single figures (up to5) on 28 dates from 4 Oct till end of year, but 15 on 6th and 14th, 33 on 17th, and 17 on 21st, all in Nov, and 13 on 29 Dec – most records off NE coast, mainly Qawra.

2002: 4 sightings in Feb: 1 at Simar on 19 Feb, a flock of 56 at San Luċjan on 22 Feb, singles at Aħrax on 24 Feb and at Qawra on 26 Feb. 1 at Qammieħ on 18 Mar, 2 at Ċirkewwa on 21 Mar, singles at Qala on 31 Mar, at San Luċjan on 20 Apr and at Victoria on 22 Apr. Then in single figures on 38 dates from 10 Oct to 30 Dec, but 13 at Pembroke on first date and 21 at Qawra on 3 Nov.

2003: 1-3 on 6 days from 1 Jan to 19 Feb, then 1 on 8 Mar and 5 on 14 Mar. First in autumn 2 on 19 Sep, then 44 sightings on 32 days from 13 Oct to 27 Dec when mostly 1-5 but occasionally up to 8 and 10 at Qawra on 5 Nov.

2004: Singles irregularly in Jan – Feb but 9 over Salina on 5 Jan. Daily in Mar from 13 – 28th with most sightings from the South Comino Channel; usually 1-3 but 10 at M'scala on 21st. In autumn singles on 28 Sep and 7 Oct, then almost daily from 15 Oct to 24 Nov. 1-4 till early Nov but 8 at Migra l-Ferħa and 10 at Qawra on 15 Oct. Then 15 flocks of 4-16 birds between 7-24 Nov but 19 on 17th, 18 on 19th and 17 on 21st, all at Qawra, and 40 over Airport on 19th. In Dec 1 on 1st, then 10 sightings on 7 dates from 12 – 29th; usually 1-4 but 22 over Għadira on 26th. Most autumn sightings from the East coast. 1 at Qawra on 19 Nov of ssp. *lucidus/moroccanus*.

II-Merill 32 2010

2005: Singles on 16 dates from 2 Jan to 30 Mar, but 2 on 22 Jan at Mġiebañ and 23 at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 30 Mar. Then in single figures on 38 dates from 23 Sep to 24 Dec, but 16 at Luqa on 20 Nov.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

2004: 3 at Qawra on 19 Nov.

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

2001: 2 in the Gozo Channel on 10 Mar.

2003: 1 fell in an internal yard at Naxxar on 21 Oct (released at Simar). 1 on Comino on 26 Oct.

2005: Singles on 9 dates from 14 Mar to 11 Apr, all from Simar, except for 2 at Dwejra (Malta) on 14 Mar and 1 at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 10 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 29 Nov.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

2000: 1 at Għadira on 1 May, single male bird at Simar from 15 Apr to 12 May when 2 birds were present. 1 to 3 birds daily at Simar throughout late spring when breeding was suspected on 10 June. A nest with 4 young was found on 8 Jul, the nest was abandoned on 15 July. The last birds at Simar were seen on 25 Oct. Other sightings include: 1 at Attard on 28 Apr, 1 at Lunzjata, G. on 6 May, 2 at Wied Qannotta on 13 May and 1 at il-Magħluq, M'xlokk on 6 Nov.

2001: 1 at Simar on 4 Jan, then 1-2 regularly at that site from 25 Apr to 27 Aug (68 dates) but 4 on 12th and 3 on 14th in May. Single birds also recorded on 9 dates in spring in 6 other localities (on 4 dates at Għadira). Then singles at Salina on 12 Jul and at Lunzjata on 21 Sep.

2002: Only recorded in spring. Singles on 10 dates from 14 Apr to 23 May, but 2 at Simar on 8 May.

2003: 1 at Simar on 20 Mar then 1-3 on most days, mostly at Simar but a few also at Għadira and elsewhere, from 2-27 Apr, followed by 1 at Għadira on 3 May and 1 at Simar on 7 days from 9 May to 5 Jun. In autumn 1-2 on 7 days from 21 Sep to 15 Oct, all at Għadira and Simar. 1 at Simar on 29 Dec.

2004: Female found dead at Simar on 1 Jan, then 1 at Għadira on 6 Feb. Only in spring with singles at six sites on 4 dates in Apr from 23-30th and in May on 7th and 11th. Most sightings at Simar.

2005: Singles on 32 dates from 3 Apr to 31 May, but 2 regularly at Simar from 15 Apr to 30 May, and 3 at Simar on 20 May. 1-2 present at Simar almost daily from 1-7 Jun. Only one record in autumn: 1 at Simar on 15 Sep.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

2000: First bird (one) seen on 26 Mar at Għadira, then almost daily from 02 Apr to 16 May at various localities, maximum numbers were 30 at Manoel Island on 08 Apr. Single bird at Simar till 12 Jul. 1 at Delimara and 2 at Ta'Gajdoru, Xagħra on 30 and 31 July respectively. Single to double figures from 25 Aug to 24 Oct. maxima 52 at Buskett on 11 Sept. Last bird on 4 Nov at Kapuċċini Valley, Marsalforn.

2001: In single or low double figures on 23 dates from 3 Mar to 20 May, with max. of 22 at Qawra on 25 Mar and 26 at Comino on 4 Apr. 1 at Simar on 7 dates from 29 May to 14 Jun, but 2 on 12 Jun, and 1 at Rabat on 24 Jul. Then again in single and very low double figures on 17 dates (21 localities) from 14 Aug to 27 Oct, max. 13 at B'Kara on 28 Aug and 19 at Marsa on 22 Sep.

2002: 48 sightings of up to 40 on 28 dates from 26 Mar to 30 May, but 59 at Ċirkewwa on 29 Mar and 60 at Manoel Island on 30 Mar. 1 at Simar on 4 dates from 19-26 Jun. In autumn, 27 sightings of up to 29 on 21 dates from 17 Aug to 28 Oct, but 62 at Buskett on 25 Aug.

2003: 5 at Ċirkewwa on 14 Mar then 43 sightings on 31 days from 19 Mar to 19 May; mostly single figures, but flocks of 13 to 30 on 4 days. 2 on 28-29 May and 1 Jun at Simar were flightless bird also seen on 3rd and 21 Jul. In autumn 35 sightings from 21 Aug to 28 Oct, with most in Sep; double figures on 9 occasions with 53 over Qawra on 4 Sep and 45 over Xagħra on 26 Sep highest. Then 5 at Għadira on 7 Nov and 1-4 on most days at Simar till 30.

2004: Single at Simar on 2 Jan and at Salina on 22 Mar. Then 22 sightings on 13 dates from 27 Mar to 24 Apr with 9 flocks of 4-19 on 7 dates but also 30 at Lunzjata on 30 Mar, otherwise 1-3. 1 at Simar between late Apr and late Aug. Almost daily in autumn from 16 Aug to 20 Sep with 23 flocks of 4-30 on 12 days but also flocks of 42 over Dingli on 24th, 50 over Simar on 29th and 61 over Airport on 20th, all in Aug and 43 at St. Paul's Bay on 11 Sep. Then singles on 23 Sep, in Oct on 5th, 15th and 27th and in Nov on 4-5th.

2005: 33 sightings of up to 21 on 24 dates from 14 Mar to 20 May, but 35 on 3 May at Għarghur. Singles at Għadira on 3 Jun, at Simar on 3 dates from 18-21 Jun, and at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 21 Jun. 7 at Comino on 23 Jun, 1 at Għadira on 18 Jul and 3 at Lunzjata on same day. In autumn, 61 sightings of up to 31 on 37 dates from 10 Aug to 30 Oct, but 165 at Birkirkara on 30 Aug and 68 at Cottonera on 31 Aug. Singles at Simar on 4 Nov and 8 Nov.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

2000: 4 at Qawra on 9 Apr, 1 to 3 birds from various localities from 13 to 19 May, 1 to 2 birds at Għadira from 3rd to 26 May. 1 at Salina on 6 Jun last spring sighting. There were only two autumn sightings: 1 at Salina on 14 Sep and 1 at Qawra on 13 Oct.

2001: 1-2 on 57 dates from 11 Apr to 18 Jul, most at Simar and Għadira, but 4 at Simar on 17th and 5 at Ta' Lambert on 29 Apr.

2002: Singles at Salina on 3 Apr and at Simar on 3-4 Apr. Then 1-2 on 5 dates from 18 Apr to 8 May and 1-2 daily from 22 May to 8 Jun, all at Għadira and Simar except for 2 at San Luċjan on 18 Apr and 1 at Dwejra (G) on 30 Apr. In autumn, singles at Simar on 31 Jul to 4 Aug and on 10 dates from 11-24 Aug.

2003: 17 at Gebel Ċiantar and 9 at Għadira on 15 Apr, then daily, mostly at Simar and Għadira, till 13 May. 10 at Għadira on 4 May, otherwise 1-2 in Apr and 1-6 in May. Then 8 sightings of singles on 6 days from 18-28 May, and 1-2 on most days at Simar and Għadira from 29 May to 13 Jun. Late singles at Simar on 26th and 30 Jun. 1 at Qawra on 16 Sep. 1 on 6 Nov was a late record.

II-Merill 32 2010

2004: In spring singles in Apr on 9th at Ćirkewwa and 19th at Msida but 10 at Pieta on 24th; then singles at Simar from 23-28th and at Għadira on 26-27th. In May singles again on Comino on 1st and at Simar from 14-28th. In autumn 7 at Għallis on 29 Aug and 1 at Simar from 1-6 Sep.

2005: 1 at Xatt l-Aħmar on 28 Mar, then 1-2 on 17 dates from 4 Apr to 24 May. In autumn, 1 at Qawra on 30 Aug, 10 at Qawra on 2 Sep and 1 at Pt.St. Elmo on 4 Sep.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

2001: An adult in full breeding plumage at Għadira on 2 Jun.

2003: Singles at Għadira on 8 Oct and 16 Nov.

2004: 1 at Qawra on 27 Nov.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

2000: Recorded in single and low double figures from 19 Mar to 26 June from various localities, but mostly from Għadira. Highest spring sightings include; 17 at Għadira on 17 Apr, 16 at Qawra on 29 Mar, 11 on Comino on 28 Apr. First autumn migrants on 1 Aug than almost daily in single and low double figures till 21 Nov. Highest numbers being 23 at Qawra 14 Oct, 18 at Blata l-Bajda on 13 Sep and 15 at Simar on 11 Sep.

2001: In single or low double figures almost daily from 19 Mar to 6 Jun, max. 37 at Gozo Channel on 10th, 65 at Simar on 11th and 23 at Xlendi on 17th, all in Apr. Then in single figures on 22 dates and double figures on 5 dates from 31 Jul to 11 Nov, max. 66 on 14th and 35 on 23 Aug at Għadira, and 15 at St. Andrew's on 2 Sep.

2002: 2 at Għadira on 13 Mar, then up to 32 almost daily from 26 Mar to 24 Apr, but 62 at Comino on 2 Apr. Up to 3 at Għadira daily from 30 Apr to 14 May and 11 at Comino on 1 May. Up to 5 almost daily from 22 May to 2 Jun but 8 at Sliema on 22 May. In autumn, 1-2 at Għadira daily from 21 Jul to 2 Aug and 1 at Qawra on 28 Jul, then up to 21 on most days from 15 Aug to 28 Sep, but 57 at Qawra and 51 at Simar on 27 Sep. 1-2 on 6 dates from 12 Oct to 11 Nov, but 4 at M'Scala on 22 Oct.

2003: 1 at Għadira on 23 Feb. Almost daily sightings at several sites from 13 Mar to 13 May; usually single figures but low double figures on 5 days, max 30 at Għadira on last day. Then 7 sightings of 1-3 on 6 days from 18 May to 3 Jun. 4 at Salina on 18 Jul and singles at Għadira on 4th and 14 Aug, then on several days from 21 Aug to 18 Oct with most in mid-late Sep, when daily. In single to low double figures but 86 at Qawra on 5 Sep and 33 at Għadira on 7 Oct. 1 at Għadira on most days from 25 Oct to 21 Nov when occasional singles also elsewhere.

2004: Singles at Simar on 2nd and 6 Feb, then 1-2 from 5 sites on 5 dates from 10 Feb to 23 Mar. Daily sightings at various sites from 26 Mar to 12 May when mostly in single figures but double figures in Apr on 8-10th, 16th and 28-30th. Highest 65 at Ćirkewwa on 9th and 29 on 8th. Most spring sightings at Għadira, Simar, Salina and Ćirkewwa. 2 at Għadira from 17-21 May, then singles till 6 Jun and 1-2 at other sites on 4 dates in May. In autumn 3 at St.Pauls Bay on 11 Aug, then daily from 17 Aug to 28 Sep. Mostly in single figures but double figures on a few days with 12 flocks of 14-32 but also 35 at Simar on 7 Sep and 135 at Delimara on 19 Sep. Then 21 sightings of 1-6 on 16 dates from 2 Oct to 5 Nov but 40 at Simar and 18 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 15th, 21 at Qawra on 16th and 23 at Red Tower on 21st, all in Oct. Last sightings in Nov with 3 at Simar on 16th and at Qawra on 21st, then 1 at Għadira on 22-23rd.

2005: Singles at Salina regularly from 12-18 Jan, at Simar on 26 Jan and 30 Jan, and at Xrobb l-Għajin on 30 Jan. 1 at Għadira on 14 Mar, then up to 20 almost daily from 16 Mar to 18 Apr, but 26 at Għajin Tuffieha on 3 Apr. 1-3 almost daily from 26 Apr to 30 May, but 8 at Għadira on 27 Apr and 5 at Comino on 30 Apr. Singles at Għadira daily from 1 Jun to 15 Jul. In autumn, up to 20 on 45 dates from 15 Aug to 29 Oct, but 21 on 4 Sep and 25 on 21 Sep, both at Qawra, and 22 at Għadira on 6 Oct. Singles at Għadira on 5 Nov and 26 Nov, and 2 at Pt.St. Elmo on 27 Nov.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

2000: 2 at Għadira on 14-15 Feb, 1 at Gnejna on 17 Sept and 2 at Qawra on 22 Oct.

2001: 1 at Salina on 7 Sep and 3 at Għadira (seen also at Qawra) on 29 Sep.

2002: 1 at Comino on 30 Mar. 7 sightings on 6 dates from 28 Sep to 13 Oct, highest 5 at Simar on 4 Oct and 11 at Mrieħel on 5 Oct, otherwise 1-2.

2003: 1 at Għadira on 19 Aug, 5 at Qawra and 4 at Tigne' on 19 Sep, singles at Qawra on 21 Sep, 27 Sep and 2 Oct. Singles at Dwejra (M) on 2 Oct, at Simar on 2-3 Oct, again at Qawra on 14 Oct and at Għadira, at Magħtab and at Qawra on 28 Oct.

2004: Singles in autumn at Simar on 18 Sep followed by sightings in Oct at Salina on 4th, at Simar on 8th and at Għadira on 11th. Then 2 at Comino on 20th and at Qawra on 4 Nov.

2005: Singles on 7 dates from 30 Aug to 29 Sep, but 3 at Pt.St. Elmo on 4 Sep and 2 at Simar on 29 Sep.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

2000: Recorded in all months of the year except in December. Low double figures in spring with 40 at Qammieħ on 23 March highest counted. More common in autumn with high double and low treble figures: 137 at Blata l-Bajda and Ta'Gajdor, Xagħra on 9 Sep, 101 at Qawra on 17 Sep and 107 at Buskett on 26 Sep highest.

2001: In single or low double figures almost daily from 21 Feb to 13 May, max. 35 at Gozo Channel and 39 at Għadira on 10th, 30 at Gozo Channel on 13th and 25 at Qala on 25 Mar, and 25 on Comino on 10 Apr. 1 at Comino on 9 Jul. Then single or double figures (including 2 treble figures) on 52 dates from 27 Jul to 17 Nov; max 90 at Dwejra on 30 Aug, and 56 at Buskett on 19th, 91 at Marsalforn on 21st, 120 at Tigne on 22nd, and 94 at Dwejra, 115 at Qawra and 80 at Għadira on 28th, all in Sep.

2002: 63 sightings in single or double figures of up to 53 on 36 dates from 19 Feb to 26 Apr, but 108 at Ćirkewwa and 138 at Comino on 30 Mar. 1-4 on 5 dates from 3 May to 15 Jun, but 10 at Mellieħa and Simar on 22 May. 1 at Simar on 10 Jul, 2 at Għadira on 26 Jul and 1-7 on 3 dates from 3-9 Aug. Then, 112 sightings on 53 dates from 17 Aug to 30 Oct, in single or double figures of up to 53, but 72 at Qawra on 12 Sep, 81 at Victoria on 13 Sep, 94 at Dingli on 14 Sep and 80 at Qawra on 27 Sep. Singles at Qawra on 24 and 25 Nov.

2003: Main spring passage from 1 Feb to 10 May when almost daily in single to low double figures of up to 36, but 43 over Ćirkewwa on 31 Mar. Singles, mostly at Għadira, on 18, 27 and 30 May and on 5 and 15 Jun. Singles at different sites on 20, 26-27 Jul and 4 Aug and at Simar on 12-21 Aug. Main autumn passage from 13 Aug, with daily sightings from 24 Aug to 15 Sep and almost daily to 26 Oct, followed by 22 sightings of 1-7 birds on 13 days from 17 Oct to 10 Dec, but 35 at Qawra on 26 Oct. Double figures frequent during peak period and totals of 300 (6 sites) on 16 Sep and 242 (5 sites) on 4 Sep.

2004: Singles in Jan on 28th and in Feb on 27th and 29th. Then 33 sightings on 16 dates from 1 Mar to 9 Apr with peak on 23 Mar with 107 from 4 sites. Otherwise in single figures but 12 on 9th and 30 on 13th both at Ćirkewwa in Mar. Then 19 sightings of 1-8 on 9 dates from 17 Apr to 3 May, and singles on 10 dates from 18 May to 17 Jul, but 3 on 26 May. Singles almost daily in Aug from 3-15th with most at Għadira, then almost daily from 17 Aug to 14 Nov with 171 sightings from various sites mainly around the coast but also overland. In single to double figures with highest numbers from 31 Aug to 12 Sep with 150 over Saqqajja and Dwejra (M) on 6th, 75 at Mtaħleb on 7th and 44 over Delimara on 12th, otherwise up to 29. Sporadic large flocks also in Oct with 32 at Għadira on 4th and 40 at delimara on 10th, otherwise up to 24. 1-2 in Nov on 23-25th and singles in Dec on 25-26th.

2005: 57 sightings in single to low double figures of up to 23 on 42 dates from 9 Feb to 29 Apr, but 40 at Ćirkewwa on 15 Mar. Singles at Għadira regularly from 4 May to 1 Jun. Outside Għadira, 8 sightings of single birds from 5 May to 25 Jul. Then, 125 sightings on 63 dates from 7 Aug to 30 Oct, in single or double figures of up to 58, but 76 at Buskett on 25 Sep, 101 at Għadira on 8 Oct and 66 at Għadira on 18 Oct. Singles on 7 dates from 4 Nov to 19 Dec, but 2 at Qawra on 4 Nov.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

2000: First bird on 4 Apr at Blata l-Bajda, single birds at Għadira and Simar on most days in Apr; 12 at Għadira on 18 Apr highest. 1 single bird at Simar on 21 June and then single birds from 24 Aug to 23 Oct mainly from Għadira and Simar and Qawra. Highest counts being 8 at Dwejra, (M). and 6 at Buskett both sightings on 26 Sep.

2001: In single figures on 17 dates and double figures on 3 dates from 30 Mar to 29 Apr, max. of 54 on 6th and 30 on 10 Apr, both over 10 Comino. In autumn in single figures on 14 dates from 16 Aug to 29 Sep (max 7 on 28 Aug and 6 on 3 Sep at Simar) and singles in Oct. at Dwejra on 10th and at Għadira on 28th.

2002: 28 sightings on 17 dates from 26 Mar to 24 Apr, highest 51 at Comino and 16 at Ćirkewwa on 30 Mar, and 17 at Simar on 23 Apr, otherwise up to 7. 1 at Comino on 8 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 27 Jul and at Buskett on 28 Aug, then 23 sightings of up to 7 on 19 dates from 1 Sep to 12 Oct, but 60+ at Qawra on 27 Sep. 1 at Qawra on 21 Oct.

2003: 27 sightings of 1-8 on 19 days from 18 Mar to 19 Apr, then 1 at Simar on 20-25 Apr. A slightly injured bird released at Għadira on 29 Apr stayed till 31 May. In autumn 26 sightings on 20 days from 19 Aug to 9 Oct when mostly 1-5, but 10-16 on 4 days. Then singles on 15 and 30 Oct.

2004: In spring, 19 at M'Xlokk on 23 Mar; then 14 sightings on 7 dates from 30 Mar to 9 Apr. Highest numbers in early Apr with 10 at Victoria, G on 4th, 16 on 5th and 22 on 9th, both at Ćirkewwa, otherwise up to 8. Then daily from 14-18 Apr with 10 sightings of 1-3 and 1-5 from 3 sites on 24 Apr. Daily at Simar with 1-3 from 25 Apr to 6 May. 1 at Għadira on 22 Jul. In autumn 1-2 from 5 sites on 4 dates from 24-29 Aug, then daily from 5-13 Sep with 16 sightings of 1-8 but 10 at Saqqajja on 6th, 16 at Mtaħleb on 7th, and 14 at St. Paul's Bay on 11 Sep. 5 sightings of singles from 19-21 Sep with 10 on 20th at M'scala. In Oct, 1 at Simar on 5-6th and 2-5 on 19-20th

2005: 48 sightings on 30 dates from 18 Mar to 3 May, highest 22 at Għadira on 3 Apr, 25+ at Simar on 4 Apr and 13 at Comino on 29 Apr, otherwise up to 12. Singles at Simar on 13 dates from 4 July to 29 Aug and 1 at Qawra on 18 Aug. Then, 29 sightings of up to 5 from 30 Aug to 31 Oct, but 18 at Qawra and 12 at Għadira on 30 Aug, and 10 at Simar on 6 Sep.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

2000: 1 at Buskett, Dingli Cliffs and Żebbuġ (M) on 13 Sep, 3 at Dwejra, (M) on 23 Sep, and 1 at Dwejra, (M), Rabat and Buskett on 24 Sep. In Oct 1 at Victoria on 1 Oct, 4 at Dwejra (M) on 20 Oct and 1 at San Anton Gardens on 30 Oct.

2002: Singles at Buskett on 13 Sep, at Dwejra (M) and Buskett on 15 Sep, at Sliema on 22 Sep, at Buskett, Mellieħa, and Dwejra (M) on 2 Oct and at Buskett, Mosta, and Dwejra (M) on 3 Oct.

2003: 1 over Għadira on 4 Apr. In autumn singles over Dwejra and Buskett on 7 Sep and over Qawra on 17 Sep, and 6 over Ta' Xbiex on 27 Oct.

2004: Singles in Sep at Mellieħa and Buskett on 10th, and at Buskett and Mtaħleb on 11th but 3 also on 11th at St. Julians. Then in Oct with 2 on 1st at Buskett, Dwejra (M) and Miġra l-Ferħa; followed by 1 on 2nd, 2 on 14th and 1 on 17th all at Buskett.

2005: 1 at Dingli on 21 Sep, 1 at Ġnejna Bay and 3 at Buskett on 25 Sep and 1 at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 27 Sep.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

2001: 2 at Dingli on 27th and 1 at Victoria on 28 Sep.

2002: Singles at San Luċjan and Luqa Airport on 17 Apr and at Buskett on 18 Apr. 1-2 seen at Għajn Tuffieħa, Buskett, Lunzjata, Victoria, Miżieb, and Dwejra (M) on 17 Sep.

2003: 1 at Victoria and 2 at Simar and Dwejra (M) on 19 Mar; and 2 at Għadira and Ćirkewwa on 20 Mar (prob. same birds).

2004: 2 at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 22 Aug.

2005: 5-8 seen at Blata l-Bajda, Dwejra (M) and Għadira on 30 May. 3 at Ġnejna Bay on 25 Sept.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

2000: 70 at Qammieħ on 26 Mar. 1 at Ta' Ħida, Nadur (G), and 21 off Buġibba on 12 Sep.

2001: Sightings on 5 dates in spring: 4 at Qammieħ on 19th, 30 at M'Scala on 23rd and 1 at Għadira on 24 Mar; and 33 at Simar on 7th and 16 at Għadira on 20 Apr. Sightings on 4 dates in autumn: 2 on 17th (seen at Għadira and Għajn Tuffieħa) and 1 at Għadira on 18 Aug; and 3 at Simar on 4th and 1 at San Luċjan on 19 Sep.

II-Merill 32 2010

2002: Only recorded in spring. 34 at Ċirkewwa on 2 Mar, 35 at Qammieħ on 23 Mar, 1 at Għadira on 30 Mar, 14 at Comino and 38 at Għadira on 2 Apr, 1 at Għadira on 14 Apr and 7 at Wied iż-Żurrieq on 1 May.

2003: Flock of 42 over Ċirkewwa and 2 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 23 Mar were the only spring sightings. In autumn singles on 4, 5 (at three sites) and 6 Sep, then 3 at Xgħajra on 16, 3 over Buskett on 18 and 5 at Qawra and 7 at Tigne' on 19 Sep.

2004: Singles at Għadira and Ċirkewwa on 30 Mar. Again in singles in Apr at Salina on 24th, at Għadira on 24-25th and at Simar on 27th. Flock of 22 over Simar on 26 Aug, then in Sep with singles at Delimara and M'scala on 19th and 6 over Dwejra (M) on 28th.

2005: 52 at Ċirkewwa on 16 Mar, 35 at Għajn Tuffieħa, 21 at Dwejra (G) and 18 at Kerċem on 3 Apr, 2 at Santa Margerita on 16 Apr and singles at Għadira and Simar on 17 Jun. In autumn, singles at Qawra on 17 Aug, at Pieta on 5 Sep and at Għadira on 3 Oct.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

2000: Single birds at Għadira on 15-16 Jan and 23 Mar. 1 off Qawra on 24 Sept and 3 sightings at Għadira: 16 on 1 Oct, 1 on 6 Oct and 2 on 10 Oct.

2002: 3 sightings in spring: 3 at San Luċjan on 10 Mar, 2 at Qala on 20 Mar and 6 at San Luċjan on 16 Apr. Flock of 10 on 11 Sep, flock of 27 on 2 Oct and 1 on 3 Oct, all at Qawra.

2003: 17 at Għadira and 11 at Migra L-Ferħa on 8 Apr. Singles at Għallis on 27 Aug, at Għajn Tuffieħa and Qawra on 16 Sep, and at Qawra on 26 Oct.

2004: In Jan 3 on 4th and 2 from 5-9th, then singles from 12-16 Mar and 20-28 Jun all at Għadira. Only sighting elsewhere at Imġiebah with 1 on 23 Jun. 1 at Simar and Red Tower on 15 Oct.

2005: Singles at Għadira on 25-26 Jan and at Pembroke and Simar on 26 Jan. Singles at Għadira and Simar daily from 17 May to 9 Jun and again at Għadira on 14 Jun. In autumn, singles at Valletta on 30 Aug and at Xlendi (injured) on 25 Sep. This bird was released at Għadira on 9 Oct and remained there until 20 Nov.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

2000: 15 at Tas-Safra on 29 Aug, 40 at Qawra on 4 Sep, 1 at Qawra on 8 Sep, 9 at Qawra, Ċirkewwa, and Comino on 9 Sep, 85 at Qawra on 18 Oct, 4 at Qawra on 10 Dec, and 5 again at Qawra on 24 Dec.

2001: 5 records: 48 on 3 Apr (reported off Qawra and in Gozo Channel); 1 on 6 May (seen at Simar and Għadira), 57 off Pt. St Elmo on 30 Sep, and 3 on 20th and 9 on 21 Nov from Qawra.

2002: 10 at Comino on 4 Apr, 1 at Għadira on 22-23 Apr, 3 at M'Scala on 7 Aug, and singles at Qbajjar on 23 Aug and at Qawra on 31 Aug.

2003: 1 at Għadira on 9 Sep, then sightings at Qawra on 8 days: 36 on 14, 69 on 15, 48 on 18, 1 on 19 and 24 on 21 Sep; 10 on 14 Oct, 14 on 2 Nov and 17 on 10 Nov.

2004: Most sightings in Sep with 69 on 12th and 1 on 15th both at Delimara, then 13 at Pembroke on 18th, and 4 again at Delimara on 19th. Another 4 sightings on 19th with singles at Għadira and Qawra, 2 at Gnejna and 3 at M'scala. Four sightings in Oct with 28 at Delimara on 2nd, then at Qawra with 13 on 8th, 10 on 16th and 25 on 27th.

2005: 1 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 31 Mar. In autumn, 110+ at Qawra on 9 Sep, 8 at Qawra on 26 Sep, 55 at Pt. St. Elmo and 71 at Qawra on 7 Nov, 4 at Tigne on 8 Nov and 2 at Baħar iċ-Ċaġħaq on 18 Dec.

Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

2000: 2 at Mgarr l-Xini on 10 Apr, then up to 4 on 8 dates from 27 Apr to 30 May, but 7 at Buskett on 28 May. 1 at Buskett on 12 Jun. In autumn, 5 at Buskett on 25 Aug, 1 at Mdina on 26 Aug, and 1 at Buskett on 30 Aug, then up to 100 on most days from 3 Sep to 11 Oct, but 193 at Buskett on 12 Sep, 126 at Buskett on 13 Sep, 291 at Dwejra (M) and 296 at Buskett on 23 Sep, and 130 at Dwejra (M) and 255 at Buskett on 24 Sep. 1-2 on 6 dates from 17-30 Oct, but 4 at Dwejra (M) on 20 Oct.

2001: 1-6 on 8 dates in May, but a total of 18 (max 9 at Manoel Island) on 13 May. 2 at Chadwick Lakes on 7 Jun and 1 at Qala on 14 Jun. Then in single and double figures almost daily from 26 Aug to 16 Oct, max. 100 on 14th and 58 on 27 Sep at Buskett, and 50 at Mellieħa on 30 Sep and at Buskett on 9 Oct.

2002: Very good year for this species. 1 at Comino on 14 Apr, then on 22 dates from 25 Apr to 6 Jun, mostly in single or double figures, but 250+ at Comino on 5 May, 700+ at Blata L-Bajda and 900+ at Comino on 8 May, and 150+ at Marfa on 9 May. 1-2 on 3 dates from 22-30 Jun, most from Dwejra (M). In autumn, singles at Buskett on 25 Aug and 30 Aug, then daily in single or double figures from 1 Sep to 8 Oct, but 200+ at Buskett on 13 Sep, and 650+ at Buskett, 136 at Mizieħ, 300+ at Victoria, and 380 at Dwejra (M), all on 17 Sep. Up to 3 on 7 dates from 10-20 Oct, but 20 at Buskett on 15 Oct. 1 at Qawra on 28 Oct.

2003: 24 sightings of 1-6 on 14 days from 18 Apr to 8 Jun, then 1 over Mistra and Simar on 23 Jun. In autumn 2 singles on 23 Aug, 10 on 28 Aug and singles on 29-30 Aug, then daily from 3 Sep to 5 Oct when low to medium double figures on most days, but 405 at Buskett, 268 at Dwejra (M) and 174 at Marsalforn on 14 Sep, and 229 at Tigne' and 142 at Qawra on 19 Sep. Then single to low double figures on most days from 6-16 Oct and singles on 21, 23, 25 and 26 Oct.

2004: 2 on Comino on 20 Apr, then almost daily from 23 Apr to 10 May. Several sightings in double figures from 23-28 Apr but heavy passage on 26th with 1000+ at Buskett, San Pawl tat-Targa and Luqa Airport and treble figures from various sites including 365 at Comino, 150 at Simar and 100 at Addolorata, otherwise in double figures. Then a smaller passage on 27th with 110 at Simar, 75 at Buskett and 60 at San Pawl tat-Targa with various other sightings up to 35. In May 1-9 till 10th, then 1 on 20th and 2 on 30th. In Jun 1-3 on 5 dates from 4-23rd. In autumn 4 at Buskett and 3 at Dingli on 23 Aug, then daily from 27 Aug to 24 Oct with 146 sightings from various sites. Highest numbers from 8-14 Sep when mostly in treble figures of up to 200 mainly at Buskett but max. 563 at Buskett and 266 at Dwejra (M) on 10th, 264 at Buskett and 270 at Dwejra (M) on 11th, 226 at Buskett and 109 at Dwejra (M) on 13th, and 150 at Dwejra (M) on 14 Sep. Then in double figures up to 31 till 8 Oct but 52 at Migra l-Ferħa on 1 Oct and 1-8 till 24 Oct. 2 on 26 Oct and 1 on 23 Nov.

II-Merill 32 2010

2005: 2 at Luqa and 1 at Xrobb l-Għagin on 16 Apr, then 30 sightings from 23 Apr to 30 May, mostly in single to low double figures, but 30+ at Marsascalea on 6 May and 62 at Red Tower on 7 May. Singles on 7 dates from 2-25 Jun, but 10 at Ta' Gajdor on 2 Jun. In autumn, 9 at Buskett on 28 Aug and 1 at Victoria on 30 Aug, then almost daily in single or double figures from 2 Sep to 17 Oct, but 200+ at Dwejra (M) on 16 Sep, 136 at Dwejra (M) and 210+ at Buskett on 17 Sep, 112+ on 25 Sep, 153 on 26 Sep and 113 on 29 Sep, all at Buskett. Singles on 3 dates from 23 to 28 Oct. 1 on 6 Nov was a late bird.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

2000: 1-2 on 12 dates from 24 Mar to 27 Apr, but 10 at Dwejra (M) on 5 Apr. In autumn, 1-3 on 12 dates from 29 Aug to 29 Sep. 1 at Buskett on 5 Oct.

2001: In low single figures on 11 scattered dates from 14 Mar to 7 May, max. 5 at Victoria on 3 Apr and 4 at Comino on 5 May. In autumn recorded mainly singly on 17 dates from 26 Aug to 20 Oct, but 5 on 6th and 4 on 7 Sep at Buskett, and 4 on 26 Sep at Tigne.

2002: 35 sightings of up to 5 on 23 dates from 25 Mar to 13 May, but 7 at Victoria on 11 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 6 Jul was unusual. In autumn, 26 sightings of up to 4 on 16 dates from 15 Aug to 19 Sep, but 6 at Buskett on 19 Aug and at Dwejra (M) on 3 Sep.

2003: 21 sightings on 16 days from 18 Mar to 13 May; 2 on first date, otherwise singles. In autumn, 1 on 3 Aug, then 22 sightings on 18 days from 23 Aug to 14 Oct, with most in Sep. 25 over Qawra on 20 Sep and 2 on 23 Aug, otherwise singles.

2004: Singles in Mar on 13th, 21-22nd and 31st. Then in Apr with 25 sightings on 13 dates from 1-27th, when mostly 1-2 but 7 at Dwejra (M) on 13th, 5-6 from 4 sites on 2nd and 3 at 2 sites on 27th. 1 on Comino from 28 Apr to 9 May. In autumn singles at Ċirkewwa on 3rd and at Buskett on 22nd, then almost daily from 27 Aug to 15 Sep with 27 sightings of 1-4 but 12 at Buskett on 13 Sep. Singles on 26 Sep and 1-4 Oct but 2 at Buskett on 1 Oct. Most autumn sightings at Buskett.

2005: 26 sightings of up to 4 on 19 dates from 8 Mar to 13 May. In autumn, 19 sightings of up to 4 on 14 dates from 25 Aug to 12 Oct.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

2002: Singles at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 1 Oct and at Dwejra (M) on 2 Oct.

2003: 1 at Għadira on 21 Nov.

2005: 1 at Buskett on 14 Oct.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

2003: Adult over Simar on 6 Mar.

2004: 1 juv at Buskett on 17 Oct.

2005: 1 juv at Dwejra (M) on 5 Oct.

Short-Toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

2000: 7 sightings from 24 Sep to 17 Oct. Mostly single birds but 3 on 24 Sep at Buskett and 9 on 5 Oct at Dwejra (M).

2001: 1 on 11 Sep seen from Dwejra (M) and Buskett, 2 at Buskett on 12 Oct, and 1 at Dwejra M and 2 at Buskett on 13 Oct.

2002: 2 at Buskett and 1 at Dwejra (M) on 2 Oct.

2003: 1 at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 24 Sep.

2004: 2 at Dwejra (M) and 1 at Buskett on 13 Sep, then 2 again at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 30 Sep. Singles in Oct on 12th at Mellieħa, on 14th at Dwejra (M) and Buskett, and again at Buskett on 18th and 20th.

2005: Singles at Buskett, Dingli and Mellieħa on 9 Oct.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

2000: In single or low double figures of up to 35 almost daily from 12 Mar to 30 Apr, but 40 at Gozo on 22 Mar, 39 at Wied Għajn Riħana on 25 Mar, and 40 at Comino on 29-30 Apr. 6 sightings of singles on 5 dates from 4-28 May. 1 at Simar on 2 Jun. In autumn, up to 180 almost daily from 23 Aug to 29 Oct, but 287 at Nadur (G), 304 at Buskett, and 350 at Dwejra (M), all on 8 Sep; 331 at Buskett on 10 Sep; and 270 at Buskett on 23 Sep. Singles at Victoria on 8 Nov and at Għadira on 9 Nov.

2001: Singles at Luqa on 2nd and at Dwejra on 9 Jan. Then in single or low double figures on most dates from 3 Mar to 18 May, max. 43 at San Luċjan on 19th, 32 at Victoria on 24th, 30 at Dwejra on 29th and 31st, all in March; and 29 at San Luċjan and 26 at Comino on 13th and 40 at Comino on 18 Apr; but 150 in Gozo on 1 May. In autumn in single and double figures almost daily from 26 Aug to 26 Oct, max. 97 at Buskett on 24 Sep, and 83 on 5th at Dwejra and 98 at Buskett on 9th, both in October. 4 triple figures were recorded in September: 106 on 24th at Dwejra, and 128 on 27th, 154 on 28th and 153 on 30th all at Buskett. Late singles at Qawra on 6 Nov and at Simar on 21 Dec.

2002: Almost daily in spring from 18 Feb to 31 May (daily from 9 Mar to 11 Apr and from 13 Apr to 11 May) in single or double figures of up to 41, but 60+ at Comino on 20 Mar. 2 at Victoria on 4 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 22 Aug, then almost daily from 28 Aug to 30 Oct (daily from 31 Aug to 8 Oct) in single, double or treble figures of up to 145, but 1000+ at Buskett (including 1 dark morph), 160+ at Simar, 200+ at Żebbuġ (M), and 236 at Victoria, all on 13 Sep. 2 at San Luċjan on 9 Nov.

2003: 5 sightings of 1-2 daily on 20-23 Feb, and 1-6 on most days from 1-7 Mar, but 13 at M'Scala on 3 Mar. Then daily from 15 Mar to 14 May with mainly low to medium double figures on 16 days; highest totals were 102 (9 sites) on 4 Apr and 73 (2 sites) 28 Mar. 11 sightings of singles on 10 days from 19 May to 7 Jun. In autumn singles on 4 days from 14-21 Aug, then practically daily from 23 Aug to 18 Oct, with double figures on several days and peaks of 102 on 3 and 112 on 9 Sep at Buskett. Then 1-4 on 5 days from 23 Oct to 4 Nov and 5 singles on 4 days from 23 Nov to 13 Dec.

II-Merill 32 2010

2004: Singles at Bidnija on 28 Feb and at Ċirkewwa on 9 Mar, then daily from 20 Mar to 9 May with 225 sightings with highest numbers between late Mar and late Apr. Mostly in single to low double figures of up to 20 but 24-56 on 10 dates, but 60 at Għadira on 30 Mar, 120 at Dwejra (M) on 3 Apr and 65 again at Dwejra (M) on 23 Apr. Last sightings in May with singles on 17th and 27th. In autumn 1 on 18 Aug, then daily from 24 Aug to 21 Oct with 203 sightings. Highest numbers from 9-14 Sep and on 1-2 Oct when mostly in double figures but treble figures in Sep with 271 at Buskett and 181 at Dwejra (M) on 10th, and 174 at Mtafheb, 162 at Buskett, 136 at Qawra, 123 at St. Paul's Bay, and 300 at Dwejra (M), all on 11th. Highest in Oct on 1st with 73 at Buskett, 66 at Miġra l-Ferħa and 50 at Dwejra (M); then 45 on 2nd and 38 on 11th, both at Buskett. 8 Sightings of 1-2 from 24-28 Oct and singles on 16-17 Nov.

2005: Almost daily in spring from 18 Feb to 14 May (daily from 10 Mar to 10 Apr and from 12 Apr to 14 May), in single or double figures of up to 30, but 40+ at Dwejra (M) on 23 Mar, 40+ at Xatt l-Aħmar on 28 Mar and 50 at Il-Qolla on 1 May. 1-3 on 7 dates from 20 May to 15 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 25 Aug, then almost daily from 28 Aug to 18 Oct in single or double figures of up to 95, but 150+ at Dwejra (M) and 295+ at Buskett on 16 Sep, 170+ at Buskett on 17 Sep, 112 at Buskett on 29 Sep, and 170 at Dwejra (M) on 7 Oct. 1 at Comino on 29 Oct.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

2000: Singles on 25 Mar at Wied Għajn Riħana and Dwejra (M), at Victoria and Rabat (M) on 8 Sep and at Ta'Qali on 18 Oct.

2001: Singles on Comino on 18 Apr and at Buskett on 13 Oct.

2002: 1 at Buskett on 14 Oct.

2003: Singles on Comino on 24 Apr, at Buskett on 8 May, and at Qawra on 31 Oct.

2005: 1 at Luqa on 20 Nov.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

2000: Singles on 22 Mar at Qammieħ, 30 Mar at Dwejra (M), 31 Mar on Comino, 03 Apr on Manoel Island. In autumn, 1 at Dwejra (M) on 29 Sep.

2001: Singles on 7 scattered dates from 19 Mar to 14 May. In autumn 5 singles in September: on 7th, 16th, 19th and 24th at Buskett, and 27th at Dwejra.

2002: 1 at Luqa Airport on 12 Mar, then 1-2 on 7 dates from 30 Mar to 26 Apr. 1 at Gudja on 12 May. In autumn, singles at Blata L-Bajda on 13 Sep, at Buskett on 5 Oct, and at Qawra on 13 Oct.

2003: 1 at Salina on 1 Apr and 3 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 8 Apr, then 6 sightings of singles on 5 days from 11 Apr to 1 May and 5 at Dwejra (Malta) on 12 May. In autumn singles on 4 dates from 18-29 Sep.

2004: In Mar 1 at Targa Gap on 23rd, 3 at Gudja airport on 26th and 1 at Mellieħa on 27th. Then 12 sightings of singles on 9 dates from 31 Mar to 19 Apr but 2 at Luqa on 1 Apr. In autumn singles at Buskett, Dwejra (M) and Għarghur on 10 Sep and at Comino on 20 Oct.

2005: Singles on 13 dates from 21 Mar to 21 Apr, but 5 at Dwejra (M) on 22 Mar, 3 at Salina on 26 Mar and 5 at Targa Gap on 26 Mar. In autumn, singles at Ta' Ċenċ on 10 Sep, at Buskett on 16 Sep and at Buskett and Dingli on 25 Sep.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

2000: On 9 dates in spring from 20 Mar to 29 Apr, all in singles except for 2 at Dwejra (M) on 27 Apr and 3 at Comino on last date. In autumn, 1-2 on most days from 25 Aug to 23 Sep, but 5 at Dwejra (M) and Mdina on first date and 5 at Dwejra (M) on 6 Sep. 1 at Għadira on 29 Sep.

2001: single figures on 12 dates from 25 Mar to 1 May, max. 4 at Comino on 13th and 7 at Wied Qannotta on 18 Apr. In autumn up to 4 on 13 dates mainly at Buskett and Dwejra from 27 Aug to 30 Sep. Late single at Buskett on 8 Oct.

2002: 2 at Sarraflu on 15 Mar and 1 at Mellieħa on 17 Mar, then 21 sightings on 17 dates from 29 Mar to 13 May, all in single figures, highest 9 at Comino on 25 Apr. In autumn, 27 sightings of up to 7 on 17 dates from 26 Aug to 2 Oct, but 21 at Buskett and 17 at Dwejra (M) on 4 Sep.

2003: Singles on 19 Mar, 27 Mar and 2 Apr, then 13 sightings on 10 days from 7 Apr to 6 May; 10 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 8 Apr and 6 on Comino on 9 Apr, otherwise 1-2. In autumn 25 sightings of 1-4 birds on 15 days from 25 Aug to 19 Sep.

2004: Singles at 4 sites in Mar on 26-27th and 29-30th. Then in Apr with 9 sightings of 1-7 from 7-9th but 10 at Dwejra (M) on 7th and at Mellieħa on 9th; followed by 40 sightings in single figures daily from 12-28th but 14 at Luqa on 18th, 12 at Dwejra (M) on 23rd and 13 on Comino on 24th. 1 at Luqa on 30Apr. In autumn 4 sightings of singles in Aug from 23-25th, then 25 sightings of 1-6 on 16 dates from 26 Aug to 14 Sep with max.13 at Buskett on 10 Sep. Most autumn sightings at Buskett.

2005: Singles at Ta' Gajdor and Targa Gap on 27 Mar, then 36 sightings on 26 dates from 30 Mar to 9 May, all in single figures, highest 4 at Luqa on 16 Apr and 4 at Comino on 8 May. In autumn, 21 sightings of 1-4 from 24 Aug to 14 Oct, but 9 on 4 Sep and 8 on 5 Sep, both at Buskett.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

2000: 7 sightings of singles on 6 dates from 24 Sep to 5 Oct, all at Buskett except for 1 at B'Kara on 26 Sep and 1 at Hal Far on 28 Sep.

2001: 1 at Mellieħa on 27 Sep, and singles on 1st and 12th and 2 on 13 Oct, all at Buskett.

2002: 1-2 on 12 dates from 13 Sep to 16 Oct, but 3 at Buskett on 28 Sep. All records at Buskett, except for 1 at Simar on first date.

2003: 1 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 16 Apr. In autumn 1-3 on 15 days mostly at Buskett from 13 Sep to 9 Nov.

2004: One sighting in spring with 1 on Comino on 4 May. In autumn at Buskett in Sep with 2 on 13th and 1 on 27th. Then in Oct with 2 at Dwejra (M) on 1st, singles at Buskett on 2nd and 15th and at Bidnija on 16th; 2 at Buskett on 25th and 1 at Qawra on 31st.

2005: In spring, one record: 1 at Dwejra (M) on 5 May. In autumn, 1-2 on 13 dates from 23 Sep to 16 Oct, all from Buskett and Dwejra (M), but 3 at Buskett on 8 Oct.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

- 2000:** Singles on 11 dates from 14 Sep to 29 Oct, but 6 at Buskett on 24 Sep and 3 at Tal-Gordan on 20 Oct. 1 **Steppe Buzzard** ssp *vulpinus* at Buskett on 5 Oct.
- 2001:** 1 at Għadira on 22 Apr. Singles recorded on 8 dates from 7 Sep to 13 Oct, and 3 at Buskett on 27 Sep and 4 at Qawra on 4 Oct. 1 at Għadira on 23 Dec. 2 singles belonging to *vulpinus* (**Steppe Buzzard**) were recorded at Buskett on 3rd and 7 Oct.
- 2002:** 1 at Comino on 22 Mar. In autumn, singles on 7 dates from 16 Sep to 31 Oct. Singles belonging to *vulpinus* (**Steppe Buzzard**) were logged at Victoria on 4 May and at Buskett on 15 Oct.
- 2003:** 2 at Buskett on 9 Oct. Single belonging to *vulpinus* (**Steppe Buzzard**) at Qawra on 27 Sep.
- 2004:** 3 at Buskett and 2 at Dwejra (M) on 23 Sep, then 4 sightings of singles from 29 Sep to 1 Oct. 1 at Għadira on 24 Oct. Singles belonging to *vulpinus* (**Steppe Buzzard**) in Oct at Buskett and Miġra l-Ferħa on 1st and again at Buskett on 2nd
- 2005:** Singles at Buskett on 28 Sep (ssp. *vulpinus*—**Steppe Buzzard**), on 16 Oct and on 28 Oct.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

- 2001:** 5 on 13th and 1 on 14 Oct at Buskett.
- 2002:** 2 at Dwejra (M) and singles at Buskett and Mellieħa on 2 Oct and at San Gwann on 3 Oct
- 2005:** 1 at Ta' Pinu on 1 Apr (1st record in spring). In autumn, singles on 14 Oct and 16 Oct, both at Buskett.

Booted Eagle *Aquila pennata*

- 2000:** Single birds on 24th at Buskett, 26th at Qawra and 27 Sept at Buskett.
- 2001:** 1 at St Elmo and Dwejra on 30 Sep.
- 2002:** Singles at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 8 Sep, at Buskett on 13 Sep, at Victoria on 17 Sep, and again at Buskett on 28 Sep.
- 2004:** Singles on 13 Sep at Buskett and at Għadira on 29 Nov.
- 2005:** 1 dark morph at Għadira and Mellieħa on 21-22 Jan.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

- 2000:** Singles on 5 dates from 19 Mar to 17 Apr, but 3 at Qawra and 2 at Simar on 9 Apr. Late bird at Għadira on 27 May. In autumn, singles on most days from 27 Aug to 27 Sep, but 2 at Buskett on 12 Sep. Singles on 6 dates from 5-28 Oct.
- 2001:** In spring singles at Għadira on 24 Mar and 1 Apr, at Dwejra on 31 Mar and at B'Kara on 29 Apr. In autumn 1-3 on 25 dates at various localities from 1 Sep to 28 Oct; but 4 on 3rd and on 7 Oct at Buskett.
- 2002:** On 7 dates in spring from 18 Mar to 8 May, all in singles except for 2 at Ċirkewwa on 30 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 26 Aug, then 42 sightings of 1-2 on 22 dates from 4 Sep to 16 Oct, but 5 at Buskett on 13 Sep, 4 at Qawra on 14 and 15 Sep, 3 at Buskett on 16 Sep, and 5 at Victoria on 17 Sep.
- 2003:** 12 sightings on 10 days from 17 Mar to 28 May; 2 at Simar and Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar and at Mellieħa on 4 Apr, otherwise singles. In autumn 41 sightings of 1-3 (but some may refer to the same birds) on 20 days from 22 Aug to 4 Oct; but 4 at Dwejra (M) on 29 Sep. Singles on 7, 11, 16 and 23 Oct. Late bird at Għajn Tuffieħa on 25 Nov.
- 2004:** Singles in spring in Mar at Ċirkewwa on 29th and at Għadira on 30th, then in Apr at Dwejra (M) and Salina on 14th and 6 sightings on 3 dates from 25-27th. Late bird at Għadira on 16 May. Singles in Aug at Qawra on 28th and at Dingli on 30th, then at Buskett on 2 Sep. 13 sightings of singles on 7 dates from 9-22 Sep but 4 at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 10th and 3 at Buskett and 4 at Dwejra (M) on 11th and 2 at Luqa on 16th. Then in Oct with 21 sightings of singles on 12 dates from 1-24th but 3 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 15th and 2 at Buskett on 17th. Late birds at M'scala on 7 Nov and at Qawra on 9 Dec.
- 2005:** On 8 dates in spring from 26 Mar to 15 May, all singles except for 2 at Dwejra (M) on 22 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 28 Aug, then 20 sightings of 1-3 on 14 dates from 29 Aug to 17 Oct, but 4 on 5 Sep, 5 on 6 Sep, 4 on 25 Sep and 6 on 26 Sep, all from Buskett.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

- 2000:** Poor spring with only 3 single records: at Luqa on 1 Apr, at Fomm Ir-Riħ on 27 Apr, and at Mosta on 28 Apr. In autumn, up to 6 on most days from 26 Aug to 4 Oct, but 21 at Buskett on 23 Sep. Singles on 3 dates from 16-20 Oct.
- 2001:** In low single figures on 11 dates from 15 Mar to 22 Apr, max. 5 on 15th and 4 on 18 Mar at Dwejra. Singles on Comino on 1st and at Ta' Qali on 6 May. In autumn single figures on 20 dates from 6 Sep to 20 Oct but 11 at Buskett on 14th and 21 Sep.
- 2002:** 1 at Qammieħ on 2 Mar, then 34 sightings on 24 dates from 7 Mar to 15 Apr, mostly in single figures but 11 at Marsalforn Valley on 7 Mar and 19 at Burmarrad on 2 Apr. 12 on 25 Apr and 2 on 1 May, both at Comino, and singles at Dingli on 12 May and at San Luċjan on 24 May. In autumn, on 24 dates from 4 Sep to 28 Oct, mostly in single figures, but 12 at San Gwann on 5 Sep, and 28 at Buskett and 17 at Dwejra (M) on 17 Sep.
- 2003:** 26 sightings of 1-5 on 18 days from 5 Mar to 22 Apr, but 17 at Għadira on 15 Mar. In autumn singles on 3 and 5 Sep, then on most days from 13-30 Sep mainly in single figures but double figures on 6 days and 100 at Buskett and 116 at Dwejra (M) on 27 Sep. 8 sightings of 1-2 on 7 days from 5-25 Oct.
- 2004:** Singles on 5 dates from 27 Feb to 9 Mar, mainly at Ċirkewwa. Then 28 sightings on 20 dates from 19 Mar to 28 Apr with most in late Mar and early Apr. Max 45 at Ċirkewwa on 30 Mar, 15 at Dwejra (M) on 3 Apr and 10 at Salina on 25 Mar otherwise in single figures of up to 5 (once of 9). 20 sightings of 1-4 on 17 days in autumn from 5 Sep to 4 Oct, then singles on 4 days in Oct from 10-17 and on 29 Oct.

II-Merill 32 2010

2005: 1 at Qammieħ on 6 Mar, then 19 sightings of 1-2 on 15 dates from 26 Mar to 10 May, but 5 at Targa Gap on 27 Mar, 6 at Bidnija on 3 Apr and 4 at Dwejra (M) on 7 Apr. 2 at Dwejra (M) on 3 Jun and 1 at Daħlet Qorrot on 5 Jun. In autumn, 35 sightings on 25 dates from 30 Aug to 20 Oct, mostly in single figures, but 30 at Buskett and 20 at Miġra I-Ferħa on 13 Sep, and 12 at Dwejra (M) on 7 Oct.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

2000: Present all year round with peak numbers in March and again in Sep-Oct. 10 on 28 Mar at Blata I-Bajda highest in spring. Low double figures in autumn with maximum numbers; 33 on 28 Sep and 30 on 15 Oct both at Buskett.

2001: 1-2 on 13 dates from 2 Jan to 25 Feb. Then single figures almost daily from 3 Mar to 13 May but 10 at Dwejra on 29 Mar. Singles at Dwejra on 21 May, at Ramla Valley on 19 Jun and at Buskett on 21 July. In autumn in single and low double figures almost daily from 24 Aug to 21 Oct, max. 25 on 28 Sep, and 19 on 3 Oct both at Buskett. Singles recorded on 6 dates in Nov. 1 at Qawra on 12 Dec.

2002: 1 at Comino on 13 Jan and singles on 4 dates in Gozo from 16-27 Feb. Then in single or low double figures of up to 16 almost daily from 2 Mar to 3 Jun, but 26 on 29 Mar and 25 on 30 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa, and 30 at Għadira on 2 Apr. Singles at Marsalforn on 10 Jun, at Qawra on 27 Jul, and at Burmarrad on 14 Aug. Then up to 15 almost daily from 9 Sep to 31 Oct, but 25 at Buskett on 3 Oct. 1-2 on 5 dates from 5-19 Nov and singles at Victoria on 27 Nov, at Mtaħleb on 14 Dec, and at Xagħra on 26 Dec.

2003: Singles on 4 days in Gozo from 2-26 Jan. 13 sightings of 1-4 on 7 days from 24 Feb to 8 Mar, then daily from 13 Mar to 18 Apr and on most days on to 9 May. Single to low double figures with totals of 47 (10 sites) on 8 Apr and 38 (6 sites) on 9 Apr. In autumn, almost daily from 1 Sep to 15 Nov with peak on 25-28 Sep when medium double figures recorded. Then 31 sightings of 1-3 on 19 days from 19 Nov to 31 Dec.

2004: Singles on 14 dates from 4 Jan to 24 Feb but 2 at Nadur, G on 26 Jan and 6 at San Dimitri, G on 10 Feb. Most other sightings also from Gozo. Then 13 sightings of 1-2 on 8 dates from 5-15 Mar and 162 sightings on 36 dates from 19 Mar to 27 Apr. Highest numbers on 30 Mar with max. 100 at Għadira, 40 at Marfa and 40 from 10 sites, on 23 Apr with 30 from 2 sites, on 24 Apr with 91 from 11 sites and 43 from 10 sites on 25 Apr, otherwise 1-10. Then singles on 8 dates from 30 Apr to 8 May and on 6 dates from 22 May to 13 Jun. In autumn singles on 25th and 30 Aug, then 158 sightings on 63 dates (almost daily) from 2 Sep to 19 Nov. Highest numbers in Oct with 34 at Buskett and 20 at Dwejra (M) on 11th, 14 at Dwejra (M) on 14th and 23 at Miġra I-Ferħa on 15th, otherwise 1-10. Singles on 5 dates in Dec from 3-23 but 3 on 11th.

2005: Singles on 6 dates in Jan, and 1-2 on 11 dates in Feb. Then in single or low double figures of up to 10 almost daily from 1 Mar to 29 May, but 11 at Dwejra (M) on 25 Mar and 20+ at Għajn Tuffieħa on 3 Apr. Singles on 9 dates from 3 Jun to 15 Jul, but 3 at Dwejra (M) on 3 Jun and 2 (female and immature hunting together) at Salina on 10 Jul. In autumn, 1 at Ta' Gajdoru on 30 Aug, then up to 12 almost daily from 3 Sep to 31 Oct, but 20 at Dwejra (M) on 7 Oct, 20+ on 13 Oct and 16 on 16 Oct, both at Buskett. 1-2 on 26 dates from 2 Nov to 28 Dec, but 3 at Luqa on 19 Nov and 3 at Dwejra (M) on 21 Nov.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

2000: First sighting; 1 on 10 Apr at Dwejra, (M), then single birds on 7 dates in Apr and 5 dates in May. 3 sightings in Jun which included 3 birds at Dwejra, (M) on 4 Jun. In autumn, singles at Gnejna and Rabat on 24 Sep, at Naxxar on 1 Oct and at Dwejra (M) on 11 Oct.

2001: Up to 3 on 8 scattered dates from 8 April to 12 May. The 4 at Xlendi on 23rd and 2 at Victoria on 25 Sep.

2002: 31 sightings of 1-3 on 25 dates from 15 Apr to 9 Jun, but 5 at Victoria on 1 Jun and 5 Jun. 1 at Qawra on 2 Oct.

2003: 17 sightings of 1-8 on 11 days from 13 Apr to 1 Jun, but 70 in B'Kara – San Gwann area on 27 May.

2004: 1 at Madliena on 31 Mar. Then daily in Apr from 15-20th with 12 sightings and from 24-27th with 11 sightings. Usually 1-4 but 19 at Wied Qannotta on 15th, 22 at Victoria on 16th and 10 at Għadira on 24th. In May 7 at Salina and 1 at Simar on 9th, and 1 at Dwejra (M) on 15th.

2005: 32 sightings of 1-7 on 17 dates from 3 Apr to 2 Jun, but 55 at Blata I-Bajda and 160+ at Comino on 29 Apr. One record in autumn: 1 at Buskett on 13 Oct.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

2000: Singles on 27 Sep at Buskett and on 15 Oct at Mistra.

2002: 1 at Qawra on 16 Nov.

2003: Singles at Buskett on 30 Sep and 13 Oct; at San Lucjan on 19 Oct, at Qawra on 31 Oct; and at Targa Gap on 15 Nov.

2004: Singles at Bidnija on 26 Sep and at Buskett in Oct on 3rd, 6th, 12th and 17th.

2005: Singles at Dwejra (M) on 3 Oct and at Qawra on 27 Nov.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

2000: First sighting; 1 at Dwejra, (M) on 30 Mar, then almost daily in single figures from 4 Apr to 28 May. First autumn sighting; 2 at Marsalforn on 25 Aug then almost daily till 28 Oct. Highest numbers: 14 on 23 Sep, 10 on 24 Sep and 13 on 28 Sep, all at Buskett.

2001: In single figures almost daily from 5 Apr to 12 May, max. 8 at Simar and 9 at Blata I-Bajda on 26th and 9 at Ta' Gajdoru (Xagħra) on 29 Apr. Then 1 at Ta' Gajdoru on 24 May. In autumn almost daily in single figures from 27 Aug to 18 Oct but 12 on 27th, 50 on 28th and 14 on 29 Sep at Buskett.

2002: 1 at Cappuccini Valley on 19 Mar, then 59 sightings of 1-5 on 40 dates from 23 Mar to 7 Jun, but 11 at Victoria on 25 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 16-17 Jun and 20 Jun. In autumn, on 31 dates from 4 Sep to 23 Oct, all in single figures except for 16 at Dwejra (M) on 16 Sep, 11 at Buskett on 19 Sep, 15 at Mellieħa on 20 Sep, and 11 at Buskett on 3 Oct. 1 at Buskett on 30 Oct.

II-Merill 32 2010

2003: Single figures on most days from 2-29 Apr with best day being the 18 Apr when a total of 16 were seen at 4 sites. Then 19 sightings of 1-2 on 12 days from 1 May to 8 Jun. In autumn 1 on 24 Aug, then almost daily from 31 Aug to 17 Oct and less regularly to 31 Oct. Double figures on 4 days with max of 50 at Buskett on 18 Sep. 1 at Rabat on 9 Nov.

2004: Singles on 3-4 Apr. Then daily from 13-27 Apr with 37 sightings of 1-8 but 10 at Wied Qannotta on 15th. Followed by 11 sightings of singles on 9 dates from 29 Apr to 21 May but 2 on 18th. Singles in Jun on 5th, 9th and 12th. In autumn 1 at St.Pauls Bay on 17 Aug, then 84 sightings on 48 dates (almost daily) from 25 Aug to 23 Oct with max.19 at Dwejra (M) on 11 Sep, 13 at Dwejra (M) on 12 Sep, and 15 at Buskett on 6 Oct otherwise 1-8. 1 at Buskett on 28 Oct. Most autumn sightings from Buskett.

2005: 1 at Luqa on 13 Apr, then 54 sightings of 1-5 on 30 dates from 15 Apr to 6 Jun, but 6 at Dwejra (M) on 15 Apr. Singles at Ras il-Pellegrin on 14 Jun and at Għajn Rihana on 15 Jun. In autumn, on 39 dates from 2 Sep to 28 Oct, all in single figures except for 10 at Buskett on 26 Sep and on 13 Oct.

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*

2000: Singles at St. Paul's Bay on 15 Apr, at Comino on 20th and 28 Apr, at Filfla on 19 May, at Fungus Rock on 26 May, at Buskett on 28 May, and at Miżieb on 15 Jun. In autumn, up to 3 on 14 dates from 25 Aug to 1 Oct, but 5 at Buskett on 2 Sep.

2001: Singles recorded in July, at Għadira on 12th and 29th, at Għar Lapsi on 21st and at Dwejra on 30th, and in August at Buskett on 15th and at Dwejra on 23rd. Then 1-3 on 12 scattered dates from 2 Sep to 23 Oct.

2002: Singles on 7 dates from 10 May to 24 Jun. In autumn, 1-2 on 18 dates from 15 Aug to 8 Oct, but 3 at Buskett on 10 Sep.

2003: Singles on 25 Apr, 3 May, 13 Jun and 27 Jun. Then 34 sightings on 30 days from 13 Jul to 5 Oct when in singles but 2 on 4 days. 1 at Buskett on 27 Oct and 1 on Comino on 27-28 Oct.

2004: Singles in Apr on 18th and 25th, then in May on 1st, 5th and at 3 sites on 26th. In Jun on 7th and 12th, 11 Jul and 16 Aug. Then 5 at Buskett on 22 Aug and 15 sightings of 1-3 on 10 dates from 24 Aug to 5 Sep. Followed by 16 sightings of singles on 10 dates from 6-28 Sep except for 2 at Dwejra (M) on 10 Sep; then in Oct with singles again on 2nd and 11th, 2 on 17th and 1 on 22nd. Regular sightings from Buskett.

2005: Singles at Nadur on 30 Apr and on 8 dates from 3 May to 21 Jun. In autumn, 1-2 on 21 dates from 14 Aug to 22 Oct, but 3 at Buskett on 28 Aug.

Saker *Falco cherrug*

2001: Singles at Comino on 13 Apr and at Ta' Gajdor on 28 Apr. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 30 Sep, at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 3 Oct, and again at Buskett on 14 Oct.

2002: 1 at Qawra on 27 Oct.

2005: 1 at Mellieħa on 25 Mar.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

2000: 1 at Qawra on 30 Sep.

2001: Singles in the Gozo Channel on 16 Mar, at Xlendi on 17 Apr, at Victoria on 10 May, at Dingli on 27 Sep and at Dwejra on 9 Oct.

2002: Singles at Xlendi on 28 Feb, at Qala on 20 Apr, and at Comino on 7 May. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 24 Aug, at Qawra on 1 Sep, at Buskett on 23 Sep, at Dingli on 24 Sep, at Qawra on 21 Oct, at Comino on 27-28 Oct and at Għajn Tuffieħa on 10 Nov.

2003: Singles at Għadira on 21 May, at Dwejra (M) on 1 Oct, at Targa Gap on 19 Nov, and at Buskett on 19 Dec.

2004: Singles in Oct at Dwejra (M) on 6th, at Delimara on 13th and at M'scala on 28th; then in Nov at Qawra on 6th.

2005: 1 at Targa Gap on 26 Mar. In autumn, 6 sightings, all of singles: at Għarb on 7 Aug; at Buskett on 19 Sep, 29 Sep and 13 Oct, at Dwejra (M) on 14 Oct, and again at Buskett on 28 Oct.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

2000: Recorded in all months from Simar and Għadira with numbers averaging 15 birds at each of the two reserves. Highest 20+ at Għadira on numerous dates. Only one record away from the 2 NR; 1 at Salina on 24 Feb.

2001: Recorded almost daily at Għadira (up to 20) and Simar (up to 5) from 1 Jan to 2 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 16 Jun and 1 at Simar on 11 Jul. 1-5 recorded at Għadira and Simar from 8 Aug to 29 Sep. Recorded almost daily from Għadira (up to 20) and Simar (up to 15) from 1 Oct to 31 Dec.

2002: Up to 25 almost daily at Għadira and up to 10 at Simar in Jan - 24 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 30 Jul, then almost daily at Għadira and Simar from 17 Aug till end of year with up to 15 at Għadira and up to 10 at Simar from Oct onwards.

2003: At Għadira up to 15 in Jan-Feb down to 10 in first half of Mar and to 5 after 14 Mar; then 1 on 4 days from 1-9 Apr. 2 on 13-14 Jun, 16-17 Jun and 26 Jun, possibly breeding pair with newly-hatched chicks (chick calls heard on these dates). Then 1 on 5 days from 8-27 Jul, 1-3 on most days from 2-31 Aug and on most days in Sep, with up to 15 from 23 Sep. Daily in Oct-Dec with up to 20 in late Oct and Nov and up to 30 in Dec. In smaller numbers at Simar in Jan-early Apr and end-Aug to Dec. No records outside the two reserves.

2004: Up to 20 at Għadira and 5-8 at Simar during Jan-Feb but 25 in early Jan at Għadira. Then numbers decreased gradually in Mar with 1-2 at Simar till 26th and 5-10 till 27th. 1-2 in Apr at Għadira till 5th. One sighting elsewhere with 1 at Buskett on 16 Jan. First sighting in autumn at Għadira with 1 on 6 Sep, then 1-2 on a few days from 14 Sep to 9 Oct. 1-2 daily at Simar from 14 Sep increasing gradually in Oct with 5 on 8th and 8 on 14th. At Għadira daily from 13 Oct to end of year with max 25 on 9-11 Nov otherwise 15-20. Up to 5 at Simar till end of year with 8 on a few days.

2005: Up to 20 almost daily at Għadira and up to 8 at Simar in Jan - 26 Apr. 1 at Simar on 6 Sep, then almost daily at Għadira and Simar from 19 Sep till end of year with up to 20 at Għadira and 15 at Simar.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

2000: Single birds seen on five dates at Għadira from 20 Feb to 27 Apr. 1 at Salina on 10 Mar. First autumn migrants on 28 Aug with one at Għadira, than almost daily from 31 Aug to 22 Oct at Għadira and Simar

2001: Singles at Simar on 27-28 Feb, at Lunzjata on 18 Mar, again at Simar on 13 dates from 2 Apr to 31 May (but 2 there on 16 Apr), and at Għadira on 10 Apr, and 14th and 20-21 May. In autumn singles at Simar on 8 dates from 3 Sep to 30 Oct and at Għadira on 25 Sep.

2002: Singles on 5 dates from 12 Mar to 4 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 5 May and at Simar on 23 Sep.

2003: Singles at Simar on 20 Mar and at Għadira on 7 days from 23 Mar to 7 Apr. In autumn singles again at Għadira on 23 Sep and 25-26 Sep, and on 11 Nov.

Little Crake: Singles at Simar on 14 May; at Għadira on 20-21 Sep and 24 Sep; at Rabat on 12 Oct; and at Simar on 27 Oct and 3-4 Nov and 12 Nov.

2004: Singles in Mar at Lunzjata on 13th, at Għadira on 25th and at Simar on 29th. Then in Apr at Simar with 2 on 5th and singles on 7th and 26-27th. 1 at Comino on 22 Apr. In autumn singles at Għadira in Aug on 7th and 16th; then in Sep on 6th, 11th and 19-20th, on 24 Oct and 31 Dec. 1 at Simar on 6 Oct.

2005: 1 at Lunzjata on 2 Mar, then 1-2 at Għadira almost daily from 25 Mar to 18 Apr, and singles at Simar on 1 Apr and 4 Apr. In autumn, 3 records: singles on 6-7 Sep and 13 Sep, all at Simar.

Little Crake *Porzana parva*

2000: 2 males at Simar on 15 Apr. Singles (4 sightings) at Simar and Għadira from 15 Apr to 22 May and at Salina on 21 Oct.

2001: 1 at Marsalforn Valley on 27 Feb.

2002: Singles on 7 dates from 28 Mar to 10 Apr, all at Simar except for 1 at Qormi on 6 Apr. 1 at Simar on 24 Sep.

2003: Singles at Simar on 14 May; at Għadira on 20-21 Sep and 24 Sep; at Rabat on 12 Oct; and at Simar on 27 Oct and 3-4 Nov and 12 Nov.

2004: Singles at Għadira on 27 Apr and almost daily from 9 Nov to 31 Dec. 1 at Simar on 18 Nov.

2005: 1-2 regularly at Għadira on 31 dates from 1 Jan to 8 Apr and 1-2 at Simar on 12 dates from 5 Apr to 10 May.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

2001: Singles at Simar on 15th, 21st and 25 Apr.

2005: 1 male found freshly dead at Simar on 11 Apr.

Striped Crake *Porzana marginalis*

2004: 1 shot at Siġġiewi in April.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

2000: Present all year round in double figures at Għadira and Simar. 40+ counted in each of the two reserves on numerous dates. Figures include breeding populations in the two NR. Very few sightings away from the NR; 1 at Hagar Qim on 9 Apr, 1 at Attard on 23 Apr, 1 at Għajnsielem on 4 and 21 Jun, 2 and 4 at Kirkop on 22 and 26 Jun, 5 at Tas-Salvatur l/o Siġġiewi on 24 Jun, 2 ad and 4 juv at Qrendi on 19 Jul and 19 Aug and 1 at Fgura on 10 Oct.

2001: Daily throughout the year at Għadira and Simar, highest counts of 50 at Għadira on 27 Feb and Simar on 29 Nov, otherwise up to 40. Highest numbers from Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec. Outside the reserves singles at Salina on 3 Feb and 5 Apr, Wied L-Arkata on 19 Feb and Għajnsielem on 17 Apr.

2002: Daily throughout the year at Għadira and Simar, highest 40 at Għadira from Jan-Mar and 35 at Simar on 12 Jul. 8-10 pairs bred at Simar and Għadira. Outside the reserves, 3 at Lunzjata on 23 Mar, 2 at Għajnsielem on 26 Mar, singles at Lunzjata on 4 Apr, at Buskett on 18 Aug and at Xemxija on 13 Oct.

2003: Breeding resident at Għadira and Simar where 8-10 and 10-12 pairs respectively estimated to have bred. Highest numbers in Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec due to presence of migrants and wintering birds with max of 40 and 35 respectively. A few sightings in other areas, mainly in Mar-Apr and end Aug-Nov during migration period.

2004: Breeding resident at Simar with about 12 breeding pairs and at Għadira with 10 pairs. Highest numbers at Għadira in Feb-Mar with up to 40 and in Nov-Dec with 40-50, whilst at Simar 40-50 in Nov-Dec but max.60 on 23 Nov. 9 sightings of 1-2 elsewhere but 4 at Kapuccini valley on 26 Jun suggest breeding.

2005: Up to 40 daily throughout the year at Għadira and Simar. Between 12-15 pairs bred at Simar and 8-10 pairs at Għadira. Outside Reservers: 1 on 4 dates at Rabat between 12 Jan and 10 Apr, 1 at Lunzjata on 2 Mar, 1-2 at Salina on 8 dates between 13 Mar and 30 Apr, 1 at Għajn Riĥana on 19 Mar and 2 Apr, 1 at Comino on 29 Apr, 1 at Xatt I-Aħmar on 14 May, 1 at Għajnsielem on 29 May and 1 at Ramla Valley on 3 Sep.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

2000: Present all year round in single and low double figures at Għadira and Simar. Up to 12 birds at Għadira during Jan and Feb. Up to 10 birds on various dates in winter and autumn months at Simar.

2001: Up to 9 daily at Għadira from 1 Jan to 11 Apr and at Simar from 1 Jan to 26 Mar. Singles at Simar almost daily from 2 Apr to 17 Jul. 1 at Għadira on 30 Apr. Up to 16 almost daily at Simar from 31 Aug to 31 Dec. 1 at Għadira on 7 Oct then 1-5 there from 30 Oct to 31 Dec. Outside of the reserves 1 at Salina on 6-7 Nov and 1 at Xlendi on 23 Sep.

2002: Up to 5 at Għadira from Jan to 7 Apr and up to 10 at Simar from Jan to 14 May, but 12 at Simar on 18 Jan. Singles at Simar on 14 Jun and on 19-20 Jun. Then up to 10 almost daily at Simar from 12 Sep till end of year and singles at Għadira on 13 Nov, 14-15 Dec and on most dates from 20-30 Dec.

2003: Recorded only at Simar and Għadira: At Simar up to 11 wintered in Jan-mid-Feb, numbers gradually decreasing to 4 by mid-Mar and 1 on to 25 Mar. In autumn singles from 29 Sep, numbers gradually increasing from 13 Oct reaching max of 5 in Dec and 6 on last day of the year. At Għadira 5 in Jan-Feb decreased to 4 on 1 Mar and 2-3 from 14 Mar to 1 Apr, then 1 till 7 Apr. 1 on 13 Nov and from 14 Dec onwards.

II-Merill 32 2010

2004: Up to 6 wintering at Simar in Jan-Mar till 5th but 7 on 10 Feb and 4 Mar, then numbers decreased gradually to 1-2 in Mar till 26th. 1 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 11 Mar. Daily at Simar in autumn/winter with 2-3 from 15 Sep increasing to 5 from mid- Oct, then up to 8 from 23 Nov till end of year but 10 in Dec on 9th and 30th. Singles at Għadira in Nov on 7-9th, 19th and 23-24th; then 2 on 26-27th and 4 from 28 Nov to end of year. One record elsewhere with 1 at M'scala on 26 Oct.

2005: Up to 4 at Għadira from Jan to 18 Mar and up to 9 at Simar from Jan to 31 May. 1 at Salina on 27 Mar. Then singles at Simar almost daily from 24 Aug to 20 Sep and up to 10 daily from 22 Sep until end of year. Singles at Għadira on 1 Nov and at Msida Creek on 1 Dec.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

2000: 7 sightings in Nov: 1 at Ramla l-Hamra on 19 Nov, 10 at Buġibba and 4 at Għadira on 26 Nov, 6 at Qawra and 8 at San Anton on 27 Nov, 5 at Victoria on 28 Nov, and 7 at Dwejra (M) on 29 Nov.

2001: 1 at Lunzjata on 28 Feb, 17 at Victoria on 9th and 1 at Qawra on 30 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 27 Oct, 5 at Qawra on 9 Nov, 12 at Pt St Elmo on 2nd and 2 on 7th and 1 on 19 Dec both at Qawra.

2002: 1 at Comino on 2 Apr, 10 at Comino on 26-27 Oct and 2 at Pt St Elmo on 19 Dec.

2003: 19 seen at various sites on 14 Nov and 2 at Buskett on 15 Nov. Then passage in Dec, with 1 on 6 Dec, 43 on 8 Dec, 228 (total for 4 sites) on 9 Dec, 139 (4 sites) on 10 Dec, 11 on 15 Dec and 1 on 17 Dec.

2004: 2 at Paradise Bay on 15 Feb and 3 on Comino on 24 Apr. Then in Nov with 11 at Mellieħa and 8 at Airport and in South Comino Channel on 8th; followed by 82 at Airport, 13 at Targa Gap and 6 at Mdina on 9th. 5 at Għadira on 12th, 4 at Pembroke on 14th, 3 at Airport on 16th and 1 at Għadira on 18th.

2005: 5 records in spring: 48 at Ċirkewwa on 4 Mar, 12 at Dwejra (M) on 24 Mar, 2 on 25 Mar and 5 on 1 Apr, both at Għajnsielem, and 1 at Ta' Pinu on 1 Apr. 9 records in autumn : 1 at Pt.St. Elmo on 7 Nov, 8 at Għadira and Luqa, 1 at Mellieħa and 13 at Nadur (M), all on 19 Nov, 113 at Luqa on 20 Nov, 4 on 21 Nov and 10 on 22 Nov, both at Luqa, and 5 at Qawra on 25 Nov.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

2000: 8 at Sliema on 8 Jul, 5 on 25 Jul on Gozo-Comino channel, 1 at Buġibba on 5 Aug and 2 at St.Paul's Bay and Għadira on 13 Aug.

2002: 9 at San Luċjan on 28 Jul, singles at Ramla L-Hamra on 8 Aug, at Delimara on 11 Aug, and at M'Scala on 13 Aug.

2003: 2 on 29 Jul; 1 on 2 Aug, 13 on 3 Aug, 6 on 4 Aug, 2 on 26 Aug and 1 on 28 Aug; and 1 on 13 Sep. All along the east coast.

2004: 1 at Għadira on 28 Apr. Then in Aug with 1 at Qawra on 6th, 5 at Qrejtjen Pt on 14th and 8 at Għadira on 28th. Singles at Għadira on 8-9 Sep and at Salina on 7 Oct.

2005: 7 at Għadira on 8 Aug, 9 at Qawra on 15 Aug, 11 on 17 Aug and 2 on 30 Aug, both at Fra Ben, and 1 at Qawra on 25 Sep.

Black Winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

2000: 1-3 almost daily at Għadira from 17 Mar to 14 May, but 7 on 24 Mar and 11 on 29 Mar. 1 at Salina on 18 Mar. 1-2 daily at Għadira from 2-9 Jun and up to 4 almost daily at Għadira and Salina from 27 Jun to 19 Jul. 1-2 daily at Għadira and Salina from 31 Jul to 3 Aug and 1 again at Għadira on 25 Aug.

2001: Up to 5 on several dates from 25 Mar to 28 May, singles daily until 15 June, and 1-3 from 25 Jun to 2 Aug all at Għadira. Outside Għadira, 4 at San Luċjan on 23rd and 1 at Salina on 25 Mar. Then in April, 2 on Comino on 4th, 1 at Simar on 7th and 11th, and 1 at Salina on 22nd. 2 at Simar on 15 Jun and singles at Salina on 26-27 Jun, on 16 Aug and on 5 Sep.

2002: 2 at Simar on 5 Mar, then 1-5 on most dates from 26 Mar to 29 Apr, but 7 at Ċirkewwa and 12 at Għadira on 27 Mar, 19 at Qajjenza on 29 Mar, and 12 at Salina on 30 Mar. 1 at Għadira from 13-17 May and 1-3 on most days at Salina and Għadira from 1-20 Jun. Singles at Salina on 24 Jul and at Għadira on 13 Aug. 4 at Għadira on 16 Aug and 1 at Simar on 14 Sep.

2003: On most days at Għadira from 15 Mar to 2 May with 11 on 20-21 Apr highest. Also 3 at Hondoq ir-Rummien on 15 Mar, on 6 days at Salina from 19 Mar to 8 Apr with 12 on 5 Apr highest, and 1 at Ċirkewwa on 4 Apr. Then 1 on 13 May and 17 May and 2 on 1 Jun at Għadira, 2 at Salina on 9-11 Jul and 1 at Għadira on 29 Aug.

2004: 3 at Għadira on 20 Mar, then 1-3 on 10 dates from 24 Mar to 10 Apr but 6 at Simar on 7 Apr. Singles at Salina on 26 Apr and 11 Jun but 6 at Dwejra,G on 12 Jun. Then at Għadira with singles in Jun on 12-19th and 29th followed by daily sightings from 17 Jul to 2 Aug and from 8-23 Aug; mostly 3-5 but 9 on 16 Aug. Singles at Salina in Jun on 14-16th and 30th, then in Jul from 21-25th. Only 2 sightings elsewhere with 6 in Għadira Bay on 16 Aug and 1 at Delimara on 19 Sep.

2005: 1 at Salina on 10 Feb, 2 at Għadira on 2 Mar, then 1-8 on most dates from 13 Mar to 29 Apr, but 30 at Dwejra (G) on 3 Apr and 23 at Għajn Tuffieħa on same date and 12 at Għadira on 25 Mar. 7 at Għadira on 1 May, then 1-2 on 13 dates from 2 May to 12 Jun. 1-2 on most dates at Għadira from 29 Jun to 9 July. In autumn, 1 at Salina on 21 Aug, 14 at Marsalforn on 29 Aug, 1 at Fra Ben on 30 Aug, 5 at Qbajjar on 9 Sep and 4 at Salina on same date, 1 at Salina on 17 Sep and 3 at Għadira on 4 Oct.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

2000: 10 at Qawra on 13 Nov

2001: 1 at Qawra on 3rd and 8 on Comino on 5 Apr. Then all records (but one) at Qawra: 4 on 28 Sep and 1 Oct, 7 on 28th and 2 on 31 Oct, 11 on 6th and 1 on 28 Nov, and 3 on 5th, 15 on 12th and 1 on 22 Dec. 1 at Għadira on 17 Dec.

2002: 7 at Qawra on 27 Oct.

2003: 7 on 27 Sep and 13 on 10 Nov, both at Qawra.

2004: During Sep with 11 at Ta' Xbiex on 16th, 1 at Qawra on 19th and 16 at Qawra and Għadira on 22nd. Then 1 at Għadira from 3 Oct to 4 Nov. 11 at Qawra on 11 Nov.

II-Merill 32 2010

2005: 1 on 14 Aug at Salina, 12 on 4 Sep, 10 on 17 Oct, 1 on 29 Oct, 8 on 5 Nov, 16 on 7 Nov and 10 on 13 Nov, all from Qawra, and 10 at Pt. St. Elmo on 27 Nov.

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oecidnemus*

2000: Singles at Qammieħ on 1 Apr and at Buskett on 24 Sept and 4 Oct.

2001: Singles on Comino on 12th and 14 Apr, and at Pt. St Elmo on 30 Sep.

2002: 1 at Ċirkewwa and 3 at l/o Xlendi on 29 Mar, 3 at Comino on 30 Mar, 1 at Comino on 31 Mar, and 1 at St. Paul's Bay on 3 Apr. 1 shot at Mgarr (M) on 13 Nov.

2003: Singles at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar; on Comino on 13 Apr and 22 Apr and at Qalet Marku on 29 Apr; and again on Comino on 1 May and 8 May, and on 26-27 Oct.

2004: In singles at San Luċjan and Qalet Marku on 23 Mar; then at Ċirkewwa on 30-31 Mar and in Apr at Ta'Gajdor on 3rd and l/o Għarghur on 11th. In autumn at St.Elmo pt on 31 Oct.

2005: Singles at Xrobb l-Għajin on 13 Mar, at Red Tower on 23 Mar, at Wied il-Mielaħ on 24 Mar, at Xagħra on 25 Mar and at Comino on 26 Apr and 1-2 May.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

2002: 4 over l/o Marsa on 12 Apr.

2003: 1 at Għadira on 16 May.

2004: 1 at Għadira on 28-29 Mar.

2005: 1 at Għadira on 18 Apr.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

2000: Up to 20 birds daily at Għadira Nature Reserve from 5 March to 8 Nov. Two breeding pairs present at Għadira. Up to 10 on most days at Salina from 10 March to 31 Aug. 1 on 14 Sep and 2 on 8 Oct also at Salina

2001: At Għadira present almost daily from 4 Mar to 4 Nov in single or low double figures with a max. of 15 on 17 Sep. 2 pairs bred there. At Salina in single figures on 27 dates from 14 Mar to 11 May (max. 10 on 24th and 8 on 27 Mar) and on 23 dates from 12 Jul to 12 Sep (max. 6 on 23rd and 5 on 30 Jul). Outside Għadira and Salina recorded at 4 other sites with 1-2 on 5 dates from 19 Mar to 4 Apr and on 4 dates from 20 Jul to 16 Sep.

2002: Almost daily in single or low double figures of up to 15 from 3 Mar to 6 Oct, but 40+ at Għadira and 30+ at Salina on 18 Mar. 2 pairs bred at Għadira.

2003: 1-2 on 3 days from 23-26 Feb, then single figures daily, mostly at Għadira, from 28 Feb and low double figures (max 15) on 14 days from late Mar to mid-Apr. Few, if any migrants, after 20 Apr. 2 pairs bred at Għadira, with first chicks hatching on 19 May and the last on 2 Aug. Up to 8 were present at Għadira in Jun-Jul and included fledged young. Autumn passage from 28 Jun when 5 at Salina – only single figures except for 13 at Salina on 20 Jul and 15 at Għadira and 10 at Salina on 21 Jul. Only 1-3 at Għadira in Sep-Nov and on to 24 Dec.

2004: 1 on 26 Feb, then daily from 29 Feb to 27 Aug with highest numbers in Mar-Apr when 10-15 regularly but 20 on 16 Mar. 2-3 pairs incubating between Apr and Jul at Għadira with chicks hatching in May-Jul and present till Aug. Up to 10 on a few days in summer including also migrants. Then 1-7 on most days in Sep and singles daily from 12 Oct to 4 Nov. Elsewhere 13 sightings of 1-3 on 12 dates from 8 Mar to 21 Apr but 12 on 19th and 7 on 22nd both at Salina in Mar. In autumn 23 sightings of singles from 12 Jul to 7 Oct but 5 at Salina on 25 Jul.

2005: Almost daily in single or low double figures of up to 15 from 14 Apr to 14 Oct, but 30+ on 20 Mar and 20+ on 17 Mar, both at Għadira. 3 pairs bred at Għadira, but only 5 young fledged (4 on 20 Jul and 1 on 7 Aug).

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

2000: Single birds in spring from 2 Apr to 29 May mainly at Għadira and Salina. First autumn migrant on 22 July at Salina, than 1-4 birds almost daily mostly at Għadira and at Salina. 3 birds at Marsaxlokk on 22 Sept last autumn sighting.

2001: 1-6 on 29 dates from 5 Apr to 31 May mainly at Għadira, but a max. of 11 at Qawra on 8 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 1st and 3 Jun. Then up to 4 on 36 dates from 25 Jul and 30 Sep, mainly at Għadira and Salina, except 1 at San Luċjan on 19 Sep. One late bird at Għadira on 2 Nov.

2002: 3 at Luqa on 8 Mar were unusual. 1-3 almost daily from 21 Apr to 25 May, all at Għadira and Salina except for 1 at Comino on 7 May. Singles at Għadira and Salina from 9-12 Jun. In autumn, singles at Għadira and Salina on 6 Aug, then 1-2 on 22 dates from 11 Aug to 1 Oct, mainly at Għadira. Singles at Għadira on 30 Oct and 7 Nov.

2003: Singles at Għadira on 5-6 Apr and 3 May, then 1-6 on 6-18 May at Salina, and 1-3 at on 8-24 May at Għadira where singles also on 30 May and 1 Jun. In autumn singles on 12 days from 13 Jul to 21 Aug, but 3 at Salina on 20 Jul; then on most days from 27 Aug to 4 Oct when again singles except for 2 on 6-7 Sep. 1 on 10 Oct.

2004: Singles at Għadira from 25-29 Apr and 1-3 almost daily from 7 May to 1 Jun. Then singles from 26-30 Jun and on most days from 11-30 Jul. 1-3 daily from 10 Aug to 29 Sep but 4 on 11 Sep and 1 on 12-14 Oct. Elsewhere, mainly at M'scala, in singles on 28 Apr and 4 May, then on 10 dates from 8 Aug to 11 Sep.

2005: 1 at Xrobb l-Għajin on 16 Apr, then 1-3 almost daily from 27 Apr to 8 Jun, all at Għadira and Salina, but 6 at Għadira on 9 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira from 24-26 Jul, at Salina on 6-7 Aug and at Marsascula on 8 Aug, then 1-3 on 16 dates from 15 Aug to 15 Sep, but 6 at Għajin Tuffieħa on 13 Sep. 1 almost daily at Għadira from 16 Sep to 16 Oct.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

2000: Five spring sightings of single birds at Salina and Għadira from 18 Mar to 22 May. First autumn bird on 16-17 Jul at Għadira and one at Salina on 19-20 and 27 July and 1 Aug. 1-2 birds at Għadira from 8 - 19 Sept. 1 at Qawra on 11 Sept.

2001: Singles on 10 May, 19-20 Jul and 16 Sep, all at Għadira, and on 30 Sep at Pt. St Elmo.

2002: 1 at Salina on 18 Mar and 1-2 on 10 dates from 26 Jul to 6 Aug at Għadira and Salina.

II-Merill 32 2010

2003: Recorded from Għadira and Salina: Singles on 18 days from 11 Feb to 2 Apr and on 31 May. In autumn 1 on 12 Jul, 2 on 27 Jul and 1 on 29 Jul, 1 on 1-2 Aug, and 1 on 1 Nov.

2004: Mostly at Għadira in singles on 4-5 Jul, 26-28 Aug and 31 Oct to 31 Dec. Elsewhere in singles at Pt.St..Elmo on 21-22 Sep and 3 Oct, and at Salina on 5 Aug, but 3 at M'scala on 22 Sep.

2005: Singles at Għadira almost daily from 1 Jan to 27 Mar and singles at Marsascula on 6 Mar, 10 Mar and 14 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 7-8 Jun, at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 5 Jul, at Għadira on 10-11 Aug, at Salina on 27 Aug, at Għadira on 30 Aug, at Marsascula on 5 Sep and at Pt.St.. Elmo on 21 Sep.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

2000: Singles at Ta' Gajdoru Xagħra on 1 Sep and at Dwejra (M) on 8 Sep, 2 at Dwejra (M) on 21 Sep, singles at Dwejra (M) on 30 Sep, at Qawra and Mellieħa on 1 Oct, and 3 at Qawra on 8 Oct.

2001: Recorded only in autumn: singles at Dwejra on 26th and 28 Aug, 15th and 18 Sep and 10 Oct, but 2 on 14 Sep. Elsewhere, singles at Buskett on 19th and at San Gwann on 24 Sep, and at Għadira on 19th and at Ta' Gajdoru on 22 Oct.

2002: Singles on 11 dates from 28 Aug to 5 Oct, but 2 at Buskett on 27 Sep.

2003: 1 at Dingli on 25 Aug; 3 at Buskett on 6 Sep, 1 at Pt. St. Elmo on 10 Sep; 1 at Dwejra (M) on 29 Sep and 6 at Buskett on 23 Oct.

2004: In singles at Luqa airport on 26 Aug and 20 Sep, at Buskett on 30 Sep and at Dwejra (M) on 2 Oct.

2005: 1 at Għadira on 6 Sep, 2 at Luqa on 7 Sep, 1 at Mellieħa on 21 Sep, 1 at Għadira on 23 Sep, 1 at Dwejra (M) on 7 Oct and 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 13 Nov.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

2000: Recorded on 9 dates from 27 Nov to 28 Dec. highest numbers include 17 birds on 14 Dec and 7 on 28 Nov both at Qawra.

2001: On 5 dates at Qawra: 2 on 13th, 6 on 18th, 2 on 23rd and 5 on 24th all in Nov, and 21 on 5 Dec.

2002: Recorded on 8 dates from 31 Oct to 29 Dec, all in singles except for 2 at Għadira on 6 Dec.

2003: Singles at Ċirkewwa on 23 Feb and at Għadira on 19 Sep. Then 18 sightings on 13 days from 28 Oct to 17 Dec when mostly 1-4 but 9 at Burmarrad on 9 Nov, 10 at San Lucjan on 8 Dec, and 41 at Luqa Airport on 9 Dec. Also 1 at Għadira on 9 days from 11 Nov to 27 Dec.

2004: 22 sightings of 1-5 from 3 Nov to 4 Dec but 9 on 5th and 26 on 23rd, both in Nov and Luqa airport. Then 3 sightings in Dec with 2 on 10th, and singles on 14th and 20th.

2005: 1-10 on 15 days from 29 Oct to 14 Dec, but 16 at Dwejra (M) on 22 Nov, 31 at Luqa on 23 Nov, 18 at Dwejra (M) on 24 Nov and 23 at St Elmo on 26 Nov.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

2000: 2 at Comino on 11 May, then singles at Għadira on 30-31 Jul, at Simar on 29 Aug and at Buskett on 30 Aug.

2001: One at Għadira from 21st to 26 May. Then in autumn 1 on 17 Aug at Għadira; and 1 on 21 Sep and 4 on 11 Nov at Qawra.

2002: Singles at Marsalforn on 8 Aug, and at Qawra on 7 Sep, 18 Oct, 20 Oct and 12 Nov.

2003: 1-2 at Għadira on 6-8 May. In autumn 1 at Għadira on 26 Aug and singles at Qawra on 12 Sep, 2 Oct and 11 Oct.

2004: In singles from 25-28 Apr and 15-21 Aug at Għadira. In Sep at Qalet Marku on 5th, at Simar on 22nd and at Għallis on 24th, then in Oct at Dwejra (M) on 5th and at Delimara on 6th. Last sightings on 16 Oct and 4 Nov at Qawra.

2005: Singles at Għadira on 8 days from 1-15 May. In autumn, singles at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 5 Aug, at Għadira on 23 Aug, at Fra Ben on 30 Aug, at Pt. St. Elmo on 18 Sep, and at Qawra on 26 Sep.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

2000: 6+ at Luqa on 14 Jan, then singles on 20th and 21 Oct at Ta'Qali and Victoria respectively. 5 at Ta'Qali on 3 Dec, 6 on 14th, 1 on 15th, and 3 on 25 Dec all at Qawra. 1 at Għadira from 13-31 Dec.

2001: 1 at Għadira almost daily from 1-23 Jan, 5 at tal-Barrani on 18th and 2 at Ta' Lambert on 28 Jan. 1 at Għadira on 8 Nov and 2 at Qawra on 10 Nov. Then 1-2 at Għadira almost daily from 30 Nov to 31 Dec. 2 at Ta' Gajdoru on 8th, 6 at Mellieħa on 15th, and 1 at San Gwann on 21 Dec.

2002: Singles at Għadira from 1-16 Jan and on 6 Feb. 1-6 on 7 dates from 22 Oct to 19 Dec.

2003: 20 at Qawra on 18 Oct and 1 on Comino on 25 Oct, then 1-3 at various sites on 13 days from 4 Nov to 27 Dec

2004: Singles at Għadira on 14 Feb and at Miġra I-Ferħa on 4 Oct, then 5 at Luqa Airport and 8 at Simar on 27 Oct. In Nov 15 sightings of 1-5 on 11 dates from 7-25th but highest numbers at Luqa Airport with 31 on 16th and 10 on 19th and 23rd.

2005: Singles at Għadira on 30 Jan and 6 Mar. In autumn, 1-9 on 15 dates from 29 Oct to 21 Dec, but 26 at Luqa on 22 Nov.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

2002: 1 at Għadira on 13 May, and 19 at M'Scala on 16 Sep.

2004: 2 at Salina on 18 Sep.

2005: 2 at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 12 May.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

2000: Singles at Għadira on 30 Apr and at Salina on 22 May.

2001: Singles at Għadira on 29-30 Apr and 30 Sep.

2002: 1 on 12-15 Apr and 1-2 on 11 dates from 4-16 May, but 3 on 12 May, all at Għadira. 1 at M'Scala on 30 Sep.

2003: 1 at Salina on 6 May.

2004: 1 at Qalet Marku on 23 Mar. Then at M'scala with 1 on 28 Apr, 2 on 10 May and singles on 20th and 22 Sep.

2005: 2 at Marsascala on 25 Apr, 1 at Ghadira on 12 May, 1-3 at Salina from 13-15 May, and 1 at same place on 4 Jun. Singles on 7 dates from 6 Aug to 30 Sep, but 2 at Fra Ben on 31 Aug.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

2000: First spring migrant on 19 Mar with one at Ghadira, then almost daily at Ghadira (till 17 Jun) and Salina (till 2 Jun) in single and double figures; highest 40 at Ghadira N.R. on 1 May. Single summering (June and early July) birds at Ghadira and Salina, with numbers increasing from the second half of July till 17 Oct. Highest being 43 at Salina on 1 Aug.

2001: Singles at Ghadira on 21 Jan and 3-4 Feb, and single figures on most days from 11 Mar to 7 Apr, max. 7 at Salina on 30 Mar. In single or double figures almost daily from 8 Apr to 12 Jun, max 50 on 29th and 30 Apr, 40 on 5th and 30 on 2nd and 7 May, all at Ghadira. Then almost daily in single or low double figures mostly at Ghadira and Salina from 5 Jul till end of year, max 23 on 22nd and 20 on 24th at Salina, and 16 on 29th at Ghadira, all in July.

2002: 1-2 daily at Ghadira in Jan and Feb, then seen daily in single or low double figures until 5 Jun, highest 30+ at Salina on 11 May. In autumn, daily in single or low double figures from 17 Jul to 3 Nov, highest 16 at Ghadira on 3 Sep. Singles at Ghadira and Salina on 8 Dec. Most records were from Ghadira and Salina.

2003: Daily, mostly at Ghadira and Salina, from 23 Mar to 19 May and on most days on to 7 Jun. Highest numbers in May with medium double figures on most days at both sites, with 70 at Salina on 10 May highest. 2 on 22 Jun. In autumn daily from 20 Jul with low double figures (max 40 at Ghadira on 29 Jul) on most days till mid-Sep, then 1-5 at Ghadira on to 6 Nov, with one staying till 28 Dec (2 present on 16 Dec), and 1 irregularly at Salina in Nov.

2004: Mostly at Ghadira in spring with 1-5 from 23 Mar to 7 Apr, then in single figures daily from 11 Apr to 16 May but up to 30 from mid-Apr to early May and 40-50 on 24-25 Apr. 2 on 19-20th and 1 on 25-26 May. 4 sightings elsewhere with singles at M'scala on 24 Mar and Sarraflu on 25 Apr, then at Salina with 3 on 1 May and 1 on 16 Jun. In autumn mostly at Ghadira again from 20 Jul to 1 Oct when usually in single figures but 10-20 regularly from late Jul to late Aug. Then 1-4 from 15 Oct to 6 Nov and singles from 2-5 Dec. 37 sightings elsewhere on 20 dates from 23 Jul to 6 Oct with most at Simar and Salina, usually 1-9 but 18 at Salina on 26 Jul.

2005: Singles at Ghadira from 22-28 Feb, then seen almost daily in single or low double figures until 7 Jun, highest 25 at Ghadira on 5 Apr, 25+ at Salina on 7 May and 25 at Ghadira on 15 May. In autumn, daily in single or low double figures (of up to 18) from 16 Jul to 20 Sep, and 1-5 daily at Ghadira from 21 Sep to end of year.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

2000: 1-3 at Ghadira from 23-29 Apr. Single bird at Salina on 21-22 May and 1-2 birds at Ghadira from 8th to 18 May. 1 at Simar on 24 -25 July and 1 from 22 July to 22 Sep at Ghadira. 1 at Salina on 4 Aug.

2001: 1-3 on 18 dates from 18 Apr to 21 May, but 5 at Ghadira on 11 May. 1 at Ghadira on 8 Jun. Then 1-2 recorded regularly from 15 Jul to 16 Sep, but 8 at Ghadira on 17 Sep.

2002: 1 on 12 Apr, then 1-2 on 14 dates from 27 Apr to 25 May, but 4 on 28 Apr. In autumn, singles on 9 dates from 19 Jul to 7 Sep, but 2 on 29 Aug. All records at Ghadira except for 1 at Simar on 9 Aug.

2003: 1-3 daily from 1-12 May; then singles on 4 Aug, 9 Aug and 25 Aug, 1 Sep and 8 Sep. All records at Ghadira.

2004: All at Ghadira with 1-3 from 17-27 Apr but 10 on 27th. Then singles in May from 3-7th and 19-21st, on 13 Jun, on 20 dates from 17 Jul to 23 Aug and on 13-14 Sep.

2005: In spring, 1-2 at Ghadira on 13 dates from 29 Apr to 4 Jun. In autumn, singles regularly from 17 Jul to 31 Aug, all at Ghadira except for 1 at Qawra on 27 Aug.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

2000: Single birds at Salina and Ghadira from 24 Apr to 30 May; highest 8 at Ghadira on 13 May. 1-2 at Ghadira from 06 to 16 June, then 1-2 birds from 21 July to 20 Sep at same place. 1 at Ramla Bay on 23 July and 1-4 at Salina on most days from 22 July to 10 Aug.

2001: Recorded at Ghadira and Salina in single or low double figures, up to 16, almost daily from 23 Apr to 29 May. Single figures regularly from 11 Jul to 27 Sep but 12 at Salina on 22 Jul. 1 at Ghadira on 11 Nov.

2002: Only recorded at Ghadira and Salina. In spring, on most days from 18 Apr to 29 May, in single or low double figures, highest 18 at Salina on 18 May. Singles from 12-15 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Ghadira on 12 Jul, then in single figures on most days from 18 Jul to 18 Sep, highest 7 at Salina on 22 Jul.

2003: Singles on 19 Apr and 27 Apr, then daily from 4 May to 2 Jun with all sightings from Ghadira and Salina and occasionally Simar; low double figures on 9 days, max 25 at Salina on 6 May. 1 on 12-14 Jun. In autumn daily, mostly at same sites, from 17 Jul to 7 Aug when generally low single figures with max of 9 at Qawra on 1 Aug. Then 1-4 on 9 days from 12 Aug to 5 Sep

2004: Daily at Ghadira from 16 Apr to 1 May and from 5-31 May with peak in early-mid May when 8-15 daily and 19-21 on 9-10th, otherwise 1-6. Elsewhere 1 at Simar on 25 Apr and 4 at Salina on 1 May. In autumn mostly at Ghadira and Salina when 1-4 daily from 25 Jul to 15 Aug but 7-8 on 4 days. Then 1-3 daily at Ghadira from 1-25 Sep but 2 at Delimara on 22nd. Singles daily again at Ghadira from 28 Sep to 15 Oct and 11-12 Nov but flock of 9 at Qawra on 28 Sep.

2005: In spring, recorded in single or low double figures almost daily from 6 Apr to 28 May, highest 25+ at Salina on 15 May. In autumn, 1-5 on 31 dates from 10 Jul to 17 Sep, but 13 at Qawra on 16 Aug.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

2000: In spring: Singles at Ghadira from 19-25 Mar and at Comino on 31 Mar, 2 at Salina and 1 at M'scala on 2 Apr. 1-5 birds at Salina from 8 Jul to 31 Aug. 1-10 birds at Ghadira from 24 Jul to 26 Nov. 2 at Buskett on 8 Sep, 4 at Qawra on 7 Oct and 1 at Qawra and 1 at Ghadira on 31 Dec.

2001: Singles at Ghadira on 1-4 Jan, at Marsascala on 23 Mar and at Simar on 19 Jun. Then up to 5 (but mainly 1-2) on most days from 20 Jul to 13 Nov with singles almost daily from 15 Nov to 15 Dec, mainly at Ghadira.

II-Merill 32 2010

2002: 1 at Qawra on 2 Jan. In spring, singles at Għadira on 28-29 Mar, 16 Apr, 22 May and from 27-30 May. In autumn, 1-5 on most days from 20 Jul to 15 Oct, but 15 at Qawra on 7 Sep. 1 at Salina on 29 Oct, 8 at Qawra on 14 Nov, and 1 at Għadira on 8 Dec.

2003: Singles at Għadira on 22-26 Mar and 8 May. 1 on 18 Jul, then main autumn passage from 28 Jul to 30 Oct when not daily and always 1-5, mostly at Għadira. 1 at Salina on 16 Nov and 21 Nov and 1 at Għadira from 12-23 Dec.

2004: Singles at Għadira on 15-17 Apr. Then daily from 21 Jul to 28 Aug with most sightings at Salina and Għadira, usually 1-4 but 9 on 15th and 8 on 16 Aug at Għadira and 7 at M'scala on 17 Aug. Daily at Għadira from 2 Sep to 18 Nov with highest numbers in mid-late Sep when 6-8 on most days but 10 on 19th, otherwise 1-5. 10 sightings elsewhere of 1-3 from 10 Sep to 13 Oct mainly at Salina and M'scala. Last sightings in late Nov with singles at M'scala on 19th and Għadira on 24-27th but 6 at Pt. St. Elmo on 21st.

2005: Singles at Salina on 19 Jan and 27 Jan, at Pembroke on 30 Jan, at Salina on 3 Feb, at Għadira on 6 Apr and again on 20-21 May. In autumn, 1 at Salina on 8 Jul, then 1-3 on 5 dates from 15-30 Jul. 1-6 almost daily from 4 Aug to 30 Sep, but 9 at Għadira on 8 Aug. 1-3 regularly at Għadira from 1 Oct to 19 Nov, then 1 at Luqa on 23 Nov, and singles at Salina on 16 Dec and 27 Dec.

Broad-Billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

2002: 1 at Għadira on 15-16 Jul.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

2000: First spring sighting: 4 at Għadira on 5 Mar, almost daily till 9 June with 1-17 birds counted. Single bird at Għadira from 10 Jul to 6 Aug 1 on 05th & 06 Aug and again on 11 and 26 Sep. Singles at Salina on various dates in Apr and May with 20 on 15 and 17 May highest. Single birds on four days at Salina in Jul. 10 birds seen in the l/o Żebbuġ (M) on 1 June.

2001: 1 at Għadira on 1 Feb and 25 at Qawra on 25 Feb. Then in single or low double figures (max 17 on 9th and 15 on 10 Apr at Għadira) recorded almost daily from 2 Mar to 22 May, but a major migration on 10 Mar with ca. 1500 birds reported from Għadira (ca. 1200 also reported from the Gozo Channel). 1 at Għadira from 12 to 23 Jul. Then on 4 dates in Sep: 12 at Buskett on 12th, 2 at Għadira on 14th, 7 at Qawra on 19th, and 10 at Qawra and 1 at Għadira on 22nd. 1 late bird at Għadira on 25 Nov.

2002: 1-10 almost daily from 4 Mar to 2 May, but 18-20 at Għadira on 25-28 Apr. Almost daily from 11 May to 6 Jun, highest 20 at Għadira on 17 May and on 19 May, and 22 at Salina on 20 May, otherwise up to 19. In autumn, 1-2 on 5 dates from 15-31 Jul, 1 on 19 Aug, and 1-2 on 6 dates from 4-30 Sep.

2003: 7 sightings on 5 days from 15 Feb to 4 Mar; singles, but 11 at Ċirkewwa on 23 Feb. Daily from 7 Mar to 19 May with double figures on several days from 31 Mar to 19 Apr, max 40 at Għadira on first date. Then 1-2, mostly at Għadira, on 12 days on to 6 Jun. In autumn 18 sightings on 16 days from 16 Jul to 23 Sep; always 1-2 but 9 at Qawra on 16 Sep, 13 over Simar on 17 Sep, and 4 at Qawra on 19 Sep.

2004: From 4 Mar to 2 May with 1-4 almost daily at Għadira and 8 sightings elsewhere of 1-3 but 35 at Ċirkewwa on 12 Mar, 7 at M'xlokk on 23 Mar and 17 at Luqa on 25 Apr. In autumn 1-2 almost daily at Għadira from 18 Jul to 5 Sep and 4 sightings elsewhere of singles from 17 Jul to 26 Aug but 3 at Salina on 1 Aug. Then 13 sightings of 1-4 at 10 sites on 10 dates from 6 Sep to 16 Oct but 17 at Qawra on 19th and 13 at Luqa on 20th, both in Sep. 1 at Luqa airport on 17 Nov.

2005: Singles at 5 locations on 7 dates between 9 and 22 Feb. 1 at Simar on 2 Mar, then in single and low double figures almost daily from 15 Mar to 31 May, highest 30+ at Għadira on 1 May and 3 May. 2 at Għadira on 1 Jun. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 6 Jul and at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 21 Jul, then 1 almost daily at Simar from 26 Jul to 5 Oct. Outside Simar, 4 at Fra Ben on 30 Aug, 1 at Għadira on 30-31 Aug, 2 at Buskett on 6 Sep and 1 at Għadira on 8 Sep.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus*

2000: 2 at Għadira on 4 and 13 Feb, singles at same locality on 20 Mar and 2 Oct. 1 at Mellieħa on 9 Apr.

2001: Singles at Lunzjata on 3rd and 28 Feb. Then 1-2 on 4 dates from 12th to 16 Apr. Single at Simar regularly from 16 Oct to 28 Dec but 2 on 22 Nov. Singles at Għadira on 7th, 9th and 11 Nov, and at Lunzjata on 12 Dec.

2002: 1 at Simar on 1 Jan, then up to 3 almost daily from 19 Feb to 9 Apr, mostly at Simar.

2003: 1 at Simar on 9-10 Apr.

2005: 1 at Simar on 30 Mar. In autumn, 5 sightings of singles from 28 Oct to 24 Dec at Għadira, Simar and Rabat.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

2000: Up to 12 mainly at Simar from Jan to 30 Mar, but 13 at Luqa Airport on 13 Feb. Singles on 6 dates from 8-26 Apr. Up to 3 almost daily from 11 Aug till end of year mainly at Simar and Għadira.

2001: 1-3 at Simar almost daily from 1 Jan to 23 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 7 Mar, 1 at Wied L-Isperanza on 9 Mar and 1 at Lunzjata on 14 Mar. 1-3 at Simar regularly from 22 Aug to 17 Dec. 1 at Għadira on 28 Aug. 2 at Dwejra on 1 Sep, 1 at Buskett on 21 Sep and 1 at Dwejra on 27 Sep. Singles at Għadira on 22nd and 26 Nov and 2 Dec.

2002: 1 at Salina on 15 Jan. 1-4 on most days from 15 Feb to 8 May, mostly at Simar. Singles at Simar on 22 May and 30 May. In autumn, 1-2 on 6 dates from 22 Aug to 26 Sep, and singles on 15 dates from 1 Oct to 19 Nov, but 3 at Comino on 31 Oct.

2003: Singles on 9 Mar, 26 Apr and 1-2 May, mainly at Għadira. In autumn 1 at Simar on 5 Aug, then 1-3 on 36 days from 27 Aug to 17 Dec, but 4 at Dwejra (M) on 11 Oct.

2004: Mostly at Simar in spring with singles on 19 Feb, 3rd and 7-8 Mar. Then daily from 11-31 Mar with most in mid-Mar when 3-7 on most days otherwise 1-2. Singles in Apr on 4th and 7th. 7 sightings elsewhere of singles between 4 Mar and 9 Apr. Daily at Simar in autumn from 31 Aug to 28 Oct when mostly 1-2 but 3-4 on most days from 13 Sep to 1 Oct. 11 sightings elsewhere in singles between 8 Sep and 23 Oct but 4 at Qawra on 28 Sep. Then 1-2 almost daily

II-Merill 32 2010

from various sites between 30 Oct and 26 Nov but 3 at Simar on 16 Nov. Singles in Dec at Simar on 9th and at Għadira on 11th.

2005: 1 at Salina on 3 Jan and 19 Jan. 1-4 on 27 dates from 6 Feb to 7 Apr. 1 at Ta Qali on 2 May. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 30 Aug, then 1-3 on 42 dates from 8 Sep to 30 Nov, but 4 at Buskett on 17 Oct and 9 at Luqa on 20 Nov. Singles at Simar on 9 Dec, 23 Dec and 27 Dec.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

2000: 1 at Għadira on 8 Apr, 1-2 birds at Simar from 12 May to 16 June..

2001: 1 at Simar on 11 May.

2002: 1 at Għadira on 18 May.

2005: Single on 5 dates at Simar from 6-15 May.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

2001: 16 singles birds on 13 dates from 4 Nov to 25 Dec, and two were recorded on 3 dates: at Għargħur on 14th and at Għadira on 19th and 27th December.

2002: Singles on 18 dates from 6 Jan to 1 Mar, mostly at Simar. Singles at Għadira on 25 Nov, 7 Dec, and 25 Dec.

2003: Singles at Għadira on 7 Feb, at Dwejra (Gozo) on 25 Oct and at Targa Gap on 21 Nov.

2004: Singles in Nov at Mellieħa on 7th, Għadira on 8th, Ta' Gajdoru on 19th, Red Tower and Ta' Gajdoru on 22nd, Airport on 23rd and Buskett on 30th.

2005: Singles on 7 dates at 7 locations from 27 Oct to 29 Nov.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

2001: 5 on 21 Feb with 80 on 10 Mar both records in the Gozo Channel.

2002: 106 on 23 Mar and 80+ on 24 Mar, both at Qammieħ.

2003: 19 on 5 Mar, 19 on 7 Mar, 165 on 8 Mar, and 25 on 11 Mar, all at Ċirkewwa. Singles at Għajn Tuffieħa on 15 Mar, 30 at Ċirkewwa on 18 Mar and at Qalet Marku on 28 Aug.

2004: Singles at Għadira on 17 Mar and 26-30 Jun.

2005: Singles at Għadira on 16-17 Feb, and almost daily from 16 Mar to 9 Apr. 1 at Luqa on 22 Nov.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

2002: 10 at Ċirkewwa on 23 Mar.

2005: 2 at Ċirkewwa on 3 Mar.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

2000: 12 at Qammieħ on 1 Apr and 2 over Għadira on 14 Jul.

2001: 4 at Għadira on 6 Aug.

2002: 20 at Qammieħ on 25 Mar and 1 at Qawra on 28 Jun.

2004: Flock of 9 on 22nd and 1 on 29th, both in Aug at M'Xlokk. Then 1 at Għadira on 30 Aug and 3 at Qawra on 3 Nov.

2005: 1 at Buskett on 21 Aug.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

2000: 1-4 on 7 dates from 19 Mar to 18 Apr, but 31 at Qammieħ on 1 Apr. 7 on 29 Jun and 1 on 13 Jul, both at Qawra. In autumn, 2 at Buskett on 6 Sep, then 1-4 on 6 dates mainly at Qawra from 21 Oct to 13 Nov, but 10 at same place on 11 Nov.

2001: 54 in the Gozo Channel on 22nd and 21 from Qammieħ on 27 Mar. The on 4 dates in April: 8 on 1st, 20 on 3rd, and 6 on 5th in the Gozo channel, and singles at Qammieħ and Qawra on 6th. 1 at Tigne on 22 Sep. Then on 6 dates in Nov: 31 at Qawra and 5 at tigne on 2nd, 18 at Qawra and 3 at Xgħajra on 3rd, 3 at Ta' Gajdoru on 11th, and 1 on 18th, 7 on 21st and 1 on 30th, all at Qawra.

2002: 2 at Pt St Elmo on 16 Feb, 5 at Ċirkewwa on 22 Mar, 4 at Ċirkewwa on 23 Mar and 1 at Comino on 13 Apr. In autumn, 4 at Qawra on 13 Sep, 8 at Qawra on 27 Oct and singles at Comino on 29 Oct and at Qawra on 19 Nov.

2003: Good year for this species. 1 at B'Bugia on 1 Jan. In spring, 40 on 15 Mar, 20 on 16 Mar, 1 on 17 Mar, 83 on 29 Mar, 42 on 31 Mar, 25 on 1 Apr, and 17 on 4 Apr, all at Ċirkewwa, then 1 on Comino on 14 Apr. Singles on 19 Jun and 8 Jul, then on 12 days from 26 Aug to 6 Dec when mostly 1-2 but 18 at Bahar ic-Cagħaq on 4 Nov and 5 at Qawra on 18 Oct.

2004: Singles in Mar at Ghasri on 8th and at Miġra l-Ferħa on 31st. Then 16 at Ċirkewwa on 3 Apr and 1 at Torri l-Abjad on 15 Jul. 3 sightings in Aug at Qawra with 6 on 15th, 3 on 22nd and 1 on 28th. Then in Nov with 8 at Qawra on 2nd and 1 at same place on 3rd, 1 at Għadira on 9th, 6 at Simar on 16th, 4 at Airport on 23rd and 2 at Red Tower on 24th.

2005: 1 at Ċirkewwa on 13 Mar, 11 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 16 Mar, 2+ on 18 Mar, 11 on 19 Mar, 32+ on 20 Mar, 102 on 28 Mar, and 9 on 29 Mar, all at Ċirkewwa, 9 at Għajnsielem on 31 Mar and 1 at Marsascalea on 7 Apr. In autumn, singles at Qawra on 19 Oct and at Pt. St. Elmo on 7 Nov.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

2000: Present in all months of the year in single or low double figures with 30 at Salina on 9 Apr being the highest. Recorded mainly from Għadira, Simar and Salina but also from various coastal localities.

2001: Singles from 1 Jan to 28 Feb with 2 at Salina on 15th, 20th and 23 Jan. 1-6 recorded almost daily from 1 Mar to 30 May. 1 at Għadira on 3-4 Jun and 1 at Ċirkewwa on 30 Jun. 1-10 regularly from 2 Jul to 30 Sep but 21 at Qawra on 26 Jul and 12 at Salina on 5 Aug. 1-3 almost daily from 1 Oct to 10 Nov then single birds daily at Għadira from 12 Nov to 31 Dec with singles at Salina on 3rd and 15 Dec.

2002: Singles at Għadira from 1-11 Jan, at Salina on 16 Feb, and at Għadira on 9 Mar. Then up to 10 on most days from 18 Mar to 16 Sep, but 16 at Baħar l-Ċagħaq on 28 Jul and 15 at St. Paul's Bay on 18 Aug. 1-2 on 14 dates from 22 Sep to 29 Dec, but 7 at Qawra on 2 Oct.

2003: 1 on several days at Għadira from 1 Jan to 22 Feb and 1 at Salina on 3 Jan. 1-4 irregularly at Għadira and Salina from 5-21 Mar, then 1-7 daily from 24 Mar to 15 May and 1-2 on 13 days from 18 May to 21 Jun. 1-6 on most days from 28 Jun, then daily from 17 Jul to 30 Aug and almost daily on to 19 Sep when always 1-5 but 10 at Salina on 14 Jul, 14 at Marsamxett on 14 Aug and 20 at St. Andrew's on 19 Aug. 1-3 on 14 days from 22 Sep to 12 Dec.

2004: Singles at Salina in Jan on 5th and 26th, then 13 sightings of 1-3 from 18 Feb to 4 Apr mostly at Salina. 1-5 daily from 6 Apr to 2 May but 6 at M'scala on 21 Apr, followed by 10 sightings of 1-2 from 5 May to 6 Jun. Singles in Jun on 24th and 30th. Then 1-5 daily from 5 Jul to 28 Sep but 10 at St. Pauls Bay on 12th, 7 at M'scala on 13th and 12 at M'xlokk on 25th all in Aug followed by 10 sightings of 1-5 from 13 Oct to 7 Nov. Spring and autumn sightings from various sites but most at Għadira, Simar and Salina. 1-3 daily at Għadira and occasionally at Salina and Pt. St. Elmo from 14 Nov to 31 Dec.

2005: Singles on most days from 2-31 Jan, but 2 at Salina on 23 Jan. Then in low single figures on most days from 2 Feb to 17 May, but 12 at Għadira on 24 Mar and 12 at Marsascalea on 29 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 1-2 Jun, then in low single figures from 26 Jun to 26 Sep, but 10 at Marsascalea on 1 Aug. Singles on 4 dates in Oct, then singles regularly from 16 Nov to 26 Dec, but 2 at Għadira on 16 Nov and 4 at Salina on 26 Dec.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

2000: 1 at Pieta' on 4 Mar, then 1-3 on most days from 9 Mar to 29 Apr, but 10 at Għadira on 31 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on 11 Jun, then 1-4 on most days from 23 Jun to 3 Sep, but 6 at Għadira on 22 Aug. 1 at Għadira on 17 Sep, 2 at Għadira on 10 Oct and a late bird at Simar on 17 Nov.

2001: Singles at Marsalforn Valley on 26 Feb and at Għadira on 27 Feb. 1-3 regularly from 10 Mar to 7 May but 8 at Simar on 10 Mar. Recorded in single figures on several dates from 14 Jun to 28 Sep. Then singles at Għadira on 5 Oct and 26 Nov.

2002: Singles at Għadira on 23 Feb and at Chadwick Lakes on 6 Mar, then in single figures on most days from 11 Mar to 2 May, but 12 at Għadira on 27 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 4 Jun, then single figures on most days from 10 Jun to 29 Sep, highest 6 at Għadira on 31 Aug. Singles at Għadira on 19 Oct, 21 Oct, 23 Nov, and 21 Dec.

2003: 3 on 24 Feb and 1 on 26 Feb, then 41 sightings of 1-4 on 25 days from 11 Mar to 15 Apr, and singles on 21 Apr, 1 May and 4 May. In autumn, 71 sightings on 55 days from 18 Jun to 12 Oct; always 1-5 but 10 at Għadira on 4 Jul

2004: Daily from 13 Feb to 17 Apr with most sightings at Simar and Għadira when usually 1-3 but 4-5 from 6-13 Mar. Then singles on 5 days from 19 Apr to 1 May. On autumn migration 1-3 almost daily from 24 Jun to 29 Aug but 4 at Għadira on 22 Jul and 5 at Buskett on 8th, Għadira on 12th and Simar on 27th, all in Aug. Then singles on 7 dates from 3 Sep to 3 Oct mostly at Għadira.

2005: 1-3 on 5 dates from 16-28 Feb. Then 1-3 on 35 dates from 2 Mar to 24 Apr, but 5 at Simar on 18 Mar and 4 at Għadira on 20 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 3-4 May and 1-3 on 7 dates in June. 1-2 on most dates from 3 Jul to 12 Sep, but 3 at Għadira on 10 Aug, at Simar on 17 Aug and at Ramla Valley on 3 Sep. Singles at Buskett on 24 Sep, at Għadira on 14 Oct, at Simar on 3-4 Nov and at Għadira on 29 Nov.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

2000: 1-4 at Għadira from 21-30 Apr. 2 at Salina on 27 June and single birds at same place on 1st and 14 July. Single bird at Għadira on 1 Jul, 2 on 20 Aug, and again single birds on 23 Sept, 5th and 16 Oct.

2001: Singles at Għadira on 21st and 22 Mar and from 21st to 24 Jun. Then singles at Salina on 27 Jun, 4 Jul and 28 Aug.

2002: Only recorded at Għadira. Singles on 3-4 Apr and from 23 Apr to 1 May. 1-2 on 4 dates from 19-24 Jun, and singles on 4 Sep, 4 Oct, 11 Oct, and 12 Nov.

2003: 2-3 on 19-23 Mar, singles on 4 Apr and 27 Apr; 1 May; 23-24 Jun; 28 Jun-2 Jul; 4 Sep and 14 Oct. Then 5 on 28 Oct and singles on 10 Nov and 23 Nov. Most at Għadira.

2004: Mostly at Għadira with singles on 20-21 Apr, 26 May and 19 Sep. Then in Nov with 3 on 3rd and 1 on 9th. 1 sighting elsewhere with flock of 5 at Qawra on 4 Sep.

2005: In spring, 1-3 on 7 dates from 12 Mar to 11 Apr. In autumn, singles at Simar from 26-29 Aug and at Għadira on 27 Aug, 3 at Għadira on 23 Oct, and singles on 22-23 Dec, also at Għadira.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

2000: Single birds at Għadira and Salina from 4 Apr to 30 May but 14 at Għadira on 9 Apr. Single birds mainly at same two localities from 29 June to 20 Sep, highest 4 at Salina on 27 Jul.

2001: 1 at Għadira on 24 Mar. 1-2 on 5 dates from 8 Apr to 14 May, all at Għadira but 1 at Ċirkewwa. 1 also at Għadira on 26-27 June. Singles regularly from 4 Jul to 6 Sep but 2 at Simar on 11 Jul and at Għadira on 3 Sep. Then singles at Għadira on 28 Sep and at Qawra on 3 Oct. 1 late bird at Għadira on 25 Dec.

2002: Singles on 9 dates from 26 Mar to 29 Apr. 1-2 at Għadira on 15 dates from 10-29 Jul and singles at same place on 10 Sep and 19 Sep.

2003: 1-4 at Għadira on 30 days from 17 Mar to 8 May, then 1 till 30 May. Singles on 9 days at other sites during same period. In autumn 1-2 on 18 days at Għadira from 29 Jun to 19 Jul then on most days at Għadira and Simar from 20 Jul to 19 Sep, but 7 at both sites on 15 Sep. 1-2 on 9 days at other sites, mostly Salina, during same period. Singles on 26 Sep, 30 Sep, and 15 Oct.

2004: Mostly at Għadira in both spring and autumn with 1 on 1 Mar, 1-4 daily from 16-29 Apr, 1 from 25-31 May and 1-2 on 15-18 Jul. Then 1-2 almost daily from 29 Jul to 18 Aug with 4 on 7 Aug followed by singles on 30 Aug to 4 Sep. Few sightings elsewhere in spring and autumn with singles in Apr at Comino on 18th and 29th, at Simar on 23-24th and at Salina on 25th. Then 6 sightings of 1-2 mainly at Salina from 31 Jul to 31 Aug and 4 sightings of 1-2 from 5-9 Sep but 3 at Gozo on 19 Sep. Late bird at Għadira on 11 Nov.

2005: 1-3 on 18 dates from 28 Mar to 21 May, but 5 at Għadira on 6 Apr. 1-2 on 11 dates in July, at Għadira and Salina. 1-2 on 20 dates from 1 Aug to 12 Sep, but 4 at Għadira on 31 Aug and 3 at Fra Ben on 9 Sep. Singles at Qawra on 6 Oct and at Għadira on 2 Dec.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

2000: Singles at Salina on 9 Apr and at Għadira from 28 Apr to 10 May, and 2 at Għadira on 8 Jul.

2001: Singles almost daily from 7th to 18 Apr; and on 17th and 19 Jun and 4 Jul; but 3 on 9 Apr. All records from Għadira.

2002: Only recorded at Għadira. Singles on 27 Mar and 5 Apr, 2 on 11 Jun, and 1 on 17 Jul.

2003: 2 at Simar on 17 Mar; 1-3 daily at Għadira from 17-25 Mar; 1 at Salina on 29 Mar; then 5 on 31 Mar, 1-3 daily from 1-8 Apr and 1 on 16-17 Apr at Għadira. In autumn 1 on 27-28 Aug, 20 on 15 Sep and 1 on 2 Oct, also at Għadira.

2004: Singles at Għadira in Mar on 25-27th and 30th, then on 3-28 Apr, 13 Jun, 21-29 Jul, 26 Aug and on 10 Sep. One sighting elsewhere with 1 at Salina on 25 Aug.

2005: Singles at Għadira on most days from 17 Mar to 7 Apr. Outside Għadira, singles at Għajn Tuffieha on 3-4 Apr and at Salina on 3 dates from 6-9 Apr. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 4 Sep and 16 Sep.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

2000: First spring record 1 at Għadira from 19 Mar, then in single to low double figures recorded up to 16 May mostly from Għadira, Simar and Salina, highest of 20 at Salina on 11 Apr. 1 at Ċirkewwa on 3 Jun. First autumn returns from early July with a max. of 200 birds at Salina on 20 July. Then on most days till end Sept. Last sighting; 1 at Għadira on 1 Oct.

2001: 1 at Simar on 26 Feb. Recorded in single or low double figures (highest 15 at Ċirkewwa on 14 Mar), almost daily from 10 Mar to 31 May. Then in single figures regularly from 1 Jun 2 30 Sep, but 51 at Salina on 31 Jul. Singles at Għadira on 3rd and at Mosta on 26 Oct.

2002: Singles at Simar on 26 Feb, at Mellieħa on 3 Mar, and at Salina on 14 Mar. Then single figures almost daily from 23 Mar to 25 May, but 10 at Għadira on 21 Apr, 25 at Salina on 22 Apr, and 15 at Simar on 23 Apr. Singles at Salina on 5 Jun and 7 Jun, at Għadira on 14 Jun, and at Simar on 20 Jun. In autumn, single figures almost daily from 28 Jun to 27 Sep, but 27 at Salina on 21 Jul. Singles at Għadira on 1 Oct and at Salina on 6 Oct.

2003: 1 on 15 Mar, then low single figures on most days from 21 Mar to 9 Apr and daily from 12 Apr to 19 May, mostly at Għadira, Salina and Simar. 2 on 8 Jun. On autumn passage, singles on 3 days from 23-28 Jun then practically daily from 30 Jun to 6 Sep, with double figures at Salina on 6-8 Jul and 12 Jul, max 42 on first date. Singles on 15 Sep and 22 Sep.

2004: 8 on 15 Mar at Qalet Marku then almost daily from 27 Mar to 5 May with most sightings at Għadira and Simar. Usually 1-5 but 6 at Għadira on 14th and 8 at Simar 27th, both in Apr. In Jun singles at Għadira on 24-25 Jun and 5 at Salina on 27th, then 1-4 almost daily from 4 Jul to 10 Sep but 6 on 16th and 8 on 29th, both in Aug and at Għadira. Late singles at Għadira on 18-19 Sep and 14 Oct. Most autumn sightings at Għadira and Simar, but also at Salina.

2005: 1 at Għadira on 3-5 Mar, then low single figures almost daily from 11 Mar to 24 May, but 13 at Għajn Tuffieha on 3 Apr, 8 at Għadira on 16 Apr and 9 at Simar on 12 May. Singles at Għadira on 14-16 Jun and again on 19 Jun. In autumn, in low single figures on 35 dates from 5 Jul to 26 Sep, but 30 at Salina on 20 Jul and 30+ at Għallis on 24 Aug. Singles at Simar on 7 Oct and at Għadira on 21 Oct.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

2000: 1 at Għadira on 19 Mar, 3 at Salina on 11 Apr, and single birds at same on 17-18 Apr and 1 on Comino on 23 Apr. Single birds from 3 June to 23 Aug mostly from Għadira, Simar and Salina. 7 at Għadira on 3 July highest. Last bird at Għadira on 2 Nov.

2001: Singles at Għadira on 9 Mar and at Salina on 17 Apr. Then up to 6 almost daily from 3rd to 30 Jun and 1 at on 5 dates in Jul, most records from Għadira. Singles at Salina on 15th and 29 Aug, 1 at Qawra on 2nd, 2 at Għadira on 11th and 1 at Salina on 12 Sep; and singles at Qawra on 7th, and at Għadira on 28th and 29 Oct. Then late singles at Għadira on 23 Nov and 2 Dec.

2002: Singles at Delimara and San Luċjan on 21 Mar, at Ċirkewwa on 29 Mar, and at Comino on 30 Mar. 1-2 at Simar and Għadira on 8 dates from 11-29 Jun. Singles on 8 dates from 5-21 Jul, mainly at Għadira. Singles on 4 dates from 15-27 Aug. Singles at Għadira on 12 Oct, at Qawra on 14 Nov, and again at Għadira on 21 Nov and 24 Nov.

2003: 10 sightings on 1-3 on 8 days in spring from 15 Mar to 1 May. In autumn 33 sightings of 1-4 on 24 days (all at Għadira and Salina) from 14 Jun to 27 Jul, then 4 at Qawra on 8 Oct.

2004: Singles at Għadira on 12 Jan and 14 Mar, then daily from 20-31 Mar. 1 at Simar on 15 Mar. Singles at Għadira on 6-7 Jun, at Salina on 16 Jun and 1-3 almost daily at Għadira from 18-25 Jun, then singles in Jul on 10th and 25th. 1-2 daily at Simar from 26 Jul to 14 Aug and singles daily at Għadira from 31 Jul to 15 Aug and on 22 Aug but 2 on 31 Jul and 15 Aug. Then 1 at Għadira from 2 Sep to 31 Dec but 2 on 25-26 Oct and 3 Nov. Singles at Salina on 4 Aug and at Miġra l-Ferħa on 3 Nov only sightings elsewhere.

2005: 1 daily at Għadira from 1 Jan to 14 Mar, and at Salina on 18 Mar. 1-4 almost daily from 2-24 Apr, mainly at Għadira but also Salina. Singles at Simar and Għadira between 19 Jun to 2 Jul. 1-3 almost daily from 4 Jul to 29 Aug and 1-3 daily at Għadira from 30 Aug to 13 Dec, then singles at Simar on 15-16 Dec and at Għadira on 20 Dec.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

2000: Almost daily at Għadira from 7-16 May in numbers varying from 2 to 11 birds, 1 to 2 birds at same locality from 21-24 May. 1 on 22 Aug at Għadira and singles at Qawra on 11 Sep and a late bird on 22 Dec.

2001: 1 at Għadira on 22 Jul.

2002: 1 at M'Scala on 13 Aug and 8 at Qawra on 31 Aug.

2003: Singles at Għadira on 27-29 Apr and 8-9 May, and at Qawra on 4 Sep.

2004: Singles at M'scala on 1 Mar and 18 Sep.

II-Merill 32 2010

2005: Singles at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 16 Apr and at Marsascale on 14 May. 2-3 recorded at Salina on 4 dates from 13-17 May, and 1 on 21 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 7 Aug and at Qawra on 20 Aug.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

2001: 1 at Marsascale on 6 Aug; then 5 records from Qawra: 1 on 26th and 2 on 30 Aug, and singles on 2 Nov and on 5th and 7 Dec.

2002: Singles at Għallis on 4 Jul and at Qawra on 28 Nov.

2003: 1 at Qawra on 27 Nov.

2005: 1 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

2002: 1 adult dark morph at Qawra on 3 Feb.

2005: 1 juvenile dark morph at Qawra and Pt.St. Elmo on 8 Sep.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

2000: 1 at Marsaxlokk on 23 Apr.

2005: 1 adult at Marsascale on 16 Aug.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

2000: Singles at Qammieħ on 18 Mar and at Qawra on 31 Dec.

2001: Singles at Qawra on 1 Feb and 9 Dec.

2002: 1 at Ċirkewwa on 4 Mar.

2003: Singles at Qawra on 24 Jan, at Għar Lapsi on 5 Feb and at Marsascale on 2 Nov.

2004: Singles at Qawra on 4 Jan, then in Mar at Ċirkewwa on 12th and at Qawra on 13th, and in Nov at Qawra on 24th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

2000: 1 at Għallis on 2 Jan.

2001: Singles at Qawra on 1st and 2 Jan, on 17 Nov and on 22 Dec.

2002: 1 at Pt.St. Elmo on 9 Nov.

2003: Singles at Qawra on 29 Jan and at Sliema on 4 Feb.

2005: 1 at Qawra from 22-26 Dec.

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*

2000: 5 spring sightings mainly from Qammieħ with 11 birds on 18 Mar highest, last sighting on 12 Apr where 4 birds were present at B'Buġia. 1 at Salina on 21 Jul, then 1-6 birds on various dates till the end of the year, mainly from Qawra, maxima 11 on 29 Nov.

2001: 1 at St Paul's Bay on 31 Jan and 11 at Qawra on 28 Feb. Then up to 7 on 9 dates from 1 Mar to 5 Apr. Recorded on 17 dates from 18 Sep and 17 Nov, mainly in single figures, but 19 on 29 Sep, 11 on 14 Oct and 14 on 17 Nov, all from Qawra.

2002: 11 at Ċirkewwa on 21 Feb and 1 at San Luċjan on 24 Feb. 1-7 on 8 dates from 12-31 Mar, but 9 at Qawra on first date. Singles on 3 dates from 8-18 Aug, on 23 Sep and on 30 Sep, then up to 8 on 12 dates from 21 Oct to 28 Nov, but 17 at Qawra on 28 Oct. 1 at Qawra on 15 Dec and 2 at Pt.St. Elmo on 19 Dec.

2003: Singles on 18 Jan and 18-19 Feb, 4 at Ċirkewwa on 14 Mar, then 1-4 on 4 days from 19 Mar to 6 Apr. 3 on 5 Aug, then on 22 days from 26 Aug to 18 Nov with most sightings at Qawra. Generally 1-6 but 22 on 11 Oct and 16 on 12 Oct; and 29 on 9 Nov and 15 on 13 Nov.

2004: 1 on 10th and 2 on 12th and 19th all at Ċirkewwa, then 3 at St.Pauls Bay and 1 at Baħar iċ-Ċaġħaq on 24th, all in Mar. Then in Jul with 4 at Għadira Bay on 23rd and singles at Għadira on 25-26th and at Salina on 26th and 28th. 1 at Qawra on 14 Aug. 18 sightings on 15 dates from 9 Sep to 6 Nov when mostly in singles but 3-6 at 4 sites from 24 Oct to 5 Nov and 8 at Qawra on 5 Oct and 12 at St.Elmo Pt and 11 at Qawra on 11 Nov. 8 at Għallis and 2 at Qawra on 24 Nov and 1 at Qawra on 4 Dec.

2005: 22 at Ċirkewwa on 26 Feb, 3 at Ċirkewwa on 11 Mar and 4 at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 30 Mar. 1 at Għadira and 2 at Salina on 15 Jul and 1 again at Salina on 16 Jul. 1 at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 7 Aug, 2 at Qawra on 15 Aug and 3 at Qawra and Pt. St Elmo on 25 Sep. Up to 7 on 4 dates from 16 Oct to 13 Nov. 3 at Għadira daily from 17-26 Dec and again on 29 Dec. 1 at Qawra on 23 Dec and 2 at Rinella on 26 Dec.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

2000: Present on most days from 1 Jan to 18 Mar from single to treble figures, highest 500 at Grand Harbour on 18 Feb, 292 and 125 at Lazzaretto Creek on 28 Jan and 7 Feb respectively, last sighting 1 bird at Salina on 18 Apr. 1 Summer record; a single bird at Marsalforn on 7 Jul. First autumn sighting; 1 at Marsascale and 3 at Qawra on 8 Oct than almost daily in single to low treble figures till end of year. Highest winter counts; 180 at St. Elmo's Pt. on 30 Dec.

2001: Almost daily in single or double figures from 1 Jan to 20 Mar, but in treble figures on 8 dates and 1050 in the harbour area on 17 Feb. Singles at Għadira on 7 and 27 Apr. 3 on Comino on 11 May, 2 in Għadira Bay on 15 Jul and 1 at Sliema on 29-30 Sep. In single or double figures on most dates from 13 Oct to 31 Dec but 250 at Pt St Elmo on 8 Dec and 175 at Blata L-Bajda on 25 Dec.

2002: Up to 500 on most days from Jan-7 Mar, but 800+ at Pt.St. Elmo on 19 Jan. Up to 4 on 3 dates from 13-27 Mar. Singles at Salina on 2 Jun, at San Luċjan on 15 Jul and 28 Jul, at Qawra on 10-11 Aug, and on 13 Sep, at Tigne' on 18 Sep, and at Manoel Island on 19 Sep. Then up to low treble figures on most days from 29 Sep till end of year, highest 350+ at Pt.St. Elmo on 28 Dec, otherwise up to 200.

2003: On most days, often in low treble figures (max 300 at 2 sites on 6 days) in Jan – mid-Feb, then single to

II-Merill 32 2010

low double figures fill 2 Mar and 1-6 on 5 days to 15 Mar. 2 at Qawra on 3 Aug, 1 at Sliema on 6 Sep and 1-2 on 8 days from 12 Sep to 6 Oct, then on most days from 19 Oct to 31 Dec, with highest numbers from 30 Nov. Max 250 at Qawra on 8 Dec and at Pt. St. Elmo on 14 Dec; otherwise up to 100.

2004: Usually in double figures in Jan-Feb but 200-600 on a few days and max.800 in Feb at Qawra on 2nd and at St.Elmo Pt on 14th; then 1-3 occasionally in Mar. Singles in Jun on 26th at Salina and in Aug on 16th at Għadira, on 26th and 29th at Salina. Then 3 at M'xlokk on 29 Aug and 11 sightings of 1-6 on 8 dates from 22 Sep to 17 Oct. Daily from 24 Oct to 31 Dec when up to 60 till mid-Nov, then in treble figures of up to 300 on some days and 400 at Pt.St.Elmo on 27-28 Nov.

2005: Up to 350 on most days from Jan-14 Mar, but 420+ at Marsa on 19 Jan, 400+ at Marsa Race Course on 2 Feb and 400+ at Rinella on 6 Feb. Up to 4 on 4 dates from 17-31 Mar. Singles at Salina on 11 Jun and at Għadira on 5 Jul. 1 at Marfa on 9 Aug, 2 at Pembroke on 15 Aug and 1-3 on 7 dates from 24 Aug to 1 Oct. Then up to low treble figures almost daily from 16 Oct till end of year, highest 200+ at Pt.St. Elmo on 6 Nov and 200+ at St Elmo on 11 Dec, otherwise up to 180+.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

2000: Singles at Għadira on 15 and 18 Jan and again on 20 Mar. 1 at Salina on 12 Feb.

2001: 1 at Għadira on 6 Jan, 4 at Marsaxlokk on 10 Feb and 1 at Qawra on 22 Apr.

2002: 1 at Qawra on 16 Jan, 3 at Pt.St. Elmo on 26 Jan, and singles at Qawra on 6 Feb and at St. Paul's Bay on 5 Apr.

2003: 24 sightings of singles (but 2 on 4 occasions) on 18 days from 1 Jan to 16 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 4 Apr. In autumn singles at Qawra on 14 Nov and at St. Julian's and Pt. St. Elmo on 11 Dec.

2004: In singles at Qawra on 6th and 9 Jan; then in Mar at Simar on 3rd, Ċirkewwa on 18th, Għadira on 19th and M'xlokk on 23rd. 21 at Delimara on 2 Oct.

2005: Singles at Għadira and Simar on 8 Jan, at Simar on 9 Jan, and at B'Bugia on 30 Jan, 2 at Għadira on 9 Feb, then singles at Salina on 10 Feb, at Qawra on 16 Feb, at Simar on 17 Feb and at Għadira on 5 Mar and 6 Apr.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

2000: Single to low double figures from 9 Jan to 9 Apr, max. 40 at the Grand Harbour on 18 Feb. First autumn sighting on 21 Oct with 2 birds at Qawra, than on most days till the end of the year, highest counts included; 130 on 17 Nov, 80 on 20 Nov and 57 on 19 Nov all at Qawra.

2001: Up to 25 on 13 dates from 1 Jan to 25 Feb, but 50 on 2nd and 80 on 3 Jan at Qawra, and 100 in the Gozo Channel on 21 Feb. Single figures regularly from 2 Mar to 15 Apr. 1 at Tigne on 26 Sep. Then single or low double figures (up to 50) from 24 Oct to 30 Dec but 100 at Qawra on 24 Nov.

2002: Up to 50 on 25 dates from 1 Jan to 29 Mar, but 120+ at Pt.St. Elmo on 16 Feb, and 300+ at Rinella on 17 Feb. Singles at Tigne' on 7 Jul and at M'Scala on 13 Oct, then in single or double figures almost daily from 18 Oct till end of year, but 100+ at San Luċjan on 7 Dec.

2003: On 57 days in Jan-26 Mar, with low treble figures on 6 days in Jan-Feb and single to low double figures in Mar. Monthly max. were 125 at Rinella on 1 Jan; 150 at same place on 2 Feb; and 60 at M'Scala on 2 Mar. 1 on 6 Apr. First autumn sightings on 19 Oct, then almost daily from 26 Oct to 16 Nov and again from 27 Nov to 31 Dec when mostly in low double figures, max 93 at Qawra on 3 Nov.

2004: In single to double figures of up to 80 from Jan-Mar till 11th but 100 at Qawra on 31 Jan and 200 at Pt. St. Elmo on 14 Feb. Then 1-4 from 12-21 Mar. Singles on 17 Sep and 10 Oct, then in single to double figures up to 80 from 23 Oct to 31 Dec but 100-200 on a few days in mid-Nov with max.250 on 21st at Pt. St.Elmo.

2005: Up to 80 on 45 dates from 1 Jan to 27 Mar, but 200 on 30 Jan and 120+ on 1 Feb, both at Rinella. 1 at Qawra on 4 Sep, then in single or double figures almost daily from 15 Oct till end of year, but 150+ on 26 Nov and 100+ on 4 Dec, both at Pt.St. Elmo.

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*

2000: 1 on 7 Oct and 2 on 24 Nov, both at Qawra. Singles at Għadira on 30 Nov and at M'Xlokk on 31 Dec.

2001: Singles at Qammieħ on 18 Mar, and at Qawra on 14 Oct, 24th to 28 Oct, 13 Nov and 22 Dec.

2002: Singles at Qawra on 9-10 Feb, off Aħrax on 15 Jul, at Qawra on 1 Sep, 28-29 Sep, 5 Nov and 28 Nov; at San Luċjan on 1 Dec and again at Qawra on 16 Dec and 26 Dec.

2003: Singles at Qawra on 11 Feb and 14 Feb; 2 at Għar Lapsi on 26 Feb, and singles at Pt. St. Elmo on 10 Sep and at San Luċjan on 7 Dec.

2004: 1 on 5 Jun at Għadira, then 1-4 on 12 dates from 26 Aug to 29 Sep but 5+ at San Luċjan on 1 Sep. Singles in Oct on 10th and 31st; then on 6 dates in Nov from 3 – 19th with max.5 at M'scala on 14th, otherwise in singles. Most sightings along East coast.

2005: Singles at Qawra on 5 Jan, at Għadira on 31 Jan, at Ċirkewwa on 19 Feb, at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 12-13 Mar, at Salina on 22 Apr and at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 2 Jul and 21 Jul. 35 sightings of 1-2 on 27 dates from 3 Aug to 30 Sep, but 10 at Qawra on 20 Aug, 6 at Għallis on 24 Aug, 5 at Pembroke on 24 Aug and 4 at Pt.St. Elmo on 18 Sep. Singles at Sliema on 2 Oct and 16 Oct, and at Qawra on 16 Oct.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

2001: 1 at Qawra on 29th and 30 Dec.

2002: Singles at Qawra on 23 Dec and at Pt.St. Elmo on 28 Dec.

2003: Singles at Għadira on 4 Feb and at Ċirkewwa on 14 Mar.

2004: All sightings in Nov with 2 at M'scala on 14-15th, then singles at same place on 19th and at San Luċjan on 20th. 1-2 at Pt.St. Elmo on 20-21st.

2005: Singles at Pt. St Elmo on 2 Jan and Rinella on 30 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

2000: Single birds at Għadira on 24 Feb, at Qammieġ on 21 Mar, at Qawra on 9-10 Apr and at Comino on 14 Apr. 3 off Pembroke on 19 Apr. First autumn sighting; 2 at Qawra on 24 Sep than six sightings of 1-10 birds throughout Oct, 1 bird in Nov and 6 sightings of 1-6 birds throughout Dec. Most sightings from Qawra.

2001: 1-2 on 6 dates from 1 Jan to 11 Feb but 5 at Qawra on 1 Jan. Singles on 10 dates from 1 Mar to 19 Apr. Up to 10 regularly from 1 Sep to 31 Dec with 11 at Qawra on 21st and 30 Sep.

2002: 1 at Qawra on 1 Jan, then 1-2 on 12 dates from 1 Feb to 12 Mar, but 4 at San Luċjan on 10 Feb. Singles at Ċirkewwa on 21 Mar, at San Luċjan on 18 Apr and at M'Scala on 14 Aug. Up to 6 on 19 dates from 14 Sep to 25 Oct, but 10 at Tigne' on 18 Sep. 1-3 on 15 dates from 17 Nov till end of year.

2003: 9 sightings of 1-3 on 7 days in Jan-Feb, then singles on 6 days from 16 Mar to 7 Apr, but 4 at Ċirkewwa on first date. In autumn, 35 sightings of up to 10, but usually 1-3, from 26 Aug to 14 Dec.

2004: 1 at Qawra on 4 Jan, then 11 sightings of 1-4 on 9 dates from 10 Feb to 23 Mar but 6 at San Luċjan on 23 Mar. 2 at Comino on 17 Apr and 1 at Għadira on 9 May. 1-5 almost daily from 25 Aug to 29 Sep, then in Oct with 10 on 6th and 1 on 10th, both at Delimara. 1-4 on most days from 24 Oct to 30 Nov, then in Dec with 8 at Għadira on 18th, 5 at Pt.St. Elmo on 19th and singles at 2 sites on 31 Dec.

2005: 1 at Qawra on 6 Jan, then 1-2 on 12 dates from 30 Jan to 2 Apr. Single at Għadira on 27 Apr. 3 at Fra Ben on 23 Aug, then up to 3 on 18 dates from 15 Sep to 23 Dec, but 6 at St Elmo on 21 Sep.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

2000: Resident breeder and winter visitor. Colonies occupied from November to mid-July. 250-300 adults at and around Filfla on 19 May. Single to double figures counted from various locations throughout year.

2001: Present all year round with regular counts of up to 100 birds. 150 recorded at Lapsi on 23 Feb and at Qawra on 29 Dec. 300+ adults at breeding colony on Filfla on 18 May.

2002: Present all year round in single or double figures but 100+ at Bengħisa on 23 Mar and at Għar Lapsi on 29 May, and 150+ at Qawra on 10 Nov. 400 adults and 87 young were on Filfla on 21 May.

2003: Breeding resident, mainly on Filfla. Numbers greatly augmented by wintering birds with double to low treble figures in Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec. Max number 400 at Għar Lapsi on 23 Dec. Very few sightings in Jul.

2004: Breeding resident and migrant. Highest count away from breeding season at Għar Lapsi with c.400 on 23 Dec, but also 250 at Pt.St. Elmo on 20 Nov and 200 at M'scala on 21 Nov. Mostly along coast but occasionally flying overland in flocks. Ca. 130 pairs at Filfla on 19 May.

2005: Present all year round in single or double figures but 150+ at Qawra on 23 Nov, 25 Nov and 26 Nov. Ca. 150 pairs at Filfla on 24 May.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

2000: Singles at Salina on 18 and 20 Apr.

2002: 2 at San Luċjan on 24 May.

2003: 1 at Għadira on 17 Apr.

2005: Singles at Għadira on 10 Apr, at Salina on 13 May, and again at Għadira on 1 Jun.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

2000: 10 sightings of 1-6 birds from 22 Jul to 21 Oct, highest 6 at Qawra on 16-17 Sep.

2001: Singles at San Luċjan on 8 Apr and at Għadira on 11 Jun. Then 1 at Għadira and Comino on 7 Aug, 1 at Qawra on 12 Aug and 2 at Tigne on 17 Sep. At Qawra 2 on 19th, 6 on 21st and 1 on 22-23 Sep and 2 on 2 Oct. 1 at Simar on 5 Nov.

2002: Singles at Għadira on 20 Apr and at Qawra on 21 Apr. 2 at Għadira on 12 May and singles at same place on 15 May and 6 Jul. 1 at Qawra on 27 Jul, 3 at Qawra and Delimara on 31 Aug, and singles at San Luċjan on 26 Sep and at Qawra on 26-27 Sep.

2003: 1 on 1 Aug, then 1-2 on 7 days from 6-21 Sep and 2-3 on 3 days on 6-13 Nov, sightings coming from various sites.

2004: Singles in Jun at Salina on 7th and 20th, and at Għadira on 19th and 22-23rd. 2 at Qawra on 15 Aug.

2005: Singles at Għadira on 5-6 Apr and at Fra Ben and Salina on 24 Aug.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

2000: 2 at Salina on 16 Apr. 6 sightings of 1-5 from 2 Sep to 9 Oct, but 6 at Simar on 10 Oct.

2001: Single figures on 5 dates from 23 Mar to 6 Apr, max 3 at San Luċjan on 23 and 4 at Qawraq on 5 Apr. Up to 4 daily at Għadira from 25th to 31 Aug, and 1 at Salina on 31 Aug. 6 at Qawra on 30 Sep. Then on 4 dates in October: 5 on 7th and 2 on 12th at Għadira, and 4 on 17th and 6 on 21st at Qawra.

2002: 1 at San Luċjan on 11 Mar, 2 at Qawra on 7 Apr, singles at Qawra on 18 Apr and at San Luċjan on 20 Apr. In autumn, singles at Qawra on 27 Jul and at M'Scala on 9 Aug, and 2 at Għadira on 24 Aug. Then up to 3 on 14 dates from 7 Sep to 29 Oct, but 5 at Qawra on 12 Oct. Singles at Qawra on 4 Nov and at San Luċjan on 9 Nov.

2003: 1 at Salina on 31 Mar. In autumn, 16 sightings of 1-6 on 15 days from 6 Sep to 31 Oct.

2004: Singles at Ċirkewwa and Għadira on 29 Mar, at Għadira on 29 Apr, at San Luċjan on 25 Aug and in Sep at Qbajjar on 3rd and at Delimara and Qawra on 5th. Then 19 sightings of 2-5 on 13 dates from 8 Sep to 10 Oct but 8 at Pt.St. Elmo on 8 Sep, 7 at Qawra on 12 Sep and 10 at Delimara on 6 Oct. In Nov 5 at Għadira on 2nd and 1 at M'scala on 4th.

2005: 2 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 7 Aug, then 1-3 on 11 dates from 15 Aug to 7 Nov, but 6 at Fra Ben on 30 Aug and 9 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 3 Sep.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

2000: 1 on 29 Apr and 12 on 13 May, both at Għadira. Singles on 22 Jul and 2 on 2 Oct, both at Salina.

2003: 3 at Għadira and 1 at Għajj Tuffieħa on 16 Sep.

2004: 1 at Għadira on 25 May.

2005: Singles at Simar on 27 Apr and at Ghadira on 30 Apr.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

2000: Recorded in double and treble figures throughout Sep with highest numbers reaching 300 at Qawra on 10th and 11 Sept. Late sightings include single birds at Blata l-Bajda on 2 Oct, Ghadira Bay on 4 Oct and at Qawra on 29-30 Dec.

2001: Recorded on 24 dates from 11 Aug to 29 Sep mainly double figures but also with 5 triple figure counts, and most from Qawra; max. 200 on 26th and 30 Aug and 2 Sep, and 125 on 5th and 100 on 6 Sep, all at Qawra.

2002: 33 sightings of up to low treble figures on most days from 7 Aug to 30 Sep, highest 300+ at Qawra on 31 Aug, otherwise up to 200. 1 at Qawra on 12 Oct.

2003: 19 sightings on 17 days, mostly along the east coast, from 1 Aug to 3 Oct but with most in Aug. Single to low double figures but 150 on 21 Aug.

2004: 1 on 15 Aug at Qawra, then in single to double figures of up to 40 at Qawra from 22 Aug to 29 Sep but 150 on 5th and 300 on 8th, both in Sep. Only 3 sightings elsewhere in Sep. 1 at San Luċjan on 20 Nov.

2005: 200+ at Ghallis on 23 Aug, 20+ at Ghallis and 15+ at Marsascala on 24 Aug, 20 on 30 Aug and 40+ on 31 Aug, both at Fra Ben, and 20+ on 2 Sep, 10+ on 3 Sep and 12 on 4 Sep, all at Qawra.

White-Winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

2002: Singles at Ghadira on 25 Apr, 17-18 May, and 30 May.

2003: 2 on 3 May, 3 on 5 May, 2 on 10 May and 1 on 11-12 May at Ghadira.

2004: 1 at Ghadira on 11 Sep.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

2000: 2 at Qawra on 16 Jan then 6 sightings of up to 16 from 17 Mar to 19 Apr. First autumn sighting being 1 at Qawra on 17 Sep then various sightings of up to 7 birds till end of year with most observations from Qawra.

2001: Up to 7 on 18 dates from 1 Jan to 12 Apr, but 15 in the Gozo Channel on 20 Mar. 2 at Qawra on 12 Aug. In single figures on 35 dates from 15 Sep to 30 Dec, but 10 on 14 Oct and 20 on 3 Nov at Qawra.

2002: 1-5 on 26 dates from 15 Jan to 7 Apr. Singles at Qawra on 11 Jun and on 16 Aug, then recorded on 46 dates from 31 Aug till end of year, all in single figures except for 25 at Qawra on 6 Oct.

2003: 35 sightings of 1-5 on 30 days from 4 Jan to 5 Apr. In autumn/winter 50 sightings on 42 days from 29 Jul to 23 Dec, with a marked concentration in late Oct to mid-Nov. Always 1-7, but 10 at Qawra on 5 Nov.

2004: Two sightings in Feb at Qawra with 1 on 2nd and 3 on 11th, then in Mar with 1 at San Luċjan on 8th, 12 at Ċirkewwa on 12th and 1 at San Luċjan on 23rd. In Apr 3 at Ċirkewwa and 4 at M'scala on 1st and 1 at Delimara on 4th. In autumn 1 at Qawra on 15 Aug, then almost daily from 21 Aug to 8 Oct with 33 sightings of 1-6 but 8 at San Luċjan on 25 Aug and at Delimara on 22 Sep, and max. 12 at Delimara on 28 Sep. 13 sightings of 1-5 on 9 dates from 24 Oct to 7 Nov but higher numbers at Qawra in late Oct with 8 on 24th, 14 on 27th and 9 on 30th. Then 1-5 regularly from 19 Nov to 31 Dec. Most sightings from along the East coast.

2005: 1-4 on 18 dates from 1 Jan to 2 Apr, but 31 on 28 Mar and 11 on 29 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa. 1-4 on 39 dates from 3 Aug to 20 Dec, but 7 at Fra Ben on 30 Aug, 8 at Marsascala on 28 Sep, 7 at Qawra on 29 Oct and 9 at Qawra on 15 Dec.

Unidentified Auk (Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*/Razorbill *Alca torda*)

2002: 1 off Qawra on 16 Dec

Stock Dove

2000: 1 at Buskett on 28 Oct.

2002: 1 at Buskett on 24 Oct.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

2003: 1 at Buskett on 29 Mar.

2004: 1 at Simar on 7 Jun and 2 at Marsa on 3 Sep.

2005: Singles at Ghadira and Red Tower on 19 Oct.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

2000: Singles at Ghadira on 1-2 Jul, at Simar on 13 Oct and at Naxxar on 11 Dec.

2001: Singles at Gozo Channel on 21 Mar, at Simar on 1 Jun and 28 Jul, at Ghadira on 15 Aug and at B' Kara on 28 Aug.

2002: Singles at Simar on 3 Apr, at Ta' Lambert on 12 May, at Ghadira on 16 May, and at Simar on 3 dates from 4-10 Jun.

2003: 1-2 on several days at Ghadira from 27 May to 14 Sep. Also occasional sightings at Dwejra (Malta), Comino, Buskett, Simar, Ghajn Riĥana, Marsa, Tal-Qroqq, Mosta, Hamrun, and Mellieħa (7 on 17 Aug) in Mar-Oct.

2004: 1-9 regularly throughout the year mainly at Mellieħa and occasionally at Ghadira but 12 on 26 Dec at Mellieħa. 16 sightings elsewhere of 1-2.

2005: 4 at Mellieħa on 9 Jan, 1 at Simar on 18 Mar, 1 at Buskett on 20 Apr and 1-2 on 4 dates from 23-30 Apr on Comino. 1-3 on 10 dates in May, but 12 at Mellieħa on 3 May. Recorded almost daily in Jun-Aug, mainly in low singles, but up to 20 at Mellieħa where bred. 1 at Simar on 19 Sep, 4 at Mellieħa on 25 Sep, 1 on 18 Oct and 5 on 29 Nov, both at Ghajn Zejtuna, and 23+ at Mellieħa on 11 Dec

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

2000: Recorded in all months from Mar to Oct. First sighting 1 at Buskett on 12 Mar than almost daily in single figures almost daily even in summer. Highest numbers include: 30 at Lunzjata Valley on 25 Apr, 33 at Buskett on 27 Aug 35 at same locality on 31 Aug.

II-Merill 32 2010

2001: Singles at Simar on 2 Jan, Mellieħa on 14 Feb and Żabbar on 27 Mar. Then single and low double figure in several localities, up to 20, almost daily from 5 Apr to 31 May, but a max. of 250 at Ta' Gajdor on 26 Apr. 1-4 on most days from 1 Jun to 31 Jul but 6 at Buskett on 8 Jul. Up to 16 almost daily from 1 Aug to 9 Oct but 30 at Buskett on 8 Sep. 1 at Għadira on 18 Nov.

2002: Singles at Għadira on 16 Mar, at Buskett on 24 Mar and at Simar on 29 Mar, and 1-3 on 6 dates from 2-12 Apr. Then almost daily from 14 Apr to 20 Jun, in single or low double figures of up to 20, but 50+ at Ta' Gajdor Xgħira on 25 Apr. 1-2 on 16 dates from 25 Jun to 3 Aug, but 3 at Buskett on 7 Jul. In autumn, 3 at Buskett on 17 Aug, then almost daily from 20 Aug to 24 Sep in single or low double figures of up to 25. 1 at Għadira from 27 Sep to 4 Oct, 1 at Dwejra (M) on 4 Oct, and 2 at Buskett on 9 Oct.

2003: Singles on 29 Mar and 31 Mar; 6 on 3 Apr and 2 on 8 Apr, and daily from 11 Apr to 10 May then on most days on to 1 Jun. Single to low double figures at all sites with max of 25 at Buskett on 27 Apr. 1-2 at various sites between 3 Jun and 3 Aug probably included slightly injured birds. In autumn 3 on 22 Aug and 25 Aug, then almost daily (mostly at Buskett) from 28 Aug to 28 Sep; mostly single figures, but 150 at Buskett on 15 Sep. Then 9 singles on 8 days from 7-22 Oct.

2004: 1 at Għadira during Feb could not fly well, whilst an escapee was at Simar 14 Feb. Singles on a few dates from 20 Mar to 7 Apr but 2 on 30 Mar, then daily at several sites from 9 Apr to 24 May and almost daily 20 Jul. Highest numbers from mid-Apr to mid-May when in low double figures almost daily but 195 from 13 sites (highest 70 at Pieta) on 24 Apr and 84 from 6 sites (highest 40 at Comino) on 30 Apr. 1-4 from late May to late Jun but higher numbers at Simar with 7 on 31 May and 6 on 3 Jun. 1-3 in Jul but 5 at Ghajn Rihana on 18th. In autumn 1 on 10 Aug, then daily from 23 Aug to 27 Sep with most from late Aug to early Sep. Highest numbers at Buskett with 17-18 on 29-31 Aug and 36 on 10 Sep, otherwise 1-11 from various sites mainly Buskett. 1-2 on a few dates from 30 Sep to 14 Oct and 1 on 25 Oct.

2005: Singles at Rabat on 23 Mar, at Migra L-Ferha on 24 Mar, at Xrobb l-Għajin on 29 Mar, and 1-2 on 4 dates from 4 -9 Apr. Then almost daily from 12 Apr to 31 May, in single or low double figures, but 60+ at Salina on 26 Apr. 1-3 on 26 dates in Jun-Jul from 13 locations. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on 1 Aug and again on 9 Aug, then almost daily from 13 Aug to 2 Oct, in single or low double figures of up to 52, but 90+ on 29 Aug, 1100+ on 30 Aug and 80+ on 31 Aug, all at Buskett.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

2001: 1 at Għadira on 15 Jul.

2002: 1 at Għadira on 4 Jul. (could have been an escapee)

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

2003: 1 at Qammieħ on 19 Mar.

2005: 1 at Għadira on 6 Mar.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

2000: Single birds on various dates from 5 Apr to 3 Jun, highest 3 at Dwejra, (M) on 5 Apr. Two autumn sightings; 1 at Mellieħa on 30 Jul and 1 at Buskett on 1 Oct.

2001: 1 at Ta' Lambert on 25 Mar. Singles on 13 dates from 6th to 28 Apr, but 3 on Comino on 7th and 12 Apr and 2 at Buskett on 16 Apr. Singles at Buskett on 29 July, at Simar on 22 Aug and again at Buskett on 30 Aug.

2002: Only recorded in spring. 1-3 on most dates from 26 Mar to 28 Apr. Singles at Buskett and Gudja on 20 May.

2003: 47 sightings on 31 days from 25 Mar to 8 May; always 1-2 but 8 at Dwejra (M) on 31 Mar and 4 on Comino on 5-6 Apr. Singles at Chadwick Lakes and Ghajn Rihana on 6 Jun, and at Dwejra (Malta) on 13 Jul, then 4 singles on 3 days from 18-28 Sep.

2004: On most days from 3-10 Apr, then almost daily from 14-28 Apr. Mostly in singles but 10 at Wied Qannotta on 15th, 5 at Buskett on 28th and 2-3 at 3 sites on 24-25th. Singles in May on 5th and 26th.

2005: Only recorded in spring. 1 at Buskett on 25 Mar, then 1-2 on 29 dates from 2 Apr to 20 May, but 5 at Bidnija on 3 Apr and 4 at Buskett on 30 Apr. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 3 Jun.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

2001: 1 near Ramla Bay on 27 Jun.

Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops*

2000: Poor year with just one sighting: 1 at Comino on 31 Mar.

2001: 1 at Wied L-Ispanza on 25 Mar. Then singles at Comino on 1-2 Apr and 18-20 Apr, but 3, also at Comino, on 22 Apr.

2002: Only recorded in spring at Comino. 1-2 on 8 dates from 19 Mar to 19 Apr.

2003: On 11 days from 5 Apr to 9 May; always singles except for 2 at Għadira on first date. In autumn 1-2 on 5 days from 30 Sep to 23 Oct. 1 at Buskett on 7 Nov.

2004: 1 at Cirkewwa on 31 Mar, then daily at Comino in Apr from 14-19th and 24-28th. Usually 1-3 but 5 on 19th and 4 on 24th. 2 sightings elsewhere in Apr with 2 at Salina on 25th and 1 at Buskett on 28th. Then in Oct with 1 at Buskett on 7th, 1-2 at Comino on 4 days from 16-25th, and singles at Buskett on 29th and Comino on 30th. 1 at Madliena on 1 Dec.

2005: 1 at Buskett on 19 Mar and again on 25 Mar. 1-2 on 9 dates from 3 Apr to 7 May. In autumn, three records: 1 at Buskett on 19 Sep and again on 25 Sep, and 1 at Għadira on 9 Oct.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

2000: Singles at Qammieħ on 5 and 11 Mar and at Comino on 6 Apr. 6 sightings of single birds each in autumn, 5 sightings in Oct and 1 on 7 Nov, mostly from Qawra.

2001: 5 spring records at Cirkewwa/Goza Channel: 1 on 14th, 2 on 19th, and singles on 25th and 31st all in March, and 1 on 9 Apr. Then singles at Mellieħa on 24 Oct and at Xgħajra on 3 Nov.

II-Merill 32 2010

2002: 1 at Simar on 2 Jan and 4 Jan. Singles on 5 dates from 3-29 Mar, but 3 at Qammieħ on 16 Mar. In autumn, singles at Qawra on 6 dates from 23 Sep to 24 Nov.

2003: Singles at Ta' Qali on 2 Jan, at Għajn Tuffieħa on 1 Mar, at Ċirkewwa on 4 Apr, and in Gozo on 16 Apr. In autumn, 12 sightings of 1-2 on 9 days from 12 Oct to 1 Nov.

2004: 1 at Gozo on 2 Feb and 2 at Ċirkewwa on 12 Mar. Then singles in Sep at Delimara on 28th, in Oct at Miġra l-Ferħa on 1st and Comino on 28th, and in Nov at Qawra on 1-2nd and M'scala on 4th, 12th and 14th.

2005: 1 at Ċirkewwa on 15 Mar, then singles on 5 dates from 22 Mar to 12 Apr. In autumn, singles at Buskett and Comino on 16 Oct, at Qawra on 5 Nov and at Pembroke on 17 Nov.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

2000: 9 sightings of 1-2 from 24 Apr to 19 May. 5 single sightings from 11 Sep to 15 Oct, mainly at Buskett.

2001: 2 on Comino on 18 Apr, 2 at Għadira on 2 May then singles on Comino on 7-8 May, at Buskett on 13th and at Għadira on 29 May. Then 3 records in October: 1 at Dwejra on 3rd, 2 at Buskett on 11th and 1 at Lunzjata on 31st.

2002: Singles on 8 dates from 14 Apr to 20 May and on 4 dates from 16 Sep to 26 Oct.

2003: Singles on 6 days from 17 Apr to 18 May. In autumn 1-3 on 8 days mostly at Buskett from 14 Sep to 7 Oct, then singles on 20 Oct and 26 Oct, and on 5 Nov.

2004: 1 at Comino on 20 Apr, then daily from 23-28 Apr mostly at Comino. Usually 1-3 but 12 at Dwejra, G on 24th, 20 on 26th and 6 on 27th both on Comino. 6 sightings of 1-2 on 3 dates from 30 Apr to 8 May but 5 on Comino on 3 May. On most days in autumn from 11 Sep to 7 Oct mainly at Buskett. Usually 1-2 but 3 on 18 Sep, 2nd and 6 Oct with max.5 on 7 Oct all at Buskett. Then 2 at Buskett on 16th and at Comino 25th, and 1 at Lunzjata on 29th, all in Oct.

2005: In spring, 13 records of 1-2 from 7 Apr to 13 May, but 4 at Comino on 4 May and 3 at Comino on 6 May. In autumn, 20 records of 1-2 from 4 Sep to 20 Oct, but 4 at Buskett on 2 Oct.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

2000: 11 sightings of 1-3 birds from 30 Mar to 3 May. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 10 Jul, then irregular in single figures, most sightings from Buskett and Dwejra, (M) Highest numbers recorded being 3 birds on four different dates in September and early October. Last sighting 1 at Dwejra, (M), on 17 Oct.

2001: 1 at Ta' Gajdoru on 8 Mar. Then 1-3 on 19 dates from 18 Mar to 27 May, and on 4 dates in June: 2 at Rabat on 11th, singles at Għarb and Dingli on 12th Jun, and 3 at Marsascale on 21 Jun. Then 1 at Howard Gardens on 24 Jul, and 1-5 on 15 dates from 23 Aug to 15 Oct but 7 at Dwejra on 27 Sep.

2002: 17 sightings of 1-5 on 14 dates from 9 Mar to 18 Apr, but 25 at Victoria on 30 Mar. 1-2 on 15 dates from 8 May to 22 Jun, but 4 at Marsalforn on 17 Jun. Singles on 4 dates from 1 Jul to 10 Aug. In autumn, 1-5 on 16 dates from 10 Sep to 17 Oct, but 25 at Dwejra (M) on 16 Sep.

2003: 1 at Victoria on 10 Jan. 8 sightings of 1-7 on 6 days from 14-24 Mar, then low single figures almost daily at several sites from 1-14 Apr, but 18 at Għadira and 15 at Salina on 4 Apr. Then 9 sightings of 1-7 on 8 days from 19 Apr to 18 Jun. In autumn, 32 sightings of 1-10 on 28 days from 8 Jul to 1 Nov, mostly in Sep.

2004: Singles on 27 Feb and 14 – 15 Mar; then 1 – 7 on most days from 26 Mar to 25 Apr but max. 25 at Dwejra, M on 3 Apr. 1 on 5 May. Singles irregularly between 8 Jun and 19 Jul but 3 on last date. 1 – 2 on a few dates from 15 Aug to 13 Sep then on most days from 16 Sep to 31 Oct; usually 1 – 15 but 59 at Buskett on 16 Sep. Late birds in Nov with 2 on 14th and 1 on 16th.

2005: Singles on 22 Feb at Għar il-Qamh and 23 Feb at Marsaxlokk were early birds. 38 sightings of 1-5 from 26 dates from 7 Mar to 29 Apr, but 11 at Mellieħa on 25 Mar and 7 at Tarġa Gap on 26 Mar. 1-2 on 12 dates from 1 May to 23 Jun, but 6 at Comino on 12 Jun. 1-2 on 9 dates from 1 Jul to 10 Aug, but 4 at Salina on 10 Jul and 3 at Ta' Gajdoru on 26 Jul. In autumn, 1-8 on 16 dates from 1 Sep to 17 Oct, but 20 at Dwejra (M) on 27 Sep.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

2000: Up to treble figures recorded almost daily from 5 Mar to 19 Oct but 2000+ at Buskett on 12 Sep, otherwise up to 500. 1 at Luqa Airport on 5 Nov.

2001: 1 at Simar on 3 Mar and 2 at Tal-Virtu on 7 Mar, then on most days from 10 Mar to 11 Oct; mostly in single to high double figures but triple figure counts on 26 dates, highest ca.1000 at Wied Qannotta and ca. 500 at Salina on 18 Apr, and again ca. 500 on 4 other dates: on 14th and 31 May at Dwejra, on 12 June at Dingli and on 22 Jul again at Dwejra. Late singles at Buskett on 17th and 23 Oct and 2 at Qawra on 13 Nov.

2002: Up to treble figures on most days from 5 Mar to 25 Sep, but 1000+ on 6 dates from 18 May to 21 Jul. 1-2 on 14 dates from 29 Sep to 23 Oct.

2003: 1 at Simar on 15 Jan. Single figures, occasionally up to 100, on most days from 5-24 Mar, then daily from 28 Mar to 21 Jun and then on most days on to 29 Sep. Highest count was 1000 at Dingli on 5 Jun and at Dwejra on 8 Jun. Low treble figures frequent, especially in May and Jul-Aug. Then 1-2 on 7 days at Buskett from 5-25 Oct and 1 on Comino on 24 Oct.

2004: 1-5 from 8-15 Mar but 13 at Ċirkewwa on 12th, then daily from 21 Mar to 21 Sep when in treble figures of up to 300 regularly from late Apr to late Aug. But 400-600 on 6 dates mainly at Dwejra (M) with the highest numbers in May with 1000 at Buskett on 7th, then 2000 on 17-18th and 1000 on 19th all at Dwejra (M). 1-10 on most days from 23 Sep to 31 Oct but 20 at Buskett on 1 Oct. Last sightings in Nov with 1 at Ta Gajdoru on 14th and 2 at Buskett on 18th.

2005: Up to treble figures on most days from 4 Mar to 29 Sep, but 2000+ at Dwejra (M) on 9 May, 1000+ at Ġebel Ċiantar on 14 Aug and 1000+ at Comino and Qawra on 15 Aug. 1-6 on 8 dates from 2 Oct to 17 Oct.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

2000: 3 sightings of single birds at Bahrija on 1 May, at Mtaħleb/Miġra Ferħa on 19 Jun and at Għadira on 11 Jul.

II-Merill 32 2010

2001: Singles on 7 scattered dates in spring from 12 Apr to 31 May, but 2 at Dwejra on 14 May. Then 2 at Dingli Cliffs on 23 Aug.

2002: Recorded in single figures on 18 dates from 20 Mar to 7 Jul, highest 4 at Blata L-Bajda on 15 May and 5 at Dwejra (M) on 16 May. 1 at Għadira on 15 Sep.

2003: 20 sightings on 1-6 on 19 days from 14 Mar to 19 Jun, then 1-2 on 7 days from 13 Jul to 16 Sep. 2 at Dwejra (M) on 30 Sep.

2004: 1 at Ċirkewwa on 9 Mar, then 16 sporadic sightings of 1-2 from 24 Mar to 26 May. Singles in Jun on 8th and 29th followed by 2 on 14th and 1 on 15th in Jul. 9 sightings of 1-2 on 6 dates in Aug from 15-27th but 5 at Buskett on 15th and 4 at Qbajjar on 20th. Then 5 sightings of 1-3 from 20 Sep to 10 Oct and singles on 20-21 Oct, all at Buskett.

2005: 1-10 recorded on 26 dates from 13 Mar to 22 Jul, but 15 at Għarghur on 21 May and at Mġiebaħ on 11 Jun. In autumn, 1-5 on 4 dates from 6 Aug to 27 Aug, and single at Buskett on 14 Oct.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

2003: 1 at Buskett on 13 Sep.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

2000: Single birds wintering at Għadira and Simar till 27 Feb. Then again from 29 Jul at Għadira than present almost daily till end of year with 5 on 29 Aug highest. 1-3 birds at Simar from 3 Aug till end of year. Single birds recorded from a few other areas.

2001: 1-2 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 28 Mar, and 1 at Simar on 9 Feb. 2 at Simar on 4 Jul. Then singles on most days from 7 Jul to 19 Aug, mainly at Simar. 1-4 on most days from 21 Aug and 31 Oct with 1-2 from 1 Nov to 31 Dec, the vast majority from Għadira and Simar.

2002: 1-2 at Għadira and Simar from Jan to 31 Mar. Then up to 3 almost daily from 5 Aug till end of year at Għadira and Simar. Outside the reserves, 1 at Aħrax on 27 Jan and 14 sightings of singles from 3 Aug to 20 Dec, most from Salina.

2003: 1-2 daily at Għadira from 1 Jan to 10 Apr and singles at Salina on 9 Mar and 6 Apr. In autumn daily at Għadira and Simar from 3 Aug to 31 Dec, with highest numbers from late Sep to late Oct when max of 6 at Simar on 29 Sep and 5 at Għadira on 14 Oct. At other sites, mainly coastal, singles on 15 days from 17 Aug to 21 Oct.

2004: Daily at Għadira with 2 in Jan-Feb then 1 till 14 Mar, whilst singles at Simar on a few dates from 19 Jan to 11 Mar. 1 at Salina on 14 Mar. First sightings in autumn in Jul with singles at Għadira on 11-13th and at Simar on 17-19th. Then daily at Għadira and Simar from 21 Jul to end of year when mostly 1-3 but 4-5 regularly at Simar from 11 Aug to 6 Sep and on 25 Oct, and up to 4 at Għadira on a few dates from 20 Sep to 23 Oct. Lower numbers from mid-Nov with 2 at Għadira and 1 at Simar. Few other sightings elsewhere with 1-2 mostly at Salina between Aug – Dec.

2005: 1-2 almost daily from 1 Jan to 1 Apr, all from Simar, Għadira and Salina. In autumn, 1-4 almost daily from 1 Aug to end of year, but 5 on 23 Sep, 6 on 5 Oct, 5 on 12 Oct and 5 on 19 Oct, all at Simar. Outside Reserves and Salina, 2 at St Elmo on 25 Sep, singles at Dwejra (G) on 29 Aug, Marsascala on 20 Aug and 22 Sep, Dwejra (M) on 2 Sep, Buskett on 7 Sep, Marsalforn on 15 Sep, Ramla on 3 dates in Sep, Mizieb on 30 Oct and Comino on 25 Sep and 18 Oct.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

2000: 2 at Kapuċċini Valley, G and 10 at Selmun on 31 Mar were the first spring sightings. Then almost daily from 16 Apr to 13 Jun in single and low double figures but 150 at Ramla Bay on 22 Apr highest. 1 at Xagħra from 23rd to 30 July, then single to low double figures from 5 Aug to 19 Oct with 56 at Buskett on 4 Sept being the highest number.

2001: Single and low double figures from 7 Apr to 25 May, max 40 on 15 May (locality not given) and 20 on 6 May at Ta' Gajdoru. Singles on Comino on 9th and at Għadira on 24 Jun. Then single or double figures almost daily from 1 Sep to 13 Oct, max 100 on 12th, 65 on 14th and 52 on 9th all in September at Buskett. Late bird at Buskett on 26 Oct.

2002: 84 sightings on most days from 6 Apr to 24 Jun, in single or double figures, highest 60+ at Victoria on 25 Apr, otherwise up to 40. Singles at Għadira and Mellieħa on 6 Jul. In autumn, 8 at Buskett and 20 at Ta' Qali on 25 Aug, then up to double figures almost daily from 3 Sep to 18 Oct, highest 90 at Dwejra (M) on 10 Sep, otherwise up to 60.

2003: On most days from 10 Apr to 29 May with double figures on 14 days, max 60 at Għadira on 21 Apr. Then 5 sightings on 4 days from 5-29 Jun, with 18 at Mellieħa on first date, otherwise 1-2. In autumn daily on 28-31 Aug, then on most days from 10 Sep to 2 Oct, with largest concentration at Buskett. Max numbers were 130 at Dingli on 31 Aug and 120 at Buskett on 29 Aug. Double figures on 18 other days.

2004: Daily from 9 Apr to 9 May mostly in double figures at various sites. Highest numbers on 17 Apr with 235 from 10 sites (highest 52 at Ta' Gajdoru), on 19 Apr with 132 from 5 sites (highest 50 on Comino), on 22 Apr with 244 from 8 Sites (highest 90 at Dwejra,M), on 23 Apr with 154 from 8 sites (highest 50 at Simar), on 25 Apr with 222 from 9 sites (highest 86 at Salina) and on 2 May with 100 from 5 sites (highest 50 at Dwejra,M). Then singles on 6 dates in May from 11-26th, mostly at Simar, and in Jul on 4th at Dingli and on 30th at Mellieħa. Daily in autumn from 24 Aug to 9 Oct with highest numbers from late Aug to mid-Sep with 110 at Mtaħleb on 31 Aug, 150 at Dwejra (M) on 13 Sep, and 125 at Buskett on 14 Sep, otherwise in double figures and occasionally up to 100. 1-2 on a few dates in Oct from 12-23rd at Buskett.

2005: 5 at Xewkija on 5 Mar, then in single or low double figures almost daily from 8 Apr to 31 May, highest 200+ at Bidnija on 1 May, otherwise up to 87. Singles at Dwejra (M) and Chadwick Lakes on 20 Jun and 21 Jun respectively, and 2 at Ta' Gajdoru on 28 Jul. In autumn, 30 at Għar Dalam on 26 Aug, then up to double figures daily from 29 Aug to 27 Sep, highest 100 at Buskett on 11 Sep, otherwise up to 80. 2-5 on 4 dates from 29 Sep to 7 Oct.

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*

2000: 1 at Dwejra (M) on 21 Sep.

2002: 1 at Qortin tax-Xagħra on 3 Apr.

2003: 2 at Xagħra on 18 Apr, 1 at Għallis on 21 Apr and 1 at Salina on 27 Apr. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 26 Jun.

2004: Singles at Buskett in Apr on 19th and 24th; then in May on 1-2nd at Għadira, at Salina on 2nd and at Dwejra (M) on 7th and 20th. In Jun on 20th at Dwejra (M) then in Sep at Buskett on 14th and at Luqa on 20th.

II-Merill 32 2010

2005: In spring, singles at Salina on 26 Apr, Bidnija on 8 May, Bahrija on 15 May, and at Marsascula and Xrobb I-Għaġin on 18 May. In autumn, 9 at Buskett, 1 at Għajn Tuffieha and 3 at Ġnejna, all on 13 Sep, and 1 at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 15 Sep.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

2000: In spring, on various dates from 15 Mar to 25 Apr in single figures, max. 5 at Qammieħ on 25 Mar. In autumn, singles recorded on various occasions from 10 Aug to 28 Sep, but 2 at Dwejra (M) on 19 Aug. 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 1 Oct and 1 at Xaġhra on 4 Nov.

2001: Single figures on most days from 11 Mar to 13 May, but 15 on Comino on 5 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 2 Jun, and singles on 5 scattered dates in July, but 2 at Dwejra on 30th. Then 1-2 on 20 dates from 4 Aug to 27 Sep.

2002: 1 at St. Paul's Bay on 28 Feb and 2 at Ċirkewwa on 2 Mar, then 1-5 on most dates from 6 Mar to 28 Apr, but 8 at Comino on 30 Mar. Singles on 5 dates from 14-19 May. In autumn, 1 at Dingli on 21 Jul, then singles on 16 dates from 3 Aug to 19 Sep. 2 at Qawra on 29 Sep and 1 at Simar on 10 Oct.

2003: Singles on 4 days from 1-9 Mar, then low to medium single figures at various sites almost daily from 12 Mar to 24 Apr, but 30 at Xaġhra on 4 Apr. Singles on 30 Apr and 1 May. In autumn singles at Dwejra (Malta) from 11 Jul to 3 Aug, at Mgarr ix-Xini on 14 Jul, and at Għadira on 25 Jul; then 24 sightings of 1-3 on 16 days from 6 Aug to 28 Sep, but 4 at Qawra on 16 Sep. 1 at Qawra on 8 Oct.

2004: Nine sightings of singles on 6 dates from 22 Feb to 3 Mar, then 1-2 almost daily from 13 Mar to 3 May but 5 at Qammieħ on 2 Apr and 3 at Ċirkewwa and Munxar on 31 Mar and at Ċirkewwa on 3 Apr. Singles at 2 sites on 27 May, at Dwejra (M) on 25 Jun, at Ta Lambert on 17 Jul and at Pietà on 2 Aug. Then 2 at Dwejra (M) on 13 Aug, then 23 sightings of singles on 16 dates from 21 Aug to 14 Sep but 2 at Għadira on 28 Aug.

2005: Singles at Simar on 11 Feb and at Ta' Gajdor on 25 Feb, then 1-6 almost daily from 1 Mar to 29 Apr, but 7 at Salina on 6 Apr. Singles on 6 dates from 5 May to 31 Jul. In autumn, 1 at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 7 Aug, then 1-3 almost daily from 15 Aug to 18 Sep. 1 at Comino on 16 Oct.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

2000: Daily from 1 Jan to 28 Feb mainly at Buskett and Simar. Single birds from various locations from 5 Mar to 29 Apr, highest being 4 on Comino on 31 Mar. Almost daily at Simar, Għadira and Buskett from 18 Aug till end of year max. 5 at Għadira on 6-7 Oct. Single bird at Għajn Zejtuna on six dates in Oct and Nov. 1 at Wied Qannotta on 2 Nov, 1 at Bahrija on 9 Dec and 1 at Targa Gap on 18 Dec.

2001: Singles most days from 5 Jan to 30 Mar but 2 at Għadira on 6 Mar. 1-3 almost daily from 1st to 26 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 28 Aug. 1-5 regularly from 2 Sep to 29 Nov. Singles on 8 dates from 6th to 26 Dec, but 2 at Simar on 14th and 24 Dec.

2002: 1-2 on most dates from Jan to 2 May, but 3 at Comino on 6 Apr and at Villa Rundle on 17 Apr. Then 1-3 on most dates from 2 Sep till end of year, but 4 at Buskett on 11 Oct.

2003: Single wintering birds at 4 sites in Jan-5 Mar. 1-3 on most days, but 10 on Comino on 13 Apr, from 17 Mar to 28 Apr, then late sighting on 18 May. In autumn 1 on 1 Sep, then 1-4 (but 10 at Buskett on 14 Oct) on most days from 19 Sep to 24 Nov. 1-2 wintering at several sites throughout Dec.

2004: Singles on most days in Jan and in Feb on 18th and 23rd, mostly at Simar. Then 10 sightings of singles on 8 dates from 13 Mar to 7 Apr but 2 at Għadira on 2 Apr. Daily in Apr from 14-28th with highest numbers on Comino when 5-8 regularly but 20 on 24th and 10 on 25th, otherwise 1-3 at other sites. 1 at Salina on 2 May. In autumn almost daily from 9 Sep to 31 Dec when usually 1-2 at several sites but 3 at Simar in Sep on 28th and 30th, and in Oct on 1st and 17th, and also at Buskett on 30 Sep and 6 Oct.

2005: Single at Simar on 11 dates from 2 Jan to 7 Feb, then 1-3 on most dates from 11 Feb to 2 May, but 7 at Simar on 7 Apr. 1 at Wardija on 29 Aug and Simar on 1 Sep, then 1-2 on most dates from 7 Sep to end of year, but 3 at Buskett on 12 Oct and 29 Oct.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

2000: Almost daily in single and low double figures of up to 10 from 14 Apr to 11 June, but 16 at Wied Qannotta on 23 Apr. In autumn, up to 5 at Buskett from 20-31 Aug, and 6 sightings from Buskett, Dwejra, (M) B'Kara, Lunzjata Valley and Għadira between the 1st and 11 Sep. Maxima 8 at Buskett on 1 Sep.

2001: Single figures almost daily from 12 Apr to 20 May, max 8 at Buskett on 16 Apr. Then singles at Buskett on 30 May and 17 Jun, at Rabat on 25 Aug and 2 Sep, at B' Kara on 4th, at Mellieħa on 5th, and at Buskett on 9 Sep.

2002: Almost daily from 19 Apr to 13 May in single or low double figures, highest 25 at Mellieħa on 24 Apr. 1-2 on 6 dates from 23 May to 2 Jun. In autumn, 1-2 on 6 dates from 20 Aug to 19 Sep.

2003: 1-3 on 5 days from 8-15 Apr, then passage on 18 Apr when total of 113 at 4 sites, and daily on to 13 May when mostly in single figures but occasionally up to 20; and then single figures less regularly till 1 Jun. 1 at Għadira on 4 Jul. In autumn 23 sightings of 1-4 on 15 days from 31 Aug to 24 Sep.

2004: Daily from 15 Apr to 18 May with peak in late Apr with 40 at Comino and Lunzjata, and 20 at Mellieħa on 25th, 50 at Buskett and 20 at Lunzjata on 27th, and 25 at Buskett on 28th, otherwise 1-15. Then 12 sightings of 1-2 from 23 May to 4 Jul. In autumn 1 on 6 Aug, then 11 sightings of 1-3 from 25 Aug to 13 Sep mainly at Buskett.

2005: Singles at Għadira on 7 Apr and Buskett on 9 Apr, then in single and low double figures of up to 18 almost daily from 14 Apr to 31 May, but 30+ on 30 Apr and 20 on 16 May, both at Buskett. Singles on 11 dates from 1-21 Jun, but 3 at Buskett on 1 Jun. In autumn, 1-2 on 12 dates from 14 Aug to 16 Sep, but 3 on 31 Aug and 5 on 1 Sep, both at Buskett.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

2000: Singles at Dwejra (M) on 29 Aug and on 8 Sep and 1 at Lunzjata Valley on 19 Sep.

II-Merill 32 2010

2001: 1 at Wied Il Luq on 15 Sep.

2002: 2 at Comino on 22 Apr and 1 at B'Kara on 15 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 1 Oct, at Ramla Dam on 7 Oct and at Buskett on 11 Oct.

2003: 1 on Comino on 5 May; and singles at Mellieħa on 16 Sep and at Għadira on 30 Sep.

2004: Singles at Dwejra (M) on 27 May and 11 Sep and at Luqa airport on 23 Sep.

2005: Singles at Buskett on 25 Sep and at Comino on 19 Oct.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

2000: Recorded in single figures from 1 Apr to 19 May, but 15 at Comino on 26 Apr and 6 May. 7 single sightings from 4 to 15 Jun, but 3 at Mtaħleb on 4 June. In autumn from 11 Aug at Dwejra (M) and single birds recorded till 26 Sep, highest 3 at Dwejra (M) on 23 Aug. One late bird at Ta' Ċenċ on 20 Oct.

2001: Up to 15 almost daily from 5 Apr to 16 May but 20 on Comino on 2 May. 1 at Għadira on 22 May. Then singles on 4 dates in August: at Dwejra (M) on 21st, at Buskett on 22nd, and at Dwejra on 25th and 28th.

2002: 5 at Comino on 3 Apr and singles at Salina on 3 Apr and again at Comino on 4 Apr, then in single figures almost daily from 9 Apr to 12 May, but 10+ on 17 Apr and 25+ on 29 Apr, both at Comino. Singles at Għadira on 17 May and at Dwejra (M) on 21 May. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 5 dates from 19-25 Aug.

2003: Almost daily from 6 Apr to 14 May; usually single figures but 10-15 on 5 days on Comino. Then 2 singles on 18 May and 1 on 26 May. In autumn 1-4 on 14 days at Dwejra (Malta) from 3-23 Aug, then singles on 6 days from 28 Aug to 22 Sep. Late bird on Comino on 29 Oct.

2004: 1 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar, then 7 sightings of singles from 7-12 Apr. Daily from 14 Apr to 9 May with highest numbers from late Apr to early May when in double figures of up to 30 on most days mainly at Comino, otherwise 1-10. But an influx took place on 24 Apr with high numbers at some sites including 200 on Comino, 20 at L-Ahrax and Salina, 18 at Buskett, 12 at Dwejra (M) and Wied Qannotta, and 10 at Pieta. Then 1-2 frequently from 12-25 May. Breeding pair at Buskett seen with fledged young on 20 Jun. Singles at Dwejra (M) on 23rd and 27th Jun, 19 Jul, and 2-6 Aug, then 1-2 on most days from 10 Aug to 4 Sep, mainly at Dwejra (M).

2005: 1 at Luqa on 19 Mar, then in single and low double figures of up to 15+ on most dates from 3 Apr to 11 May, but 20 on 24 Apr, 25+ on 26 Apr, 20 on 27 Apr and 20+ on 3 May, all at Comino. Singles at Simar on 11 May and Għadira on 21 May. 1 at Comino on 12 Jun. In autumn, 1-2 on 13 dates from 14 Aug to 15 Sep, mainly from Buskett.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

2001: 1 at Qammieħ on 6 Apr.

2004: 1 at Salina on 9 Apr.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

2000: Recorded only in autumn and winter from 24 Oct to 29 Dec. Highest count of 5 at Wardija on 29 Nov.

2001: 1-3 on 8 dates from 6 Jan to 14 Feb, but 5 at Buskett on 14 Jan. 1-2 on 11 dates at various localities from 18 Oct to 27 Dec.

2002: 1-3 on 9 dates from 2 Jan to 10 Mar, but 4 at Buskett on 8 Jan.

2003: 1 on 23 Oct, then irregular sightings of 1-4 from 4-15 Nov and from 22 Nov to 29 Dec when in single figures, max 8 at Buskett on 26 Nov.

2004: 1-2 frequently in Jan-Feb but 4 at Mdina on 9 Jan and 3 at Buskett in Feb on 13th and 27th. Then singles in Mar on 17th, 22nd and 28th. In autumn 1-2 on 4 dates at Għadira from 9-17 Nov and at Buskett with 3 on 10 Nov, then in Dec with 1 on 21st and 4 on 24th.

2005: 1-3 on 12 dates from 4 Jan to 24 Feb, mainly at Buskett, but 6+ on 23 Jan, also at Buskett. In winter, 1-3 on 8 dates from 6 Nov to 24 Dec, but 5 at Buskett on 23 Dec.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

2000: Single birds from 1 Jan to 8 March, mainly at Għadira, highest 3 at Wied Incita on last date. First autumn sighting on 1 Nov at Simar (1 bird), and the last on 29 Dec at Buskett. Highest number at Wardija where 6 birds were seen on 4 Nov.

2001: 2 at Għadira on 30 Oct, then up to 4 on 26 dates from 4 Nov to 29 Dec, but 8 at Simar on 6 Dec.

2002: 1-2 on 9 dates from 2 Jan to 13 Feb, mostly at Simar. Singles at Mdina on 28 Mar and at Għadira on 1 Apr. 2 at Buskett on 6 Nov and 1 at Għadira on 11-12 Nov.

2003: 1-3 regularly from 20 Oct to 25 Dec with sightings at various sites but mostly at Buskett, Rabat, Għadira and Simar.

2004: 1-2 frequently from 1 Jan to 8 Mar mainly at Simar, then singles at Targa Gap on 2-3 Apr, at Rabat on 1 May and 17 Nov, and at Red Tower on 18 Nov.

2005: Singles at Buskett on 23 Jan and 4 Feb. 1-3 on most dates from 14 Oct to end of year, but 4 at Buskett on 15 Oct and 28 Dec.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

2000: 3 at il-Qortin tal-Mellieħa on 26 Mar than daily in single and low double figures of up to 30 from 1 Apr to 23 Sept, but 100 on 8 Sep and 80 on 9 Sep at Dwejra (M)

2001: 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 4 Mar, then up to 20 on most dates from 17 Mar to 28 Jun with 25 at Qawra on 6 Apr and on Comino on 1 May. 3 at Migra Ferha on 1 Jul, 1 near Ta' Qali on 11 Jul and 2 at Dwejra on 22 Jul. Up to 25 seen almost daily from 9 Aug to 23 Sep.

2002: 6 at Luqa Airport and singles at Munxar on 12 Mar and at Sarraflu on 15 Mar, then up to 30 on most dates from 29 Mar to 22 Jun. 100+ at Ras Il-Wardija on 12 Jul, then up to 30 on 9 dates from 11 Aug to 19 Sep.

2003: First arrivals on 29 Mar then sightings on most days at several sites with spring max of 40 on Comino on 19 Apr. Up to 30 at Ta' Ċenċ during breeding period in Apr-Jun. Most birds had left by mid-Sep, with last sightings on 24 Sep.

II-Merill 32 2010

2004: Breeding migrant. 1-2 on a few dates in Mar from 17-31st but 24 at Ċirkewwa on 31st, then in single to double figures from 3 Apr to 21 Sep. Up to 20 in usual breeding areas but higher numbers on migration mainly in Apr and Aug with max.70 at Wardija, G on 25th and 65 at Mtaħleb on 27th both in Aug. 1-5 on a few dates from 24 Sep to 11 Oct.

2005: Singles at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 23 Feb and Għadira on 25 Feb, and 1 on 4 dates from 4-17 Mar. Then up to 43 on most dates from 24 Mar to 21 Jun, but 90 on 4 Apr and 70 on 6 Apr, both at Għajj Tuffieha. Then 1-15 on 8 dates from 26 Jun to 17 Aug, and 1-50 on most dates from 28 Aug to 12 Sep, but 100+ at Wardija (G) on 29 Aug. Single at Simar on 21 Sep.

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*

2000: Singles at Mellieħa on 14 Nov and at Xagħra, Gozo on 8 Dec

2001: 1 at Dwejra on 10 Oct.

2003: 2 at Mellieħa on 27 Oct.

2004: 1 at Buskett on 30 Sep.

Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis*

2000: Daily sightings of single and low double figures from 1 Jan to 2 Apr, highest 20 at Dwejra (M) on 29 Jan. 2 at Qawra on 23 Sep then almost daily from 1 Oct till end of year. Max. 191 at Buskett on 15 Oct, 340 at Qawra on 22 Oct, and 250 at Qawra on 23 Oct.

2001: Single or low double figure counts, up to 17, on most days from 1 Jan to 18 Mar but 55 in the Gozo Channel on 16 Feb. 1 on Comino on 28 Apr. 2 at Qawra on 29 Sep. Single to high double figure counts almost daily from 5 Oct to 30 Nov, with 3 triple figure counts all at Qawra: 160 on 24th and 134 on 27 Oct, and 104 on 3 Nov. Single figures on 11 dates from 1st to 31 Dec, but 25 at Ta' Ċenċ on 14 Dec.

2002: Up to 10 on most days from Jan to 22 Mar, but 20 at Ta' Ċenċ on 10 Feb. Then up to 25 on most dates from 24 Mar to 6 Apr, but 77 at Ċirkewwa on 29 Mar. 1 at Ta' Mrejnu Mġarr on 10 Apr. Autumn passage: 1 at Għadira on 30 Sep, then almost daily from 3 Oct to 28 Nov in single or double figures but 177 at Qawra on 21 Oct and 200+ at Comino on 27 Oct. Up to 8 almost daily from 29 Nov till end of year.

2003: Single figures on most days in Jan-24 Mar, but 15-24 on 4 days from 14-19 Mar. Then 9 sightings of 1-3 on 6 days from 7 Apr to 9 May. In autumn daily from 10 Oct to 23 Nov with double to low treble figures between 26 Oct and 8 Nov, max 350 on 3 Nov and 590 on 4 Nov, both at Qawra. Mostly single to low double figures on other days. Single figures on 10 days in Dec.

2004: 1-5 in a few places in Jan-Feb but 8 at Simar on 14 Jan and at Pembroke on 15 Feb, then 1-6 more frequently in Mar till 23rd and 2 at Ċirkewwa on 31st. Daily in single to double figures in autumn from 5 Oct to 31 Dec with highest numbers from late Oct to early Nov when in treble figures on a few dates. Max.350 on 21st and 300 on 22nd, both in Oct and on Comino, otherwise up to 131. Up to 15 from mid-Nov but higher numbers at Luqa airport with 20-40 in Nov and up to 20 in Dec.

2005: Up to 10 on most days from Jan to 6 Apr, but 20 at Għadira on 14 Feb and 31+ at Luqa Airport on 22 Feb. In autumn, single and double figures on most dates from 2 Oct to end of year, but 300+ on 21 Oct and 100+ on 22 Oct, both at Comino, otherwise up to 80+.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

2000: First spring sighting 2 at Pwales on 12 Mar, then almost daily in double and low treble figures from 20 Mar till end of May, maxima 200 at Simar on 21 Apr, 150 on 11-13 Apr at Għadira and on 3-4 May at Simar. Single figures on most dates from 1-16 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Simar and 2 at Buskett on 28 Aug, then in single to low double figures throughout Sep and Oct. Last sighting was of 1 at Buskett on 11 Nov.

2001: 1 at Marsalforn Valley on 26 Feb. Then in single or double figures on most days from 1 Mar to 1 Jun but 18 triple figure counts, max. ca. 1000 on 30th at Simar, 500 on 29 Apr at Dwejra, and 400 on 6 dates from 1st to 14 May, all at Simar. In autumn singles at Buskett on 24-25 Aug and then up to 15 almost daily from 3 Sep to 26 Oct.

2002: Almost daily from 5 Mar to 13 Jun. Highest numbers from 24 Apr to 17 May, with several sightings of treble figures, highest 400+ at Simar on 14 May. 2 at Aħrax on 22 Jun. In autumn, 8 at Simar on 23 Aug and 1-4 on 3 dates from 3-10 Sep, then on most days from 14 Sep to 16 Oct in single or low double figures, highest 30+ at Buskett on 23 Sep.

2003: 4 sightings of 1-3 on 15-16 Mar, and almost daily from 29 Mar to 18 May, with double to low treble figures on several days and a peak on 19-22 Apr when 1000-2000 daily. Then 10 sightings of up to 20 on 6 days from 22 May to 5 Jun. In autumn 1-5 on 4 days from 29 Aug to 5 Sep, then daily from 13-30 Sep when mostly in double figures and 100 at Buskett on 25 Sep. Up to 20 on 6 days from 7-24 Oct.

2004: 2 at Għadira on 22 Feb, then singles at Simar on 5 dates from 27 Feb to 18 Mar but 3 on 15th, whilst 1 was at Salina on 29 Feb. Then in single to double figures daily from 23 Mar to 14 May with peak numbers in early-mid-late Apr when in treble figures of up to 200 at some sites. Highest numbers mostly at Simar in Apr with 400 on 2nd and 300 on 5th and 26th, but also at Għajj Rihana with 250 on 14th. Up to 50 till May but 150 at Salina on 9th. 1-20 on most days from 17-30 May but 40 at Mistra on 30th. In Jun only at Simar with 2 on 8th and singles on 11th and 14-18th. 1 at Simar on 21 Jul. In autumn 1-10 almost daily from 27 Aug to 26 Oct but 20 at Għadira on 14th and 15 at Lunzjata on 15th, both in Sep. Then 3 at Wied Zejta, G on 21 Nov and 1 at Simar on 1 Dec.

2005: 1-2 on 4 dates from 27 Feb to 2 Mar, all at Simar. Then in single, double and triple figures almost daily from 19 Mar to 14 Jun, but 1000+ at Simar on 22 Apr and 27 Apr, otherwise up to 800+. In autumn, single at Buskett on 28 Aug, then 1-20 almost daily from 31 Aug to 14 Oct, but 100 at Buskett on 13 Sep. 1-2 on 7 dates from 28 Oct to 29 Nov.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

2004: 2 at Buskett on 29 Nov.

2005: 1 at Għadira and Red Tower on 10 Nov.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

2000: First spring migrants from 17 Feb with 1 at Għadira, other single birds at Xlendi and Ta'Ċenċ on 20th and 22 Feb respectively. Daily sightings in single, double and low treble figures from 5 Mar to 27 Jun. highest numbers include; 500 at Simar on 12th and 21st Apr, 400 on 9th and 11 Apr; 350 on 13 Apr all at Għadira. A pair was noted at Dingli Cliffs on 26 Jun. Singles on 19 Jul and 21 Jul at Qammieħ and Simar respectively, then almost daily from 21 Jul till 29 Nov in single, double and treble figures, highest count 1800 at Buskett on 11 Oct. Single bird at Simar from 23-29 Dec.

2001: 2 at Simar on 6 Jan. Then 1 at Simar on 21 Feb, and in single, double and triple figures on most days from 25 Feb to 30 May, max. 800 at Wied Qannotta on 18th and 400 at Simar on 25 Apr, and 200 again at Simar on 2nd, 8th and 12 May. 1-2 on 17 dates from 2 Jun and 18 Jul. In autumn almost daily in double and triple figures from 21 Aug to 16 Nov, with max counts at Buskett: 800 on 27 Sep, 600 on 2 Oct, and 500 on 3 dates 24th and 30 Sep and 1 Oct.

2002: 1-2 on 5 dates from 15-23 Feb, then up to low treble figures of up to 400 daily from 27 Feb to 10 Jun, but 500+ on 4 dates: at Comino and Għadira on 14 Apr, at Simar on 16 Apr and 19 Apr, and at Lunzjata on 8 May. 1-2 on 13 dates from 13 Jun to 26 Jul, but 4 at Dingli Cliffs on 22 Jun. In autumn, up to 600 almost daily from 19 Aug to 5 Nov, but 2000+ at Buskett on 17 Sep, 6000+ at Lunzjata on 11 Oct, and 2000+ at Lunzjata on 13 Oct. 1-6 on 6 dates from 11-30 Nov.

2003: 1 at Lunzjata on 4 Jan. 1-2 on 7 days from 12 Feb to 1 Mar, then daily from 3 Mar to mid-May and less regularly on 13 Jun. Peak period from 26 Mar to 21 Apr when often treble figures and up to 3000 each at Salina and Simar on 19 Apr. 6 sightings of 1-2 on 5 days from 19 Jun to 20 Jul. In autumn singles on 5 Aug and 14 Aug, then up to 20 on 3 days from 23 -26 Aug and daily from 28 Aug to 10 Nov. Medium treble figures on several days, especially in Sep – mid-Oct, and with max of 3000 at Tigne' Pt. on 19 Sep. 11 sightings of 1-2 on 8 days from 17 Nov to 26 Dec.

2004: Few sightings in Jan with singles at Ramla valley on 3-4th then at San Gwann with 2 on 9th and 1 on 23rd. Singles frequently at Għadira and Simar from 6-21 Feb but 3 at Simar on 21st. Then present till 16 Dec when mostly in single to double figures in spring but in treble figures on most days from late Mar to early May. Highest numbers on 14 Apr with 700 at Salina, 600 at Simar and 500 at Comino but also on 13th with 500 and on 19th with 400, both at Simar otherwise 100-325 from various sites. In single figures from late May to mid-Aug with a pair nesting at Buskett in Jul-Aug. In double figures from late Aug increasing to treble figures by mid-Sep but higher numbers from late Sep to mid-Oct with 1000-2000 at Buskett on 5 days from 29 Sep to 13 Oct. Then lower numbers after mid-Oct with 100-300 on 20-22nd and 80 on 25th, both at Buskett and Oct, highest. 1-2 from mid-Nov to mid-Dec.

2005: 1-2 on 7 dates from 13 Feb to 27 Feb, then treble figures of up to 600 daily from 28 Feb to 31 May, but 1500+ at Simar on 27 Apr. 1-3 on 23 dates from 1 Jun to 10 Jul, but 12 at Dwejra (M) on 5 Jun. In autumn, up to 600 almost daily from 2 Aug to 8 Nov, but 1500+ at Dwejra (M) on 7 Oct and 1200+ at Rabat on 7-8 Oct. Singles on 6 dates from 12-26 Nov.

Barn Swallow x House Martin (Hybrid)

2005: Singles at Wied il-Luq on 23 Sep and at Għadira on 1 Oct.

Barn Swallow x Red-Rumped Swallow (Hybrid)

2002: 1 at Wied Qannotta on 11 May.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

2000: 2 on 30 Jan and 3 on 31 Jan at Għadira, then almost daily from 10 Feb to 9 June in single double and low treble figures, maxima 300 at Simar on 15 May and at Dwejra, (M) on 17 May. 1-5 birds from 1 Jun to 18 Jul mainly from the Dingli area. In autumn, single birds from 28 Aug then almost daily in single and double figures till 25 Nov, highest count 200 at Buskett on 11 Oct. Single bird at Simar from 23-29 Dec.

2001: 1 at Simar on 1st and 3 nr Chadwick Lakes on 28 Jan. 1 in the Gozo Channel on 13 Feb, then almost daily in single, double or triple figures from 20 Feb to 13 June, max. 300 at Wied Qannotta on 18 Apr, 300 at Dwejra and 250 at Simar on 21 May, and 200 at Victoria on 28 Apr. Then 2 at Dingli on 24 Jun, and up to 4 on 6 dates from 8 Jul to 2 Aug, again most at Dingli. Autumn migration in single and double figures almost daily from 24 Aug to 20 Oct, but triple figures on 3 dates: 600 at Buskett on 27 Sep, and 100 again at Buskett on 2nd and at Rabat on 19 Oct. Late birds: 3 at Lunzjata on 4th, 1 at Simar on 12th and 1 at Lunzjata on 16 Nov.

2002: Singles at Simar on 17-18 Jan and 31 Jan, then single, double or treble figures almost daily from 9 Feb to 17 Jun, highest 600+ at Lunzjata on 24 May. A pair bred at Nadur (G) on 27 Jun. but after the young hatched (at least 2) the adults disappeared and therefore no birds fledged. This is the first breeding record of House Martins in Gozo. 2 at Bingemma on 10 Jul and 1 at Dingli on 11 Aug. In autumn, up to 300 almost daily from 4 Sep to 6 Nov, but 1000+ at Lunzjata on 13 Oct. 1 at Għadira on 19 Nov.

2003: On most days from 10 Feb to 24 Mar with low to medium double figures on 9 days and 100 at Simar on 18 Mar. Daily from 30 Mar to 14 May, then less regularly on to 6 Jun. Low to medium treble figures on several days and maxima of 2000 at San Pawl tat-Tarġa on 8 May and 1000 at Wied Qannotta on 19 Apr. Singles at 3 sites on 5 days from 20 Jun to 21 Jul. In autumn singles on 19-21 Aug, then on most days from 10 Sep to 10 Nov with low treble figures, mostly at Buskett, on several days, max 400 on 22 Sep and on 14 Oct.

2004: Singles in Jan on 5th at Salina, on 9th at Ta Ċenċ, at Għadira on 20th and at Simar on 21-26th. 1-2 at 2 sites in Feb on 3rd then daily from 7 Feb to 31 May. 20-50 from late Feb at Simar and 60 at Salina on 29 Feb, 100-160 at Simar on 4-5 Mar and 180 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar. Regularly in double figures in Apr at various sites but 15 sightings of 100-300 and 1000 at Dwejra (M) on 27th. In treble figures of up to 250 on most days in May till 29th with max.500 on 17th at Dwejra (M), otherwise in double figures. Then 1-5 on most days in Jun from 3-23rd. In autumn from 7 Sep to 28 Oct when in single to double figures of up to 30 in Sep, then occasionally in treble figures up to 150 in Oct but 300 at Buskett on 4th and 22nd. In Nov 1 on 2nd and 6 at Lunzjata on 16th, then 6 sightings of 1-3 in Dec from 7-22nd.

2005: Singles at Għadira on 15-16 Jan, then in single, double and treble figures almost daily from 11 Feb to 14 Jun, highest 500+ at Bidnija on 1 May, and Dwejra (M) on 2 May and 5 May. 2 at Ramla Valley on 5 Jul and singles at Simar on 11 Jul and Għadira on 12 Jul. In autumn, 4 at Buskett on 31 Aug, then up to 150+ on most dates from 1 Sep to 6 Nov, but 200+ at Buskett on 8 Oct. 4 on 4 Dec and 2 on 28 Dec, both at Rabat.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

2000: Recorded on various dates in spring from 25 Mar to 18 Apr in single figures of 1-5 but 30 birds were present at Capuccini Valley on 9 Apr. 3 autumn sightings; singles at Ta'Gajdoru, Xagħra on 19th and 27 Oct and 1 at Lunzjata Valley on 25 Nov.

2001: 3 at San Luċġan and 1 at Salina on 20 Mar. Then singles on Comino and at Wied Qannotta on 15th, at Simar on 23rd and at Salina on 24 Apr. 1 at Victoria on 12 May. In autumn singles at Dingli Cliffs on 18 Aug and at Buskett on 1 Oct.

2002: 1 at San Luċġan and 2 at Simar on 11 Mar, then 45 sightings of single figures on 32 dates from 19 Mar to 15 May, but 10 at Salina and 15 at Wied Qannotta on 13 Apr and 30+ at Marsalforn Valley on 14 Apr. Singles at Bingemma on 2 Jun and at Għadira on 15 Sep.

2003: 25 sightings on 21 days from 23 Mar to 4 May; usually 1-8, but 10-14 on 4 days. 2 on 5 Jun and 2 on 2 Jul. In autumn 6 sightings of 1-2 on 5 days from 17-23 Sep.

2004: Singles, mostly at Simar, almost daily from 22 Feb to 9 Mar but 2 at Ta Ċenċ on 7th. Then 1-5 daily from 26 Mar to 29 Apr but 7 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar, 15 at Luqa airport on 13 Apr, and 7 at Salina on 14th and at Simar on 16th, both in Apr. 1-2 on 4 dates from 16 May to 8 Jun. Then in Aug with 1 on 6th and 2 on 25th, and in Oct on 7th and 9th. Late bird at St.Pauls Bay on 12 Dec.

2005: In spring, 1-2 on 15 dates from 14 Mar to 15 May, but 3+ at Wied Qannotta on 17 Apr and 3 at Santa Margerita on 23 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 1 Sep and 1-2 on 4 dates from 2-15 Oct.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

2000: Resident breeder; mainly in single figures in various localities, double figures at Għadira mainly in Jun-Jul with 20+ including numerous fledglings on various days in summer.

2001: Breeding resident with up to 10 in suitable areas, but 15 at Għadira on 5 dates in May and at Simar on 7 Jul, and 20 at Buskett on 13 May.

2002: Breeding resident with up to 10 in suitable areas, but 12 at Chadwick Lakes on 9 Jun, 15 at Buskett on 16 Aug, and 20 at Buskett on 8 Oct.

2003: Widespread with single figures in many localities throughout the year and higher numbers at favourite sites. Max count was 50 at Buskett on 26 Jun. First fledglings seen on 5 May. Several sightings outside suitable breeding habitat during autumn/winter, including 1 on Comino on 21 Oct.

2004: Breeding resident. In single figures from various places throughout the year but 10-15 at a few places mainly Buskett, Simar and Għadira with max.20 at Simar on 21 Jun.

2005: Breeding resident with up to 12 in suitable areas, but 15 at Buskett and Simar on various dates.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

2002: 1 ringed at Għadira on 9 Dec. (1st record for Malta).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

2000: Singles at Għadira on 17 Oct, at Simar on 19 Oct, and at Mellieħa on 21 Oct.

2003: Singles at Simar on 9 days from 11 Oct to 3 Nov; at Għadira on 18, 21 and 31 Oct; at Mellieħa on 7 and 9 Nov; and at Qawra on 10 and 16 Nov.

2004: Singles at Simar on 20-21 Jan and at Targa Gap on 19 Nov.

2005: Singles at Buskett on 15 Oct, at Comino on 18 Oct, at Għadira on 27 Oct, at Buskett on 31 Oct and at Għadira on 4 Nov.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

2000: 1 at Għadira from 29 Jan to 5 May.

2004: 1 at Simar from 6 Jan to 6 Apr.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

2000: 3 sightings at Manoel Island in Apr, 2 on 7th and 1 on 8th and again on the 11th; 3 single birds at Għadira; 1 on 11 Apr and single birds in autumn on 2nd and 4 Sep.

2001: 1 at Simar on 24 Apr.

2002: Singles at Comino on 10 Apr and at Għadira on 21 Apr.

2004: Singles at Għajnsielem on 19 Mar, at Simar on 2 Apr, at Buskett on 21 Apr and at Simar on 28 Oct

2005: 1 at Simar on 14 Apr.

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*

2000: 4 at Simar on 8 Apr, 2 at Comino on 19 Apr and 1 at Simar on 30 Apr.

2001: Singles on 10 dates in April: at Comino on 8th to 13th and on 24th-25th, at Lunzjata on 21st, at Simar on 24th, and at Għadira on 27th. Then 1 at Għadira on 12 May.

2002: 1 at Simar on 31 Mar.

2003: Singles at Għajn Tuffieħa on 8 Apr, at Għadira on 10 Apr and at Simar on 21 Apr. In autumn 1 at Simar on 28 Sep.

2004: Only in Apr with singles at Għadira on 1-3rd and 6-8th but 3 on 3rd, then singles at Comino on 14-15th

2005: 1-3 almost daily at Għadira on 26 Mar to 14 Apr. Singles at Simar on 3-4 Apr and 7 Apr.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

2000: 2 at Simar on 1 Apr, then almost daily from various localities up to 20 May, max. 40+ on various dates mainly at Għadira and Simar. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 20 Aug, then 1-5 on various dates throughout Sep. Single birds at Simar on 3 dates in Oct, last record of 3 on 9 Oct.

II-Merill 32 2010

2001: In single or low double figures on most days from 1 Apr to 20 May, max. 30 on 5 dates from 2nd to 9th, and 35 on 14th all, but one, at Simar in May. Then 1 at Għadira on 5 Jun, and up to 4 on 12 dates from 4th to 20 Oct at Għadira or Simar.

2002: Singles at Comino on 20 Mar and at Lunzjata on 23 Mar, then almost daily from 29 Mar to 30 May, in single or double figures, but 100+ at Simar on 23 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 21 Aug, then 1-2 on 5 dates from 18-26 Sep, but 5 at Simar on 20 Sep.

2003: 1 on 22 Mar, then daily from 25 Mar to 1 May with low double figures at most sites between 2-26 Apr and 60 on Comino on 13 Apr and 50 at Għadira on 19 Apr. Singles on 4 days from 8-28 May. In autumn daily from 15 Sep to 9 Oct when always single figures but 15 at Għadira on 19 Sep. Then 5 singles on 4 days from 18 Oct to 1 Nov.

2004: Singles in Mar on 12th and 29th, then from 1 Apr to 16 May with highest numbers from mid-Apr to early May at Simar with 70 on 15th, 100 on 19th, 100-120 on 25-26th and 70 on 28th, all in Apr then 60 on 4 May. 1-40 elsewhere. Late singles in May on 21st and 24th and on 5 Jun. In autumn 10 sightings of 1-2 from 17 Aug to 22 Sep mainly at Simar and Għadira. Late bird at Rabat on 11 Nov.

2005: 1 at Wied ir-Rihan on 20 Mar, then in single and double figures of up to 50+ almost daily from 25 Mar to 18 May, but 70+ on 20 Apr and 80+ on 21 Apr, both at Simar. In autumn, 1-2 on 11 dates from 30 Aug to 9 Oct

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

2000: Single to double figures from 1 Jan to 25 Apr with 60+ recorded at Għadira on 4 dates in Feb and on 3 Mar. 1 at Lunzjata on 29 Aug. 1 at Għadira on 5 Oct, then almost daily from various localities till end of year, max. 60 at Simar on 6 Dec.

2001: Up to 50 on most dates from 1 Jan to 31 Mar but 100 at Lunzjata on 3 Feb. Singles on 9 dates from 1 Apr to 22 May with 2 at Għadira on 2 Apr and 3 on Comino on 5 Apr. Singles at Buskett on 8th, 15th and 29 Jul and 15th, 24th and 26 Aug. 1 at Lunzjata on 4 Oct, then single and double figures on most dates from 14 Oct to 31 Dec, but 100 at Lunzjata on 9th and 12 Dec.

2002: Daily in single or low double figures of up to 30 from Jan to 10 Apr. Singles on 10 dates from 17 Apr to 16 Jun. Then almost daily from 13 Oct till end of year in single or low double figures of up to 30.

2003: Low double figures in most areas in Jan-Feb, then slightly higher numbers in Mar when up to 30 at both Għadira and Simar on several days. Single figures on most days on to 11 Apr, then singles on Comino on 19, 25 and 28 Apr. 1 at Buskett on 22 Jun and 1 at Xagħra on 22 Sep. Again daily from 18 Oct on to year end with medium to high double figures in late Oct – mid-Nov, max 100 at Simar on 7 Nov. Smaller numbers in all areas after mid-Nov.

2004: Up to 30 mainly at Għadira and Simar in Jan but 40 at both sites on 16th and at Salina on 19th, then an increase in numbers from Feb to late Mar when 20-50 almost daily but 60 at Simar on 18th and at Għadira on 26th, both in Feb, then in Mar with 70 on 1st and 60 on 22nd at Simar and 60-70 at Għadira on 3-4 Mar. 1-5 in Apr till 7th and singles on 3 dates from 22-30th. 1 at Għadira irregularly from 30 Jun to 30 Sep, then 1-2 on most dates in Oct from 2-20th. In single to double figures of up to 50 from 22 Oct to end of year with highest numbers at Għadira and Simar.

2005: In single and double figures almost daily from Jan to 19 Apr, highest 60 at Lunzjata on 2 Mar, otherwise up to 50+. Singles on 11 dates from 8 May to 22 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Lunzjata on 11 Oct, then in single and double figures of up to 25+ almost daily from 12 Oct to end of year.

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*:

2005: 1 at Buskett from 20 May to 20 Jul. (1st record for Malta).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

2000: 1 at Floriana on 16 Mar, then daily in single and double figures from 25 Mar to 13 May, but 100+ at Simar on 8 Apr. 1 at Buskett on 28 May. Smaller numbers in autumn with the first autumn migrant on 18 Aug with 1 bird at Għadira, then almost daily till 24 Oct. Maximum 25 at Għadira on 16 Sept. Late bird at Għadira on 7 Nov.

2001: 2 at Għadira on 5 Mar then up to 20 most dates from 9 Mar to 14 May but 40 on Comino on 24 Apr. 1 at Simar on 31 May. Singles at Għadira on 17 and 21 Aug, then 1-5 almost daily from 25 Aug to 25 Oct but 10 at Għadira on 4 Oct.

2002: Almost daily from 11 Mar to 15 May, in single or low double figures of up to 15 but higher numbers from 13-19 Apr, highest 50+ at Comino on 14 Apr, at Għadira on 16-17 Apr, at Comino on 17 Apr, and at Villa Rundle on 17 Apr, otherwise up to 40. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on 7 Aug, then up to 10 almost daily from 18 Aug to 17 Oct, but 15 at Għadira on 17 Sep. 1 at Lunzjata on 26 Oct.

2003: Daily from 27 Mar to 29 Apr when usually in single figures, but 60 on Comino on 13 Apr and 10-15 on 9 other days. Then 1-2 irregularly from 3-16 May. In autumn 1-2 on 3 days from 13-16 Aug, then almost daily from 20 Aug to 24 Oct; single figures, but 10-25 on 4 days at Għadira and on 3 days at Simar between 19-30 Sep. 1 on 29 Oct.

2004: Daily from 9 Mar to 11 May with highest numbers in Apr with 30-35 on 12-15th at Simar and 25-30 on 1-3rd at Għadira, otherwise 1-20. Late bird on 18 May at Simar. In autumn singles on 6 dates from 17 Aug to 6 Sep then 1-5 from 10 Sep to 22 Oct but 10 on 15th, 8-10 on 22-23rd and 10-15 on 27-28th, all in Sep at Simar. Late singles in Oct on 25th and 30th.

2005: In single and low double figures of up to 15+ almost daily from 18 Mar to 14 May, and singles on three dates between 23 and 28 May. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 14 Aug, then in single and low double figures of up to 15+ almost daily from 17 Aug to 23 Oct.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

2000: Present in single, double and low treble figures from 1 Jan till the end of Apr with highest numbers at Buskett with 200+ recorded on 3 days on 07th, 11th and 17 March. Single birds recorded in early Apr with 10 at Simar on 1st being the highest count. Singles at Buskett on 28 May and 4 Jun. 1 at Lunzjata Valley on 5 Sep, then almost daily in single and low double figures till end of year, max. 40 at Buskett on 29 Dec.

II-Merill 32 2010

2001: Up to 50 almost daily from 1 Jan to 30 Apr, but 100 on 21 Jan and 8 Feb, and 200 on 5th and 19 Feb all at Buskett. Singles at Ghadira on 7 and 10 May. Singles at Wied II Luq on 19th and at Ghadira on 27 Sep. Then up to 15 on most days from 4 Oct to 31 Dec but 20 at Buskett on 28-29 Dec.

2002: Almost daily from Jan to 30 Apr in single to low double figures, highest 50+ at Buskett on 16 Jan. Singles at Comino on 4 May and 8-9 May; and 2 at Buskett on 26 May. Singles at Buskett and Ghadira on 17 Sep and at Buskett on 23 Sep, then almost daily in single to low double figures from 3 Oct till end of year, highest 50+ at Buskett on 21 Dec.

2003: Single figures in most areas in Jan-Feb but up to 50 in areas like Buskett, Girgenti and Rabat/Mtarfa. Increase in migrants in Mar- 14 Apr with up to 15 at Ghadira and Simar on several days, then singles on 4 days from 18 Apr to 3 May. First in autumn on 21 Sep, reaching low double figures (max 25) at Buskett from 12 Oct and up to 40 there from late Oct. Only single figures in other areas in Oct-Dec.

2004: In single to double figures from 1 Jan to 18 Apr with highest numbers at Buskett in Jan-Feb when 35-60 on a few days but 80 on 4th and 150 on 28th, both in Feb. 1-20 elsewhere. Lower numbers in Mar-Apr with 1-10 from various sites but 10-20 regularly at Ghadira and 25 at Buskett on 8 Mar. 4 sightings of singles from 28 Apr to 11 May. In autumn 5 sightings of 1-2 from 15-27 Sep, then from 30 Sep to 31 Dec. In single to double figures up to 50 but 100-120 at Buskett on 13-15 Dec.

2005: In single and double figures of up to 80+ almost daily from Jan to 22 Apr, but 100+ on 23 Jan and 100+ on 28 Jan, both at Buskett. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 3 Aug, then in single and double figures of up to 40+ almost daily from 22 Sep to end of year.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

2000: Recorded mainly in single and low double figures on most dates from 12 Apr till the end of May, but max. of 150+ on Comino on 10 and 11 May. 1 at Chadwick Lakes on 4 Jun. In autumn from 14 Aug to 6 Nov in single and low double figures with up to 14 birds at Lunzjata Valley on 10 Sep. highest. 1 late bird at Ghadira on 21 Nov.

2001: In single or double figures of up to 60 almost daily from 7 Apr to 2 Jun, but max. of 80 on 7th and 100 on 11 May at Comino. 1 at Ghadira 12 Jun. Then 1-5 on most dates from 25 Aug to 19 Oct but 30 at Bingemma on 20 Sep. Singles at Ghadira on 29th Oct and at Simar on 31 Oct.

2002: Singles on 3 dates from 1-9 Apr, then in single or double figures almost daily from 13 Apr to 2 Jun, highest 60+ at Lunzjata on 9 May. In autumn, in single or low double figures on most days from 16 Aug to 23 Oct, highest 30+ at Buskett on 5 Sep.

2003: 1 on 6 Apr and 3 on 8 Apr, then daily from 11 Apr to 21 May with peak in first half of May when double figures at Comino and Buskett on 6 days, max 45 on Comino on 12 May. Singles on 4 days from 23-29 May. In autumn 1 on 13 Aug and 2 on 18 Aug, then on most days from 22 Aug to 28 Oct with peak in late Aug-Sep when low double figures on 9 days, max 25 at Buskett on 29 Aug. 1 on 5 Nov.

2004: Daily from 14 Apr to 1 Jun with higher numbers from mid-Apr to early May. Mostly 1-30 but highest at Comino in May with 40 on 5-6th and 100 on 3rd and 8th, and at Lunzjata with 40-60 on 25-27 Apr. Singles in Jun on 7th and 13th. In autumn singles at Buskett on 13-19 Aug, then from 25 Aug to 29 Oct. Mostly 1-15 but 20 on 30-31 Aug and 6 Sep, and 30 on 6 Oct all at Buskett. Singles at Buskett in Nov on 16th and 30th.

2005: 1 at Simar on 7 Apr, then in single and double figures of up to 65+ almost daily from 13 Apr to 26 May, but 100+ on 4 May, 150+ on 5 May and 100+ on 9 May, all at Comino. Singles at Ghadira on 2 Jun and Buskett on 4 Jun. In autumn, in single and double figures of up to 75 almost daily from 20 Aug to 1 Nov, but 100 at Buskett on 6 Sep. Singles at Buskett on 12 Nov and Ghadira on 3 Dec.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

2003: 1 ringed at Comino on 12 May.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

2000: Singles at Ghadira on 11 Apr and 4 Sep

2003: Singles on Comino on 6 Apr, 3 May and 27 Oct.

2004: Singles at Comino on 24 Oct and at Ghadira on 17 Nov and 1 Dec.

2005: 1 at Buskett on 31 Aug.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

2000: Recorded almost daily from 30 Mar to 20 May in single and double figures, max. 100+ on 23rd and 26 Apr and 10 May and 50 on 25 Apr all at Comino. In autumn, singles at Ghadira on 26 Aug, at Simar on 12 Sep and at Mosta on 22 Sep.

2001: Almost daily from 1 Apr to 23 May in single or double figures of up to 30, but 50 on Comino on 17 Apr, and 200 on 7 May. Singles at Ghadira and Simar on 31 May. No records in autumn.

2002: Almost daily in single or double figures from 1 Apr to 19 May, but 150+ at Comino on 4 May. Singles at Ghadira on 31 May and at Buskett on 9 Jun. Only 1 record in autumn: 1 at Ghadira on 17 Sep.

2003: 1 on 31 Mar, then on most days from 8 Apr to 3 May and then less regularly on to 27 May. Low double figures on several days but 40 on 13 Apr and 80 on 28 Apr on Comino. In autumn 1 on 22 Aug, then 10 sightings on 6 days from 18-30 Sep, with 5 at Buskett on 21 Sep, otherwise singles.

2004: 1-3 from 5-9 Apr, then daily from 14 Apr to 11 May with highest numbers mainly at Comino when 15-40 almost daily but 50 on 24 Apr and 70 on 8 May. High numbers also at Lunzjata with 40-60 on 25-27 Apr. 1-20 elsewhere. Then 10 sightings of 1-2 from 14-31 May. In autumn 7 sightings of 1-2 from 31 Aug to 19 Sep and 1 on 5 Oct.

2005: Only recorded in spring. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 24 Mar, then in single and double figures of up to 60+ almost daily from 25 Mar to 15 May, but 100+ on 26 Apr, 65+ on 3 May and 80+ on 5 May, all at Comino. Singles on 6 dates from 24 May to 12 Jun.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

2000: Resident in small numbers, no records from the south of Malta. Highest numbers mainly reported from Gozo with 12 at Wardija and 10 at Ta' Ċenċ on 22 Feb and 3 Jun, respectively. Highest count in Malta was of 10 at Migra Ferha / il-Qaws on 4 Jun.

2001: Resident and breeding in small numbers in several places. Single figure counts on several dates but 25 at Xlendi on 17 Apr, 20 at Dwejra/San Dimitri area on 18 Apr and 15 at Qala on 14 Jun.

2002: Present and breeding in small numbers in several places in Malta and Gozo throughout the year, highest 15 at Dwejra (G)/San Dimitri on 21 May, 10-12 at Sarraflu/Dwejra Bay on 3 Jun and 22 Jun, otherwise in single figures. At Comino: 3 on 26 Mar and singles on 28 Mar, 10 May, 9 Aug and 27 Oct.

2003: Breeding resident with single figures present at several sites throughout the year. Males in song from early Jan. Highest counts were 10 in Hagar Qim area on 2 May and at Ta' Ċenċ on 7 Jun. Nest with young as late as 7 Jul.

2004: Breeding resident. In single figures from various sites but a total of 30 from 7 sites in Gozo on 10 Feb.

2005: Present and breeding in small numbers in several places in Malta and Gozo throughout the year, highest 10 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 13 Mar, 20 at Ras il-Qammieħ on 15 Apr and 10 at Mġiebaħ on 12 Jun, otherwise in single figures. At Comino recorded on 19 dates, highest 7 on 29 Oct, otherwise 1-3.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

2000: 1 at Mellieħa on 4 Dec.

2001: Singles at Mellieħa on 23 Jan, and at Qawra on 9th and at Mellieħa on 16th and 18 Nov.

2002: 1 at Mellieħa on 12 Jan.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

2000: 1 on 20 Mar at Għadira, then almost daily in single and low double figures till 27 Apr, max. 10 on three dates from three localities in Mar and Apr. In autumn, singles on 10 and 12 Jul, then in single and low double figures on most days from 23 Jul to 6 Oct max. 20+ at Għadira on 7 Sep, 15 at Lunzjata Valley on 2 Sep and at Comino on 8th and 10 Sep.

2001: 1 on 22 Feb at Wied iż-Żurrieq. In single or low double figures of up to 35 almost daily from 9 Mar to 13 May, but 100 on Comino on 5 Apr. 1 at Ta' Gajdoru on 4 Jul then up to 10 on most days from 13 Jul to 10 Oct but 15 at Buskett on 29 Jul and 30 Aug, at Dwejra on 24 Aug and at Għadira on 12 Sep.

2002: Singles on 5 dates from 8-14 Mar, then almost daily from 16 Mar to 5 May, in single or low double figures of up to 25, but 50+ on 30 Mar, 40+ on 3 Apr, and 48 on 14 Apr, all at Comino. In autumn, almost daily from 24 Jul to 19 Oct in single or low double figures of up to 20, but 30+ at Buskett on 20-21 Aug. 1 at Comino on 29 Oct.

2003: 1-2 on 3 days from 6-10 Mar, then on most days from 17 Mar to 21 Apr with 12 sightings running into double figures, max 60 on Comino on 13 Apr. Singles on 23 and 25 Apr. In autumn 1 on 14 Jul, then on most days from 19 Jul and daily from end Jul to 6 Oct when commonly in low double figures, max 30. 1-2 on 9 days from 9-28 Oct.

2004: Singles on 4 dates from 28 Feb to 9 Mar and 2 on 14 Mar. Then 1-6 daily from 20 Mar to 9 Apr but 10 at Għadira on 23rd and 12 at Ċirkewwa on 31st, both in Mar. 1-4 on most days from 13 Apr to 6 May. In autumn from 17 Jul to 22 Oct with highest numbers from early Aug to mid-Sep, max. 40 at Dwejra (M)/Binġemma on 21st, 30 at Buskett on 1st and 20 at Binġemma on 1st and at Buskett on 30th, all in Aug. Otherwise 1-15. Late birds on 28 Oct and 17 Nov.

2005: 1 at Lunzjata on 8 Mar, then 1-15 on most dates from 12 Mar to 6 May, but 20 on 29 Mar and 25+ on 8 Apr, both at Comino. 1 at Għadira on 11 Jun. In autumn, present in single or low double figures of up to 25 on most dates from 21 Jul to 11 Oct, but 50 on 3 Aug and 30 on 6 dates from 8-29 Aug, all at Buskett. Singles at Buskett and Comino on 19 Oct.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

2000: Resident breeder present in all types of habitats in low to medium sized concentrations, highest count 40 at Comino on 31 Mar and on 2 dates at Buskett on 22 Jan and 20 Jun.

2001: Common and widespread breeding resident, single or low double figures on many dates, but 50 at Buskett on 5 Feb and 40 on Comino on 11 Apr.

2002: Common and widespread breeding resident on the three main islands, in single or low double figures highest 40+ at Buskett on 1-2 Feb.

2003: Common resident all over islands, including urban areas. Birds in flight song from 5 Jan. Nests with eggs were found between early Mar and mid-Jun. Some migrants present in late Oct.

2004: Common & widespread breeding resident. In single to low double figures from various sites with the highest numbers in May-Sep.

2005: Common and widespread breeding resident on the three main islands, in single or low double figures, highest 56 at Comino on 26 Apr.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*

2001: 1 at Għadira on 20-21 May.

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais opaca*

2002: 1 at Comino on 8 May.

2004: 1 ringed at Lunzjata on 5 May

Western/Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais opaca/pallida*

2005: 1 at Simar on 23 May.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

2000: Singles at Comino on 25-27 Apr and at Wied Qannotta on 29 Apr. Single birds from 1st to 20 May from various

II-Merill 32 2010

localities, but 75 where reported on 10 May and 20 on the 9 May both from Comino. In autumn, 1 at Dwejra (M) on 19 Aug then 8 sightings of single birds each from 13 Sep to 3 Oct. mostly at Simar, Għadira, Lunzjata and Dwejra, (M)

2001: 1 on Comino on 17 Apr, then single and low double figure counts, up to 25, on most days from 24 Apr to 29 May, but 80 on Comino on 11 May. 3 at Buskett?Wied il-Luq on 26 Aug, then singles at Għadira on 4 Sep and 1st, 3rd and 6 Oct, and at Buskett on 10 Oct.

2002: 1 at Għadira on 6 Apr, then in single or low double figures from 28 Apr to 26 May, highest 25+ at Comino on 5 May. 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 2 Jun. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 10-11 Aug and at Rabat on 22 Sep.

2003: In spring most frequently sighted on Comino: 1-10 on 5 days from 18 Apr to 3 May, and on most days from 7-19 May; then 7 sightings of 1-2 on 6 days from 24 May to 6 Jun. All autumn sightings were of single birds: 1 on 13 Aug, then 13 sightings on 9 days from 7-30 Sep.

2004: 1 at Comino on 19 Apr, then 1-10 from 24 Apr to 11 May but 25 at Comino on 8 May. 5 sightings of singles from 23-30 May. In autumn singles on 21 Aug and at Għadira on 20th and 23-24 Sep.

2005: In spring, in single or low double figures daily from 26 Apr to 13 May, highest 40+ at Comino on 4-5 May. 1-3 on 4 dates from 16-29 May. In autumn, singles at Rabat on 21 Aug and 31 Aug, at Buskett on 1 Sep, at Simar on 2 Sep, at Ramla Valley on 5 Sep and at Għadira on 21 Oct.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

2001: 1 on Comino on 1 May

2002: 1 at Comino on 8 May.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

2000: Singles ringed at Comino on 11 May and at Għadira on 19 Aug.

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*

2004: 1 at Rabat on 21 Sep.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

2000: Singles at Simar on 28 Sep and at Wied il-Luq on 18 Oct.

2001: 1 at Simar on 4 dates in August: 15th, 18th, 25th and 30th.

2002: 1 at Simar on 17 Sep.

2003: Singles at Mellieħa on 30 Sep and at Għadira on 20 Oct.

Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus malanopogon*

2000: 1-2 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 28 Feb. Single birds at Simar from 26 Oct to 23 Dec.

2001: Singles at Simar almost daily from 9 Jan to 8 Feb, but 2 on 19th, 24th and 16 Jan. Then singles on 32 dates from 16 Oct to 31 Dec, mainly from Simar and Għadira, but 2 on 28 Nov at Għadira, and 2 on 12th and 4 on 13 Dec at Lunzjata.

2002: 1-2 at Simar almost daily from 1 Jan to 27 Feb and 1 at Għadira on 10 dates from 3 Jan to 16 Feb. 1 at Lunzjata on 2 Nov and 1-2 at Simar on most days from 11 Nov to 24 Dec, but 3 on 11 Dec.

2003: Moustached Warbler: Recorded only from Simar: 1 regularly in Jan- 6 Mar, but 2 on 6 Feb. Then singles on 19 days from 20 Nov to 30 Dec.

2004: 1 at Simar in Jan-Feb but 2 on 18 Feb, then in Mar with 2 on 1st and 1 on 16th. In autumn 1 at Simar on 25 Oct, then singles at Għadira on 5 dates in Nov from 9-26th and on 4 Dec but 2 on 10 Nov. 1 at Simar from 24 Nov to 31 Dec with 2 on 29 Nov and in Dec on 10th and 14th.

2005: 1-2 at Simar on 23 dates from 5 Jan-3 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Qawra on 13 Nov and 1 at Simar regularly from 6-22 Dec.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

2000: 1 at Għadira on 18 Mar, then almost daily till 29 May in single and low double figures mainly from Għadira and Simar and few sightings from Comino, Salina and Lunzjata Valley, max. 20 at Simar on 1 Apr. 1 at Simar on 2 Jun was the last spring record. In autumn, single birds at Simar on most days from 28 Aug to 28 Oct. and 8 sightings of single birds at Għadira from 25 Aug to 18 Oct. 2 at Lunzjata Valley on 15 Sep was the only autumn record away from the reserves.

2001: Singles at Simar on 7 and 10 Mar. Then almost daily in single figures from 17 Mar to 19 Apr and in single and low double figures from 20 Apr to 6 June, max. nos at Simar: 25 on 30 Apr, 30 on 4 dates (4th, 5th, 9th and 12 May), and 40 on 7 May. Then 2 on 12 Jul, singles on 15th, 27th and 28 Aug and 1 Sep, and 2 on 22 Sep, all at Simar.

2002: Singles at Lunzjata and Simar on 22 Feb, then in single or low double figures almost daily from 25 Feb to 27 May, highest 40+ at Simar on 6 May. In autumn, singles on 12 dates from 31 Jul to 10 Oct, all at Simar except for 1 at Għadira on 2 Sep.

2003: Single figures on most days mostly at Simar and Għadira (but 15 at Simar on 19 Apr) from 3 Mar to 4 May, then daily from 12 May to 1 Jun with max counts of 80 on 18 May and 30 on 19 May, and up to 20 on 3 other days, at Simar. 4 singles on 3 days from 9-20 Jun. In autumn, 1 on 19 Aug, then on several days from 17 Sep to 13 Oct when mostly singles but occasionally up to 5. Singles on 24 Oct and 27-28 Oct at Simar. Late bird at Għadira on 18 Dec.

2004: Daily from 15 Mar to 14 May with highest numbers at Simar when 10-20 on most days but 25 on 12th and 21st, both in Apr. Otherwise 1-5 elsewhere mostly at Għadira but 10 on 15 Apr. Then 1-3 on 20-24 May and 1 on 3 Jun, all at Simar. In autumn 2 on 23 Aug, then singles on 18-19 Sep and on 4 dates from 23 Sep to 8 Oct. All autumn sightings at Simar except 1 at Għadira on 28 Sep.

2005: Singles at Simar on 21 Feb, 24 Feb and 28 Feb then in single and low double figures on most days from 3 Mar to 28 May, highest 20+ at Simar on 5 dates in April and May. 1 at Simar on 21 Jun. In autumn, singles on 9 dates from 9 Aug to 14 Oct, but 2 at Għadira on 14 Oct.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

2000: 1 at Simar on 22 Apr, then almost daily at same locality from 24 Apr to 30 Oct with up to 10 birds in June and July. and 12 on 5 Aug. 3-4 pairs bred at Simar. Single birds at Għadira on 12th and 16 May, and 1-5 on several days from 13 Aug to 20 Oct. 1 to 4 birds recorded at Lunzjata Valley from 5th to 15 Sept, and at Buskett on 8th and 23 Sept and on 18 Oct.

2001: 1 on Comino on 6 Apr, then up to 15 almost daily from 16 Apr to 22 Oct but 20 at Simar (where a few pairs bred) on 17 dates from 14 Jul to 10 Aug. 1 at Għadira on 28 Oct.

2002: Up to 10 on most days from 9 Apr to 26 May, mostly at Simar and Għadira. Up to 15 present at Simar in Jun and Jul where at least 5 pairs bred. 1-2 on 4 dates at Għadira from 16-31 Jul. Up to 10 on most days from Aug to 3 Nov, mostly from Simar and Għadira. Singles at Simar on 12 Nov and at Għadira on 2 Dec.

2003: Singles at different sites on 12, 23 and 27 Apr. First breeding birds arrived at Simar on 26 Apr and 5 pairs are estimated to have bred there, with first fledged young seen on 31 May. Up to 15 birds then regularly seen from early Jun to mid-Aug. Singing males were at Għadira on 1 and 9 Jun, and on 13 and 22 Jul. Autumn migrants on several days in several areas throughout Aug-Oct; all sightings of 1-5 birds. Singles on 5 and 10 Nov.

2004: Breeding migrant. First spring sightings in Apr with 2 at Għadira on 8th and singles at Simar on 17th and 20th. Then daily from 24 Apr to 20 Oct with highest numbers at Simar where up to 8 pairs bred. Usually 15-20 between mid-May and mid-Sep but up to 25 from 1-16 Jul. A few sightings elsewhere of 1-2 in Apr-Jun and 1-4 in Jul-Sep, mainly at Għadira. Singles in Oct on 22nd and 28th then 5 sightings of 1-2 in Nov from 9-18th, mostly at Għadira.

2005: Up to 10 on most dates from 8 Apr to 29 May, all from Għadira and Simar. Up to 25 present at Simar in Jun and Jul where at least 8 pairs holding territories. Outside Simar, single at Chadwick Lakes on 12 Jun, Rabat on 17 Jul and Għadira on 4 Jul and 29 Jul. In autumn, up to 20 on most dates from 1 Aug to 17 Oct, mostly from Simar and Għadira. Single at Għajn Riĥana on 23 Oct.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

2000: Singles at Lunzjata Valley (G) on 15 and 26 Sept.

2001: 1 at Wied Il-Luq on 26 Aug.

2004: 1 at Mellieħa on 9 Sep.

2005: Singles at Buskett on 31 Aug and at Rabat on 8 Sep.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*

2000: 1 ringed at Għadira on 11 Sep.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

2000: 1 at Salina on 25 Mar, then almost daily from 1 Apr to 28 June with most records from Simar and Għadira. Highest counts being 6 at Simar on 8 Apr and at Lunzjata Valley on 22 Apr. In autumn 1 on 13 Aug at Wied il-Luq, then single birds at Simar and Għadira on 13 dates in Sep and Oct, last being of 2 at Għadira on 18 Oct.

2001: In single figures on most days from 30 Mar to 5 June, (mostly at Is-Simar and Għadira) but 10 on 4 dates at Simar from 30 Apr to 13 May. 1 at Għadira on 13 Jun, then 1-2 on 20 dates from 6 Jul to 5 Sep, but 3 on 15th and 4 on 18 Aug at Simar. Latest records - singles on 5 dates (at 6 sites) from 29 Sep to 6 October, but 2 at Simar on last date.

2002: Almost daily in single figures from 30 Mar to 11 Jun, highest 6 at Għadira on 24 Apr. 1 at same place from 18-20 Jun. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 16 Jul and on 29 Jul, and at Simar on 2 Aug, then on 11 dates from 22 Aug to 1 Oct, all in singles except for 2 at Simar on 28 Aug. Singles at Simar on 16 Oct and 18 Oct.

2003: Daily from 28 Mar to 30 Apr, with most at Għadira and Simar; often medium to high single figures and 15 at Wied Qannotta on 20 Apr. Then 14 sightings of 1-5 on 13 days from 2 May to 1 Jun, and singles on 8, 16 and 22 Jun. In autumn singles at Għadira on 7-8 Aug and 12-14 Aug, then 63 sightings of 1-5 on 37 days from 30 Aug to 29 Oct. Late bird at Għadira on 12 Dec.

2004: 1-3 almost daily from 22 Mar to 30 Apr but 4-5 on a few dates at Għadira and Simar and 6 at Simar on 30 Apr. Then from 3-21 May with highest numbers at Simar with max.8 on 11th and 3-6 on 6 dates. In late May 5 at Simar on 24th and 1 at Lunzjata on 29th and singles in Jun at Simar on 10-11th and Għadira on 17-20th and 23-28th. Singles in Aug on 6th, 16-17th and 25th, then on most days from 6 Sep to 20 Oct but 3 at Rabat on 21 Sep and 2 in Oct at Simar on 8th, 15th and 19th. Singles in Nov on 4th, 17th and 23rd.

2005: 1 on 23 Mar and 3 on 31 Mar, both at Simar. Then 1-8 on most dates from 7 Apr to 28 May, but 20+ at Simar on 9 May. Singles at Rabat on 11 Jun, Simar on 24 Jun, Gnejna Valley on 23 Jul (where singing) and Rabat on 24 Jul. 1 at Għadira on 11 Aug then 1-4 on 20 dates from 27 Aug to 29 Oct.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

2000: Resident breeder; recorded in single and double figures, the latter during the summer months. Recorded daily at Għadira and Simar and from other localities on various days, max. 40+ at Għadira on 17 Jul.

2001: Widespread and breeding resident, in single or low double figures of up to 30 at various sites, but 57 at Simar on 10 Mar.

2002: Widespread and breeding in single or low double figures of up to 20 at various sites.

2003: Widespread with singing males heard almost everywhere. Higher numbers in post-breeding period with 30 at Chadwick lakes on 30 June highest count. Less in evidence in Jan-Feb and in Dec.

2004: Breeding resident. Usually 1-15 but slightly higher numbers in Apr-Aug with 25-30 at a few sites.

2005: Widespread and breeding in single or low double figures of up to 30 at various sites.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

2002: 1 at Għadira on 14-15 Oct.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

2000: Recorded almost daily in single to high treble figures from 1 Jan to 30 Apr, 600 at Simar throughout Jan. 800 at Buskett on 30 Jan, 700 at Luqa Airport on 25 Feb. A single bird at Simar on several days between May and Jul. Daily sightings on Comino from 31 Mar to 30 Apr with 12 on 1 Apr highest. Single to low double figures throughout Sep but numbers started to increase from 3 Oct onwards with treble figures reported on various dates till end of year. Max. 5000 at Luqa Airport on 5 Nov and 30 Dec, 1,500 at Victoria on 17 Nov, 2,000 at Qawra on 24 Nov, 2000 at Luqa Airport on 3 Dec, and 2,500 at St. Paul's Bay on 24 Dec.

2001: Single to treble figures almost daily from 1 Jan to 27 Mar but in quadruple figures on 11 dates, max 3000 at Qammieh on 3rd and 4000 on Comino on 17 Feb. Up to 12 almost daily from 1 Apr to 12 May, mainly at Comino. 5 on 8th and 1 on 9 Jun also at Comino. 1 at Simar on 7 Jul, and up to 25 almost daily from 15 Jul to 29 Sep. Then daily from single up to low quadruple figures (up to 2000) from 1 Oct till end of year, but 10,000 at Qawra on 2 Nov and 2 Dec and at St Paul's Bay on 4 Nov.

2002: Up to 1000 almost daily from Jan to 2 Apr, but 2500+ at Luqa Airport on 25 Feb. Up to 10 on most days from 3 Apr to 11 Sep, mainly at Comino and Simar. Singles at Dingli on 16 Sep, at Blata L-Bajda on 17 Sep, then almost daily from 18 Sep till end of year, highest 3000+ at Simar on 10 Dec, otherwise up to 2000.

2003: Up to 500 in some areas in Jan- 7 Mar but higher numbers flying towards roosts and 3000 over Simar on 28 Feb. Small breeding population on Comino where up to 15 throughout period Mar-Sep and first juv bird seen on 27 Apr. Low single figures regularly at Simar and 1-2 sporadically in other areas during same period. First autumn migrants from 15 Sep, reaching treble figures on 10 Oct and quadruple figures from 19 Oct with max of 5000 at Dingli on 16 Nov and at Luqa airfield on 9 Dec.

2004: Double to treble figures in Jan-Feb but 1000-2000 on a few dates mainly at Comino but 3000 at Għadira on 7th and 2500 at Simar on 12th and 25th, both in Feb. Numbers decreased rapidly in Mar with max.200 on 1st and 10 on 15th, then in single figures from a few sites in Apr-Aug but 17 at Comino on 5 Jun and 15 at Simar on 27 Jul. Most summer sightings at Simar. Main autumn migration from 1 Oct with 245 at Miġra l-Ferħa, then in double to treble figures till end of year but up to 5000 at Comino in mid-late Oct, 15000 at Qawra on 27 Oct and 10000 at Luqa airport on 28 Oct. Then 10000-15000 regularly at Luqa airport in Nov reaching 20000 on 25th. Lower numbers in Dec with max.4000 at Simar on 10th.

2005: Up to 1000 on most dates from Jan to 31 May, but 2000 at Luqa on 9 Jan, 2000+ at Għansielem on 16 Jan and 1500 at Luqa on 14 Feb. 1-15 on most dates in Jun and July, mainly from Simar and Comino, but 4 at Dingli on 7 Jun. In autumn, 1-4 on 26 dates from 1 Aug to 28 Sep, then up to 3000+ on most dates from 29 Sep to end of year, but 5000+ at Buskett on 30 Oct, 6000+ at Luqa on 11 Nov and 4500 at Għansielem on 19 Nov.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

2003: Singles on Comino on 6 dates from 23-29 Oct and at Buskett on 23 Nov.

2005: 2 at Buskett on 19th and singles at Comino on 28th and at Buskett on 29th, all in October.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

2000: Up to 3 birds on four dates at Buskett from 1 Jan to 27 Feb. Single birds mainly at Buskett and Simar from 18 Oct to 13 Dec, but 3 at Buskett on 28 Oct.

2001: Singles on 3 dates in January (at Qbajjar on 5th and at Buskett on 21st and 22nd) and on 5 Feb at Buskett. 1 at Victoria on 3 Oct, then 1-2 on several dates from 23 Oct to 29 Dec with 5 at Buskett on last date.

2002: 1-2 on most days from 2 Jan to 9 Mar. Singles at Comino on 15 Mar, at Aħrax on 24 Mar, and at Għadira on 4 Apr. Singles at Mellieħa on 9 Oct and at Buskett on 13 Oct, then 1-2 on most days from 25 Oct to 21 Dec, but 5 at Buskett on 12 Nov.

2003: 1-2 on 13 days in Jan-Feb, but 10 at Buskett on 14 Jan; and singles on 12 Mar and 31 Mar. 1 on 11 Oct, then 27 sightings of 1-2 on 24 days from 25 Oct to 30 Dec, with most frequent sightings at Buskett.

2004: Singles at Buskett on 2 Jan and in Feb on 3rd and 28th, and at San Dimitri on 10 Feb. In autumn singles in Oct on 16th and 23-26th, then 1-2 on most days from 9 Nov to end of year but 4 at Buskett on 17 Nov. Most autumn sightings at Buskett and Għadira.

2005: 1-4 on most days from 2 Jan to 11 Mar, but 5 at Red Tower on 10 Jan and 5 at Buskett on 4 Feb. Singles at Buskett on 21 Mar and Targa Gap on 23 Mar. In autumn, 1-3 on most dates from 29 Oct to end of year, but 4 at Buskett on 28 Dec.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

2000: Singles at Għadira on 1 Jan, at Biġemma on 30 Jan, 19th and 27 Feb and at Marsa on 11 Feb. 1 at Comino on 2 Dec.

2002: Singles at Buskett, San Martin, and Simar on 8 Jan, at Buskett on 31 Oct, and at Blata L-Bajda on 19 Nov.

2003: Singles at Targa Gap on 20 Nov and at Buskett on 30 Nov.

2004: Nine sightings of 1-4 on 7 dates from 17 Nov to 3 Dec but 5 at Buskett on 17th, 10 at Simar on 18th and 6 at Ramla Valley on 21st. 1 at Buskett on 23 Dec

2005: 1-2 on 15 dates from 4 Jan to 23 Mar, but 3 at Marsa Sports Ground on 10 Feb. In autumn, singles on 7 dates from 25 Oct to 26 Dec, but 4 at Buksett on 24 Dec and 7 at Blata l-Bajda on 25 Dec.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

2000: Recorded almost all year round except in June and July. 30 at Buskett on 22 Jan highest winter count. Return passage from mid Feb with 50 at Buskett on 27 Feb highest. Single birds from 20 Mar to 28 May, single birds on 13 and 21 Aug at Buskett and Lunzjata respectively. First autumn migrant from 23 Sep and 1 on 4 Oct than almost daily till end of year; max. 75 at Mellieħa on 22 Oct and 70 at Buskett on 29 Oct.

2001: In single figures almost daily from 1 Jan to 8 Apr, but 10 on Buskett on 3 dates (21st and 29 Jan and 5 Feb) and max. 30 at Buskett on 3rd and 20 at Bingemma on 16th both in January. Singles at Ghadira on 18 Apr, 4 May and 21 Jul and at Buskett and Wied Il Luq on 26 Aug and at Victoria on 27 Sep. Then almost daily in single to high double figures from 4 Oct till end of the year, but triple figures on 4 dates, max. 110 at Buskett on 14th and 150 at Dwejra on 15 Oct.

2002: Up to 25 wintering at several sites from Jan-Feb. Present throughout Mar until 10 Apr with an evident increase in numbers due to return passage from 26 Mar to 2 Apr. Max. 70+ at Ċirkewwa, 20+ at Comino, 35+ at Mellieħa, and 25+ at Nadur (G) on 30 Mar. Singles on 8 dates from 15 Apr to 9 Jun, but 2 at Buskett on 24 Apr. In autumn, 1-3 on 11 dates from 23 Sep to 11 Oct, then up to 25 daily from 13 Oct till end of year, but 75+ at Buskett on 30 Oct.

2003: On most days in Jan but only on 6 days in Feb, when up to 15 at some sites, mainly Buskett. Then on several days in Mar- 13 Apr but only sightings of 1-5. Singles on 3 days on Comino from 23 Apr to 4 May; and at Buskett on 6 Jul and 29 Aug. In autumn almost daily from 10 Oct, with highest numbers between late Oct and mid-Nov, max 80 at Buskett on 5 Nov. Generally only single figures, but occasionally up to 15 from late Nov to end Dec.

2004: 1-6 in Jan-Feb but 10 at Buskett on 27 Jan, then singles regularly from 5 Mar to 7 Apr but 4 on 6th and 3 on 13th at Lunzjata. Singles at Comino on 22 Apr and 2 May, and at Marsa on 5 Jul. 1 on 3 dates at Ghadira from 23-28 Sep and 1-8 from 4-20 Oct. Then in double figures of up to 60 on most days from 21-31 Oct but 100-120 at Buskett on 22-23rd. Up to 10 in most places in Nov-Dec but higher numbers at Buskett when regularly 15-30 but 120 on 17 Nov.

2005: Up to 25 almost daily from Jan to 8 Apr, but 40+ on 5 Jan and 30+ on 2 Mar, both at Buskett. Singles at Comino on 17 Apr and Wied il-Luq on 2 May. In autumn, 1 at Rabat on 17 Sep, then in single and double figures of up to 50+ almost daily from 2 Oct to end of year, but 60 at Buskett on 28 Oct.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

2000: Sightings mainly from Buskett from 2 Jan to 17 Mar of 1 to 5 birds, 1 at Blata l-Bajda on 24 Mar.

2001: 1 at Ghadira on 11 Jan. Then on 9 dates in December: at Ghadira 6 on 3rd, and singles on 10th, 12th, 15th, and 19th, and at Buskett 2 on 23rd, 5 on 27th, 12 on 28th and 6 on 29th.

2002: 1-5 at Buskett on 10 dates from 7 Jan to 16 Feb, but 10 on first date. 1 at same place on 2 Mar.

2003: 1 on 8 Feb at Buskett and 2 at same place and 2 at Tal-Handaq on 14 Feb. 1 again at Buskett on 30 Nov.

2004: Singles at Buskett on 4 dates in Jan from 8-28th and at Simar on 6 Mar. In autumn only at Buskett with 1 on 17 Nov and then in Dec with 2 on 13-15th and singles on 23-24th.

2005: 1-2 on 15 dates from 4 Jan to 12 Mar, mainly from Buskett. In winter, singles on 6 dates from 10-29 Dec but 2 at Buskett on 26 Dec.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

2000: Three sightings; 1 l/o Xaghra on 20 Oct, 2 at Mellieħa on 28 Oct and 1 at same place on 14 Nov.

2002: Singles at Buskett on 8 Oct and on 30 Oct.

2003: 3 at Buskett on 25 Oct and 1 at Mellieħa on 23 Nov.

2004: 2 at Buskett on 17-18th, 1 at Targa Gap on 19th, 2 at Luqa airport on 25th and 1 at Targa Gap on 26th, all in Nov.

2005: Singles at Buskett on 13 Feb and 2 Mar. In autumn, singles at Ghadira and Red Tower on 10 Oct and at Buskett on 28 Dec.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

2000: 1 at Ghadira on 17 Apr, then daily in single and low double figures till end of May with highest counts being 50 at Comino on 10 May. Breeding in Buskett and Addolorata Cemetery with up to 15 birds (including juvs) at Buskett on 6 Aug. Single birds in autumn mainly at Buskett throughout Sept and Oct. Birds away from Buskett include 1 at Simar on 27 Sep, 1 at Lunzjata Valley on 1 Oct and 1 at Mdina on 2 Oct. Single birds at Ghadira on 12th and 16 Sep and 02nd and 07th Oct. 1 at Buskett on 28 Oct. last sighting.

2001: Almost daily from 7 Apr to 30 May in single or double figures but 100 at Dwejra on 25th, 26th and 28 Apr. Recorded on 22 dates from 3 Jun to 5 Aug in single figures, but in double figures of up to 20 on 6 dates at Buskett. Then in single figures almost daily from 15 Aug to 6 Oct. 1 at Dwejra on 22 Oct.

2002: 1 at Pietà on 17 Apr, then almost daily from 20 Apr to 9 Jun, in single or low double figures of up to 30, but 50+ at Dwejra (M) on 17 May. 1-4 on 6 dates from 14-30 Jun. Up to 10 present at Buskett from Jul to 10 Sep (where at least 3 pairs bred) and up to 3 (at least 1 pair) at Addolorata Cemetery in Jul. Singles at Ghadira on 17 Sep and on 20 Sep; at Buskett on 21 Sep, and at Dwejra (M) on 25 Sep.

2003: Almost daily on spring passage from 12 Apr to 5 Jun, frequently in low double figures and max of 50 at Buskett on 28 Apr and at Bingemma on 23 May. Present throughout period Jun-early Sep at Buskett and Addolorata Cemetery with at least 2 pairs breeding at each site. On autumn passage 1 on 19 Aug, then 24 sightings of 1-4 on 17 days from 13 Sep to 11 Oct, but 20 at Dwejra (M) on 20 Sep.

2004: From 14 Apr to 24 Sep with most during spring between late Apr and late May when 10-15 on most days but max.25 in May on 3rd at Ta'Qali and 20 at Dwejra (M) on 21st, otherwise 1-10. 2-3 pairs nested at Buskett. In autumn 1-3 on a few days in Sep.

2005: 1 at Comino on 18 Apr, then in single and double figures of up to 50+ almost daily from 20 Apr to 31 May, but 60 at Dwejra on 6 May and 80+ at Buskett on 9 May. 1-10 almost daily in Jun and July, mainly from Buskett but also Addolorata, Argotti Gardens, Foresta, Ghadira and Mosta. In autumn, in single and low double figures of up to 7 almost daily from 6 Aug to 21 Sep, but 10+ at Buskett on 10 Aug. Singles on 4 dates from 28 Sep to 22 Oct

Rufous Bush Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*

2000: 1 ringed at Lunzjata Valley, (G), on 18 May.

2001: 1 on Comino on 26 Apr.

2004: Singles at Dwejra (M) on 27 May and at Mellieħa on 7 Sep.

2005: Singles at Comino on 21 Apr and 23-25 Apr.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

2000: Present all year round in single and double figures. Treble figures recorded from Buskett in Jan-Mar highest 250 on 11 Mar. 1-2 birds at Ghadira and up to 8 birds at Buskett throughout the summer months (Jul-Sep). Autumn migration from early October and numbers started increasing with birds present throughout the islands. Highest numbers were reported from Buskett with a maxima of over 200 birds on 29 Oct; 200 at Wied Qannotta on 2 Nov highest count away from Buskett.

2001: Daily in single or double figures from 1 Jan to 31 Mar, max 100 on 29 Jan and 125 on 5 Feb at Buskett. 1-5 recorded on many dates from 1 Apr to 30 Sep. Then daily in single or double figures in many localities from 1 Oct till end of year, but in treble figures on 2 dates in October (100 at Ghadira on 29th and at Wied Qannotta on 31st) and on 3 dates in November (200 at Buskett on 10th, and 100 at Selmun on 12th and at Buskett on 21st).

2002: Daily in single to double figures from Jan to 7 Apr, but 100+ at Buskett on 16 Jan. Up to 4 almost daily from 9 Apr to 8 May. Up to 5 on most days from 16 May to 4 Aug but 7 at Buskett on 2 Jun. Then daily in single figures from 9 Aug to 8 Sep, but 10 at Buskett on 16-17 Aug. Up to 5 on a few dates from 10-26 Sep. Then daily in single or double figures from 28 Sep till end of year but 100-150 on 10 dates at Buskett from 8 Oct to 23 Nov.

2003: Low to medium double figures at most sites in Jan-Feb, then generally single to very low double figures in Mar- 18 Apr and 1-4 in several areas throughout rest of Apr and in May-Sep. First migrants from 24 Sep, with up to 20 already at Buskett by 29 Sep. Low treble figures frequent at some sites in Oct-early Nov with max 150 at Buskett on 2 days. Then smaller numbers till end of year but up to 80 on some days at Buskett.

2004: Mostly in single to double figures of up to 25 in Jan-Feb but up to 80 at a few sites mainly at Buskett and max.180 on 28 Jan. Numbers decreased gradually in Mar with up to 10 on 20th and 1-3 till 7 Apr. Then 1-2 at a few sites regularly in Apr-Sep but 3-5 at Buskett. First autumn migrants from late Sep when up to 20 at Buskett, then in single to high double figures in Oct-Nov but 100-250 in Oct from 23-28th, mainly at Comino, Ghadira and Buskett. Then in Nov with 100-200 at Buskett. Lower numbers in Dec but up to 120 at Buskett till mid-Dec, otherwise 1-30 elsewhere.

2005: Daily in single to double figures from Jan to 8 Apr, but 100 at on 8 Jan, 120+ on 23 Jan and 100+ on 28 Jan, all at Buskett. Up to 3 on most days from 11 Apr to 31 May. Up to 5 on most days from 1 Jun to 2 Sep, then daily from 4 Sep to end of year, highest 350+ at Buskett on 30 Oct, otherwise up to 300+.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

2000: 1 at Buskett on 25 Mar, then almost daily in single figures from 30 Mar to 29 Apr. Singles at Hagar Qim on 3 May and at Ghadira from 6-11 May. In autumn, 1 on 11 Aug at Ghadira, then in single figures throughout Sep from various localities. Late birds include 1 at Buskett on 1 Oct and 1 at Wied Qanotta on 2 Nov.

2001: Single figures on most dates from 22 Mar to 12 May but 10 on 4 dates in April: at Comino on 12th, 14th and 15th and at Buskett on 13th. Singles at Bingemma on 27 May, at Buskett on 22nd and 29 Jul and at Wied Il Luq on 5 Aug. Then 1-3 on 28 dates from 21 Aug to 13 Oct. 1 at Ghadira on 22 Oct.

2002: 1-3 on 5 dates from 11-24 Mar, then in single or low double figures almost daily from 29 Mar to 3 May, highest 30+ at Comino on 30 Mar, otherwise up to 20. Singles on 6 dates from 9 May to 9 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Ghadira on 26 Aug, then in single figures on most days from 3 Sep to 11 Oct, but 10 at Buskett on 23 Sep.

2003: Single figures, and 10-15 on nine occasions, almost daily at several sites from 17 Mar to 28 Apr, then singles on 6 days from 1-31 May. In autumn 2 on 18 Aug, then on most days, mostly at Buskett, from 22 Aug to 4 Oct. Low double figures on 4 days, max 30 on 20 Sep. Then 4 sightings of 1-2 on 3 days from 12-21 Oct.

2004: Six sightings of singles on 4 dates from 14-27 Mar. Then 1-4 daily from 30 Mar to 11 Apr and 1-10 daily from 14 Apr to 4 May with peak in mid-late Apr. Max.15-20 on 17-18th and 20 on 24th, both on Comino, and 20 at Buskett on 27th. Singles at Buskett on 11 May and at Imġiebaħ on 23 Jun. 1-5 almost daily in autumn from 10 Aug to 24 Sep but 10 at Buskett on 12 Sep. Then singles on most days from 26 Sep to 26 Oct.

2005: Up to 20 almost daily from 20 Mar to 9 May, highest 25+ at Buskett on 7 Apr and 25+ at Comino on 8 Apr. 1 singing at Chadwick Lakes on 5 Jun. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 3 Aug and 12 Aug, then 1-5 on most days from 29 Aug to 12 Oct, but 10 at Buskett on 31 Aug and 7 Sep.

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*

2004: 1 at Rabat on 25 Jan. (1st record for Malta).

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

2000: 1 at Ghadira on 22 Feb. 2 at Simar on 16 Sep then singles on 4 dates at same place from 25 Sep to 2 Oct. Singles at Qawra on 15 Oct and at Rabat on 5 Nov. singles at Ghadira on 5 dates from 16 Nov to 25 Dec.

2001: Singles at Simar on 18th and 20 Jan and at Ghadira on 28 Jan and 7th and 15 Feb. Then singles at Simar on 13 scattered dates from 2 Oct to 14 Dec, but 2 on 12th and 14 Nov. Singles at Lunzjata on 10 Oct and at Ghadira on 19 Oct and 5 Nov.

2002: Singles at Simar on 11 dates from 17 Jan to 26 Feb, and at Lunzjata (G) on 30 Mar. 1 again at Simar on 20 dates from 20 Oct to 24 Dec, but 2 on 7 Nov, 11 Nov, and 18 Nov. Singles at Ghadira on 1 Nov and 5 Nov.

2003: 2 at Simar on 4 Jan, then 1 seen there on 8 days from 5 Jan-13 Feb. In autumn singles at Ghadira on 16 Oct and at Lunzjata on 17 Oct, and on 7 days at Simar from 22 Oct to 24 Dec.

2004: Singles almost daily at Simar from 19 Jan to 16 Mar but 3 on 9 Mar. 1 at Ghadira on 4 dates from 28 Feb to 10 Mar. Singles again in autumn at Simar on 20 Sep, in Oct at Rabat on 13th, at Simar on 18-20th and at Ghadira on 31st. Then at Simar on 19 Nov and in Dec on 1st and 6th.

2005: Singles at Simar on 25 Jan and on 15 dates from 28 Feb to 1 Apr, all at Simar and Ghadira. In autumn, singles at Ghadira on 23 Sep and at Ramla Valley on 6-7 Oct.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

2000: Single birds from 1 Jan to 31 Mar, max. 12 at Fomm ir-Riĥ on 8 Jan. In autumn, 2 at Bombi on 10 Oct, then almost daily till end of year from various localities, max. 25 at Mellieħa on 24 Oct and 50 at Manoel Island on 20 Nov.

2001: 1-10 almost daily from 1 Jan to 28 Mar but 15 at Manoel Island on 12 Jan. 7 on Comino on 6th and 1 on Manoel Island on 9 Apr. Then 1 at Dingli on 7 Oct, and 1-10 on most days from 13 Oct to 31 Dec but 15 on Manoel Island on 9 Nov and 40 at Dingli Cliffs on 17 Nov.

2002: Wintering in single figures of up to 10 from Jan to 30 Mar, but 15 at Ta' Żuta on 16 Jan and at Ċumnija on 3 Mar. 1 at Buskett on 18 Oct, then up to 15 almost daily from 21 Oct till end of year, but 20 at Farrax on 11 Dec.

2003: 1-3 in several localities in Jan-Feb, then a marked increase in Mar with last sighting on 30 Mar. 20 were at Ta' Ċenċ on 5 Mar. First in autumn on 19 Oct, then from 26 Oct on to year end. Peak on 4-9 Nov when 7 sightings of low double figures, max 25 at Mellieħa on 5 Nov. 10-20 also at some sites during rest of Nov and Dec.

2004: 1-8 in Jan-Feb but up to 10 in Jan at Dingli on 3rd, Selmun on 14th and Pt.St. Elmo on 17th and in Feb at San Dimitri on 10th. 1-4 in Mar till 30th but 5 at Qammieħ on 6th and 21st, and at Mellieħa on 19th. Late bird at Wied il-Mielah on 5 Jun. In autumn 1-3 on 4 dates from 8-17 Oct then daily from 22 Oct to end of year. Mostly in single figures but 10-15 on a few dates mainly in Nov and max.25 at Mellieħa on 28 Nov.

2005: Wintering in single figures of up to 15 from Jan to 23 Mar, but 48 at Dingli Cliffs on 5 Feb, 30 at Wied il-Ghasel on 23 Feb, 20 at Mosta Valley on 24 Feb and 25 at Ċirkewwa on 8 Mar. 1 at Luqa on 17 Oct, then up to 15 almost daily from 18 Oct till end of year, but 30 at Pt.St. Elmo on 7 Nov and 20 at Sliema on 17 Dec.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

2000: Single birds from three localities on 31 Mar, then few sightings of single birds from 6 Apr to 13 May, highest 5 at Comino on 25 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Bingemma on 17 Aug, then single birds on various dates till 23 Oct, highest 5 at Buskett on 4 Oct. 2 at Għadira on 1 Nov.

2001: 1 at Għadira on 31 Mar then single figures almost daily from 1 Apr to 20 May but 10 on Comino on 20th and 24 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 1 Jun and 1 at Ta' Gajdor on 26 Aug. Then 1-4 on most days from 21 Sep to 23 Oct.

2002: Singles on 7 dates from 9-26 Mar, then up to 10 almost daily from 30 Mar to 12 May, but 18 at Comino on 17 Apr. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 18 May. In autumn, singles on 10 Sep and 13 Sep, then 1-3 on most days from 17 Sep to 31 Oct. Singles at Ġebel Ċiantar and Miġra L-Ferħa on 6 Nov.

2003: Singles on 29 and 31 Mar, then on most days from 2 Apr to 1 May with 1-6 at various sites and max of 7 on Comino on 28 Apr. 2 on 10 May and 1 on 19 May. In autumn 1-3 at several localities on most days from 19 Sep to 29 Oct.

2004: 1 at St.Venera on 7 Jan. From 24 Mar to 5 May with highest numbers in mid-late Apr when 3-8 on most days but 20 at Comino on 24th, otherwise 1-2. In autumn 1 at Buskett on 6 Sep, followed by 1-2 from 13 Sep to 31 Oct but 3 at Buskett on 6th, then on Comino with 5 on 17th and 4 on 18th all in Oct.

2005: Singles at Għadira on 15 Mar, and on 8 dates from 21 Mar to 4 Apr. Then 1-5 on most days from 6 Apr to 14 May. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 29 Aug, then 1-5 on most days from 12 Sep to 27 Oct, but 10 at Buskett on 1 Oct.

Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri*

2000: 4+ at Dwejra (G) on 9 Apr.

2005: 1 at Żebbuġ (G) on 15 Mar.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

2000: Singles on 3 and 6 Apr, then in single or low double figures of up to 30 on most days from 10 Apr to 13 May, but 40 at Comino on 23 Apr and 40 at Wied Qannotta on 6 May. Singles at Dwejra (M) and Mtaħleb and 2 at Buskett on 4 Jun. In autumn, 7 sightings of singles on 5 dates from 12-24 Sep.

2001: 3 on Comino on 5 Apr, then in single or low double figures, up to 40, on most days from 9 Apr to 13 May but 50 on Comino on 26 Apr. In autumn, 1 on 26th and 2 on 30 Sep at Buskett and singles at Simar on 1st and 2nd and at Buskett on 16 Oct.

2002: 1 at Qammieħ on 2 Mar, then almost daily from 30 Mar to 21 May, in single or low double figures of up to 30, but 100+ at Comino on 29 Apr. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 14 Sep and at Għadira on 5 Oct and 7 Oct.

2003: 5 on 31 Mar, then on most days from 8 Apr to 8 May; mainly in single figures except for Comino where 350 on 13 Apr and up to 40 on several other days. Exceptions at other sites were 200 at Buskett on 28 Apr and 100 at Wied il-Mielah on 20 Apr. 5 on 13 May and late bird at Bahrija on 1 Jun. In autumn, 5 on 3 Sep, then 13 sightings of 1-6 on 6 days from 15-28 Sep.

2004: Singles in Apr on 1st (2 sites) and on 2nd, then daily from 10 Apr to 10 May. Mostly in double figures with peak totals in Apr of 232 from 15 sites on 17 Apr (highest 85 at Gozo), 243 from 11 sites on 22nd (highest 50 at Luqa) and 402 from 14 sites on 24 Apr (highest 150 at Comino and Aħrax). Fewer sightings in May but 30-50 on Comino on 2-3rd. Then singles on 12th and 15 May. In autumn singles mostly at Luqa airport on 23 Aug, 7 Sep (2 sites) and 7 sightings from 20 Sep to 14 Oct but 2 on 30 Sep.

2005: 1 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 29 Mar, then in single and double figures on most days from 4 Apr to 12 May, highest 100+ at Comino on 26 Apr, otherwise up to 60. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 31 Aug, and on 7 dates from 7 Sep to 12 Oct.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

2000: Present from 1 Jan to 23 Mar in single and low double figures, max. 10 at Simar on 15-17th and 28 Feb. In autumn, 1 on 5 Oct at Rabat then almost daily in single and double figures of up to 20 till end of year, but 40 at Għadira on 1 Nov.

2001: Up to 10 daily at various sites from 1 Jan to 10 Mar. Daily from 3 Oct to 31 Dec in single or low double figures of up to 30 but 40 at Għadira on 29th and 31 Oct.

2002: Up to 10 almost daily at various sites from Jan to 14 Mar, but 15 at Simar on 7 Feb. 2 on 27 Mar and 1 on 30 Mar, both at Comino. Then daily in single or low double figures from 7 Oct till end of year, highest 50+ at Għadira on 17 Oct, otherwise up to 40.

II-Merill 32 2010

2003: Single figures, occasionally up to 10, at most sites in Jan-Feb, then slight increase in Mar to 22nd, with max of 15 at Miġra l-Ferġa on 16 Mar. 1 on 27 Mar. In autumn 1 on 6 Oct then daily from 11 Oct, with low double figures and max of 50 on Comino on 26 Oct. Only single figures after 24 Nov.

2004: 1-8 in Jan with 10 on 31st, then up to 10 regularly at Għadira in Feb but 15 at Simar on 18th, otherwise 1-5 elsewhere. Lower numbers in Mar with 1-5 till 13th but 7 at Simar on 1st, then 1-2 on most days till 29th. In single to low double figures of up to 25 in autumn from 6 Oct to end of year but higher numbers mainly on Comino in late Oct with 30-50 almost daily but 75 on 26th. 15-20 regularly in Nov-Dec, mainly at Għadira but 25 on 1st, otherwise 1-10.

2005: In single and low double figures on most days from Jan to 21 Mar, highest 25+ at Marsa Sports Ground on 10 Feb, otherwise up to 20+. Then almost daily in single and low double figures from 7 Oct to end of year, highest 50+ on 18 Oct and 50 on 19 Oct, both at Comino, otherwise up to 40.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

2000: 1 at Qawra on 26 Mar.

2001: Singles at Qawra on 24-25 Mar and 5 Apr.

2002: Good year for this species with 15 sightings of 1-2 on 11 dates from 2-17 Mar.

2003: Singles at Ċirkewwa on 2 Mar, at Marfa and Ċirkewwa on 16 Mar, and at Salina on 29 Mar and at Mosta on 10 Apr.

2004: Singles in Mar on 13th at Miġra l-Ferġa and 19th at Ta Ċenċ but 2 at Delimara also on 19th. 1 at Ċirkewwa on 10 Apr.

2005: Singles at Miġra l-Ferġa on 9 Apr and Comino on 8 May.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

2000: 1 at Qammieħ on 16 Mar, then almost daily in single and low double figures till 30 Apr, highest 25 on Comino on 22 Apr and 15 at Qammieħ on 22 Mar. In autumn, 4 at Dwejra (M), 2 at Mellieħa and 1 at Dingli Cliffs on 13 Aug, then almost daily till 15 Oct. 1 late bird on 19 Nov at Xlendi.

2001: 1 at Qammieħ on 9 Mar, then in single or double figures of up to 24 on most days from 18 Mar to 10 May but 100 on Comino on 5 Apr. In autumn 1-6 almost daily from 22 Aug to 14 Oct. 1 at Għadira on 21 Oct.

2002: In single or low double figures of up to 17 almost daily from 3 Mar to 1 May, but 40+ at Ċirkewwa on 29 Mar. 2 at Dingli on 12 May and 1 at Mellieħa on 22 May. In autumn, up to 10 almost daily from 20 Aug to 14 Oct, but 20+ at Luqa on 18 Sep. 1 at Luqa on 24 Oct.

2003: 1-2 on 1-3 Mar, then on most days from 13 Mar to mid-Apr and then less regularly till 3 May. Mostly single figures, but 30 at Miġra l-Ferġa on 2 Apr, 70 (total of 4 sites) on 8 Apr and 25 on Comino on 13 Apr. In autumn singles on 8 Aug and 18 Aug, then low single figures daily at most sites from 21 Aug to 29 Sep, but 45 (total of 5 sites) on 14 Sep and 10 at Qawra on 18 Sep. In Oct 1-2 on 4th, 5th, 11th and 24th.

2004: 1 at Bidnija on 28 Feb, then 1-10 from 13 Mar to 4 May but 12 at Ċirkewwa and 25 at Miġra l-Ferġa on 31 Mar, and 25 at Qammieħ on 2 Apr. Singles in May at Dwejra, G on 18th and at Dwejra (M) on 23rd. In autumn singles on 3-4 Aug, then 1-4 on 15-17 Aug and in single to low double figures of up to 20 from 20 Aug to 15 Oct but higher numbers in Aug with 30 on 23rd and 34 on 26th, both at Luqa airport, then 29 at Delimara on 6 Oct. Late bird at Buskett on 10 Nov.

2005: Singles at Heġka Point (G) on 22 Feb and Marsascalea on 2 Mar. The in single and low double figures almost daily from 17 Mar to 5 May, highest 35 at Wied il-Mielieħ on 24 Mar. 1 at Għargħur on 21 May and 2 at Gebel Ċiantar on 5 Jun. In autumn, 2 at Marsascalea on 18 Aug, then 1-7 almost daily from 21 Aug to 16 Oct, but 10+ at Wardija (G) on 29 Aug.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*

2000: 15 sightings of 1-3 from 25 Mar to 22 Apr. 1 at Comino on 5th and 9 May. One autumn record: 1 at Buskett on 9 Sep.

2001: 1-3 almost daily from 4 Apr to 9 May but 10 on Comino on 5 Apr. 1 at Buskett on 10 Sep.

2002: Only in spring: 1 at Luqa on 8 Mar, then 1-2 on 12 dates from 29 Mar to 25 Apr, but 3 at Ċirkewwa on first date.

2003: 10 sightings on 7 days from 2-14 Apr, with max of 8 on Comino on 13 Apr. 1 at Dingli on 18 Jun. In autumn 6 sightings of 1-2 on 5 days from 13-20 Sep and 4 at Dwejra (M) on 24 Sep.

2004: Singles at 2 sites on 26 Mar, then 6 sightings of singles on 4 dates from 30 Mar to 3 Apr and 1-2 almost daily from 17 Apr to 4 May, mostly at Comino. In autumn 8 sightings of singles on 7 dates from 6 Sep to 3 Oct, mainly at Mtaħleb, and in Oct on 3rd at Luqa airport and at Comino on 20th.

2005: Both races recorded. Singles at 3 locations on 25 Mar, and Comino on 26 Mar. Then 1-3 daily from 6 Apr to 29 Apr. 1 at Għargħur on 21 May. In autumn, singles on 4 dates from 27 Aug to 8 Sep.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

2001: 1 at San Luċjan on 13 Dec.

2005: 1 at Miġra l-Ferġa from 11-25 Dec.

Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*

2000: 2 at Qammieħ on 25 Mar and 1 at Sta Lucia on 30 Mar.

2001: Singles on 4 dates in April: at Comino on 6th, 25th and 27th and at Mellieħa on 26th. In autumn singles at Dwejra on 4th and at Dingli Cliffs on 18 Sep.

2002: Singles at Comino on 19 Mar, 6 May, and on 24 Sep.

2003: Singles on Comino on 5 Apr, at Girgenti on 12 Apr, and again on Comino on 30 Apr. In autumn 1 at Mellieħa on 28 Sep.

2004: Only in singles on 28 Mar at Miġra l-Ferġa, then mostly in Apr at Mellieħa on 5th and 7th, Ta' Gajdor on 17th, on Comino on 18th and 22nd, and on 24th at Buskett and Aħrax. In autumn at Girgenti on 9-11 Sep.

2005: Singles at Xagħra on 25 Mar and 9 Apr, 3 at Nadur (M) on 23 Apr and singles at Dwejra (M) and Fomm ir-Riħ on 8 May.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

2000: Resident breeder, recorded from all rocky (cliffs) coastal areas during breeding season, highest 10 at Ta'Ċenċ and il-Qaws. Single birds sighted inland during autumn and winter.

2001: Breeding resident at suitable areas. Single figures on most dates but 10 at Dwejra on 18 Apr, at Migra Ferha on 1 Jul and at Marsalforn on 24th and 26 Aug. Most 15 at Xlendi area on 17 Apr.

2002: Breeding resident at suitable areas. Always in single figures but 10 at Ċirkewwa/Qammieħ on 9 Mar, 12 at Dwejra (G)/San Dimitri on 21 May, 13 at Ta' Ċenċ on 2 Jun, and 10 at Comino on 2 Oct.

2003: 1-3 in several areas in Jan-Feb then more in evidence in Mar when males singing with more intensity. Adults carrying food were seen from 26 Apr and newly fledged young seen on 13 Jun. Highest counts were 25 at Ċumnija on 4 May and 15 at Ta' Ċenċ on 7 Jun. In Sep-Dec up to 5 at several sites but occasionally up to 10 in some areas.

2004: Breeding resident with most sightings from around the coast. Highest counts at Qammieħ with 8 on 21 Mar, 7 at Mistra on 17 Apr and 10 at Migra l-Ferħa on 7 Sep, otherwise 1-6.

2005: Breeding resident in suitable areas. Always in single figures and low double figures up to 15, but 20 between Ta Ċenċ and Mġarr ix-Xini on 29 May

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

2000: Singles at Għadira on 9 Sep, at Buskett on 26 Oct, and at Simar on 7 Dec.

2001: Singles at Għadira on 13th and 21 Sep and 14 Oct.

2002: Singles at Għadira on 22 Sep, at Simar on 14 Oct, at Chadwick Lakes on 20 Oct, and at Lunzjata on 21 Oct.

2003: 1 at Dingli on 1 Apr. 1 at Rabat on 8 Sep, then 17 sightings of 1-2 on 15 days from 18 Sep to 25 Oct, and 1 at Buskett on 5 Nov.

2004: Singles at Buskett on 23 and 30 Sep

2005: Singles at Għadira on 15 Sep and Buskett on 2 Oct, 1-3 at Simar on 5-7 Oct, 1 at Ta' Gajdoru on 8 Oct, 1-2 at Simar on 9-13 Oct and 1-3 at Buskett on 15 Oct, 30 Oct and 1 Nov.

Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*

2001: 1 at Salina on 12 Apr.

2002: Singles at Salina on 13 Apr, at Comino on 19 Apr, at Wied Il-Mielaħ on 24 Apr, and at Lunzjata on 25 Apr.

2003: Singles at Għadira on 15-16 Apr.

2004: Singles at Comino on 14 Apr and at Buskett on 7 Oct.

2005: Singles at Għajn Riħana on 19-21 Mar, at Għadira on 23 Mar and 29 Apr and at Simar on 4 May.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

2000: A very poor year with 1-2 on most days from 1-30 Apr.

2001: 1-2 almost daily from 31 Mar to 28 Apr, and on 4 dates in May 4th, and 11th to 13th, most from Comino.

2002: 30 sightings of 1-3 almost daily from 30 Mar to 28 Apr, but 5 at Għadira on 24 Apr. 1 at Simar on 10 May.

2003: Almost daily from 2-28 Apr with low double figures on 7 days, max 30 at Simar on 15 Apr. Singles on 8 May and 14 May. 1 at Simar on 22 Sep.

2004: 1 at Rabat on 9 Apr, then from 14 Apr to 1 May with several sightings in single figures from various sites but 10-15 almost daily mainly at Għadira, Comino and Simar. Highest numbers at Simar with 35 on 19th and 30 on 16th, and at Comino with 30 on 15th and 17th.

2005: Singles on 5 dates from 19-25 Mar, then in single and low double figures of up to 15+ almost daily from 4 Apr to 10 May, but 30+ on 29 Apr and 25+ on 30 Apr, both at Comino. Singles at Chadwick Lakes on 21 Jun, at Buskett on 8 Sep and at Wied il-Luq on 15 Sep.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

2000: In single and low double figures from 2 Apr to 6 May with the last bird at Buskett on 11 May; max. 30 on 26 Apr, 20 on 24th and 25 Apr at Comino. In autumn, 2 at Rabat on 10 Sep and singles at Għadira on 13 Sep and at Simar on 16 Sep.

2001: In single or low double figures (up to 40) almost daily from 4 Apr to 30 May but 50 at Comino on 24th and 26 Apr. Then singles on 5 dates in August (5th, 23-24th, and 27-28th) and on 2 dates at Dwejra in September (1st and 8th).

2002: Almost daily from 30 Mar to 15 May in single or low double figures of up to 40, but 100+ at Comino on 23 Apr. 1 at Simar on 24 May. In autumn, 2 at Buskett on 5 Sep and singles at Dwejra (M) on 16 Sep, at Wied Għajn Żejtuna and Dwejra (M) on 20 Sep and at Mellieħa on 21 Sep.

2003: Daily from 2-29 Apr with up to 40 at some sites on a few days and 120 on Comino on 13 Apr. Then 8 sightings of 1-2 on 7 days from 2-28 May. Only autumn sightings were of singles at Buskett on 18 Sep and at Rabat on 21 Sep.

2004: 10 sightings of 1-2 from 2-12 Apr, then 1-10 daily from several sites between 14 Apr and 8 May with higher numbers from mid-late Apr when 15-30 daily at various sites but 40 at Buskett on 16th, at Wied Qannotta on 17th and at Comino on 18th, with max.50 at Comino on 17th. Then 7 sightings of singles from 10-23 May. In autumn 2 sightings at Buskett in Sep with 1 on 18th and 4 on 21st.

2005: In single and low double figures of up to 25 almost daily from 6 Apr to 14 May, but 40+ at Comino on 29 Apr. One record in autumn: 1 at Buskett on 19 Sep.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

2000: Single to double figures from 1 Jan to 27 Mar mainly at Buskett, Simar and Għadira with up to 15 birds on several days. 1 at Buskett on 27 Aug was unusual. Single to double figures daily from 5 Oct till end of year with up to 10 birds on various dates at Għadira and Buskett, max. 25 at Għadira on 3 Nov.

II-Merill 32 2010

2001: Single or low double figures, up to 15, on most days from 1 Jan to 20 Mar but 40 at Buskett on 3 Jan. 1 at Ghadira on 28 May. Up to 25 almost daily from 12 Oct to 31 Dec with 30 at Ghadira on 6 Nov.

2002: Up to 15 daily in Jan to 14 Mar. Singles on 4 dates from 21-29 Mar. 1-5 on 9 dates from 6-23 Oct, then up to 10 almost daily from 28 Oct till end of year.

2003: Single figures, and up to 10 at Buskett, wintering in Jan-22 Mar. In autumn very early bird at Ghadira on 25 Sep, followed by 2 on 12 Oct and singles on 29 Oct and 31 Oct and 2 Nov. Then daily from 4 Nov onwards when generally single figures but up to 20 frequently at Buskett.

2004: In single figures during Jan-Feb at various sites but 15-20 at Buskett in Jan and up to 10 at Ghadira in Jan-Feb. Then 1-4 in Mar till 10th and singles on 14th and 16th. Singles in Oct on 13-14th and 20th, then 1-8 from 22 Oct to end of year but 10 at Comino on 30 Oct and at Ghadira on a few dates in Nov. Most autumn sightings at Ghadira, Simar and Buskett.

2005: Up to 10 regularly from 1 Jan to 23 Mar, but 15 at Buskett on 25 Jan. Up to 20 most days from 16 Oct to end of year, but 25+ at Buskett on 1 Nov.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

2000: Common resident, recorded on all dates from most localities. Highest count 500 at Comino on 31 Mar. 150+ present all year round at Ghadira. First nests recorded in late January and the last by the middle of August.

2001: Abundant and breeding resident on the three main islands. Maximum count of c1000 at Simar on 25-26 Sep.

2002: Abundant and breeding resident on the three main islands.

2003: Abundant resident everywhere. First birds carrying nesting material seen on 25 Feb. 2 flocks of 80 and 50 respectively over Ghadira on 20 Feb suggested return migrants. In Oct passage birds sighted from 22-27 Oct with several migrating flocks seen, mostly at Ghadira but also on Comino and Buskett; highest numbers were 180+ on 22nd and 150+ on 27th at Ghadira. 2500+ were counted roosting at Simar on 6 Aug.

2004: Common and widespread breeding resident.

2005: Abundant and breeding resident on the three main islands.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

2000: No records in Jan-Feb. Very few sightings before May with 1-2 birds at Buskett on 3 days in March and 1 day in Apr, 1-2 birds at Simar on 1st and 24 Apr. Then almost daily in single and low double figures from 3 May to end of year, max. 100+ at Ghadira on 19 Oct, 30 at Chadwick Lakes on 4th and 18 June, 30 at Simar on 2 Oct. and 35 at Simar on 31 Oct.

2001: Resident and breeding in small numbers in isolated areas. Recorded in single or low double figures with max 30 to 35 on 17th and 18 Mar nr Chadwick Lakes, and 25 on 17 October at Buskett.

2002: Breeding at usual sites. In single or low double figures of up to 30, but 80+ at Wied Il-Luq on 6 Sep. Numbers increased in Oct due to migrants highest being of 40+ at Ghadira on 16 Oct, 70+ at Mellieħa on 18 Oct, 102 at Qawra on 20 Oct and 22 Oct, and 55 at Mellieħa on 27 Oct.

2003: During breeding season recorded from Dingli, Buskett, Rabat, Chadwick Lakes, Ghajn Riħana, Wied Qannotta and Mellieħa, the max count being 30 at Chadwick lakes on 15 Jun. In autumn numbers augmented by migrants; 100 were at Buskett on 2 Oct and a flock of 100 on Comino on 26 Oct. Very few sightings and only in very small numbers in Jan-Feb and Dec.

2004: Breeding resident in small numbers at a few sites. Highest counts at Buskett from Jul to Nov when usually up to 50 but 100 on 15 Aug, 100-150 on 17-21 Sep and 200 on 29 Sep. Also up to 57 at Simar in Aug-Sep and 60 at Rabat on 17 Nov. Smaller numbers in other areas.

2005: Breeding at usual sites. In single or low double figures of up to 60+, but 95+ at Salina on 27 Mar, 75 at Buskett on 15 Jul, 100+ on 25 Aug and 80+ on 8 Sep, both at Rabat, and 70+ at Ghadira on 7 Nov.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

2000: 1 at Salina on 21 Jan. 1 at Marsalforn on 11 Mar, then daily in single, double and treble figures till end of May, max. 350 at Munxar, G. 200 at Manoel Island on 9 Apr, 200 at Simar on 8 Apr. Single birds on 7 dates in June, latest 1 at Ghadira on 27th. First autumn migrant on 6 Aug with 1 bird at Ghadira, then daily in single, double and treble figures till 29 Oct. max. 400 on 9 Sep, 350 on 30 Aug and 320 on 28 Sep all at Simar.

2001: 1 at Marsalforn Valley on 27 Feb. Then in single or double figures of up to 50 almost daily from 11 Mar to 30 May, but 100 at Simar on 1 May. 1 at Ghadira on 16 Jun. In autumn in single and double figures, recorded almost daily from 12 Aug to 27 Oct, but treble figures on 8 dates, max. 200 at Lunzjata on 10th and 12 Oct. Late singles at Victoria on 19 Nov and at Lunzjata on 8 Dec.

2002: Almost daily from 6 Mar to 16 May, in single or double figures, but 100+ at Ghadira on 3 Apr and at Simar on 16-17 Apr. Singles at Simar on 21 May, at Mistra on 25 May, and at Ghadira on 7 Jun. In autumn, almost daily from 11 Aug to 20 Oct in single or double figures, but 100+ on 9 Sep, 150+ on 10 Sep, both at Simar; and 170+ at Buskett on 17 Sep. 1 on 31 Oct and 2 on 1 Nov at Ghadira and 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 5 Nov.

2003: 1-5 at Ghadira on 14-18 Mar, then daily from 22 Mar to 19 May and irregular sightings at various sites till 11 Jun. Peak in Apr when low treble figures on 8 days, max 400 at Simar on 2 days. Mostly single figures in May. Singles at Ghadira and Salina on 3 days from 21-27 Jun. First in autumn on 9 Aug and practically daily until 24 Oct followed by 1-2, mostly at Simar, on several days until 2 Dec. Peak passage in Sep – early Oct, with max of 750 on 1 Oct and 650 on 30 Sep at Buskett. 1 at Luqa Airport on 9 Dec.

2004: 1-5 mainly at Ghadira from 24 Feb to 20 Mar but 10 on 10th and 17th, then daily sightings at various sites from 22 Mar to 10 May with most in mid-late Apr. Highest numbers at Luqa airport in Apr with 100-400 on 6 dates from 12-21st and 500 on 25th, 400 at Ghadira and 200 at Marsa on 24th, and 300 at Ghadira, 125 at Salina and 100 at Simar on 16th. Then singles on most days at Ghadira and Simar from 12-21 May and on 7 dates from 7 Jun to 20 Jul mostly

II-Merill 32 2010

at Simar and Ghajn Rihana. Then 1-5 regularly from 11-18 Aug and daily in single to double figures from 22 Aug to 22 Oct but treble figures on a few days in Sep with 155 at Mtahleb on 7th, 100-200 at Buskett on 9-11th, 250-350 at Lunzjata on 13-15th and 100 at Buskett on 30th; then in Oct at Buskett with 150 on 2nd and at Lunzjata with 200 on 4th and 150 on 9th. Then 1-5 on 4 dates from 26 Oct to 3 Nov.

2005: 1 at Ghadira on 12 Feb, then in single and double figures almost daily from 2 Mar to 12 Jun, but 500+ at Ghadira and 100+ at Simar on 4 Apr, and 100+ on 7 Apr, again at Simar. In autumn, 1 at Ghadira on 2 Aug, then single to low triple figures almost daily from 11 Aug to 30 Oct, highest 200+ at Buskett on 7 Sep and 200 at Dingli on 11 Sep, otherwise up to 150.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

2000: Single birds at beginning of year at Ghadira on 4 Jan and at Simar on 10 Jan. Single birds mainly at Ghadira throughout Feb, latest 1 on 3 Mar also at Ghadira. First autumn migrants with single birds at Ghadira and Lunzjata Valley on 10 Sep. Then almost daily in single figures till end of year. Max. 5 at Simar on 27 Oct and at Rabat on 5 Nov.

2001: 1-2 on 20 dates from 1 Jan to 28 Feb. Singles at Ghadira on 15th and at Lunzjata on 18 Mar. 1-4 almost daily from 27 Sep to 24 Dec.

2002: 1-4 on most days from Jan to 21 Feb. Singles at Blata L-Bajda on 7 Mar and at Lunzjata on 23 Mar. 1 at Simar on 17-18 Sep, then almost daily from 26 Sep till end of year, all in single figures except for 10 at Buskett on 15 Oct.

2003: 1-3 wintering at various sites in Jan-4 Mar, then 1 at Mellieħa on 20 Mar. In autumn 5 singles on 4 days from 18-29 Sep, then daily in Oct when occasionally up to 6 at some sites. Less regular in Nov-Dec and mostly 1-2, but 8 at Buskett on 5 Nov.

2004: 1-2 from 1-17 Jan, then singles almost daily till 23 Feb but 2 at Pt.St. Elmo on 14 Feb. 4 sightings of singles in Mar from 1-13th. In autumn 1 at Simar on 9 Sep, then singles on 21-23rd and 1-5 daily from 27 Sep to end of year but 6 at Ghadira on 14th, 6 at Targa Gap on 23rd and 8 at Pt.St. Elmo on 24th, all in Oct. 1-2 after 22 Sep.

2005: 1-2 on 36 dates from 1 Jan to 9 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 17 Sep, then 1-4 on most days from 23 Sep till end of year.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

2000: Daily from 1 Jan to 23 Mar, highest count 200 at Valletta roost on 10 Jan. 1 at Salina on 24 Apr First autumn birds on 27 Sep at Buskett then daily in single, double and treble figures till end of year, max. 1000 at Valletta roost on 15 Nov and 200 at Victoria, G. on 17 Nov highest count for Gozo.

2001: In single or double figures from 1 Jan to 31 Mar but triple figure counts on 6 dates and 2235 roosting in the Valletta on 13 Jan. Singles almost daily from 1st to 6 Apr with 3 at Ghadira on 3 Apr. Then singles on Comino on 4th and at Ghadira on 24 May, at Ghajn Tuffieħa on 15th and 25 Jul and at Victoria on 26 Sep. Single or double figures on most days from 7 Oct to 31 Dec, but in triple figures on 16 dates, max. 800 at Lunzjata on 27th, 29th and 31 Oct and 2 Nov.

2002: Up to 200 daily from Jan to 1 Apr, but 2768 on 12 Jan at Valletta Roost. 1-2 at Ghadira on 5 dates from 8-20 Apr. 2 at Blata L-Bajda on 27 Sep, then almost daily from 7 Oct till end of year, mostly in single or double figures, but 200+ at Lunzjata on 2 Nov, 300+ on 12 Nov and 500+ on 14 Nov, both at Valletta roost.

2003: Low single figures at most sites in Jan-Feb with a slight increase in Mar when up to 10 at Ghadira on some days. 15 sightings of 1-2 (but 6 at Simar on 9 Apr) on 10 days from 2-19 Apr. 1 at Ghadira on 3-4 Jul. In autumn 2 on 7 Oct, then daily from 10 Oct; usually low double figures at most sites but up to 50 on some days. Only up to 10 after mid-Nov but 2000 were counted roosting in Valletta on 18 Nov.

2004: Present in single to double figures in Jan-Mar but 4324 counted at the Valletta roost on 17 Jan. Then singles in Apr at Salina on 4th and at Ghadira on 13th and 24th. In autumn from 2 Oct with 400 at Lunzjata already on 9 Oct otherwise in single to double figures. Highest numbers from the roosting sites with 800-1200 at Lunzjata in late Oct to early Nov then up to 300 in mid-Nov, and up to 2000 at Valletta in Dec.

2005: Up to 500 almost daily from 1 Jan to 9 Apr, but 5,335 on 15 Jan at Valletta Roost. Singles at Marsascala on 1 May, Salina on 27 May, Qawra on 30 May and male in breeding plumage at Salina on 12 Jun. Male in full breeding plumage at Salina again on 7 Aug. In autumn, up to 300 almost daily from 2 Oct to end of year, but 3,000 at Valletta Roost on 10 Nov.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

2000: Singles at Gharghur on 30 Mar and at Comino on 31 Mar and 7 May. Sightings on most days from 1st to 29 Apr, maxima 15 birds at Birkirkara and at Xagħra ta'Biskra (Ghadira) on 4th and 9 Apr respectively, 10 at Ċirkewwa on 11 Apr. Single birds at Salina on 7 May and at Cumnija on 28 May. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 30 Aug then single birds on most days till 27 Sept, highest 8 at Għar Lapsi on 17 Sep.

2001: 1 at Lapsi on 23 Feb. Then in single figures recorded on 21 dates from 26 Mar to 13 May, but 12 on 30 Mar and 20 at Qawra on 6 Apr, and 15 at Mellieħa on 12 Apr. In autumn singles at Buskett on 26 Aug and Ghadira on 29 Aug, and single figures on 14 dates from 4th to 29 Sep, but 15 on 12th and 10 on 17 Sep at Ghadira. Latest bird, 1 at Buskett on 7 Oct.

2002: Singles at Għar Lapsi on 8 Mar and at Migra L-Ferħa on 8-9 Mar, then single figures on 14 dates from 29 Mar to 26 Apr, but 19 at Comino on 3 Apr. 2 at Comino on 10-11 May. In autumn, in single figures on most dates from 3 Sep to 11 Oct, but 32 at Buskett on 9 Sep and 11 at San Luċjan on 15 Sep. 1 at Qawra on 22 Oct.

2003: 25 sightings on 18 days from 30 Mar to 6 May; 50 at Wied il-Mielah on 20 Apr and 25 at Migra L-Ferħa on 8 Apr, otherwise 1-5. In autumn 1-5 daily at several sites from 30 Aug to 7 Sep and again from 12-24 Sep; then 6 at Ghadira on 27 Sep, and singles on 4 days from 4-12 Oct.

2004: 2 at Aħrax on 21 Mar, then several sightings almost daily from 28 Mar to 1 May. Mostly 1-7 but 20 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar, 25 at Gozo on 17 Apr and 10 at Buskett on 24 Apr. 1 at Ta Zuta on 5 Jun. Almost daily in autumn from 26 Aug to 11 Oct with highest numbers being of 12 at Dwejra (M) on 14 Sep and at Luqa airport with 7 on 30 Sep and 40 on 3 Oct, otherwise 1-5 from various sites. 5 at Comino on 27 Oct.

II-Merill 32 2010

2005: 1-5 almost daily from 17 Mar to 29 Apr, but 20 between Nadur (G) and Sannat and 15 at Migra l-Ferha on 4 Apr, 10 at Xrobb l-Għagin on 5 Apr and 20 at Comino on 27 Apr. 2 at Ta Ċenċ on 29 May and 1 at Manikata 14-15 Jun. In autumn, 1-2 on most days from 29 Aug to 11 Sep, but 6 at Xagħra l-Hamra on 10 Sep. Then 1-4 on most days from 18 Sep to 12 Oct. Single at Għadira on 3 Nov.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

2003: 1 ringed at Buskett on 30 Nov.

2005: 1 ringed at Buskett on 12 Dec.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

2000: 1 at Qammieħ on 25 Mar, then on most days till 11 May in single, double and low treble figures, max. 250 at Bla-ta l-Bajda on 12 Apr, 200 at Qawra and Manoel island on 9 Apr. Singles at Mtaħleb and Cumnija on 23rd and 28 May respectively. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 19 August, then almost daily till 29 Oct in single and low double figures, max. 15 at Mellieħa on 22 Oct. 2 at Għadira on 7 Nov.

2001: 1 at Cumnija on 11 Mar, then almost daily from 17 Mar to 13 May, mostly in single or low double figures of up to 50, but 130 on 29 Mar at Dwejra and a good influx on 12 Apr with max of 500 in Gozo, 300 at Mellieħa, 200 at Comino and 100 at Ċirkewwa. Singles at Mellieħa on 24 May and Chadwick Lakes on 30 Jul. Then up to 4 on 17 dates from 24 Aug to 1 Oct. 4 late birds at Lunzjata on 4 Nov.

2002: Singles at Mellieħa on 26-27 Jan and on 9 Feb were unusual. 1-3 on most dates from 9-24 Mar, then almost daily from 27 Mar to 11 May in single or double figures, but 140+ on 29 Mar and 150+ on 30 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa. Singles at Wied L-Isperanza on 29 May and at Għadira on 20 Jun. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 18 Aug, at Għadira on 8 Sep, and at Buskett on 10 Sep, then up to 7 on most dates from 13 Sep to 10 Oct. Singles at Għadira on 19 Oct, 22 Oct, and 5 Nov.

2003: 1-2 on 14-15 Mar, then daily from 19 Mar to 5 May with medium treble figures on several days in Apr, highest 650 (total 3 sites) on 8 Apr and 570 at Mellieħa on 2 Apr. Only single figures during most of Mar and after 25 Apr. 1 on 9 May and 3 on 18 May. Singles at Chadwick Lakes on 15 Jun and at Buskett on 27 Jul. In autumn singles on 24 Aug and on 4 days from 4-9 Sep, then daily from 14-30 Sep and on most days in Oct to 30th. 50 at Buskett on 20 Sep and 30 at Mellieħa on 28 Sep, otherwise single figures. Late bird on 30 Nov.

2004: Daily from 24 Mar to 5 May with peak migration from mid-late Apr. Usually in single to double figures but occasionally in treble figures with 120 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar and in Apr with 312 from 12 sites on 14th (highest 150 on Comino), 362 from 12 sites on 16th (highest 150 at Victoria), 510 from 16 sites on 17th (highest 200 on Comino) and 320 from 12 sites on 19th (highest 100 at Mellieħa). Then 5 sightings of 1-3 from 7-18 May. Singles on Comino on 5 Jun and at Mellieħa on 1 Aug. 1-6 almost daily in autumn from 6 Sep to 28 Oct but 10 at Simar on 22 Sep and 40 at Buskett on 14 Oct. 1-3 in Nov on 3-5th and 1 on 23rd. Late bird at Għadira on 9 Dec.

2005: 1 at Għadira on 18 Feb was unusual. In single and double figures almost daily from 15 Mar to 10 May, but 100 at Xagħra on 19 Mar, 300+ at Għadira and 100 at Nadur (G) on 4 Apr and 100 at Comino on 27 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 31 Aug then 1-3 on most days from 4 Sep to 28 Oct, highest 4 at Buskett on 13 Oct.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

2000: Present in winter from 1 Jan to 12 Apr in single and double figures, highest 30 at Luqa Airport on 24 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 17 Oct, then daily in single and double figures till end of year. Highest count 150 at Dwejra, (M) on 25 Oct.

2001: In single or low double figures, up to 30, from 1 Jan to 8 Apr. 1 on Manoel Island on 16 Apr. Almost daily from 12 Oct to end of year in single or low double figures, max. 50 at Ta' Ċenċ on 14 Dec.

2002: In single or low double figures of up to 30 from Jan to 10 Apr. Then 1-3 on 5 dates from 13-22 Oct, then in single or double figures daily from 25 Oct till end of year, but 100+ at Comino on 30 Oct.

2003: Up to 10 at most sites in Jan-Feb, then 15-20 on several days in Mar. 1-2 daily at many sites till 11 Apr and singles on 21-22 Apr. In autumn singles on 12 Oct and 20 Oct, then daily from 26 Oct to 31 Dec. Double figures, max 80 on Comino on 26 Oct, between late Oct and late Nov, then smaller numbers – usually up to 20 at some sites.

2004: Up to 20 wintering in various places in Jan-Feb, then higher numbers in Mar with max.240 at Ċirkewwa on 30th and 60 at Luqa airport on 24th, otherwise up to 45. 1-15 in Apr till 7th and 1 at Ċirkewwa on 19 Apr. First sighting in autumn on 16 Oct, then daily from 21 Oct to 31 Dec with most in late Oct and mid-late Nov. Usually in double figures but treble figures on Comino in Oct with 100 on 23rd and 150 on 28th, and also at Luqa airport with 200 on 27 Oct and 9 Nov, and 150 on 16 Nov. Only up to 20 after mid-Dec.

2005: In single or low double figures from Jan to 10 Apr, highest 40+ at Għadira on 21 Mar, otherwise up to 30. Then, in single or low double figures from 13 Oct to end of year, highest 120+ at Dwejra (M) on 1 Dec, otherwise up to 100+.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

2000: Single birds on 13 dates from 11 Feb to 8 May; highest 3 at Għadira on 16 Apr. 5 autumn sightings of single birds from 4 Sep to 29 Oct.

2001: 1 at Ta' Lambert on 30 Mar, and up to 3 on 8 dates from 18 Apr to 10 May. Singles on 6 dates between 1 Oct and 24 Nov but 2 at Dingli Cliffs on 8 Oct.

2002: Singles on 11 dates from 30 Mar to 6 May except for 2 at Wied Qannotta on 9 Apr. 1 at Buskett on 23 Oct was the only record in autumn.

2003: 16 sightings of 1-2 on 13 days from 23 Mar to 20 May. In autumn again 1-2 on 8 days from 3 Oct to 15 Nov.

2004: 1 at Bidnija on 14 Feb, then 16 sightings on 14 dates from 26 Mar to 2 May. Mostly in singles but 3 at Munxar on 27 Mar, 7 on 14th and 10 on 17th both at Comino in Apr, and 4 at Għadira on 17 Apr. In autumn from Sep with 2 on 15th at Salina and singles on 29-30th. Then singles in Oct on 6 dates from 14-30th but 2 on 30th at Comino. Singles in Nov at Luqa airport on 8-9th and on most days from 18-29th and in Dec on 4th and 7th.

II-Merill 32 2010

2005: 1 at Salina on 4 Feb, then 1-2 on 6 dates from 15 Mar to 5 May. In autumn, singles on 10 dates from 7 Oct to 21 Nov, but 2 at Ghajn Rihana on 5 Nov.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

2000: 1 at Ghadira on 15 Nov.

2001: 1 at Ghadira on 24 Nov.

2002: 1 at Ghadira on 24 Mar.

2003: 1 at Ghadira on 28 Oct.

2004: Singles at Ghadira in Mar on 6-7th and 10th, and on 6 Nov.

2005: Singles at Ghadira on 28 Mar and on 9 Nov, at Luqa on 14 Nov and again at Ghadira on 1 Dec.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

2000: Recorded daily from 1 Jan to 24 Mar in single and double figures with 63 at Dwejra (M) on 20 Mar highest count followed by 36 on 22 Mar at same locality. 4 sightings of singles in Apr, 1 at Wied Qannotta on 13 May and 2 at Buskett on 28 May. Single birds on various dates throughout Jul and Sep. Recorded daily from 1 Oct till end of year in single, double and low treble figures with highest counts being 142 at Buskett on 28 Oct, 120 at Mellieħa on 25 Oct and 115 again at Buskett on 29 Oct.

2001: In single or low double figures almost daily from 2 Jan to 30 Apr, max. 22 on 9th and 15 on 18th, both in March at Dwejra. 1-4 recorded on 41 scattered dates from 16 May 30 Sep. Singles on 8 dates in Sep. 1 at Mellieħa on 5-6 Oct, then in single or low double figures on most days from 12 Oct to end of year, max. 50 at Buskett on 10 Nov and at Ghadira on 8 Dec, and 30 at Mellieħa on 6 Nov.

2002: In single or low double figures on most dates from Jan to 28 Apr, highest 60 at Dwejra (M) on 15 Mar. 1-3 on 25 dates from 5 May to 3 Aug and 1-4 almost daily at Buskett from 14 Aug to 10 Sep. 1 at Ghadira on 20 Aug, then on most days in single or low double figures from 21 Sep till end of year, highest 20+ at Buskett on 21 Dec, otherwise up to 15.

2003: Low single figures in Jan- 12 Apr but up to 10 at Buskett where present also throughout summer months and at least 1 pair bred – a pair accompanied by 3 juveniles was seen on 3 Aug. Single birds were also regularly seen at Ghadira and occasionally at 5 other sites during same period. Autumn passage from 11 Oct with medium double figures recorded on 6 days between 26 Oct and 18 Nov, max 65 at Dingli/Buskett on 6 Nov. Up to 10 at Buskett in Dec.

2004: In single figures during Jan-Mar but 10-15 at Buskett on a few days from 12 Jan to 4 Feb, then 1-3 on a few days in Apr. 3-4 at Buskett during May-Sep but 5 on 29 Sep, otherwise 1-2 from a few other sites mainly Ghadira. 1-8 in Oct but 15 at Comino on 28th, then in single figures in Nov-Dec but 10 at Simar on 18 Nov and 10-15 on a few days at Buskett.

2005: In single and low double figures on most dates from 3 Jan to 2 Apr, highest 15+ at Buskett on 21 Feb, otherwise up to 11. 1 at Rabat on 14 Apr, then 1-2 on 9 dates in May. 1-2 on 14 dates from 3 Jun to 3 Jul, mainly at Buskett. 1-3 on 20 dates from 17 Jul to 7 Oct, but 4 on 17 Sep and 5 on 7 Oct, both at Buskett. Then 1-20 on most dates from 16 Oct to end of year, but 25+ on 29 Nov and 30-31 Nov, all at Buskett.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

2000: 5 at Mellieħa on 25 Oct and 1 at Buskett on 28 Oct.

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

2000: Very few sighting, first being of 3 birds at Buskett on 1 Jan. Single birds at Buskett and Ghadira from Jan to Mar. Singles at Ghadira on 22 May, at Buskett on 10 Jun, and almost daily at Ghadira from 27 Jun to 22 Jul. 9 autumn sightings 31 Oct to 12 Dec, all in singles except for 2 on 7-8 Dec, mainly from Ghadira.

2001: 2 at Buskett on 3 Jan, and singles at Qawra on 24th and 26 Mar. Singles on 7 dates from 19 Jul to 9 Aug. In single or double figures recorded on most dates from 25 Aug till end of the year, max 88 at Qawra on 22nd and 40 at Buskett on 28th both in December, and 25 at Buskett on 10 Nov.

2002: On most days from Jan to 6 Apr in single or low double figures, highest 30+ at Buskett on 19 Jan, otherwise up to 15. 1-4 on 6 dates from 14-28 Apr and 1-3 on 33 dates from 12 May to 22 Aug, but 4 at Buskett on 2 Jun when breeding was confirmed where 2 young were heard doing contact calls. Singles on 10 dates from 21 Sep to 9 Dec.

2003: 1-2 at various sites on 11 days from 14 Jan to 22 Apr, then singles on 7 days between 4 May and 16 Jul. In autumn 1 at Buskett on 4 Oct, then 23 sightings on 20 days from 26 Oct to 27 Dec; always 1-5 but 18 at Dingli on 2 Nov and 10 at Buskett on 21 Dec.

2004: 1-2 in Jan-Feb at various sites but 4-5 at Buskett in Jan, then 9 sightings of 1-3 from 2 Mar to 26 Apr. Singles on 6 dates from 17 Jun to 27 Jul and on 19 Sep. In autumn 1 on 26 Oct, then 1-3 on 4 dates from 5-18 Nov and 1 on 23 Dec.

2005: 1 at Buskett on 25 Mar, then 1-2 on 13 dates from 21 Apr to 29 May. 1-2 on 13 dates from 1 Jun to 10 Jul, mainly from Buskett, but 3 on 6 Jun at Wied il-Luq. 1 at Ghadira on 12 Aug. Singles on 6 dates from 15 Aug to 27 Sep, then 1-5 on 20 dates from 28 Oct to 31 Dec, but 8 at Mizieb on 26 Dec, 12 at Buskett on 28 Dec and 8+ on 31 Dec, also at Buskett.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

2000: Recorded in all months in single and low double figures, some summer sightings may involve escapees. Single bird at Buskett on 3 dates in Jan, and again on 12 Feb. An increase in numbers noted from 14 Mar with 11 at Blata l-Bajda highest with single birds recorded up to 18 Jun; 2 at Chadwick lakes on last date, 1 at Ghadira on 20 Jun. Single bird recorded on various dates in same locality from 10th Jul to 22 Aug. Autumn migration from early Oct to 20 Dec mainly in single and low double figures but 72 counted on 28 Oct and 36 on 29th both at Buskett.

II-Merill 32 2010

2001: Up to 12 on most dates from 2 Jan to 30 Mar, but 41 on 8 Feb and 33 on 27 Mar at Blata L-Bajda. Then 1-2 on 24 dates from 4 Apr to 27 Sep, mainly from Għadira. 5 at Buskett on 4 Oct, then 1-3 on most dates from 9 Oct till end of year, but 30 at Blata L-Bajda on 5 Nov and 20 at B' Kara on 24 Dec.

2002: Singles at Għadira on 13 Jan and 21 Jan, then on 11 dates from 24 Feb to 6 Apr, all in singles except for 3 at Ċirkewwa on 29 Mar. Singles on 9 dates from 12 Apr to 25 May and 1-3 almost daily from 14 Jun to 9 Oct, mostly at Għadira. Then up to 10 almost daily from 11 Oct till end of year, but 20+ at Buskett on 20 Oct, 25 at Qawra on 25 Oct, and 30+ at Ramla Valley on 26 Oct.

2003: 1-9 on most days at Għadira in Jan- 11 Apr; also singles on 3 days from 19 Jan to 4 Feb at other sites, then 11 sightings on 10 days from 21 Mar to 19 Apr with 50 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 8 Apr and 30 on Comino on 13 Apr, otherwise 1-5. Occasional singles between late Apr and late Sep, and 1-2 on most days at Għadira from 1 Jul to 16 Aug. Autumn passage from 20 Oct and almost daily to 1 Dec; mostly single figures but double figures, max 45 at Buskett on 6 Nov, on 4 occasions. The 1-5 on 12 days from 9-31 Dec.

2004: 2-3 on 3 dates from 6-12 Jan, then singles on most days from 23 Jan to 28 Mar and 2 at Ċirkewwa on 30-31 Mar. 1-3 frequently from 31 Mar to 6 May with most at Għadira and singles in May on 21st, in Jun on 2nd, 4th and 16th, on 14-15 Jul, 1 Aug and 11 Sep. 1-7 on most days from 5 Oct to 23 Dec but 20 at Comino on 28 Oct.

2005: 2 at Simar on 11 Jan, then 1-2 on 16 dates from 15 Jan to 25 Apr, but 6 at Calypso on 2 Apr. 1 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 20 May. 1-2 on 4 dates from 18 Jun to 5 Jul at Buskett, Għadira and Chadwick Lakes. 1 at Tarġa Gap on 18 Aug and Buskett on 5 Oct, then single figures of up to 7 regularly from 21 Oct to end of year, but 10 at Buskett on 22 Oct and 12 at Għadira on 29 Dec.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

2000: 2 at Għadira on 1 Feb, and at Ramla Valley, Gozo on 21 Feb. Singles at Qammieħ on 26 Mar and at Għadira on 8 Apr. In autumn, singles at Għadira from 21-28 Sep, at B'Kara on 1 Oct, at Għadira on 10 Oct, at Dwejra (M) on 24 Oct, at Qawra on 28 Oct, at Pieta' on 31 Oct and at Chadwick Lakes on 2 Dec.

2001: Singles on Comino on 26 Apr and at Għadira on 28 Jun. Then 1-2 on 7 scattered dates (at 9 localities) from 21 Oct to 15 Dec, but 3 at Buskett on 3rd and 4 at Qawra on 25th, both in November.

2002: 1-2 on 12 dates from 15 Jan to 10 Apr, but 15 at Qawra on 7 Apr. Singles at Simar on 14 May, at Ta' Gajdoru Xagħra on 9 Jul, and at Għadira on 24 Sep. On 9 dates from 5 Oct to 14 Dec, all in singles except for 2 at Għadira on 8 Dec.

2003: Singles on 4 days at Għadira from 4 Jul to 7 Sep and 1 at Qawra on 21 Sep. Then sightings of 1-4 on 3 days from 5 Nov to 1 Dec.

2004: Singles on 5 dates from 7-16 Jan, on 2 Mar and 2 Jul. Then 4 at Pt.St. Elmo on 24 Oct and singles again in Nov on 19th and 27th.

2005: Singles on 6 dates from 6 Feb to 29 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 19 May. In autumn, singles on 13 dates from 9 Sep to 10 Dec, but 2 at Dingli on 18 Sep.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

2000: 15 on 14 Oct and 1 on 11 Nov both at Qawra.

2001: 1 at Mellieħa on 31 Oct, then on 4 dates in November: 1 again at Mellieħa on 3rd, 24 at Xagħra on 4th, singles at Għadira on 6th and at Qawra on 25th.

2002: 1 on 1 Jul and 2 on 30 Oct, both at Simar. 1 at Għadira on 2 Dec.

2003: 1 at Għadira on 22 Feb.

2004: Singles on 17 Jan at Bidnija, on 17 Jul at Għadira, at Mellieħa on 23 Oct and at Tarġa Gap on 9 Nov.

2005: 4 at Simar on 15 Dec.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

2000: Very scarce in the first half of the year with 1-2 on 11 dates till 6 Apr. 1 at Żebbuġ (G) on 11 Jun and 1 at Għadira on 17 Jul. In autumn, from 14 Oct till 12 Nov in single and low double figures, max. 30 on 27th and 25 on 28 Oct at Mellieħa and 20 at Buskett on 2nd and 5 Nov. 1 at Manoel Island on 23 Nov, 3 at Għadira on 6 Dec, 2 at Mellieħa on 19-20 Dec and 5 at Għadira on 28 Dec.

2001: 6 at Wied l-Għasri on 4th and 15 at Floriana on 17 Jan. In spring 1-2 on 14 dates from 7 Mar to 15 Apr, but 35 at Qawra on 26 Mar. Singles at Għadira on 23 Jul, and on 2 dates in August: at Buskett on 22nd and at Għadira on 23rd. Then in single or double figures almost daily from 13 Oct till end of year, max. 74 at Qawra on 22nd and 60 at Ta' Gajdoru on 15th both in Dec, and 40 at Għadira on 23rd and 32 at Qawra on 27th both in Oct.

2002: Up to 7 on 18 dates from 3 Jan to 28 Feb. In single or low double figures on 15 dates from 3 Mar to 14 Apr, highest 50+ at Simar on 22 Mar and at Aħrax on 30 Mar, otherwise up to 25. 1-2 on 8 dates from 26 Apr to 31 Aug. In autumn, up to 25 almost daily from 16 Oct to 26 Nov, but 60+ at Comino on 27 Oct. 1 at Għadira on 9 Dec.

2003: 9 sightings of 1-3 on 8 days from 22 Feb to 3 Apr. 1 on 10 Jun and 29 Jul at Simar, and 1 on 17 Jul and 2 on 14 Sep at Mellieħa. In autumn on most days from 20 Oct to 15 Nov with max of 100 each on Comino and at Xagħra on 26 Oct and double figures on 6 other days. Then 1-4 on 8 days from 28 Nov to 21 Dec.

2004: 1-2 on 4 dates in Jan from 2-25th, then 1 on 28 Feb and 8 sightings of 1-4 from 13 Mar to 3 Apr. Singles on 4 dates in Apr from 15-24th and at Għadira on 11-13 May. In autumn 1 on 4 Oct, then 1-11 almost daily from 13 Oct to 29 Nov but 20 at Qawra on 28th and on Comino on 30th, both in Oct. Singles on 4 dates in Dec from 3-22nd.

2005: Up to 4 on 5 dates from 6 Jan to 13 Feb, then up to 8 on 7 dates from 15-30 Mar. 1-4 at Comino on 3 dates from 24-28 Apr, 8 at Wardija Point (G) on 29 Apr, 6 at Peter's Pool on 1 May and 2 at Comino on 2 May. 1-2 at Għadira on 6 dates from 2 Jun to 6 Jul. In autumn, up to 9 on most dates from 19 Oct to 18 Nov, but 10 at Comino on 19 Oct and again on 30-31 Oct. 1-2 on 7 dates from 26 Nov to 26 Dec.

II-Merill 32 2010

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

2002: 10 at M'Scala on 2 Aug, then 1-9 on most days from 15 Aug to 9 Oct, all at Buskett except for 2 at San Anton on 31 Aug and 8 Sep. 2 at Buskett on 1 Nov and 4 Nov.

2004: Five sightings in Sep at Buskett with singles on 8-9th, 11 on 13th, 19 on 21st and 13 on 30th, then 2 sightings at Luqa airport also in Sep with 9 on 23rd and 21 on 26th. 4 sightings in Oct with 1 at Simar on 1st, 5 at Buskett on 2nd and 2 at Tarġa Gap on 13-14th.

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus*

2005: Singles at Belliegħa l/o Victoria on 21 Jun and Rinella on 11 Dec.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

2002: 1 ringed at Simar on 16 Oct.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

2000: 1 male at Qawra on 23 Sep.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

2000: 1 at Għadira on 27 Jan. Singles at Għadira on 20 Oct, at Ta' Lambert (G) on 3 Nov, at B'Kara on 7 Nov, and at Għadira on 10 Nov.

2001: Singles at Salina on 12 Apr and at Lunzjata on 12 Oct.

2002: Singles at Dingli on 9 Oct, at Ramla Valley on 25-26 Oct, and at Buskett on 4 Nov.

2003: 15 at Xagħra on 4 Apr.

2004: Only in singles at Sruġ on 22nd and at Comino on 28th, both in Oct, then in Nov at Ramla Valley on 5th, at Ta' Gajdor on 6th and at Tarġa Gap on 9th.

2005: 1 at Tarġa Gap on 5 Mar. In autumn, singles at Rabat on 9 Oct, at Xagħra on 20-21 and 24 Oct, at Għadira on 21 Oct and at Ramla on 27 Oct. 7 on 29 Oct and 2 on 30 Oct, both at Ramla, then singles on 5 dates from 31 Oct to 18 Nov.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

2001: 1 at Il-Mielħa (Xagħra) on 18-19 Nov.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

2003: 1 on Comino on 23 Oct.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

2003: A first year male at Nadur (G) on 6 Nov.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

2000: Singles at is-Sellum, Xagħra on 5 Apr and at Fomm ir-Riħ on 4 May.

2001: 3 records in April: 1 on Comino on 11th and 14th, and 3 at Nadur on 12th.

2002: Singles at Żebbuġ (G) on 6 Mar and at Comino on 31 Mar.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

2000: Recorded only from the two nature reserves, single bird present at Simar from 5 Jan to 28 Feb, but up to 2 birds between 18-26 Feb. 1 at same place on 29 Mar. Singles at Għadira on 13 Feb and 23 Mar. Autumn sightings at Simar from 28 Oct, with 1-2 birds on most days till end of year; but 4 birds were present on 23 Nov and 11 Dec. Up to 4 at Għadira from 1 Nov till end of year.

2001: 1-2 recorded on most dates from Simar and Għadira from 1 Jan to 4 Mar but 4 on 12th and 6 on 10-11th all in Jan at Simar. 2 at Simar on 20 Oct, then 1-2 almost daily from 24 Oct to 6 Dec, but 6 at Lunzjata on 3rd and 4 on 4th, 5 at Simar on 15th and 4 again at Lunzjata on 17th all in Nov. 1 at Simar on 17 Dec.

2002: 1-3 on most days at Simar from 5 Jan to 7 Apr, but 5 on 7 Feb. 1 at Għadira on 4 dates from 20-30 Mar. 1 at Simar on 10-11 Jul was unusual. 1-3 almost daily at Simar and Għadira from 23 Oct to 24 Dec, but 4 at Simar on 25 Nov.

2003: On most days at Simar from 9 Jan to 5 Mar when usually 1-3 but 4 on 21 Jan. Singles at Għadira on 20 Feb and 17 Mar, and again at Simar on 31 Mar and 11 Apr. In autumn single figures almost daily at Simar and Għadira from 3 Nov to 5 Dec with max of 10 at Simar on 25 Nov. Then mostly 1-2 less frequently from 14-31 Dec.

2004: From 1 Jan to 23 Mar at Simar with up to 6 in Jan-Feb and 1-3 in Mar, whilst singles at Għadira on a few dates from 6 Jan to 25 Mar. 1 at Simar on 3 Jun. 1-2 at Għadira and Simar in autumn from 1 Nov to 21 Dec but 3 at Għadira on 18 Nov.

2005: Singles at Simar on 8 dates from 13 Jan to 25 Mar, and at Għadira on 13 Mar. 1-2 almost daily from 28 Oct to 26 Dec, all at Simar and Għadira.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*

2004: 1 male at Ċirkewwa on 3 Apr.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

2000: Scarce resident breeder recorded mainly from the northern part of Malta and on Gozo. In the south it was only present at Luqa Airport with a singles on 24 Mar and 10 Apr. Throughout most of the year it is recorded in single figures of 1-5 but an increase in numbers was noted in Oct-Nov with a max. 40 at Ta' Ċenċ on 20 Oct and 25 at Dwejra, (M) on 18 Nov.

2001: Resident and breeding at a few sites. Single figures recorded throughout the year with highest counts of 10 on 31 Jan, 25 on 11 Feb and 12 on 3 Mar from Qammieħ and 14 at Dwejra on 29 Mar.

2002: Breeding uncommonly at a few sites. Always seen in single figures, highest being of 8 at Dwejra (M) on 15 Mar and 9 at Mellieħa on 24 Dec, otherwise up to 5.

2003: 1 at Għadira on 26 Jan, then 30 sightings of 1-3 on 25 days from 2 Mar to 13 Jul, indicating low breeding population, but 20 at Dwejra (M) on 25 Mar. 1 on 15 Sep and 6 on 23 Sep, and 1 on 1 Oct; then 27 sightings on 19 days from 13 Oct to 24 Nov. Mostly single figures but low double figures on 4 days, max 18 at Ċirkewwa on 26 Oct. Singles on 8 and 10 Dec.

2004: 1-3 on 3 dates in Jan, then 1-9 at a few sites in Feb-May but 12 at Mellieħa on 8 Feb and 25 at Dwejra (M) on 27 Mar. A few pairs bred with 1-3 on a few dates in Jun-Sep and 1-6 in Oct-Dec.

2005: Breeding uncommonly at a few sites. Recorded in single figures of up to 9, but 13 at Mellieħa on 3 Apr, 15 at Red Tower and Għadira on 31 Oct and 37 at Dwejra on 7 Dec.

Ringing Report for 2000-2005

Compiled by

Mark Gauci, André Raine & Joe Sultana

This report covers the ringing activities of the Valletta Bird Ringing Scheme, run by BirdLife Malta, for the years 2000 to 2005. During the five years under review, the licensed ringers were: John Attard Montalto, John J. Borg, Denis Cachia, Victor Cilia, Charles Coleiro, Jean Paul Farrugia, Raymond Galea, Charles Gauci, Mark Gauci, Mario V. Gauci, John Grech, Manuel Mallia, Joseph M. Mangion, John Middleton, Joe Sultana and Justin Vassallo.

Ringing Totals

The ringing totals for the years 2000 to 2005 are shown in Table 1, along with the totals for the whole period of the Valletta Bird Ringing Scheme, covering the period 1965 to 2005.

Year	No. of Birds	No. of Species
2000	10321	94
2001	10754	99
2002	11695	105
2003	9790	92
2004	13935	100
2005	15970	106
Grand total 1965-2005	410611	194 + 2 hybrids

Table 1. Ringing Totals for years 2000-2005

From 2000 to 2005, a total of 72,612 birds, representing 157 species, were ringed. Of these, **7 new species** were new to the ringing list, namely **Eurasian Spoonbill, Eurasian Wigeon, Pallid Harrier, Black Kite, European Bee-eater, Collared Dove and Siberian Rubythroat**. During the period under review several very scarce migrants or vagrants were also ringed. These included the, 3rd **Baillon's Crake**, 3rd and 4th **Squacco Heron**, 2nd and 3rd **Grey Plover**, 2nd and 3rd **Stone Curlew**, 2nd **Broad-billed Sandpiper**, 4th and 5th **Olive-backed Pipit**, 3rd, 4th and 5th **Isabelline Wheat-ear**, 8th and 9th **Grasshopper Warbler**, 2nd **Barred Warbler**, 3rd **Paddyfield Warbler**, 3rd **Dusky Warbler**, 3rd **River Warbler** and 6th and 7th **Melodious Warbler**. The most commonly ringed species were the Robin (9,978), Barn Swallow (8,153) and Spanish Sparrow (6,627) as shown in Table 2.

Robin	9978	Wood Warbler	3111	House Martin	1934
Barn Swallow	8513	Sardinian Warbler	2657	Subalpine Warbler	1666
Spanish Sparrow	6627	Blackcap	2563	European Storm-petrel	1524
Garden Warbler	5300	Common Whitethroat	2303	Pied Flycatcher	1362
Common Chiffchaff	4884	Willow Warbler	1991	Whinchat	1339

Table 2. Top 15 birds ringed in the years 2000-2005

Ringing Sites

The main ringing sites used during the ten year period were Ghadira Nature Reserve, Simar Nature Reserve, Rabat (M), Buskett Bird Sanctuary, Salina Bird Sanctuary and Lunzjata Valley (G). Both Ghadira and Simar were run as Constant Effort Sites. Other sites used during this period include Ramla Valley (G), Targa Gap, Mellieħa and Chadwick Lakes. BirdLife Malta's Bird Observatory on the island of Comino was also used every spring and autumn for the annual migration ringing programme. The project generally ran from mid-April to mid-May in spring and for the last two weeks of October in autumn. Annual visits to Filfla were also organised to monitor populations of the **European Storm-petrel**, with between one and four visits undertaken every year. The **Yellow-legged Gull** colony on the top of Filfla was also accessed once annually, by helicopter, to ring the gull pulli. Accessible nests of **Cory's Shearwater** and **Yelkouan Shearwater**, in both Malta and Gozo, were also monitored regularly.

II-Merill 32 2010

ECD	Species	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total ringed 1965-2005
01790	Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
01840	Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
01860	Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
01890	Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
01910	Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
03550	Chukar <i>Alectoris chukar</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
03700	Common Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	3	1	1	1	0	1	29
00070	Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
00090	Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
00120	Black-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	0	1	1	0	1	0	20
00360	Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	18	39	50	28	26	44	2818
00460	Manx Shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
00462	Yelkouan Shearwater <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	4	0	0	0	2	4	616
00520	European Storm-petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	437	536	98	146	108	199	19257
00950	Eurasian Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
00980	Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	9	3	1	1	2	1	99
01040	Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
01080	Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
01190	Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
01440	Eurasian Spoonbill <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
02310	Honey-buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
02380	Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
12620	Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
02690	Eurasian Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
03040	Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	0	1	9	6	1	6	49
03090	Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
03100	Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
04070	Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	13	24	10	8	8	2	244
04080	Spotted Crane <i>Porzana porzana</i>	9	8	2	1	3	1	77
04100	Little Crane <i>Porzana parva</i>	3	1	1	1	2	1	37
04110	Baillon's Crane <i>Porzana pusilla</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
04210	Corn Crane <i>Crex crex</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
04240	Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	37	26	17	13	13	14	534
04250	Allen's Gallinule <i>Porphyryla alleni</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
04290	Common Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
04590	Stone Curlew <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
04690	Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	6	17	16	14	29	14	309
04700	Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	4	2	1	2	6	1	78
04770	Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
04860	Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
04930	Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
05010	Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	108	103	75	71	95	37	2591
05020	Temminck's Stint <i>Calidris temminckii</i>	1	4	3	2	4	1	73
05090	Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	3	5	7	9	5	2	174
05120	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	36	19	27	7	25	12	401
05140	Broad-billed Sandpiper <i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
05170	Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	6	1	1	2	1	1	89
05180	Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	0	2	3	0	0	2	34
05190	Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	2	3	6	0	3	0	156
05200	Great Snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
05290	Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
05320	Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
05380	Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
05560	Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	51	36	33	40	29	28	921
05530	Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	2	3	2	0	0	1	48
05450	Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
05480	Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
05470	Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
05540	Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	12	17	7	6	4	10	240
05460	Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	1	1	1	0	3	1	52
05610	Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
05850	Slender-billed Gull <i>Larus genei</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
05820	Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
05750	Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
05927	Yellow-Legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>	90	73	74	71	78	37	1427
06280	White-winged Black Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
06110	Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
06840	Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
06870	Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	18	19	10	16	17	31	287
07160	Great Spotted Cuckoo <i>Clamator glandarius</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
07240	Common Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	4	5	1	5	6	5	68
07350	Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
07390	Eurasian Scops Owl <i>Otus scops</i>	0	3	6	10	22	11	245
07680	Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	0	0	1	0	1	0	5

II-Merill 32 2010

ECD	Species	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total ringed 1965-2005
07780	European Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	3	2	1	8	48	18	135
07950	Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	0	0	7	0	1	0	57
08310	Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	41	37	21	37	34	34	590
08400	European Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i>	0	0	1	3	2	3	9
08460	Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	1	9	11	10	10	16	159
08480	Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	30	35	40	56	63	56	1034
16330	Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15080	Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	29	12	20	28	81	64	678
15150	Red-Backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	0	1	1	2	0	1	131
15230	Woodchat Shrike <i>Lanius senator</i>	62	85	73	71	184	100	1305
13140	Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	2	2	2	10	13	12	503
13150	Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	8	12	4	9	9	27	510
14900	Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	96
09680	Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	0	1	0	0	2	1	316
09740	Wood Lark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
09760	Sky Lark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	0	0	5	0	7	11	59
09810	Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	122	179	472	215	101	80	12450
09920	Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	982	466	1547	1383	2280	1495	40839
10010	House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	77	350	1104	24	185	194	11058
09950	Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis daurica</i>	8	1	5	0	1	3	155
12200	Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	155	101	102	150	141	232	3097
12930	Greenish Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
12950	Arctic Warbler <i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
12980	Pallas's Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13000	Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1	0	0	2	1	4	31
13010	Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
13030	Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
13071	Western Bonelli's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	4	1	1	0	2	1	10
13072	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>	3	4	1	1	3	6	28
13070	Western/Eastern Bonelli's W. <i>P.bonelli /orientalis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	177
13080	Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	445	407	693	380	529	657	12630
13110	Common Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	876	881	535	766	946	880	40987
13120	Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	385	280	555	243	352	176	9752
12770	Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	534	273	283	412	447	614	16660
12760	Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	817	825	689	537	985	1447	21140
12730	Barred Warbler <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
12740	Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	1	0	0	2	3	1	73
12720	Orphean Warbler <i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
12750	Common Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	374	457	378	201	449	444	6500
12640	Spectacled Warbler <i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	4	3	8	3	9	6	1379
12620	Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
12690	Rüppell's Warbler <i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
12650	Subalpine Warbler <i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	159	238	377	320	210	362	9487
12670	Sardinian Warbler <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	544	373	346	392	440	562	20000
12551	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler <i>Hippolais pallida</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
12552	Western Olivaceous Warbler <i>Hippolais opaca</i>	0	0	1	0	1	0	5
12551/2	Western/Eastern Olivaceous War. <i>H.opaca/pallida</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
12590	Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>	136	178	113	61	80	154	3050
12600	Melodious Warbler <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	0	1	1	0	0	0	7
12360	Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
12370	River Warbler <i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
12380	Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	2	2	1	2	0	0	70
12410	Moustached Warbler <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	1	11	2	1	8	0	153
12430	Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	103	222	326	115	132	159	4164
12510	Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	107	98	119	89	137	117	3216
12500	Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	2	1	0	0	1	2	62
12480	Blyth's Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
12470	Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
12530	Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	43	65	62	81	80	135	2132
12260	Zitting Cisticola <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	210	332	105	162	209	145	8904
10660	Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
15820	Common Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	7	15	15	10	49	82	373
11860	Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	0	0	0	3	0	1	7
11870	Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	1	5	8	1	12	16	303
11980	Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
12000	Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	71	59	54	51	104	197	2175
12010	Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	0	0	2	0	0	1	37
13350	Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	109	219	116	67	119	237	3461
10950	Rufous Bush Robin <i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	1	1	0	0	0	1	13
10990	Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1299	1206	1042	1148	2086	3197	62412
11030	Thrush Nightingale <i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
11040	Common Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	50	49	73	78	81	97	2938
11050	Siberian Rubythroat <i>Luscinia calliope</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
11060	Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	8	5	4	4	6	4	194

II-Merill 32 2010

ECD	Species	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total ringed 1965-2005
11210	Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	29	16	17	14	24	69	668
11220	Common Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	63	119	110	60	101	141	3735
11370	Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	144	233	170	194	299	299	2987
11390	Common Stonechat <i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	49	79	89	102	201	130	3494
11440	Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	0	0	1	2	0	1	6
11460	Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	6	42	18	10	11	17	355
11480	Black-eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	1	12	3	1	3	4	60
11620	Rock Thrush <i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	0	2	8	0	1	0	14
11660	Blue Rock Thrush <i>Monticola solitarius</i>	7	9	6	10	11	13	199
13430	Red-breasted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula parva</i>	1	2	3	8	2	11	126
13470	Semi-collared Flycatcher <i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>	0	0	2	2	2	3	23
13480	Collared Flycatcher <i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	7	14	22	91	95	129	1037
13490	Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	150	208	294	209	244	257	5373
10840	Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	77	76	23	53	43	169	3093
15920	Spanish Sparrow <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	894	940	879	1228	1112	1574	32086
15980	Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	13	14	13	50	42	151	1415
10170	Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	73	50	107	15	218	49	5924
10190	Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	10	9	10	5	7	12	828
10200	White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	9	349	26	2	178	51	2028
10020	Richard's Pipit <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
10050	Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>	0	0	1	1	0	0	13
10080	Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	0	0	0	1	0	1	5
10090	Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	29	25	28	100	113	67	2114
10110	Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	20	60	34	17	55	255	4201
10120	Red-throated Pipit <i>Anthus cervinus</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	78
10140	Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
10142	Rock Pipit <i>Anthus petrosus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
16360	Common Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	23	17	23	8	15	23	1186
16380	Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
16400	European Serin <i>Serinus serinus</i>	0	1	0	1	0	11	323
16490	Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	4	3	7	2	6	3	429
16530	Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
16540	Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1	13
16600	Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	933
16660	Common Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
16790	Common Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0	9
17170	Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	1	0	0	0	1	0	7
18470	Lapland Bunting <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
18570	Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
18580	Cirl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
18660	Ortolan Bunting <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
18680	Cretzschmar's Bunting <i>Emberiza caesia</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
18730	Rustic Bunting <i>Emberiza rustica</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
18740	Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
18750	Chestnut Bunting <i>Emberiza rutila</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
18760	Yellow-breasted Bunting <i>Emberiza aureola</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
18770	Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	10	13	2	3	6	1	323
18820	Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>	1	0	1	0	0	0	446
	Barn Swallow x House Martin <i>H.rustica x D.urbica</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
	Tree Sparrow x Spanish Sparrow <i>P.montanus x P. hispaniolensis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Totals		10321	10754	11695	9790	13935	15970	410611

RINGING RECOVERIES

Key to symbols and terms used in the recovery list

Arrangement of entry

Recoveries are arranged by species, and within species usually by date of the recovery letter. Ringing details are given on the first line and recovery data on the second

Ring number

A ring in *italics* indicates that the ring has been returned and verified.

Age code

- 1** pullus; young bird ringed in the nest. A number in brackets beside this age code indicates brood size.
- 2** fully grown; year of hatching quite unknown.
- 3** definitely hatched during current calendar year.
- 3J** as in 3, but bird still partly or totally in juvenile body plumage.
- 4** hatched before current calendar year - exact year unknown.
- 5** definitely hatched during last calendar year.

Sex

- M** male
- F** female.

Date of recovery

Where this is unknown the date of the reporting letter is given instead and is shown in brackets. A 00 in the date indicates that the exact day or month are unknown.

Manner of recovery

- v** caught or trapped, and released with ring (controlled)
- +** shot or killed by man
- x** found dead or dying
- xA** found long dead
- ()** caught or trapped alive and not released, or released but with ring removed
- B** breeding when recovered
- C** recovered at colony
- R** recovered in roost
- ./?/** manner of recovery unknown.

This section deals with the international movements reported during the period 2000-2005. Recoveries are only included if they were ringed in Malta and recovered overseas or ringed overseas and recovered in Malta. The co-ordinates of the localities are given only once, when these are first mentioned.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

ICP (<i>plastic</i>)	1	07.04.1994	Donana NP: 37°10'N; 06°58'W, Spain
	(sighting)	08.04.2003	Ghadira Nature Reserve 45°58'N; 14°21'E, Mellieħa, Malta 1,905km ESE

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

D122558	1	20.06.2000	Pizensky(Tachov): 49°45'N 12°56'E, Czech Republic
	+	02.10.2005	Delimara, Malta 35°50'N; 14°31'E, 534Km S

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

T 46581	3	31.08.2001	San Giuliano(Lago di) – Matera: 40°36'N;16°30'E Italy
	+	24.09.2002	Malta 556km SE

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

S 240358	1	19.06.2003	Valkeakoski , Hame, Finland
	x	15.09.2003	Qrendi: 35°50' N ; 14°26' E Malta 2,836 km SW

Yellow-Legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*

GG1398	1	19.05.2004	Filfla Island, Malta 35°57' N; 14°27' E
	xA	14.10.2004	Castellante Marina,Taranto, 40°28'N;16°56'E Italy 556km , NNE
GG1424	1	24.05.2005	Filfla Island, Malta
	x	11.09.2005	Bruzano Zefiro,Reggio Calabria 38°07'N;15°37'E Italy 287Km NE
GG0382	1	27.05.1991	Filfla Island, Malta
	/?/	15.03.2005	Saline di Punta della Contessa 37°03'N;15°16'E (Sicily) Italy 150km NE

II-Merill 32 2010**Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***

FF02370 3 21.11.1997 Ghadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta
 x 12.04.2005 Jesolo Lido: 45°30'N;12°40'E Venezia (IA 39), **Italy** 1,081 km N

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

NR73363 3 28.09.1997 Ghadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta
 v 04.01.2003 Golspie: 57°58'N; 03°59'W, Highland Region, **Scotland** 2,791km NNW

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

SB088042 2 19.10.2001 Ghadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta
 v 13.04.2002 Marano (Torrente): 44°00'N; 12°37'E, Rimini, **Italy** 903km NNW

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

P 75199 3 27.08.2004 Mlynec: 50°19'N; 15°14' E Kralovehradecky (Jicin), **Czech Republic**
 v 11.09.2004 Lunzjata Valley:36°03'N; 14°14' E, Gozo, Malta 1,610 km S

174416 3 13.09.2004 Lunzjata Valley, Gozo, Malta
 x 18.07.2005 Felsokortvelyes,Fejer; 46°57'N; 18°35'E **Hungary** 1,249km NE

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

191112 4 08.04.2003 Simar Nature Reserve: 35°57'N; 14°23'E St. Paul's Bay, Malta
 B 25.04.2003 Ravnica: 45°59'N; 13°42'E, Nova Gorica, **Slovenia** 1,119km N

BN75899 3 08.09.1999 Kinna: 57°33'N ;12°42'E Rydal,P.Vastergotland,**Sweden**
 x 05.10.2003 Qrendi: 35°50'N ; 14°27'E Malta 2,399km S

AM 72764 3 24.08.2001 Idrovore Lauro –Lesina: 41°53'N;14°14'E **Italy**
 R 30.03.2004 Lunzjata Valley, Gozo, Malta 633km NE

AE 87236 3 09.09.2001 Laghetti Legnochimica – Rende: 39°19'N;16°10'E **Italy**
 R 30.03.2004 Lunzjata Valley, Gozo, Malta 402km NE

AS 54225 3 12.09.2004 S.Anna-Castelfranco Emilia: 44°36'N;11°01'E **Italy**
 R 04.10.2004 Buskett: 35°51'N; 14°24'E Rabat, Malta 1,005km SE

204503 4 20.04.2005 Rabat, 35°53'N; 14°24'E, Malta
 v 27.04.2005 Valli di Mortizzuolo Mirandola: 44°53'N 11°04'E – Modena **Italy** 999km NNE

BB 73299 3 15.08.2004 Vransko lake, Pakostane: 35°53'N 14°24'E, **Croatia**
 R 20.04.2005 Rabat, Malta 887Km S

171691 4 16.04.2002 Ghadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta
 R 10.04.2005 Isolino Verbania : 46°55'N; 08°29'E **Italy** 1,220km NW

XU 7116 3 18.09.2005 Oder-Spree, Brandenburg: 52°04'N;14°12'E, **Germany**
 R 06.10.2005 Ramla Valley: 36°03'N; 14°17'E, Gozo, Malta 1781 km S

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

6F940 4 11.05.1997 Rabat, Malta
 v 12.05.1997 Capri (IS) Castello Barbarossa, Anacapri, Napoli 40°33'N; 14°13'E **Italy**

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

8F183 4 06.03.1999 Rabat, Malta
 v 26.03.1999 Hostovice,Pardulice : 50°00'N ;15°52'E,**Czech Republic** 1,553km N

6B175 4 03.02.1990 Bingemma,Mgarr, Malta
 x 14.04.1990 Nakri,Ceske Budejovice:49°70' N ;14°20'E, **Czech Republic** 1,453 km N

1F859 4 17.03.1996 Lunzjata Valley, Gozo
 v 04.05.1996 Ottenby, Sverige, H, Oland,56°14'N,16°24'E **Sweden** 2,288 km N

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

2N366 4 19.04.2004 Wied I-Ahmar, Comino, Malta
 v 21.09.2004 P. Nat. De Las Islas Columbretes Castellon : 39°53'N; 00°41'E, **Spain** 1,328km WNW

4A456 4M 15.04.2002 Ghadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta
 x 20.05.2003 Haljeboda, Charlottenberg, Varmland: 59°58'N; 12°25'E,**Sweden** 2,690km N

II-Merill 32 2010**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

180055	4 v	22.04.2002 23.08.2003	Għadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta Progmet: 43°37'N; 16°15'E, Trogir, Croatia 864km NNE
48369	4 +	10.05.1986 10.05.1987	Għadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta Barcaggio, Ersa, Haute Corse 43°00' N; 09°24' E France 892km NW
163451	2 v	01.10.2004 11.06.2005	Mdina, Rabat, Malta Karankamaki, Mantyharju Mikkeli : 61°27'N ; 26.38 E Finland 3.245km NE

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

184941	4 v	07.10.2002 04.10.2003	Lunzjata Valley, Gozo, Malta Vrhnik, 45°58' N; 14°18'E Slovenija 884km N
173625	2 v	24.11.2003 29.06.2004	Mellieħa: 35°58'N; 14°22'E, Malta Bruhl: 49°24'N; 08°32'E Nordbaden (Karlsruhe), Germany 1,741km NW
3E80394	4 v v	31.08.2003 01.03.2004 01.04.2005	Blikshavn, Karmy, 59°12'N; 05°19'E Norway Għadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta 2665 km SSE Għadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta 2665 km SSE
123163	4 x	04.03.1995 17.04.1996	Għadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta Kitzingen-Reppeerndorf, 49°45'N; 10°07'E, Unterfeanken, Germany 1,579 km NW
124985	4 v	14.11.1994 08.04.1996	Għadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta Dekani, Koperm, 45°33'N; 13°50'E, Slovenia 1,068km N

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

147495	4 v	04.05.1997 10.09.1998	Wied l-Aħmar, 36°00'N 14°18'E, Comino, Malta Marsaleck, Tobruk, 32°00'N; 32°40'E Libja 988km ESE
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Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

163646	4 v	08.05.2001 07.05.2002	Simar Nature Reserve, St. Paul's Bay, Malta Titreyengol: 36°45'N; 31°27'E Sogon/Manavgat, Turkey 1,531km ESE
AG 88187	3 v	02.08.2004 09.08.2005	Saeftinghe, Sieperda, Zeeland, 51°21'N; 41°03'E Netherlands Għadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta 1,954km SE
4199080	3 v	01.10.2000 02.09.2005	Marais Du Vigueirat, Arles, Bouches-Du-Rhone, 43°34'; 04°34'E France Simar Nature Reserve, St. Paul's Bay, Malta 1,1478 km SE
88187	5 v	02.08.2004 09.08.2005	Saeftinghi, Sieperda, Zeeland, Netherlands Għadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta 1,891 km S
4199080	5 v	01.10.2000 02.09.2005	Marais du vigeirat, Arles, Bouches-du-Rhone, France Simar Nature Reserve, St. Pauls Bay, Malta 1,193 km S

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

164605	4 v	19.04.2002 09.06.2004	Simar Nature Reserve, St. Paul's Bay, Malta Lago di Pergusa, Provincial de Enna, Italy 175km N
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Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

B29105	4 v	02.09.2003 25.08.2004	Simar Nature Reserve, St. Paul's Bay, Malta Vransko Lake : 43°53'N; 15°33'E Pakostane, Croatia 854 km N
3483848	1 v	07.08.2004 02.10.2004	Sverige, T, Narke, Kvismaren, Fagelsjon: 59°10'N; 15°25'E Stockholm, Sweden Lunzjata Valley, Gozo, Malta 2,605km N

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

S 027527	5 v	09.04.2004 06.02.2005	Kamenica nad Hronom, Nove Zamky: 47°50'N; 18°44'E, Slovakia Buskett, Rabat, Malta 1,363 km SSW
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Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

166095	4 x	11.04.2003 17.04.2005	Simar Nature Reserve: 35°57'N 14°23'E, St. Paul's Bay, Malta Gabes: 33°52' N 10°06'E Tunisia 457km SW
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II-Merill 32 2010

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

187275	4	19.04.2003	Ghadira Nature Reserve, Mellieha, Malta
	x	16.06.2003	Vahankino: 57°58'N; 03°59'W, Kaduy District, Vologskaya, Russia

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

4671299	3	13.09.2002	Stoa, Saint-Louise, Haut-Rhin : 47°36'N; 07°32'E. France
	v	30.04.2005	Wied I-Aħmar, Comino, Malta 1,541 km SE
4671299	5	13.06.2002	Stoa, Saint-Louis, Haut-Rhin, 47°36'N; 07°32 E France
	v	30.04.2005	Wied I-Aħmar, Comino, Malta 1,375 km SSE

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

AK 93676	3	14.10.2001	Slovska vas: 45°58'N 15°04'E, Mirna Slovenia
	()	00.10.2002	Gozo: 36°04'N ; 14°15'E Malta 1,110km S

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

2H16216	2F	25.05.2002	Lognavann: 58°45'N; 07°29'E Aseral, Vest-Agder, Norway
	()	07.12.2002	Nadur: 36°03'N; 14°17'E Gozo 2,570km SSW
B 222472	3F	28.09.2005	Col de Bretolet (Valais) Suisse Mosimann 45°08'N;06°47'E Switzerland
	()	01.11.2005	San Lawrenz, (Gozo) 36°03'N14°12'E Malta 1,279km SW

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

C.A. 30386	3F	25.08.2004	Jadrtovac, Sibenik: 43°41'N 15°58' E, Croatia
	()	03.11.2005	Zurrieq: 35°50'N 14°29'E, Malta 875km S

Selected Retraps 2000 - 2005

This section deals with a selected number of interesting retraps, which were reported by ringers during the period 2000-2005. Retraps are ringed birds recaptured at the same site where they were originally ringed. These are mainly birds which are residents, breeding visitors or winter visitors. Occasionally they may also be migrants using the same migratory route and the same resting/feeding areas in the following years. Selected retraps are presented below by species in the categories mentioned above. Ringing and retrap details are given in the following order: **Ring number, Age/Sex, Ringing Date, Retrap Date, Locality** and **Remarks** (giving the time of years and months between the ringing and retrap dates; in the case of winter visitors giving the number of winters after ringing date). Age and sex codes are the same as used in the previous section for the recoveries.

Residents

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

FF01230	3J	03-08-1997	16.01.2004	Ghadira NR	ringed as juvenile (6 years 5 months)
			31.03.2005	Ghadira NR	retrapped 2 nd time (7 years 7 months in all)
			28.04.2005	Ghadira NR	retrapped 3 rd time (7 years 8 months in all)

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

147831	3F	14.06.1998	25.04.2004	Chadwick Lakes	5 years 10 months
168466	3F	24.06.1999	05.02.2004	Ghadira NR	4 years 8 months
159011	2M	08.09.1999	20.03.2004	Lunzjata Valley	4 years 6 months
169084	3F	24.11.1999	21.12.2004	Ghadira NR	4 years 11 months
179831	4M	26.06.2003	19.07.2004	Buskett	1 year 1 month
<i>ditto</i>			08.09.2005	Buskett	retrapped 2 nd time (2 years 5 months in all)
155805	2F	29.06.2001	14.03.2002	Simar NR	9 months
<i>ditto</i>			31.01.2005	Simar NR	retrapped 2 nd time (3 years 7 months in all)
164297	2M	05.07.2001	05.05.2005	Simar NR	3 years 10 months
173999	4M	14.04.2003	07.03.2004	Rabat	11 months
<i>ditto</i>			29.05.2005	Rabat	retrapped 2 nd time (1 year 2 months)
191340	1	29.04.2003	01.07.2005	Salina NR	ringed as pullus (2 years 3 months)
179837	3	26.06.2003	25.08.2004	Buskett	1 year 2 months
<i>ditto</i>			23.01.2005	Buskett	retrapped 2 nd time (1 years 7 months in all)
179875	3F	14.07.2003	01.06.2004	Buskett	11 months
<i>ditto</i>			12.08.2005	Buskett	retrapped 2 nd time (2 years 1 month in all)
173349	2F	01.09.2003	21.08.2004	Mellieha	11 months
<i>ditto</i>			25.06.2005	Mellieha	retrapped 2 nd time (1 year 10 months)

II-Merill 32 2010

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

110600	3J	27.06.1998	19.07.2004	Buskett	6 years 1 month
150366	3M	22.08.1999	09.07.2005	Rabat	5 years 11 months
144469	3M	17.10.1998	06.03.2005	Buskett	6 years 5 months
127642	2F	02.12.1998	05.11.2003	Tarġa Gap	5 years
155319	3J	21.08.1999	30.11.2004	Simar NR	4 years 5 months
<i>ditto</i>			01.02.2005	Simar NR	retrapped 2 nd time (5 years 6 months in all)
152226	4M	09.01.2000	17.09.2002	Buskett	2 years 8 months
<i>ditto</i>			06.02.2005	Buskett	retrapped 2 nd time (5 years 1 month in all)
162768	3M	27.08.2000	28.10.2001	Rabat	1 year 2 months
<i>ditto</i>			07.03.2004	Rabat	retrapped 2 nd time (3 years 6 months)
163708	3M	21.01.2001	10.03.2005	Buskett	4 years 2 months
162819	3M	14.08.2002	25.09.2005	Buskett	3 years 1 month
173955	2F	05.11.2002	02.01.2005	Rabat	2 years 2 month
177949	4M	09.02.2003	01.01.2006	Buskett	2 years 10 months
179867	3	08.07.2003	17.07.2004	Buskett	1 year
<i>ditto</i>			12.10.2005	Buskett	retrapped 2 nd time (2 years 3 months)
177553	3M	29.08.2003	23.01.2005	Buskett	1 year 4 months
192162	3M	14.09.2003	25.09.2005	Rabat	2 years
173408	2F	16.09.2003	09.07.2005	Mellieħa	1 year 10 month
158478	2F	05.11.2003	14.08.2005	Buskett	1 year 3 months
177821	3F	08.11.2003	02.05.2004	Buskett	6 months
<i>ditto</i>			03.07.2005	Buskett	retrapped 2 nd time (1 year 8 months)

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

3N328	2M	21.10.2002	02.03.2005	Lunzjata Valley	2 years 4 months
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Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

B18059	6M	16.10.1997	05.05.2004	Għadira NR	6 years 7 months
B20028	4M	17.04.1998	29.10.2004	Comino	6 years 4 months
B19338	3J	17.05.1998	10.05.2005	Simar NR	6 years 10 months
B21609	2M	08.07.2000	20.03.2004	Għadira NR	3 years 8 months
<i>ditto</i>			27.06.2005	Għadira NR	retrapped 2 nd time (4 years 11 months in all)

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

191517	2	23.10.2003	02.05.2005	Simar NR	1 year 6 months
B23157	1	18.07.2005	08.08.2005	Buskett	ringed as pullus (retrapped 3 weeks later)

Breeding Visitors

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

FF01175	4	12.07.1988	08.06.2002	Għar Lapsi	13 years 10 months
FF01200	1	06.09.1988	02.06.2002	Għarb, Gozo	13 years 8 months
FF01556	4	15.07.1989	16.07.2005	Filfla	16 years (retrapped as female brooding chick)
FF01440	1	17.08.1989	30.05.2003	Għarb, Gozo	13 years 9 months
FF01547	4F	01.06.1990	08.06.2002	Għar Lapsi	12 years
FF01456	4	06.06.1992	18.07.2001	Filfla	9 years 1 month
FF01791	1	11.09.1992	16.07.2005	Filfla	12 years 10 months (bird killed by humans)

European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus mellitensis*

S5374	4	28.05.1988	16.07.2005	Filfla	17 years 2 months
S5825	4	15.07.1989	16.07.2005	Filfla	17 years
S5828	4	15.07.1989	16.07.2005	Filfla	17 years

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

NT56224	1	19.07.2004	13.07.2005	Għadira NR	1 year
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Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

119664	3	30.08.1996	05.06.2000	Simar NR	4 years retrapped as a breeding adult female
164236	4	15.05.2001	05.07.2005	Simar NR	4 years 2 months
191412	3	25.06.2003	02.05.2005	Simar NR	1 year 11 months
<i>ditto</i>			13.07.2005	Simar NR	retrapped 2 nd time (2 years 1 month in all)
191413	3	25.06.2003	05.05.2005	Simar NR	1 year 10 months
<i>ditto</i>			15.07.2005	Simar NR	retrapped 2 nd time (2 years 1 month in all)
191421	3	07.07.2003	28.04.2005	Simar NR	1 year 10 month

Winter Visitors

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

DD01354	6M	06.11.2000	12.11.2001	Simar NR	1 year
DB78733	2F	06.12.2003	11.01.2004	Għadira NR	1 month 5 days
<i>ditto</i>			02.04.2005	Għadira NR	retrapped 2 nd time (1 year 5 months in all)

II-Merill 32 2010

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

7E106	2	31.10.2000	17.02.2005	Simar NR	4 years 4 months
0H606	4	19.02.2001	05.03.2005	Lunzjata Valley	4 years 1 month
2H655	4	13.02.2002	11.03.2004	Ghadira NR	2 years 1 month
<i>ditto</i>			26.02.2005	Ghadira NR	retrapped 2 nd time (3 years in all)
1N355	2	18.11.2003	10.03.2004	Ghadira NR	4 months
1N415	2	27.12.2003	28.01.2005	Ghadira NR	1 year 1 month
0N245	4	03.02.2004	08.01.2005	Buskett	11 months

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

122018	2F	24.12.1997	23.01.2000	Buskett	2 years 1 month
140239	4M	23.03.1998	11.02.2001	Lunzjata Valley	2 years 11 months
162308	2F	30.12.1998	21.02.2004	Rabat	4 years and 2 months
145066	4M	24.01.1999	17.03.2000	Buskett	1 year 2 months
<i>ditto</i>			23.02.2005	Buskett	retrapped 2 nd time (6 years 1 month in all)
150439	2M	31.10.1999	03.11.2002	Rabat	3 years
152265	4F	30.01.2000	26.01.2003	Buskett	3 years
162590	4M	16.03.2000	26.03.2005	Rabat	5 years
171497	3M	10.11.2001	26.02.2005	Ghadira NR	3 years 3 months
171800	2F	05.12.2001	27.11.2004	Ghadira NR	2 years 11 months
<i>ditto</i>			08.02.2005	Ghadira NR	retrapped 2 nd time (3 years 2 months in all)
179705	4F	05.01.2003	20.01.2005	Buskett	2 years
158382	4F	09.03.2003	09.03.2005	Rabat	2 years
187879	3F	10.12.2003	23.03.2005	Ghadira NR	1 year 4 months
177861	4M	08.02.2004	06.02.2005	Buskett	1 year
191633	4F	28.01.2004	10.01.2005	Simar NR	1 year

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

CC1298	3	14.11.2002	06.11.2005	Rabat	3 years
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Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

142818	4	25.10.1997	05.01.2000	Simar NR	2 years 2 months
163395	3	19.10.2000	16.01.2002	Simar NR	1 year 3 months
171418	3	06.11.2001	13.03.2004	Ghadira NR	2 years 5 months
<i>ditto</i>			16.11.2004	Ghadira NR	retrapped 2 nd time (3years)
<i>ditto</i>			14.01.2005	Ghadira NR	retrapped 3 rd time (3 years 2 months in all)
180510	3	07.11.2002	27.10.2004	Ghadira NR	1 year 11 months
<i>ditto</i>			24.11.2004	Ghadira NR	retrapped 2 nd time (2 years)
<i>ditto</i>			21.03.2005	Ghadira NR	retrapped 3 rd time (2 years 4 months in all)
177801	3	25.10.2003	05.01.2005	Buskett	1 year 2 months
187562	3	20.10.2003	14.01.2005	Ghadira NR	1 year 3 months
195697	3	24.11.2004	27.09.2005	Mellieha	10 months

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

141426	3M	19.10.1987	11.11.2003	Ghadira NR	6 years
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Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

118496	5M	11.02.2001	02.11.2005	Lunzjata Valley	4 years 9 months
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Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

192278	3	16.11.2003	29.11.2005	Rabat	2 years
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Migrants

(Wryneck sometimes over-winter)

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

B17915	2	11.10.2003	18.03.2004	Ghadira NR	5 months
<i>ditto</i>			30.10.2004	Ghadira NR	retrapped 2 nd time (1 year)
<i>ditto</i>			24.03.2005	Ghadira NR	retrapped 3 rd time (1 year 5 months in all)
B29205	2	24.09.2004	23.09.2005	Simar NR	1 year

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

195115	3	09.09.2004	29.08.2005	Buskett	11 months (retrapped on its 2nd journey to Africa)
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ERRATA (II-Merill No. 32)

Page 116: Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* – details for the same ring number were printed twice (as AG88187 and 88187). The details of this recovery should read as follows:

AG 88187	3	02.08.2004	Saeftinghe, Sieperda, Zeeland 51°21'N; 41°03'E Netherlands
	v	09.08.2005	Għadira Nature Reserve, Mellieħa, Malta 1,954km SE

Page 117: Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* – details for the same ring number (4671299) were printed twice. There is only one recovery of Pied Flycatcher and it should read as follows:

4671299	3	13.09.2002	Stoa, Saint-Louise, Haut-Rhin, 47°36'N; 07°32' France
	v	30.04.2005	Wied I-Aħmar, Comino, Malta 1,541km SE

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