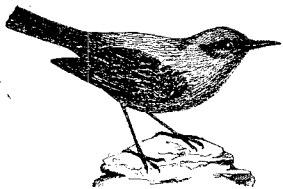


*(Photo B.P. Grenfell)*

**The head of a Blackcap.**



# IL-MERILL

BULLETIN OF THE MALTA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

No. 7 April 1972

10c to non-Members



# IL-MERILL

The title of the Society's Bulletin, IL-MERILL, is the Maltese name for the Blue Rock Thrush, *Monticola solitarius*, which is one of the few resident species of the Islands. It was chosen as the National Bird of Malta by the local National Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation and has been the emblem of the Malta Ornithological Society since the latter's inception.

*Editor*

Bro. Edmund

*St. Michael's Training College, St. Julian's, Malta*

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## MALTA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Cover picture: Blue Rock Thrush (photo: M.D. England).

**EDITORIAL**

It was with deep regret that we heard of the death of Mr. B. Masters which occurred on January 17th at the Blue Nuns Hospital. He had been a faithful member of the M.O.S. for some years and was at one time the devoted editor of the Quarterly Bulletin when it was published in duplicated form. We express our deepest sympathy and thanks to his dear wife. May he rest in peace.

This issue, number 7, of Il-Merill marks the third year of its publication. As we made issue number 6 a ringing number, giving details of four years records we are omitting the ringing records for 1971 which will appear in our next issue.

The Malta Ornithological Society has now reached the tenth year of its existence and much has been achieved in this decade and 1971, in particular, was most fruitful in bird studies and also bird conservation, as can easily be perceived by perusing our records in the last three numbers.

The International Council for Bird Preservation (I C B P) has very intimate connections with M O S and it tries to achieve its aims by working closely with it. The I C B P proudly celebrates its Golden Jubilee of foundation in 1972. It was the first international organization to be formed for the preservation of nature and as the years go by it can be quite proud of its many achievements in most countries of the world in saving millions of birds from slaughter and rescuing not a few species threatened with extinction. Malta is on the list of member countries and in its own small way shares in the achievements of this noble society. We hope in a later issue this year to publish an article on I C B P and to give an account of their 10th Conference held in Rumania.

Meanwhile we look ahead with confidence and appeal to all our readers and friends to do their utmost to help on the good work of bird protection and to try to enrol more members for the Society and increase our funds so that our aims can be more successfully achieved.