





IL-MERILL

MALTA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN OF THE MALTA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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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: Meadow Pipit (E. Hosking).

Editor's Note:

This fifth issue of *Il-Merill* is no ordinary one for it is the fruit of several years of labour and record keeping. There has been a number of keen ornithologists in the past but we doubt if there has been such a constant day to day checking of the status of all resident and migrant birds as has been carried out by the active members of Malta Ornithological Society in the past four years. The results as printed in this issue are a real contribution to the bird section of Natural History and we are rightly proud of this.

In 1967 the M O S issued monthly newsletters which included bird notes. These continued to appear in the cyclo-styled Quarterly Bulletin during 1968-69. These notes have also been appearing in the last two years in various issues of *Il-Merill*. This issue then contains a comprehensive list of birds for the period 1967-70. Thus it is now possible to show clearly the present status of birds in our islands.

It has been our custom to print the English and scientific names of each species. In this issue the Maltese name is added. This has presented no small difficulty as previous authorities gave one or more Maltese names to the same species and often these names varied from one village to another. Many Maltese do not know the proper names of a large number of species and we have attempted through the efforts of a sub-committee to bring some order out of chaos and we hope that our list of names will eventually become standardised and accepted in local literature.

Naturally we have been very careful in our acceptance of records and any of a doubtful nature have been carefully vetted by the Rarities sub-committee. Quite a number of our records have been obtained by visits to various taxidermists and we are grateful for their collaboration.