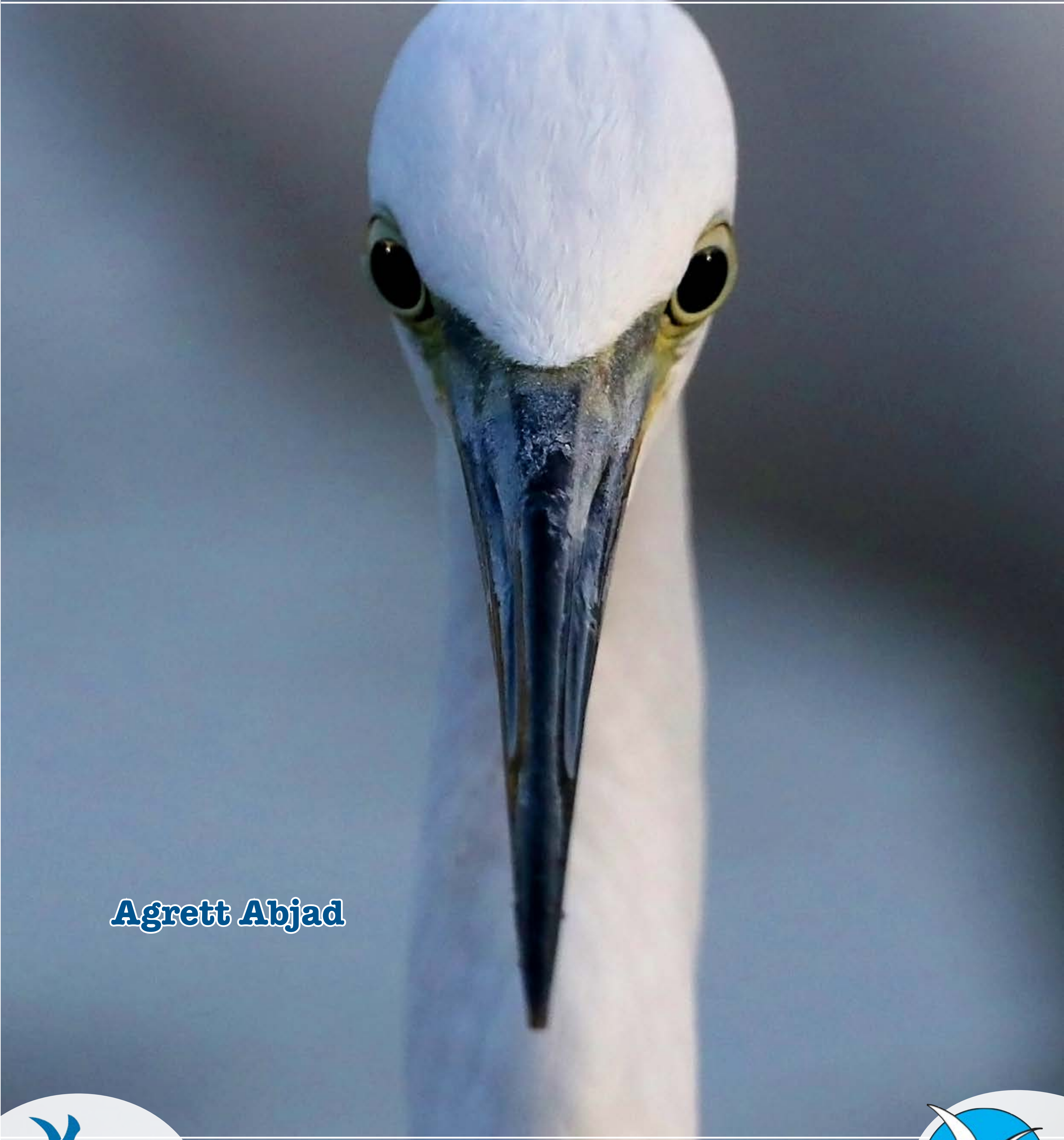
il-Ħuttafa

Numru 177

Lulju - Awwissu 2023



Agrett Abjad

Il-magażin ta' Klabb Ħuttaf

Aron Tanti

Par sultan sewdien *(lesser emperor)*. Ir-raġel fuq quddiem jindokra lis-sieħba waqt li hi tbid fl-ilma ta' għadira.

mill-editur

Ħbieb naturalisti..

"Hemm xi ġralek? Weġġajt?"

"Kont qed naqla' l-imħar u qtajt idi bis-sikkina.."

"Fittex itla' agħmlilha stikk, ħi!"

"Owkej, imma ara x'borża mlejt!"

Dal-kliem smajtu ftit ilu f'xatt il-baħar qabel ma nżilt nagħmel ftit *snorkelling*. Qalbi għamlet tikk! Jumejn qabel, f'dan l-istess xatt kont sibt blata kbira mal-ilma mimlija mħar u anke kont ħadtilhom xi ritratti. Ilbist malajr il-maskla u l-flipers u għomt sa dik il-blata, u hekk kien: dik il-mara kienet żarmat blata sħiħa mħar!

Victor Falzon

"Iva mela ma jġibux ikel magħhom dan-nies!" bdejt ingerger u nitmasħan waħdi.

Kos, min jaf x'qatgħa tieħu l-ħajja tax-xatt meta jasal is-sajf u jaslu l-bnedmin! Għax kollox inżarmaw.

Forsi qed tgħidu: "Dan l-għaġeb kollu għal biċċa mħara!"

Irridu niftakru li fin-natura l-annimali ma jgħixux weħidhom. Huma parti minn bizzilla sħiħa ta' ħajja, dik li kif tafu ngħidulha *food chain* jew *food web* – in-nisġa tal-ikel, fejn l-annimali għandhom bżonn lil xulxin u lill-pjanti.

Meta nieħdu min-natura nkunu qed inżarrtu biċċa minn dik in-nisġa, u forsi ma nindunawx xi ħsara nkunu qed nagħmlu.

Jekk flokk toħroġlok ħajta minnu, għandek taqtagħha? Le, għax kif jgħidlek min jifhem fil-ħjata, dik il-ħajta marbuta ma' ħajta oħra, u dik ma' oħra, eċċ. Jekk dik il-ħajta taqtagħha tispiċċa b'toqba daqsxiex fil-flokk! U naħseb taqblu li flokk b'toqba fih żgur ma tużahx iktar, għax tkun irvinajtu.

Għalhekk irridu nippruvaw ma nagħmlux toqob fin-natura, ħalli ma nirvinawhiex!

Victor

Victor Falzon L-Editur

FUQ QUDDIEM

Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti

Agrett Abjad

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

L-agrett abjad huwa membru fil-familja tal-irsieset *(herons)*. F'Malta huwa l-iktar speċi ta' russett li naraw regolari. Bħall-irsieset l-oħrajn, l-agrett abjad narawh l-iktar fit-tliet *wetlands* tal-BirdLife, jiġifieri l-Għadira, Is-Simar u s-Salina. Hemmhekk joqgħod jistad għall-ħut u l-gambli.

Klabb Ħuttaf · Dinja Waħda · BirdLife MALTA

F'dil-ħarġa...

Mill-editur	2
Aħbarijiet	3
X'għandna mid-dinja?	3
Għaliex?	4
L-għasafar kollha!	5
Fejn hi l-ħuta?	5
Marine heatwaves	6
Is-Sendikajri!	7
Agrett vs Gawwija	8–9
Nettunu moħbi!	10
Agħtiha l-kulur	11
Photo Gallery	11
Young Birders Club	12
Ħaxix il-Baħar	13
Riparian woodland	14
Is-Sultan	15
Summer Fair!	16

Kitbu

Thais Amaral (National Aquarium), Mattia Dalcielo, Elena (Ecohive), Desirée Falzon, Victor Falzon, Edwin Lanfranco

Klabb Ħuttaf

Klabb Ħuttaf is the junior (under 16) section of BirdLife Malta. Members

- can attend club activities, like walks, birdwatching, visits to nature reserves, boat trips and work to help nature
- receive *Il-Ħuttafa* every two months.

Your family too can become member, and you will then get *Bird's Eye View* magazine too. Annual subscription is €10 for Klabb Ħuttaf and €20 for Family.

Kuntatti

tel **21347645 / 21347646**
emergency injured bird 79255697
address **57/28 Triq Abate Rigord**
Ta' Xbiex XBX 1120
email **info@birdlifemalta.org**
website **www.birdlifemalta.org**

© BirdLife Malta, Awwissu 2023

Design and production Victor Falzon
Printer at Poulton's Print on
sustainably sourced paper

Reg.Vol.Org. VO/0052

Home sweet home !

Il-**ħuttaf** *(barn swallow)* u l-**ħawwief** *(northern house martin)* narawhom l-iktar fil-passa tar-rebbiegħa u tal-ħarifa. Kultant xi waħdiet jieqfu u jbejtu. Sa 15-il sena ilu dil-ħaġa kienet rarità, imma l-istampa donnha qed tinbidel...

Aron Tanti

Ħuttafa

F'dawn l-aħħar snin xi pari ħuttaf bdew ibejtu kull sena speċjalment f'Għawdex, u aktarx li hemmhekk stabilixxew popolazzjoni u forsi qed jinfirxu wkoll. Fir-ritratt tidher bejta ta' din is-sena li nstabet fis-Siġġiewi.

Aron Tanti

Ħawwiefa

Il-ħawwiefa s'issa għadna m'aħniex ċerti li tbejjet kull sena (impossibli tiċċekkja kull rokna tal-Gżejjer Maltin!). Dis-sena nstabet [1]kolonja żgħira f'Ħal Far. Uħud mill-bejtiet jidher li tkissru jew insterqu mill-għasafar tal-bejt! Oħrajn irnexxew. Fir-ritratt tidher waħda minn dawn il-bejtiet.

Victor Falzon

ir-Rizzi protetti!

Ħafna nies iħobbi t-togħma tar-rizzi. Imma wara studju li sar, instab li r-rizzi qegħdin fil-periklu li jinqerdu. Għalhekk għas-sentejn li ġejjin sar kontra l-liġi li jinġabru rizzi mill-baħar. Sadattant qed jitrabbew ukoll rizzi fil-magħluq ħalli mbagħad jintelqu fil-baħar, bit-tama li l-popolazzjoni terġa' tieħu r-ruħ. Prosit tassew!

[1]**kolonja.** Grupp ta' annimali tal-istess speċi li jbejtu jew jgħixu fi grupp viċin ta' xulxin

Victor Falzon

Ħondoq ir-Rummien SALVAT!

Żmien twil ilu, fl-2002, konna ħabbarna f'*Il-Ħuttafa* li xi ħadd ried jiżviluppa l-bajja ħelwa ta' Ħondoq ir-Rummien f'Għawdex. Riedu jibnu raħal sħiħ, marina għall-jottijiet, ristoranti, lukandi, vilel, parkeġġi, eċċ. L-iżviluppaturi riedu jeqirdu roqgħa naturali f'Għawdex. Biex huma jsiru biljunarji.

L-għaqdiet ambjentali, inkluż il-BirdLife, ipprotestaw kontra dan l-iżvilupp bla sens. Il-kwistjoni damet sejra s-snin.

Ftit ġimgħat ilu, wara kważi 21 sena, il-Qorti kkonfermat darba għal dejjem li l-proġett ma jistax isir!

Grazzi lil kull min iġġieled u pprotesta kontra dal-proġett mostru. Grazzi speċjali lis-sindku tal-Qala Paul Buttiġieġ, li mexxa l-kampanja u stinka ħafna biex dil-ġennata ma ssirx.

X'għandna mid-dinja?

L-Amazon tibda tfiq...

Lula da Silva, il-President il-ġdid tal-**Brażil**, kien ħalef li malli jsir President jibda jwaqqaf il-qerda tal-Foresta Amazon. Il-ministru ħabrieka tal-ambjent Marina Silva qed taċċerta li jżomm kelmtu! Skont ritratti mis-satellita, il-qtugħ ta' siġar f'Lulju li għadda **naqas b'66%** meta mqabbel ma' Lulju tas-sena l-oħra (meta kien għadu President Bolsonaro). Prosit Brażil, aħbar li ilna s-snin nixxenqu għaliha!

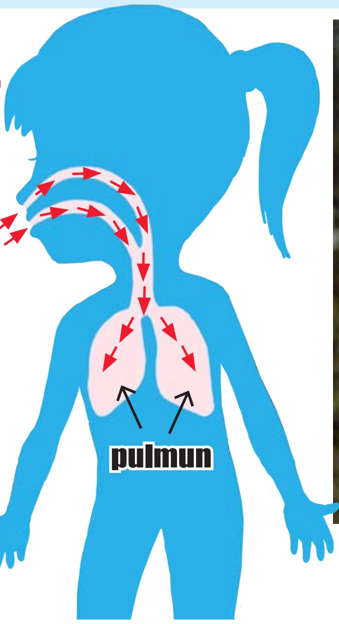
Kos, kemm il-President u l-ministru tal-ambjent tal-Brażil għandhom **silva** f'kunjomhom. Silva tfisser **foresta**!

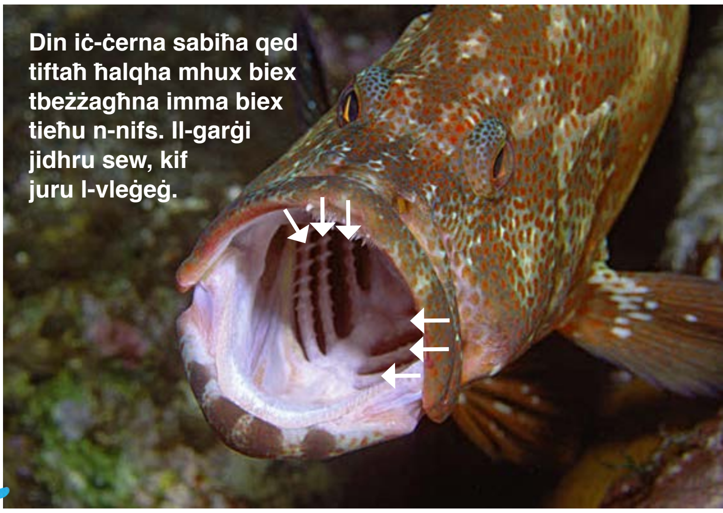
Desirée Falzon

4 Għaliex ma nistgħux nieħdu n-nifs taħt l-ilma ?

Bis-saħħa tal-pulmun...

L-annimali għandhom bżonn l-ossiġnu biex jgħixu. Aħna l-bnedmin u l-annimali l-oħra tal-art nieħdu l-ossiġnu mill-arja ta' madwarna. L-arja fiha taħlita ta' gassijiet differenti. L-ossiġnu huwa wieħed minn dawn il-gassijiet u minnu hemm 21% fl-arja; il-gassijiet l-oħra mhumiex tajbin għalina. Meta nieħdu n-nifs, il-**pulmuni** tagħna jiġbdu l-arja 'l ġewwa, iżommu l-ossiġnu, u jarmu 'l barra l-bqija tal-gassijiet.





Din iċ-ċerna sabiħa qed tiftaħ ħalqha mhux biex tbeżżagħna imma biex tieħu n-nifs. Il-garġi jidhru sew, kif juru l-vleġeġ.

Fl-ilma ma jaħdimx!

Fl-ilma wkoll hemm l-ossiġnu, imma fl-ilma l-ossiġnu huwa *ħafna* iktar rari milli hu fl-arja... xi 0.6% biss! Għalhekk fl-ilma l-pulmuni tagħna ma jistgħux jieħdu nifs, għax ġisimna għandu bżonn ħafna iktar ossiġnu minn hekk.

Organu differenti...

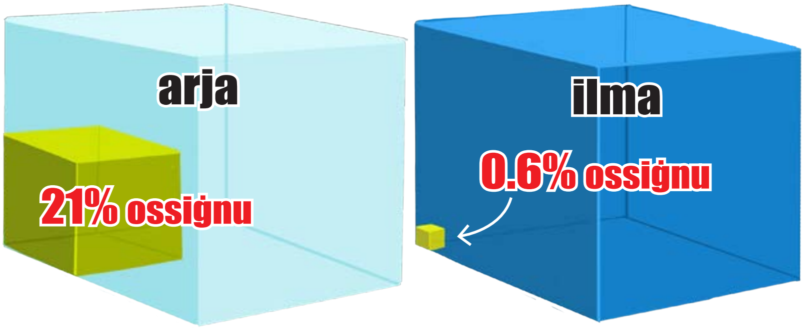
Biex tieħu n-nifs fl-ilma mhux pulmun trid, imma organu differenti. L-annimali li jgħixu fl-ilma evolvew il-**garġi**, bl-Ingliż *gills*. Dan l-organu kapaċi jiġbed biżżejjed ossiġnu mill-ilma biex l-annimal jgħix.

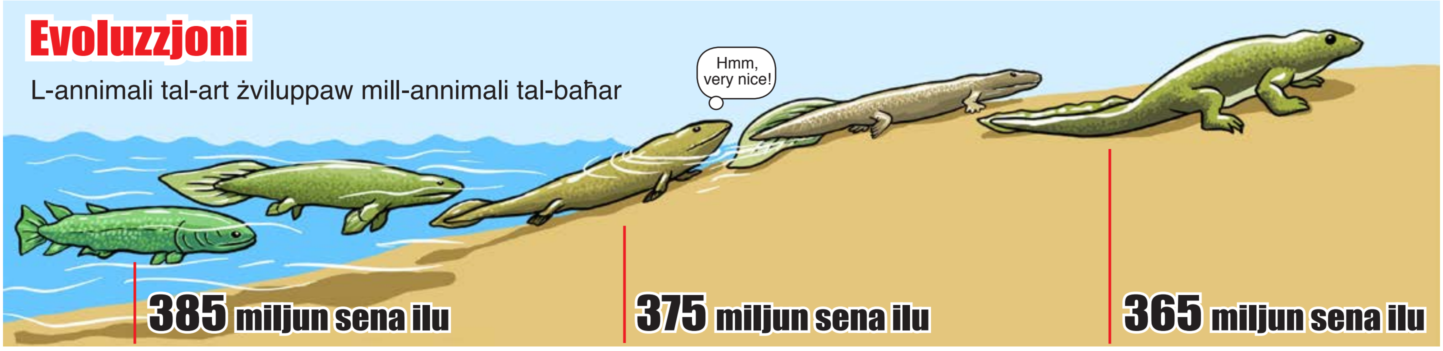
Ġejna mill-baħar!

Tgħid kieku kellna l-garġi nkunu nistgħu nieħdu nifs taħt l-ilma? Iva, imma kieku kellna l-garġi, dawn kienu jkunu enormi, għax ġisimna għandu bżonn ħafna iktar ossiġnu biex jgħix, milli pereżempju l-ħut.

Kontu tafu li ħafna mill-annimali tal-art (inkluż in-nies) evolvew mill-ħut, iktar minn 370 miljun sena ilu? Fil-fatt, meta tarbija tkun għadha qed tifforma, ikollha *gill slits* f'għonqha. Sintendi dawn ix-xquq jisparixxu sa ma t-tarbija titwieled.

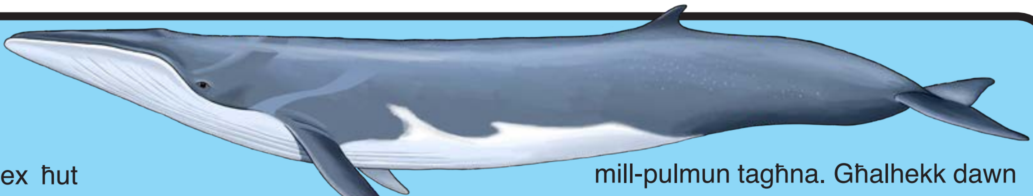
Fl-ilma l-ossiġnu huwa ħafna iktar skars milli fl-arja.





Victor Falzon

Champions tan-nifs!



Victor Falzon

Id-**dniefel** u l-**balieni** mhumiex ħut u m'għandhomx garġi. Għandhom pulmun bħalna, u għalhekk kultant ħin ikollhom jitilgħu fil-wiċċ ħalli jieħdu n-nifs mill-arja. Il-pulmun tal-balieni l-kbar, bħall-baliena kaħla *(blue whale)* huwa ħafna iktar effiċjenti minn tagħna, għax kapaċi jiffiltra ħafna iktar ossiġnu ma' kull nifs mill-pulmun tagħna. Għalhekk dawn l-annimali jistgħu joqogħdu anke sagħtejn taħt l-ilma fuq nifs wieħed. Dniefel u balieni żgħar ikollhom jitilgħu kull ftit minuti.

Ritratti Ian Balzan, Denis Cachia, Victor Falzon, Raymond Galea, Aron Tanti, Raymond Vella

L-Għasafar KOLLHA ta' Malta

F'Malta s'issa dehru ftit **iktar minn 400 speċi** ta' għasafar. Xi speċi huma komuni, oħrajn rari, uħud iżuruna ftit ġranet fis-sena, oħrajn jgħixu magħna s-sena kollha. F'dis-sensiela qed inġibu l-lista kollha! Dawn huma **Numri 81 sa 90**...

81

Isem Malti
Paletta
Isem Ingliż
Eurasian Spoonbill
Isem xjentifiku
Platalea leucorodia

82

Isem Malti
Velleran
Isem Ingliż
Glossy Ibis
Isem xjentifiku
Plegadis falcinellus

83

Isem Malti
Kappun
Isem Ingliż
Eurasian Bittern
Isem xjentifiku
Botaurus stellaris

84

Isem Malti
Russett tas-Siġar
Isem Ingliż
Common Little Bittern
Isem xjentifiku
Ixobrychus minutus

85

Isem Malti
Kwakka
Isem Ingliż
Black-crowned Night-heron
Isem xjentifiku
Nycticorax nycticorax

86

Isem Malti
Agrett Isfar
Isem Ingliż
Squacco Heron
Isem xjentifiku
Ardeola ralloides

87

Isem Malti
Agrett tal-Bhejjem
Isem Ingliż
Cattle Egret
Isem xjentifiku
Bubulcus ibis

88

Isem Malti
Russett Griż
Isem Ingliż
Grey Heron
Isem xjentifiku
Ardea cinerea

89

Isem Malti
Russett Aħmar
Isem Ingliż
Purple Heron
Isem xjentifiku
Ardea purpurea

90

Isem Malti
Russett Abjad
Isem Ingliż
Great White Egret
Isem xjentifiku
Ardea alba

Lista approvata minn BirdLife Malta. Għalkemm xi speċi magħrufin b'iktar minn isem wieħed, dawn huma l-ismijiet uffiċjali bil-Malti li tuża BirdLife Malta. L-ismijiet bl-Ingliż u xjentifiċi huma dawk li tuża BirdLife International (www.birdlife.org)

Mark-Anthony Falzon

Fejn hi l-ħuta? X'ħuta?

Fil-baħar il-logħba tal-kamuflaxx hija komuni. Fost l-esperti tal-kamuflaxx hemm ħuta li lanqas jekk tkun qed tħares lejha ma tinduna biha, speċjalment jekk madwarek hemm xi alka! Fir-ritratt hemm waħda... sibtuha jew? Hekk hu, din mhix werqa alka imma ħuta! Jgħidulha gremxula *(pipefish)* u hija kuġina taż-żiemel il-baħar *(seahorse).*

MARINE HEATWAVES

MALTA NATIONAL AQUARIUM

It's been so hot recently, right? And even the sea has been getting warmer... but why is this happening?

WHAT IS A HEATWAVE?

A 'heatwave' is simply a period when the temperature of the sea or the air is too hot for that time of year.

THE MEDITERRANEAN ISSUE

Because the Mediterranean doesn't mix with other seas that much, it is harder for colder waters from other seas to enter, so it is particularly at risk of warming up faster.

IS THIS CONNECTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE? YES!

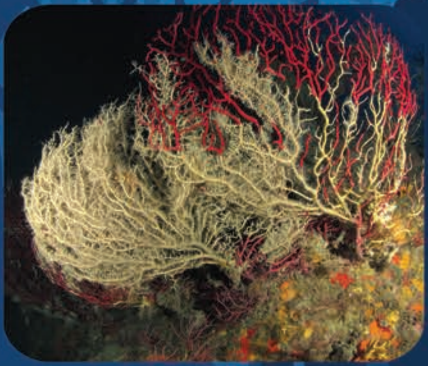
Climate change is making heatwaves more common and much hotter than they used to be, including in the sea. Researchers even predict that by 2100 the Mediterranean could be up to 4 degrees hotter than it is now - which is a lot!

SWIM AWAY!

Fish, plants and other sea creatures can't have a cold shower or put on the air con to cool off like us - they're already underwater and there is nowhere to escape. But some sea creatures can actually swim to deeper waters where it is colder! The problem is, if sea creatures like corals and seagrass can't move to somewhere cooler, they will die.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Anything which helps fight climate change will help with marine heatwaves. Using fossil fuels, overconstruction, coastal development, pollution... we need stop all of that! This also involves putting pressure into governments to transition to greener energy, as well as overall changing how we eat and live in a society.



Is-Sendikajri!

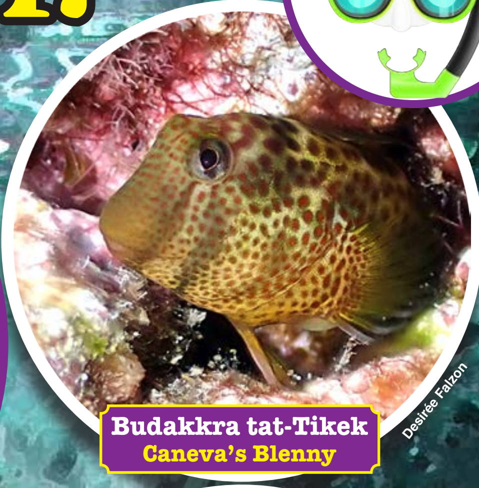
Biex tgawdi l-budakkri għandek bżonn maskla u pajp.

Il-ħut kollha għandhom il-karattru tagħhom. Uħud huma kurjużi, oħrajn imgerrxin, oħrajn jafdawk. Il-**budakkri** (*blennies*) huma grupp ta' ħut żgħar simpatiċi, kurjużi imma aktarx ftit mistħijin. Minħabba f'hekk ħafna minnhom iħobbu jistaħbew f'toqob fil-blat, biex kif iħossu l-periklu jisparixxu! Dawn huma disgħa minnhom...

Fil-baħar baxx madwar xtutna jgħixu diversi speċi ta' budakkri. Ħafna minnhom issibhom anke fi ftit ċentimetri ilma. Fihom gost toqgħod tfittixhom u tistenniehom joħorġu jittawlu ħalli jissendikaw x'int tagħmel! Jekk tħajjarhom b'farka ħobż uħud anke jiġu jieklu minn idek!

Din iktar tippreferi tistaħba qalb iċ-ċagħaq milli fit-toqob.

Budakkra tal-Ghalla
Peacock Blenny
Victor Falzon



Budakkra tat-Tikek
Caneva's Blenny
Desirée Falzon

Din tħobb id-dell u ftit mistħija.

Budakkra Żebbuġa
Sphinx Blenny
Victor Falzon

Budakkra tal-Qroll
Zvonimir's Blenny
Mark-Anthony Falzon

Din żgħira ħafna...

... xi 3ċm kollox!

Budakkra Żgħira
Dalmatian Blenny
Desirée Falzon

Din żaqqieqa, malajr tiġi għall-ħobż!

Budakkra tal-Frenża
Molly Miller
Victor Falzon

Budakkra tar-Rig
Striped Blenny
Mark-Anthony Falzon

Budakkra tal-Faxxi
Diabolo Blenny
Victor Falzon

Dil-budakkra tvarja sew fil-kulur.

Budakkra Safra
Ringneck Blenny
Desirée Falzon

Agrett Abjad vs Gawwija Prima

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* vs Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti meħud fir-riserva naturali tal-Għadira

BirdLife MALTA

Ħbieb,
Fl-aħħar edizzjoni, kont semmejtilkom il-Passaport ta' Heritage Malta li bih nistgħu nżuru ħafna siti ta' Heritage Malta b'xejn.

Kont il-Belt mal-ġenituri tiegħi w erġajt ridt inżur il-Mużew tal-Arkeoloġija u s-sala majestuża magħrufa bħala l-Gran Salon. Kif dħalna f'din is-sala, ħaġa tal-iskantament sibna parti mill-ħajt maqlugħ minn postu u diversi nies imdawrin ma' fejn kien hemm il-ħajt maqlugħ.

Ta' kurjuża li jien, mort nistaqsi x'kien ġara. Waħda mir-restawraturi ta' Heritage Malta qaltli li din is-sala kienet imżejna fi żmien il-Kavallieri, imbagħad fi żmien l-Ingliżi, dawn kienu għattew il-pitturi kollha li kien hemm mal-ħajt b'dawk li hemm jidhru llum. Pero`, kien hemm daħla fil-ħajt fejn kien hemm fireplace li kienet ġiet mgħottija, u b'hekk, il-pitturi oriġinali baqgħu moħbijin hemm wara.

F'dawn l-aħħar snin, għaddej proċess kbir ta' restawr f'din is-sala, permezz tal-għajnuna tal-Bank of Valletta. Waqt ir-restawr, tneħħa xi tikħil li kien qed jaqa`, u r-restawraturi raw ftit żebgħa li ma kellha xejn x'taqsam mal-bqija tat-tiżjin tas-sala.

Dan ħoloq eċċitament kbir fost ir-restawraturi għax issuspettaw li hemm xi pitturi moħbija wara dan il-ħajt. Wara numru ta' studji xjentifiċi, nqala' il-ġebel li kien qed jagħlaq din id-daħla u skoprew pittura ta' Nettunu, l-Alla Ruman tal-baħar, li x'aktarx tmur lura għall-aħħar tas-seklu 17 jew il-bidu tas-seklu 18. Nettunu, f'kulur ħadrani biex x'aktarx jimita l-istatwi tal-bronż, jinsab bilqiegħda ġo arzella kbira. Taħt idu x-xellugija nsibu ġarra tnixxi l-ilma filwaqt li qed iżomm froxxna f'idu l-leminija. Huwa wkoll imdawwar b'diversi oġġetti tal-baħar fosthom ħut u arzelli oħra.

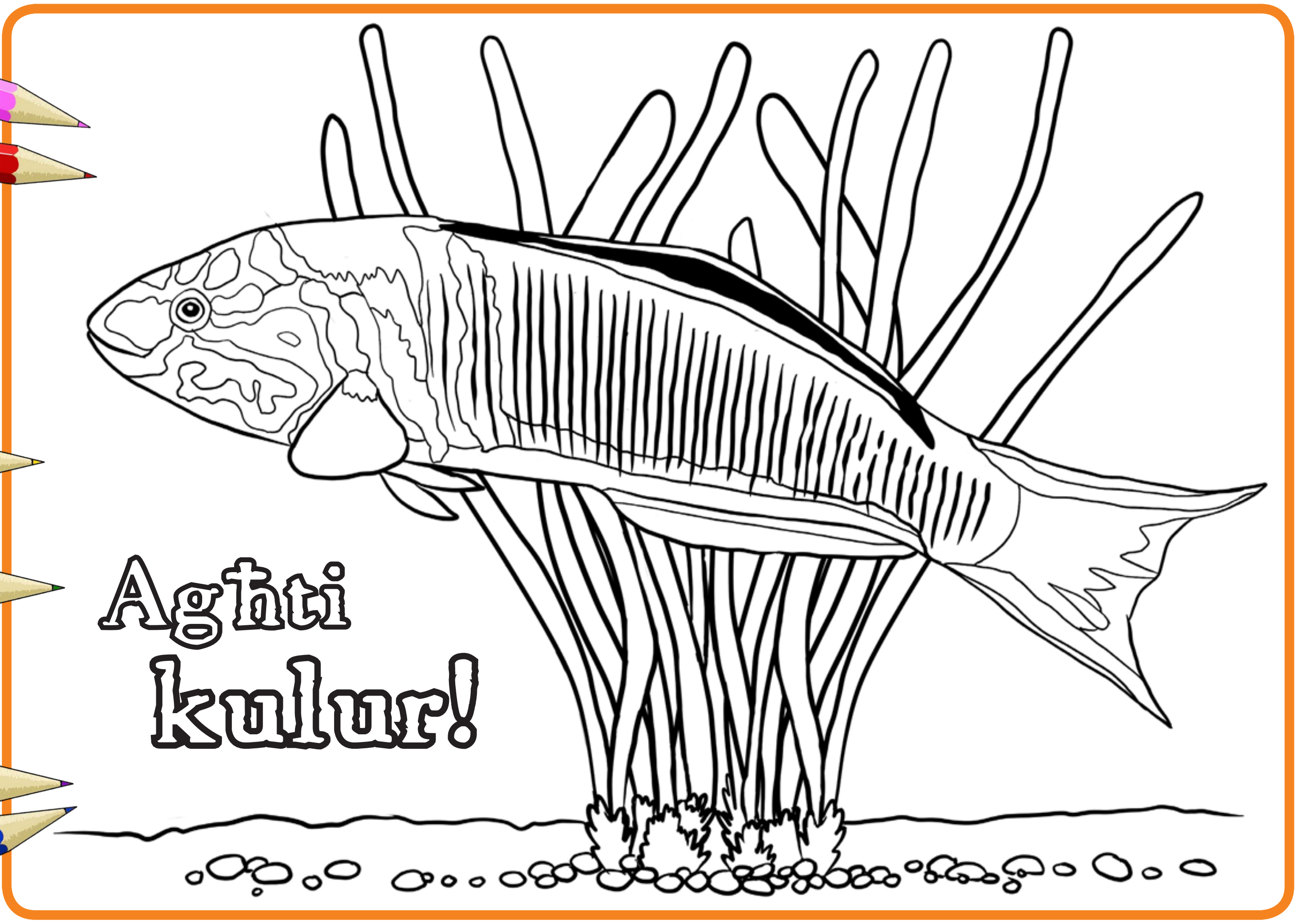
Kemm ħadt pjaċir li kont waħda mill-ewwel nies li qed jaraw din il-pittura li qed terġa' tara d-dawl wara mijiet ta' snin permezz tal-kollaborazzjoni bejn Heritage Malta u l-Bank of Valletta.

Issued by Bank of Valletta p.l.c., 58, Triq San Zakkarija, Il-Belt Valletta VLT 1130.

Bank of Valletta p.l.c. is a public limited company regulated by the MFSA and is licensed to carry out the business of banking in terms of the Banking Act (Cap. 371 of the Laws of Malta).

BOV Bank of Valletta

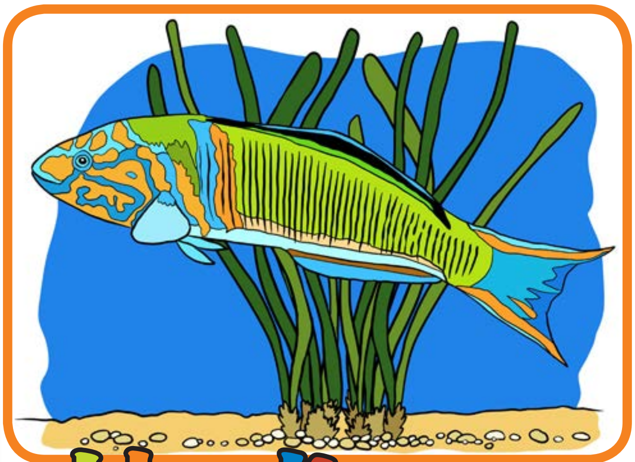
Agħti kulur!



Victor Falzon

Photo Gallery

Seffud tat-Terrapien
Ritratt ta' Francesco Catania 9



il-Lhudi

Komuni ħafna madwar xtutna, speċjalment f'inħawi bil-blat. Ikkulurit ħafna, taħsbu ħuta tropikali, u jvarja fil-kulur skont l-età.

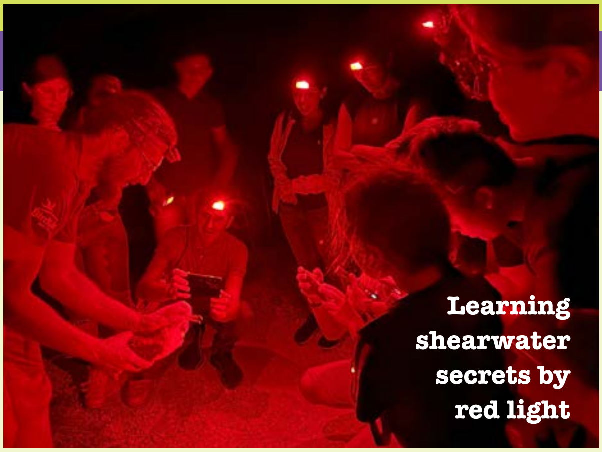
n Days! Club Days! Fun Days! Clu

Young Birders Club

Hi, my name is **Mattia Dalcielo**, I am 13 years old. I joined BirdLife's Young Birders Club right from the start and I have now been birding for the past two years. We shared many birdwatching experiences together through all sorts of trips, and birding is now an important part of my life.

L-Imtaħleb and Miġra l-Ferħa

Our first ever night outing, and a really nice one. During this trip we could hear the **Scopoli's shearwaters** calling really loudly (they sound like crying babies!) and we managed to get recordings of both males (a thinner voice) and females (a hoarser voice). We also watched the shearwaters with a thermal camera. On top of this we also had an astronomy experience with really knowledgeable people from the Astronomical Society of Malta. They showed us cool things with their telescope and taught us a lot of interesting facts. I also got to try out my astronomy app – and it worked!



Learning shearwater secrets by red light

Mad about gulls!

Apart from birding with the club, I also go birding with my friends or with my parents. I enjoy going to Salina Nature Reserve as I am a big fan of gulls. Many gull species can be found at Salina in winter, including yellow-legged gull, black-headed gull, Mediterranean gull and lesser black-backed gull.

Not everyone likes these birds but I enjoy watching and photographing them. Another group of water birds that visit Salina are the waders, such as common sandpiper and little stint.

Mattia Dalcielo

Looking forward...

Boat trip

One trip I really look forward to is the boat trip to watch black terns near the Marsaskala fishfarms. Last year we enjoyed photographing **black terns** and **European storm-petrels** and we were really lucky to see a **Swinhoe's storm-petrel** – a super rare bird for Malta. I wonder what this year's trip will bring.

Kemmuna

Another activity I really look forward to is the club's Kemmuna trip, held once in spring and once in autumn. I've joined these trips three times so far and on each trip we all saw some pretty amazing stuff. Kemmuna is barely touched by people outside the main bay, and birds find it a good place to stay for a while. The ringing at BirdLife's Ringing Station on Kemmuna never disappoints!

Mattia Dalcielo

A ringed whinchat on Kemmuna, shortly before release

I highly recommend birding to everyone my age. It's a really fun experience and there's always something exciting to look forward to. Joining this club is a very good way to get started since it's great for finding different species of birds and making new friends.

The **Young Birders Club** is part of **Klabb Ħuttaf**. To join the group ask your parents to email **nicholas.galea@birdlifemalta.org**

Ħaxix il-Baħar

kitba **Edwin Lanfranco**

Il-baħar jagħti ħajja lil varjetà kbira ta' ħlejjaq: ħut, granċi, gambli, bebbux, artikli, eċċ. Imma minbarra annimali hemm ukoll ħafna pjanti li jgħixu fil-baħar, li ftit nagħtu kashom. Il-parti l-kbira tal-pjanti li jgħixu fil-baħar qegħdin fil-familja kbira tal-**algi**.

L-algi huma pjanti bi struttura iżjed sempliċi minn dik tal-pjanti tal-art. L-algi m'għandhomx bżonn sistemi ta' tubi ġo fihom biex iwasslu l-ilma u s-sustanzi minn parti għall-oħra tal-pjanta. Dan għaliex l-algi jgħixu fl-ilma, u s-sustanzi jiħduhom direttament mill-baħar.

Hemm varjetà kbira ta' algi. Il-parti l-kbira minnhom jappartjenu għal tliet gruppi: **algi ħodor**, **algi ħomor** u **algi kannella**. Hawnhekk ħa nsemmu xi ftit mill-ispeċi li nsibu madwar xtutna u li forsi l-iktar li jolqtu l-għajn.

Sargassu Komuni

Alga kannella mdaqqsa li tikber dritta. Mad-daqqa t'għajn qisha għandha weraq u frott imma l-'weraq' huma friegħi u l-'frott' huma boċċi mimlijin bl-arja sabiex iżommuha wieqfa.

Ħalimeda

Alga ħadra xi ftit iebsa għax imsaħħa bil-*calcium carbonate*. Magħmula minn ċellula waħda. Isimha ġej minn 'Halimede' li kienet sirena fil-ħrejjef Griegi!

Għeneb il-Baħar

Alga ħadra li, minkejja d-daqs, hi magħmula minn ċellula waħda. Hi indiġena tal-punent tal-Awstralja imma daħlet fil-Mediterran mill-Kanal tas-Swejz. Fl-ibħra Maltin dehret fis-snin disgħin u saret komuni ġmielha.

Denb il-Pagun

Alga kannella komuni ħafna. Tkun bajdanija għax fiha depositi ta' *calcium carbonate*.

Ċistosejra tal-Frieghi Ċatti

Alga kannella mdaqqsa u komuni ħafna. Tikber l-iżjed fil-baxx u tista' wkoll tinkixef meta l-baħar ikun baxx.

Aċetabularja

Alga ħadra-bajdanija għax fiha ħafna *calcium carbonate*. Minkejja d-daqs hi magħmula minn ċellula waħda.

Fjuri fil-baħar!

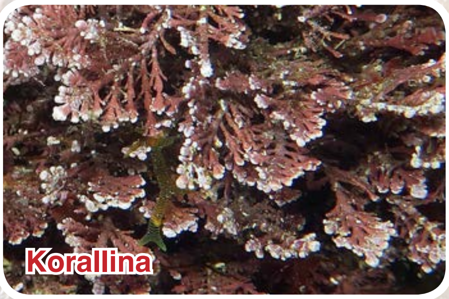
Minbarra l-algi hemm ukoll ftit speċi ta' pjanti li jagħmlu l-fjuri. Dawn oriġinaw fuq l-art imma wara miljuni ta' snin adattaw ruħhom biex jgħixu fil-baħar.

Janja

Alga ħamra ta' lewn roża. Komuni ħafna u tikber fuq algi oħrajn.

Ħabaq il-Baħar

Alga kannella mdaqqsa u komuni ħafna. Għandha riħa pjuttost tfuħ kif jixhed isimha. Tikber l-iżjed fuq blat xi ftit jew wisq wieqaf.


Korallina

Alga ħamra ta' lewn roża. Tifforma żona eżatt taħt wiċċ il-baħar.

L-ismijiet bl-Ingliż u xjentifiċi

Sargassu Komuni (Common Sargasso-weed) *Sargassum vulgare*
Denb il-Pagun jew **Denb it-Tawes** (Peacock's Tail) *Padina pavonica*
Janja (Slender-beaded Coral-weed) *Jania rubens*
Ħalimeda (Halimeda) *Halimeda tuna*
Ħabaq il-Baħar (Netted Wing Weed) *Dictyopteris polypodioides*
Ċistosejra tal-Frieghi Ċatti (Flat Bladder-weed) *Cystoseira compressa*
Korallina (Elongated Coral-weed) *Ellisolandia elongata*
Aċetabularja (Mermaid's Cup) *Acetabularia acetabulum*
Għeneb il-Baħar (Caulerpa) *Caulerpa cylindracea*

Ritratti Desirée Falzon u Victor Falzon

Riparian Woodlands

Valley watercourses (widien) and riparian communities (which include plants and animals living within or adjacent to springs and watercourses) are important habitats for many water-loving species which are endangered in the Maltese Islands.

Watercourses are usually seasonal, dependent on rainfall, but in a few cases some water supply is available all year round due to the presence of perennial springs (għejun). In rare cases, remnants of riparian woodlands are also found along the banks of these watercourses where water flow is regular.

Watercourses are important because they support habitats and freshwater aquatic species which are found in few places within the Maltese islands. These provide habitat and food to various animals and are home to a huge variety of invertebrates, including various rare freshwater snails and dragonflies, as well as the endangered pea clams (l-arzell tal-ilma ħelu) and the endemic Maltese Freshwater Crab (il-qabru), the Maltese national invertebrate; as well as other protected fauna such as the Painted Frog (iż-żrinġ), known from Malta and Sicily only.

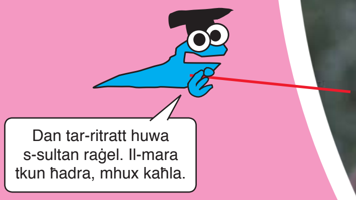
The endangered riparian woodlands include different tree species such as the rare White Poplar (is-siġra tal-luq), willows (iż-żafżaf) and elms (l-ulmi). Such water-loving tree species are usually deciduous (siġar ħorfin), and so shed their leaves in the winter period. One example of a riparian woodland is Wied il-Luq in Buskett, where one can also encounter the Narrow-Leaved Ash (il-fraxxnu) and the Pedunculate Oak (is-siġra tar-ruvlu).

Many riparian woodland remnants are protected by law as Natura 2000 sites and/or Tree Protection Areas and tree species typical of riparian woodlands are legally protected due to their small population numbers.

ERA
Environment & Resources Authority

FATTI FAWNA

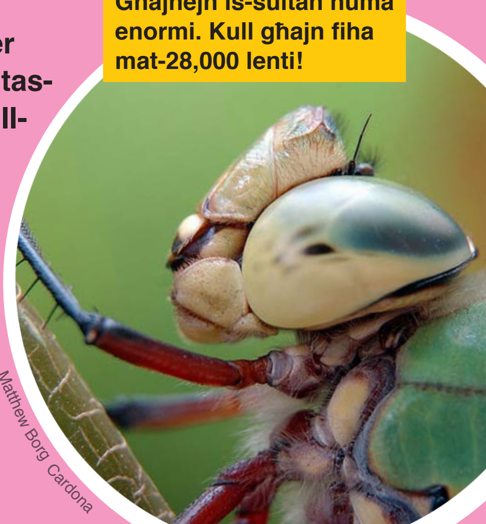
Victor Falzon



is-Sultan

- Is-sultan huwa l-ikbar speċi ta' mazzarell *(dragonfly)* li tidher Malta.
- Huwa wkoll l-ikbar mazzarell tal-Ewropa u fil-fatt wieħed mill-ikbar insetti tal-Ewropa.
- Bl-Ingliż jismu *blue emperor* u l-isem xjentifiku tiegħu huwa *Anax imperator*.
- Bħall-mazzarelli l-oħrajn kollha, is-sultan huwa [1]predatur. Il-[2]priża tas-sultan tikkonsisti f'insetti, l-iktar nemus, imma wkoll dubbien, kultant friefet u anke mazzarelli oħrajn!
- Saqajn il-mazzarelli huma sufin u bihom jiffurmaw speċi ta' xibka. Bis-saħħa ta' din ix-xibka jaqbdu l-priża billi jtiru għal warajha u jaħtfuha mill-ajru.
- Is-sultan kważi dejjem issibu ħdejn l-ilma, pereżempju xi għadira jew ġibjun mikxuf. Dan għaliex in-nemus ifaqqas mill-ilma, għalhekk ħdejn l-ilma iktar se jsib nemus x'jaqbad.
- Is-sultan jgħix ukoll viċin l-ilma għax, bħan-nemus, il-mazzarelli wkoll ibidu fl-ilma.
- Il-frieħ tas-sultan jgħixu fl-ilma u ma jkollhomx ġwienaħ. Ikunu qishom ħanfus, jiġru u jgħumu mal-qiegħ tal-għadira. Bħall-adult, il-ferħ ukoll huwa predatur u jaqbad dud, frieħ ta' mazzarelli oħrajn, kultant anke mrieżeb *(tadpoles)*.
- Wara li jkun kiber biżżejjed, il-ferħ tas-sultan joħroġ mill-ilma, jiggranfa ma' ħajt jew zokk. Il-qoxra ta' dahru tinqasam u minnha joħroġ l-adult lest biex itir!

Għajnejn is-sultan huma enormi. Kull għajn fiha mat-28,000 lenti!



Matthew Borg Cardona

[1]**predatur.** Annimal li jaqbad u jiekol annimali oħrajn
[1]**priża.** Annimal li jinqabad u jittiekel minn annimal ieħor

ECOHIVE
MISSIONS
SUMMER FAIR
WRITTEN BY ELENA
IT WAS SUMMER TIME AT ECOHIVE...
I'M SO EXCITED FOR THIS YEAR'S SUMMER FAIR TOMORROW!
LET'S JUST HOPE THAT THE GARBAGE MONSTER WILL CAUSE NO TROUBLE OVERNIGHT.
...EVERYONE WAS BUSY PREPARING FOR THE SUMMER FAIR
SHOULD I CHOP DOWN ALL THE TREES? OR MAYBE VANDALISE THE STALLS? OR SPRAY PESTICIDES ALL OVER THE PLACE? WHY NOT ALL?!
HEHEHE!
EVERYONE BUT THE GARBAGE MONSTER
LATER THAT NIGHT...
NOW FOR THE FINAL PART OF MY GENIUS PLAN...
FINALLY, SOMETHING THAT THEY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIX IN TIME. I BETTER RUN BEFORE THOSE PESKY BEES SHOW UP.
HAHAHA!
OOUUIWIOOUUI!!!
AT DAWN THE ALARMS STARTED BLARING!
DON'T TELL ME THAT THE GARBAGE MONSTER HAS DONE SOMETHING TO RUIN THE SUMMER FAIR.
OH NO, HE'S DONE MORE THAN RUINED IT. LET'S CALL AGENT LUPIN AND HIS TEAM. THEY'LL FIX IT IN NO TIME!
THERE'S A SEVERE PROBLEM REGARDING THE FAIR! WE NEED YOU TO HOP ON! WE HAVE ONLY A COUPLE OF HOURS LEFT!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
AGENT LUPIN
THE GARBAGE MONSTER HAS DESTROYED THE AREA AND WRECKED ALL THE STALLS. YOUR TEAM CAN CLEAN UP AND PLANT NEW TREES! AND WE'LL MEND THE STALLS.
YOU HEARD GENERAL BUZZ! LET'S GET TO WORK, TEAM!
WHILE AGENT LUPIN'S TEAM IS TAKING CARE OF THE GROUNDS AND TREES, I BAKED NEW TREATS FOR THE ECO SALE!
THEY LOOK DELICIOUS! AND WE'RE ALMOST DONE WITH THE CLEANUP!
WITH YOUR HELP WE'VE MANAGED TO SAVE THE SUMMER FAIR AND THE ENVIRONMENT!
WHENEVER YOU NEED OUR ASSISTANCE, DON'T FRET TO CALL US.
WE APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU AND YOUR TEAM HAVE DONE. THANK YOU
HELLO! I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE ONE OF YOUR HAND FANS.
handmade
OF COURSE, WE HAVE MANY COLOURS TO CHOOSE FROM. WHICH ONE WOULD...
HEHEHE!
WAIT A MINUTE! HAVE WE MET? YOU LOOK AND... SMELL FAMILIAR... OH NO!
IT'S THE GARBAGE MONSTER! AFTER HIM!
BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, SUCKERS!
VISIT ECOHIVE.COM.MT/KIDS