

## The Birds of Malta

Listed below are several bird species that are recorded in the Maltese islands. Many of these have also been recorded in Majjistral Nature & History Park from 2014-2020.

The status column refers to the bird's occurrence in the Maltese islands. The last column gives brief information and records for Majjistral Park that has been registered by the Park's staff.

If you need to submit a bird record, or need some more information about birds in Majjistral Park please write to us on [alex@majjistral.org](mailto:alex@majjistral.org)

-  = breeds regularly at Majjistral Park  
**R** = has been recorded at Majjistral Park 2014-2020

	English name	Scientific name	Maltese name	Remarks/status for Maltese islands	Notes for Majjistral Park 2014-2020
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Blongun Żgħir	Smallest of the grebes seen in our islands. Grebes are birds that can be seen in wetlands or at the coast. They feed by diving to catch fish. Scarce but regular from late August to May; a few pairs nest at is-Simar reserve.	
2	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Blongun Prim	Scarce mainly October to March.	
3	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Blongun Sekond	Generally the grebe that is recorded in greater numbers than other grebes. Arrives late August, and some stay up till March or early April, when breeding plumage/partial breeding plumage is attained.	
4	Scopoli's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	Ċiefa	Regularly seen offshore, sometimes close to shore March to November, sometimes also in the other months. Breeds in good numbers mainly in western cliffs in the Maltese islands.	R No records of breeding pairs in Park. Observed regularly from the Park's coast, e.g. Majjiesa point, sometimes close to shore.
5	Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	Garnija	Breeds in cliffs in good numbers in Malta, Gozo and Comino. The largest concentrations occur along the western coast.	R. A good population is found at Majjistral coastal area
6	Mediterranean Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates melitensis</i>	Kanġu ta' Filfla	Spends life out at sea, and comes to land only at the breeding season. Their main breeding site is Filfla. Other few pairs nest in coastal sites in Malta and Gozo.	No nesting records for Majjistral.
7	Northern Gannet	<i>Sula bassana</i>	Sula	Regular from September to April, both adults and immatures recorded. Gannets hunt fish by diving into the sea from a height, and then pursue their prey under the water. Can be seen offshore, sometimes relatively close to the coast, especially on windy days	.

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8	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Margun	Regularly seen in coastal areas from around September to March, often in singles or small flocks.	R Seen flying over or in the sea diving for fish
9	Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Kappun	Very scarce March to May and September to November. Likes to skulk in reedbeds and other wetland vegetation and is difficult to spot.	
10	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Russett tas-Siġar	Fairly common in spring March to May, with less numbers recorded in autumn (August to October). A few pairs have been recorded nesting in these last 20 years. First nesting record was at Is-Simar reserve in 1997.	
11	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Kwakka	Frequent to common migrant, from around March to May and August to September, often in small flocks. Roost in trees in the day and migrate at dusk. Vocal.	R Has been recorded flying over or roosting in the coastal areas. Recorded 15 birds on 04/09/2020 in the Park.
12	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Agrett Isfar	Scarce spring and autumn migrant (April-May and August-October), with less numbers recorded in autumn. Observed in singles or small flocks in coastal areas and at wetlands.	R
13	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Agrett tal-Bhejjem	Generally rare, but sightings have increased in these past years, both of singles and of flocks. A small population now nests in Malta at Burmarrad, from escaped birds. Can be observed all year round.	R A flock of 36 Cattle Egrets alighted near the Park in a flooded field at Pwales valley, on the 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2017. On that same day a single bird was seen flying at the Majjiesa coast and settled on a boulder
14	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Agrett Abjad	Frequent to common migrant in spring and autumn March to May and August to October. Some also seen in summer and winter. Observed mainly along the coast or in wetland reserves, in singles, pairs or flocks. A few pairs nest in Malta at Burmarrad, some of the breeding birds are semi-wild.	R Regularly recorded every year, with flocks passing along the coast or sometimes settling on boulders at the coast, especially on easterly winds.
15	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Russett Abjad	Rare spring and autumn-winter migrant (February to May, July to December).	R 2 seen together flying over on 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
16	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Russett Griż	Frequent to common spring and autumn migrant (mostly March and September), often in small flocks. Has been recorded also in winter and summer. Often heard calling while flying over.	R Regularly recorded every year, flying over or roosting at the coast. Take shelter in the rdum during easterly winds
17	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Russett Aħmar	Generally frequent migrant March to May and August to October. Some sighted also in February and November. Seen in singles or small flocks.	R As Grey Heron. Note: Egrets and herons favour areas with water, and are often seen in coastal areas or flying high in V formations during migration. Mixed flocks of different heron/egret species are also recorded. During strong easterly winds herons and egrets shelter along the Park's coast

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18	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Ċikonja Sewda	Rare to very scarce migrant, generally in autumn from September to October. Mainly in singles, but small flocks (highest 12) do occur. One juvenile bird roosted for one night at Ghadira reserve in September 2018, then departed the day after at around 10.15 am.	
19	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Ċikonja Bajda	Rare to scarce migrant in spring and autumn (March-May, August-October). In singles, twos or small flocks. Largest flock ever recorded for Malta was of over 250 birds in May 2011. This flock spend a few days in the Maltese islands. Storks are generally seen soaring or flying overhead and in the evening seek places to roost. White Storks have often roosted in urban areas on roofs, etc. Storks are very vulnerable to shooting.	
20	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Velleran	Generally scarce to rare March to April and August to October.	R Few records including birds seen flying at Ramla tal-Mixquqa
21	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucordia</i>	Paletta	Generally scarce February to May and September to October.	R
22	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Fjamingu	Generally scarce, but sightings have increased. Seen mainly in September, in flocks of adult and young birds. Occasionally 1 or 2 birds settle in wetlands at Ghadira reserve and Salina. In August 2018 a flock of 8 juvenile birds settled at Ghadira reserve.	R Records include a flock of c. 37 birds seen flying over from Majjiesa 25 Sep 2017
23	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Ċinju	Very few sightings mainly between December and January, but not every year. Most recent sighting of a flock of 13 that stayed in Gozo from 1 January to the 14 <sup>th</sup> of February 2017.	
24	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Wizża Griża	Almost annually recorded in very few numbers, mainly in winter (October-January).	
25	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Serra	Very scarce October to December, sometimes in spring.	
26	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Kuluvert tas-Salib	Generally scarce from September to March, sometimes also in the summer.	R
27	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas Penelope</i>	Silfjun Ewropew	Fairly common from October to January and in less numbers February – March.	
28	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Kuluvert Griż	Rare, October to January.	
29	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Sarsella	Generally common mainly from October to December (recorded August to March).	
30	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Kuluvert	Very scarce and irregular, October to January.	
31	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Silfjun	Generally frequent mainly recorded from September to November and February to March.	
32	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Sarsella Ħamra	Fairly common spring migrant, February and March-early April, and late August to October. Mainly seen in flocks. Garganeys and other wild ducks (in Maltese <i>borok</i> ) regularly pass through the Comino channel in their northward spring migration, sometimes in large flocks that can be mixed.	R
33	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Palettuna	Fairly common mainly October-November and in March.	
34	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Brajmla	Scarce in October to December, but recorded also in other months.	
35	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Brajmla t'Għajnja Bajda	Scarce, mainly in March and October.	
36	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Kučċarda	Frequent to common spring and autumn migrant	R

				(March to June, August to October/November), in singles or small flocks. Generally more are seen in autumn. Honey buzzards and other broad-winged birds of prey make use of hot air currents generated on land to lift themselves up without beating their wings (soaring flight).	Recorded migrating overhead, in singles, twos or small flocks. On the 23 Sep 2014 a flock of over 100 birds was observed
37	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Astun Iswed	Spring and autumn migrant (March to May, August to October). More seen in autumn. In October 2016 a flock of 58 over Buskett was seen. Generally scarce. It could be that in the past this kite (or the Red Kite – <i>Milvus migrans</i> ) used to breed in the Maltese islands, as some place names suggest.	R Park records include a flock of 7 birds flying along the coastline on 9 Apr 2015
38	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Ajkla Bajda	Rare, in singles or small flocks, sometimes mixed with other Eagle species (mainly Booted Eagle), mainly September to November; occasional and irregular in spring.	
39	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Ajkla tat-Tikki	Very rare, recorded almost annually, mostly mid-September to November.	
40	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Bagħdan Ahmar	Frequent to common spring and autumn migrant (mainly March to May, August to October). Frequently hunts while on passage	R One of the regular birds of prey to be observed in the Park while on passage
41	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Bagħdan Griż	Scarce to fairly common March to May and August to October. More are seen in spring.	R
42	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Bagħdan Abjad	Scarce migrant March to May and August to October, with more birds appearing in spring.	R
43	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparvier	Regular in autumn from mid-September to November, rare in spring March to May.	
44	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Kučċarda Prima	Very scarce migrant, mainly seen between September and November.	
45	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Kučċarda Hamra	Very rare and irregular migrant.	R One record in April 2014
46	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>	Ajkla tal-Kalzetti	Very scarce migrant mainly from September to November.	R One record of a pale morph on the 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
47	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Arpa	Scarce from March to May and from September to October.	R Mainly seen flying along the coast. Recorded every year in the Park
48	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Spanjulett Sekond	Spring and autumn migrant (mainly March to May, August to October), scarce-frequent. Often in small flocks.	R
49	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Spanjulett	Spring and autumn migrant, sometimes seen also in winter and summer. Generally frequent to common. Both species of kestrels are seen hunting while on passage. Few pairs of Kestrel nest in cliffs in the Maltese islands.	R Seen regularly every year, both flying over and also hunting. There are no breeding records from Majjistral
50	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Žumbrell	Scarce spring (April to May) migrant, Rare in autumn (September to October). Often in small flocks. Likes to Perchs on wires. Hunts while on passage	R
51	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Seqer tal-Hannieqa	Frequent to common spring and autumn migrant, mainly April to May, September to October. More seen in autumn passage.	
52	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Bies tar-Regina	Scarce migrant from July to October (generally mostly from mid-August till September). Both dark and pale morphs occur.	R
53	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Bies	Rare migrant. Used to be a regular breeding bird but became exterminated because of hunting. Up to 4 pairs are now nesting again in the Maltese islands.	R

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54	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Summiena	Common migrant mainly from September to early October. Occurs also in spring February to April. A few pairs nest. Heavily persecuted.	R
55	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Galloz tax-Xitwa	Autumn migrant and winter visitor, and also spring migrant (mainly October to May, but recorded also from July onward). Scarce to frequent. A bird of wetlands and valleys with vegetation to hide in. Often reveals its presence by its call.	
56	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	Galloz tat-Tikki	Scarce from February to May and from August to November.	
57	Little Crake	<i>Zapornia parva</i>	Galloz Żgħir	Very scarce to rare spring and autumn migrant.	
58	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Galloz iswed	A spring and autumn migrant, and winter visitor. Can be seen all year round as it now breeds regularly in places with water. Frequent to common.	
59	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Tiġieġa tal-Baħar	Scarce from September to March-early April. A few pairs nest at is-Simar reserve. First breeding record was in 2008.	
60	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	Grawwa	Generally scarce and irregular migrant from October to December, with fewer birds in March and April. Cranes are normally seen in flocks that can include juvenile birds. They are also very vocal birds, uttering their characteristic trumpeting calls.	R Few records of flocks seen flying over the Park
61	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Gallina tal-Baħar	Scarce migrant mainly in spring (March to May) and summer (July to September). Has been recorded also in winter. Generally observed in singles or small flocks flying along the coast.	
62	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Fras Servjent	Scarce to frequent from March to May, and July to August, often in flocks. First breeding record for Malta was in 2008 near Salina. One to two pairs bred regularly at Ghadira reserve up to 2017.	R Recorded flying along the coast or from Ramla tal-Mixquqa
63	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i>	Xifa	Rare migrant in spring and autumn, sometimes sighted also in winter.	
64	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	Tellerita	Scarce from March to May-June, and September to October. Occurs in singles or small parties (largest recorded 5 birds together). Used to nest in Malta in the past.	R The park's garigue areas are ideal for this bird. 1 late bird was seen on 8 June 2014
65	Cream Coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	Nankina	Rare and irregular, February to July.	
66	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Perniċjotta	Rare and irregular in March to April and September to October.	
67	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Monakella	A spring and autumn migrant (March to May, September to October), and is frequent-common. Also seen in summer where it nests (at Ghadira reserve).	R Seen, or more often heard, while flying over the Park. Observed also along the coast.
68	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Monakella Prima	Seen mainly April to May and August to September, usually in less numbers than Little Ringed Plover.	
69	Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>	Monakella Saqajha Suwed	Very scarce March to May, and July to December.	
70	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	Birwina	Generally scarce, mainly August to November, sometimes also in December and January. In the spring passage is not common, from March to April.	R Records of birds in Majjistral include not only those flying over but also on land at Majjiesa point, where some individuals were

					very approachable and were photographed
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71	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Pluviera	Scarce-frequent, from October to December, also in less numbers up till March. Used to occur in larger numbers.	R
72	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Pluviera Griża	Scarce from mid-March to May and from August to November	
73	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Venewwa	Generally scarce from October to mid-March (mainly up to December). In the past Lapwings (and Golden plovers) used to winter in Malta. Formerly occurred in greater numbers.	R
74	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Pispisella Bajda	Scarce April to May and August to October.	
75	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Tertuxa	One of the most regular waders observed in the Maltese islands, from March to November.	
76	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Tertuxa Griża	Scarce from April to October.	
77	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Pispisella Hamra	Regular in spring (April to May), where fairly common; scarce in autumn passage from mid-July to September-October.	
78	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Pispisella tad-Dabra	Scarce-fairly common March to May, and July to October.	
79	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	Girwiel	Fairly common to scarce from March up to October. Was formerly more common. Male birds with partially breeding plumage can be observed in summer and autumn.	
80	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Ċinkonja	Scarce migrant from October to April.	
81	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Bekkaċċ	Scarce to frequent from September to May. Often calls while flying.	R
82	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	Bekkaċċ ta' Mejju	Very scarce and irregular migrant mainly in May.	
83	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Gallina	Recorded from October to December, few birds sometimes observed in March. Fairly common. Secretive, stays well-hidden during the day. Heavily persecuted.	R
84	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Girwiel Prim	Very scarce to rare mainly February to April and July to October.	
85	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Girwiel Denbu bl-Istrixxi	Very rare migrant March to July and September to October, and not recorded annually. One present at Ghadira reserve for several days in September 2018.	
86	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Gurlin Żghir	Very scarce to rare March to April and July to September.	
87	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Gurlin	Frequent to scarce from March to November.	
88	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Ċuvett	Scarce from March to October.	
89	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Pluverott	Scarce to fairly common mainly from June to August, few birds sometimes recorded in winter.	
90	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Ċewċewwa Żghira	Scarce to rare from March to September.	
91	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Ċewċewwa	Scarce to fairly common from March to November.	R
92	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Swejda	Fairly common from February to May and July to October. Utters characteristic call while flying or standing.	R
93	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Pespus tal-Baħar	Fairly common to common March to May and July to October.	R

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94	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleuca</i>	Pispisella	Fairly common to common mainly from March to May and July to October. Also seen in other months.	R Regularly seen at the coast. Very vocal, its presence often first detected by its call
95	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpes</i>	Monakella Imperjali	Scarce to very scarce mainly in April, May, August and September.	
96	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Gawwija Rasha Sewda	Frequent-common in winter, mainly December to February, also recorded later up to April. In spring some birds can be seen with a black head (breeding plumage). Gathers in large numbers at Salina and some other sites.	R Seen flying over the sea along the Park's coastline
97	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	Gawwija Żghira	Very scarce and irregular from September to April.	
98	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Gawwija Rasha Kannella	Common, October to April, especially in winter. In spring some birds can be seen with a brown head (breeding plumage). Gathers in large numbers at Salina and some other sites.	R Can be observed flying over the sea or along the Park's coastline.
99	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	Gawwija Munqarha Rqiq	Scarce, mainly July to April.	
100	Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	Gawwija Munqarha Aħmar	Scarce, can be sighted throughout the year. Sightings have recently increased.	
101	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Gawwija Daharha Iswed	Scarce to fairly common, and can be seen throughout the year.	
102	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michaellis</i>	Gawwija Prima	Malta's largest breeding bird, nesting in coastal areas. Can be seen all year round, with larger numbers observed in winter. Sometimes flies inland in flocks.	R Observed regularly flying over the sea in singles or flocks. Some seen also flying close to Majjiesa point and coastal cliffs, sometimes settling on boulders. Frequently heard calling while flying. Adults and young recorded. No breeding records for Majjistral Park.
103	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Ċirlewwa Żghira	Very rare migrant, mainly in September and from April to June.	
104	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Ċirlewwa Munqarha Oħxon	Scarce migrant March to October.	
105	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Ċirlewwa Prima	Scarce, mainly March to June and August to November.	
106	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Ċirlewwa tax-Xitwa	Generally frequent mainly between September to March, but has been recorded in all months of the year. Dives from the air to hunt fish.	R
107	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridae</i>	Ċirlewwa bil-Mustaċċi	Very rare and irregular, mainly between April to September.	
108	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Ċirlewwa Sewda	Generally scarce mainly between July to October, where many observed far out at sea.	
109	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	Ċirlewwa tal-Ġewnaħ Abjad	Rare migrant mainly from April to June and from August to September.	

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110	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Gamiema tal-Kullar	Breeding resident, frequent-common in certain localities. Relatively recent breeder. First breeding record for Malta was in 2003 at Mellieha. Can be seen in singles, pairs or flocks. Concentrate in good numbers at some feeding and roosting sites.	R Few pairs breed in Majjistral near visitor centre
111	Barbary Dove	<i>Streptopelia risoria</i>	Ħamiema tal-Bar	Escaped birds have established few breeding pairs. Documented as capable of cross-breeding with Collared Dove. Doubtful as a species.	R Very few birds (less than 5) have been recorded at Barrack's area. Possibly breeds.
112	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Gamiema	Regular migrant, mainly in spring from late March to early June where scarce to frequent-common; in autumn usually in smaller numbers (and can be rare) from August to September. Drastically decreased in recent years. Occasionally breeds. In spring 2018 one pair unsuccessfully tried to nest at Wied il-Qliegħa, where a male bird was seen in display flights for several days but eventually "disappeared".	R Recorded notable counts include "good numbers" on the 9 Sep 2015; 55 on the 12 Apr 2017; 32 on 20 Apr 2017; and 14 on 11 April 2018. An unsubstantiated record is of over 100 birds on the 28 Apr 2018.
113	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Tudun	Scarce to rare mainly March to April and September to November.	
114	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	Sultan il-Gamiem Tat-Toppu	Very scarce to rare and irregular, most birds recorded in February and March.	R One on 1 March 2018 at Xaghra l-Ħamra
115	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Daqquqa Kaħla	Frequent in spring March to May, sometimes June; in autumn seen in less numbers from July to November. Rare breeder. Often heard calling in spring.	R
116	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barbaġann	Formerly a breeding bird. Last breeding record was in 1988 in Gozo; the adults were shot and the 5 young birds starved to death. A few migrants are sometimes recorded.	
117	Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Kokka	Formerly a common bird, but now much less common, seen mainly from March to May and September to November. A few sometimes remain to winter.	
118	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Qattus	Scarce to rare March to May and September to November. Recorded breeding once – in 2002 on Comino.	
119	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Kokka tax-Xaghri	A scarce spring and autumn migrant, March to April and September to November (can also be sighted up to February). Used to breed in the past. Last breeding record was in 2016 at Comino, where at least 1 young fledged.	R A few sightings every year
120	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Buqrajq	Regular from March to early June and August to November. Active at dusk and dawn, catching insects in the air.	
121	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	Rundun Żaqqu Bajda	Scarce from March to May and sometimes up to July, and from August to November. Frequent in singles or in flocks.	R
122	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Rundun	Common in spring, summer and autumn. Breeds in the Maltese islands. Swifts spend much of their time in the air, flying. They come to land only during the nesting season.	R Can be seen in flocks sometimes more than a 100 birds flying overhead, and are very vocal
123	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Rundun Kannelli	Similar to Common Swift and overlooked.	
124	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo attis</i>	Għasfur ta' San Martin	Observed from summer to spring (July to March/April), in areas with water e.g. Ghadira and Simar reserves, and in coastal areas. It can	R Recorded every year along the coast, where



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				be frequent to common at times, and greatest numbers occur in August and September.	often heard calling
125	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Qerd in-Nahal	Frequent to common in spring (March to June) and in autumn from August to September. Sighted generally in flocks and very vocal, calling while flying over. Like to perch on electricity wires. Irregular breeder, first breeding record was in 2006 at Fawwara.	R. Flocks of 50+ have been recorded
126	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Farruġ	Scarce to very scarce from April to June and August to October. More are generally sighted in spring.	R Very few sightings one on 19 Sep 2014 and another one on 26 Apr 2017
127	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Daqquqa tat-Toppu	Frequent to common mainly March to April and August to September-October. In spring may appear as early as February. Larger numbers are seen in spring.	R The Hoopoe has been recorded several times. Records of this bird are of singles or twos or of small flocks. Has also been heard calling on some occasions
128	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Bulebbiet	Frequent to common spring and autumn migrant. Also recorded in winter. More often heard than seen.	R The Wryneck has been recorded several times, most often noticed when heard calling
129	Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Bilbla	Frequent to common from March to September-October, but decreased as a breeding bird. They nest in open areas such as garigue and fields. More are found on Gozo. Sings high above its territory. Birds migrate to Africa after breeding season.	R More or less frequent in the Park during breeding season, where birds can be heard singing in the air. Nests have been found in garigue
130	Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Alwetta	Frequent to common, often in flocks, from October to November. Return migration in February-March, when birds can also be heard singing. Only few manage to winter as the bird is unfortunately heavily hunted.	R Regular in park, where birds can be seen and heard while flying over. They also settle in fields and other open areas when undisturbed. Present also in small numbers in January-March
131	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Ḥawwief tax-Xtut	Frequent to common from March to May-early June, and occurs in less numbers between August to October.	R
132	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Ḥawwief	Common spring and autumn migrant, February (or earlier January) to June and August to late November. Few pairs nest annually in the Maltese islands.	R Commonly seen in flocks during migration, sometimes mixed with Swallow. Does not breed in the Park
133	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Ḥuttafa	Common spring and autumn migrant, February to June, and August to November. Few pairs nest annually in the Maltese islands.	R Commonly seen in flocks during migration, sometimes mixed with Martins. Few pairs have nested in barracks in the past
134	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	Reġina tal-Ḥuttaf	Scarce from February to June and generally rare in September and early November.	R
135	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Bilblun	Scarce to frequent regular spring and autumn migrant. Occasionally breeds in the Maltese islands.	R Rare breeder in the Park; first breeding record was in 1993. Nests on the

					ground in open areas.
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136	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Diżż	Common spring and autumn migrant. Influxes of hundreds of birds may occur on dull days with easterly winds and some rain. Characteristic call is "dizz" while flying overhead.	R One of the regular birds to see or hear during spring and autumn, often in flocks. Notable counts include: 50+ on 29 Sep 2016; 900+ on 10 Apr 2017; 200+ on 12 Apr 2017; 110 on 20 Apr 2017; 400+ on 11 Apr 2018. In all cases wind was easterly and sky cloudy, sometimes with light rain
137	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Pespus	Common in October up to March. In March a return migration occurs, birds moving North from Africa.	R One of the regular birds to see in winter, flying over and calling or settling in fields or garigue, often in flocks
138	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Diżż Aħmar	Scarce to frequent from late March to mid-May and in lesser numbers from mid-October to early December-January. Often noticed by its "psii" call while flying overhead.	R
139	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Diżż tal-Ilma	Rare to very scarce from October to April.	
140	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Isfar	Common in spring and autumn. Often in flocks and vocal. About 5 different subspecies (sometimes regarded as full species) can be seen in the Maltese islands	R
141	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Zakak tad-Dell	Scarce-frequent from mid-October to around March. Generally observed in singles. Formerly a breeding species, nowadays a very rare breeding bird in Malta.	R
142	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Zakak Abjad	Common from October to around April. Roosts in large numbers in trees in urban areas, e.g. at Valletta.	R
143	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Bumistur	Very rare from October to March –April. Hides in dense vegetation, where difficult to see, its presence detected by its call.	
144	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Żiemel	Frequent from around end September to April. Generally likes to hide, where its presence may be revealed by its calls.	R
145	Rufous Bush Chat	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	Rożinjol tax-Xagħri	Rare to very scarce in April and May and in autumn. Favours open areas with some shrubs and trees.	
146	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Pitirross	Very common mainly from October to March-April; few birds can be seen in other months as well. Prefers areas with trees or other vegetation. Frequently sings.	R Common at Majjistral Park especially in areas with trees and shrubs
147	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Rożinjol	Frequent spring and autumn migrant March to May and August to October. Often heard calling or singing while hiding in a tree.	R In the Park recorded mainly from the coastal areas and fields, often heard calling from a tree
148	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Kudirross Blu	Scarce, mainly March to May and September to November.	
149	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Fjamma Sewda	Frequent-common in winter from October to March-April. Associates itself with buildings and rocky areas.	R Among the best sites to see this bird in the Park is at the cliffs, in the barracks area and on stone huts/rooms

150	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Fjamma	Frequent migrant March to May and August to November. Often flicks tail. Found in areas with trees and shrubs.	R
	<b>English name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Maltese name</b>	<b>Remarks/status for Maltese islands</b>	<b>Notes for Majjistral Park 2014-2020</b>
151	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>	Fjamma tat-Tuneżija	Rare from late October to late March.	R There are only a few records of this bird in the park, some of which have been sighted at the pill box area
152	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Buċaqq tas-Silla	Common migrant in spring mainly April to May, fewer birds recorded in autumn August to October.	R Birds have also been recorded in small groups in spring
153	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Buċaqq tax-Xitwa	Common from late September to March, favouring open areas.	R Regular in Park, often seen on a perch and uttering its call
154	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Kuda	Common spring and autumn migrant, February to May and August to November, favouring open ground. When flying its white rump becomes very noticeable.	R Has also been recorded in small groups. Up to 12 in a day have been recorded on some dates in spring and autumn
155	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Kuda Isabellina	Scarce to rare spring and autumn migrant. Closely resembles Northern Wheatear and as such can be overlooked.	R
156	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	Kuda Dumnikana	Scarce spring and autumn migrant; fewer numbers are seen in autumn.	R
157	White-crowned Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	Kuda Rasha Bajda	Very rare and irregular migrant (vagrant) to the Maltese islands and there are very few records of this bird.	R One was seen on the 25 March 2016. The bird, a male, was sighted for a few hours only
158	Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	Ġanbublu	Scarce to rare spring and autumn migrant March to May and August to October.	R
159	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Merill	Frequent to common breeding bird. Nests mainly in cliffs, also in old houses, valleys, large rubble walls.	R A good breeding population is found in the cliffs of the Park.
160	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Malvizz	Common autumn migrant and winter visitor, mainly October to March, some also in April. In March birds can be heard singing. Many are killed as it is heavily hunted locally.	R Birds in February and March have been recorded singing regularly
161	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Malvizz Iswed	Scarce autumn migrant and winter visitor, mainly October to March. Secretive, keeping into trees or other vegetative cover.	R
162	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Malvizz tas-Sidra Bajda	Very scarce to rare from September to January, and March-April.	
163	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Malvizz Aħmar, Żerzur	Scarce from October to March.	
164	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Malvizzun tal-Qtajja	Scarce from October to March. Often occurs in flocks.	
165	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Malvizzun Prim	Rare to very scarce from October to March-April.	
166	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Bufula tal-Gholliq	Fairly common resident breeding bird favouring areas with vegetation. First confirmed breeding record came in the 1970s at Wied il-Luq, but probably was also nesting before. Very vocal.	R Only a few pairs have been recorded at Majjistral. Singing males have been recorded

					from rdum close to Majjiesa, fields at Nahhalija area and near visitors centre.
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167	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Bufula tal-Imrewħa	Common resident breeding bird favouring open areas especially with grasses. Nest is constructed in grasses or other vegetation not high above ground. First nest was confirmed in 1973 at is-Simar, where today is a bird sanctuary.	R Good number of pairs are present in the Park. Males can be seen flying above their territory, singing "zip zip..." in the breeding season.
168	Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	Bufula Qastnija	Scarce from October to March. Found in areas with water with vegetation such as reeds.	
169	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Bufula tas-Simar	Fairly common spring and autumn migrant March to June and August to November. Prefers areas with reeds and other vegetation at wetlands. Secretive.	
170	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Bufula tal-Qasab	Frequent to common migrant March to June and July to November. Favours areas with reeds and other vegetation at wetlands in which it hides. Few pairs nest regularly in Malta. First breeding record came from Salina in 1977.	R
171	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Bufula Prima	Frequent from March to June, and August to October-November. Its presence is often revealed by its song delivered from reeds or other vegetation.	R
172	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	Bekkafik Isfar	Frequent to common from April to early June, with most birds recorded in May. Less numbers occur in autumn passage (August to October).	R
173	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Kapinera	Common from September to March, some birds up to May. Very rare breeder. Generally very common at Buskett in late winter feasting on ripe Ivy berries.	R
174	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Bekkafik	Common migrant in spring mainly April and May, and in autumn from August to September. Fond of fruits such as those of Laurel (Naspli) and Mulberry (Tut).	R
175	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Bekkafik Irmiedi	Rare to very scarce migrant March to May and September to October.	
176	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Bekkafik Ahmar	Frequent to common migrant in spring (March to May), scarce in autumn passage (August to early November).	R
177	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	Bufula tax-Xaghri	Rare from October to April. Not recorded annually.	
178	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	Bufula Ħamra	Scarce breeding resident, with largest number of breeding pairs occurring in Gozo. On Malta largest numbers occur in the north and on the south and south west coasts, including Majjistral Park. Was formerly much more common as a breeding bird.	R Widespread in the Park. Can be seen – or more often heard- all year round, with most records not exceeding 2-3 birds (occasionally 5) for one area.
179	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i> (here including <i>Sylvia subalpina</i> )	Bufula Passajra	Common migrant from February to May, with return passage migrants from as early as mid-July, continuing through to October-November. Often reveals its presence by its short "chikk" calls.	R
180	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Bufula Sewda	Common breeding resident, breeding also in urban areas. Second commonest breeding bird	R A good number of pairs

				after the Spanish Sparrow. Generally prefers areas with vegetation not as open as Spectacled Warbler.	are present in the Park
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181	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Vjolin tal-Faxx	Rare in autumn from October to December and in spring from February to May.	R
182	Bonelli's Warbler (including both Eastern and Western)	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i> , <i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>	Vjolin Bajdani	Scarce to very scarce from March to May and in less numbers from August to October.	
183	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Vjolin Hadrani	Common spring migrant from March to May and in less numbers from August to October.	R
184	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Vjolin tax-Xitwa	Common from October to early April. Frequently sings from February onward.	R
185	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Vjolin Safrani	Common migrant from March to May and August to October	R
186	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Bufula tal-Qamar	Frequent migrant and winter visitor October to March-April. Crests are small birds that are sometimes more easily heard than seen as they are in conifers and other trees searching for invertebrates.	R
187	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Bufula tat-Toppu Aħmar	Frequent migrant and winter visitor from September to April.	R
188	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Žanžarell tat-tijkki	Common migrant from April to May and August to November. It also nests in wooded areas in Malta, especially where there are conifer trees and available water.	R No breeding records from the Park
189	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Žanžarell Iswed	Generally common migrant from March to May, and usually scarce from August to October, sometimes later.	R
190	Semi-collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>	Žanžarell tal-Lvant	Very rare migrant, mainly in spring.	
191	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	Žanžarell tal-Kullar	Scarce to fairly common from March to May, some also in June. Smaller numbers are recorded in autumn (August to October).	R
192	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	Žanžarell ta' Sidru Aħmar	Scarce migrant from September to December; very rare in spring.	
193	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Tajra Safra	Common in April and May, a few till June. Frequently sings in spring, especially in wooded areas such as Buskett. In autumn (August to October) it appears in smaller numbers.	R Late record on 5 June 2014 singing in early morning
194	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Kaččamendula	Fairly common from March to May -June and August to October. Occasional breeder. Used to breed regularly in former times. Perches on top of trees or on wires, looking out for prey.	R
195	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Kaččamendula Ħamra	Very scarce to rare August to October-November, and April to May.	
196	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Sturnell	Common to very common from October onward till March-April. Often seen in flocks, sometimes of several hundreds. A few pairs nest annually (first breeding record in 1992 at Comino; birds were released here from captivity and started nesting).	R Largest flock recorded was over 350 birds in January 2016. Other notable counts – 200+ Jan 2018, 150+ Feb 2018
197	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Ghasfur tal-Bejt	Very common breeding resident, the most common bird to see in the Maltese islands in the countryside and in urban areas. It nests everywhere – in ventilators, electricity pylons, trees, rubble walls, old buildings, cliffs, coastal boulders, etc.	R Common breeding bird, recorded nesting from several areas
198	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Ghasfur tas-Siġar	Fairly common breeding resident in various localities. Migrants also appear in spring and	R Nests at visitor centre

				autumn, mainly in flocks.	area in barracks
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199	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Sponsun	Common autumn migrant and winter visitor, less numbers recorded in spring (October to April). A few pairs nest annually.	R
200	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Apparell	Scarce to frequent in autumn from October onward, with some birds wintering up to April. Irregular breeding bird.	R
201	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Verdun	Scarce from October to April. Irregular breeding bird.	R
202	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Gardell	Rare to scarce migrant from October to April, sometimes also in some other months. Used to breed in the Maltese islands.	R
203	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Ekru	Generally scarce from October to December, sometimes up to March. Recorded nesting once, at Buskett in 1976.	
204	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Gojġin	Scarce to frequent migrant in autumn and spring, with a few wintering. A few pairs sometimes breed.	R
205	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Taż-Żebbuġ	Scarce to very scarce migrant, in some years frequent. Mainly recorded from late September to April.	R Two on 19 Oct 2017
206	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Durrajsa tal-Qasab	Scarce to very scarce winter visitor mainly in November and December up to February; a few may be recorded in spring	
207	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Durrajsa	Scarce breeding bird. Can be seen all year round. Migrants appear February to April and September to November, and some winter. Formerly much more common and widespread.	R A few pairs (at least 3) nest regularly in the Park. Nest is constructed on the ground, using grasses and other types of vegetation

For more information about birds see more on:

- Website [Birdwatching in Malta](#)
- Website [Majjistral Park](#)
- Birds of the Maltese Islands by Natalino Fenech, published by BDL. 2017
- Malta Breeding Bird Atlas 2008, BirdLife Malta. 2009
- L-Ghasafar ta' Malta by Joe Sultana, published by PIN. 2001



Majjistral Nature and History Park – The Bird List  
September 2020