

Malta

A search for *melitensis*

07 UNTIL 14-08-2021



Fifta

Legenda:

***AAAA** = New (Holarctic) Species (0 according to IOC 10/21)

AAAAA = Good species for the trip or for me (because not often seen)

The list order is conformed the WP checklist with the recent changes on the splitting and lumping issue mainly based on publications in the “important magazines”. Subspecies is only mentioned when thought to be important and really visible in the field. The totals of birds per species are just a total of the birds I saw to give an idea how many of a species you encounter during a trip. Only species seen are mentioned, and heard when, no lifer.

On this trip the weather quite pleasant and hot on all the visited days.

Itinerary (visited area's)

This was a family holiday so the birding was done on a daily base bit with short visits. Area's visited were:

- Coast mostly at the Dolphinarium. (many times)
- The Salina Nature Reserve.
- Torri ta Qalet Marku (watchpoint)
- Chiandra Nature Reserve

- Pembroke
- Buskett ringing session on 13-08
- A (Fifla) Pelagic on 12-08, with <https://www.eco-marine-malta.com/it/>

Good sites: [Birdwatching in Malta - Where to Go \(birdingmalta.com\)](http://birdingmalta.com) + [Bird-List-of-Malta-2020.pdf \(majjistral.org\)](http://majjistral.org)



Salina N.R



Buskett ringing place.

THE BIRD SPECIES

01. **Scopoli's Shearwater - *Calonectris diomedea***

Common at sea, giving nice views from the coast and on the pelagic

02. **Yelkouan Shearwater – *Puffinus yelkouan***

About 8 birds seen spread over the days, while seabirding from the coast.

03. **Mediterranean Stormpetrel – *Hydrobates pelagicus* ssp: *melitensis***

Seen on four times early morning sea watching (and not in the evening). A total of 27 birds seen, with one on the pelagic and 5/12/9 seen from the visited headlands in the north west of the island of which this [Mediterranean Stormvogeltje - *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis* - Observation.org](http://www.observation.org) was the best. All features seen even the white underwing line. Very much like the British taxon of this species. See also: https://www.instagram.com/p/CSvzHMWqYs/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

04. **(Western) Cattle Egret – *Bubulcus ibis***

10 birds seen in total, a little (partly feral?) Colony near Salina N.R. and a few birds out of sea flying in.

05. **Little Egret – *Egretta garzetta***

A total of 20 birds seen, also at the (partly feral?) colony near Salina N.R.

06. **Grey Heron – *Ardea cinerea***

A total of 11 birds seen on migration at various sites on the island.

07. **Greater Flamingo – *Phoenicopterus roseus***

12-08 30 ex. in one flock during the pelagic, flying almost along the east coast of Malta.

08. **Moorhen – *Gallinula chloropus***

1 bird seen during the stay.

09. **Oystercatcher – *Haematopus ostralegus***

1 bird present the whole period at Chiandra



Nice flock of Flamingo's over sea



Melitensis proof, a still out the short video

10. **Black-winged Stilt – Himantopus himantopus**
A total of 5 birds daily present at Salina N.R.
11. **Little Ringed Plover – Charadrius dubius**
2 birds in total at the visits to Chiandra N.R..
12. **Little Stint – Calidris minuta**
2 birds in total at the visits to Salina N.R.
13. **Dunlin – Calidris alpina**
1 adult summer at Salina N.R.
14. **Green sandpiper – Tringa och**
1 adult summer at Salina N.R.
15. **Common Sandpiper – Actitis hypoleucos**
Common at several places on the island.
16. **Mediterranean Gull – Larus melanocephalus**
12-08 1 subadult seen during the pelagic.
17. **Audouin's Gull - Larus audouinii**
12-08 1 juv. seen during the pelagic.
18. **Yellow-legged Gull – Larus michahellis**
Common along the coast with some late breeding colonies.
19. **Sandwich Tern – Sterna sandvicensis**
11-08 1 ex. flying along the coast.
20. **Black Tern – Chlidonias niger**
12-08 4 ex. seen during the pelagic.
21. **Collared Dove – Streptopelia decaocto**
Common throughout.
22. **Common Swift – Apus apus**
Common on migration in the mornings with big flocks.
23. **Pallid Swift – Apus pallidus**
11-08 1 ex. flying near Salina N.R and seen well.
24. **White Wagtail – Motacilla alba**
1 ex. at Salina N.R. with the Little Stints.
25. **European Stonechat – Saxicola rubicola**
About 4 birds at Chiandra N.R.

26. **Blue Rock Thrush – *Monticola solitarius***

2 birds, one nice male at the lost buildings near/of Pembroke.

27. **Cetti's Warbler – *Cettia cetti***

About 4 birds heard and ringed at Buskett.

28. **Zitting Cisticola – *Cisticola juncidis***

Very common on the island and also behaving different, more obvious than on other places I saw them.

29. **Icetine Warbler – *Hippolais icterina***

13-08 - 1 ex. ringed at Buskett.

See also: https://www.instagram.com/p/CS3QUQ7K78R/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

30. **Eastern Subalpine Warbler – *Sylvia cantillans* ssp: *cantillans***

A total of 12 almost all immatures seen at several places, also birds ringed at Buskett,

see also: https://www.instagram.com/p/CSsASDfqfPg/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link



31. **Moltoni's Warbler – *Sylvia subalpina***

13-08 - 1 ad. ringed at Buskett, smaller and with the known tail pattern.

Great to see this species again after so many years and compare the tail patterns.



32. **Sardinian Warbler – *Sylvia melanocephala***

Common throughout the trip, also ringed at Buskett.

See also; https://www.instagram.com/p/CSydw8LKs4s/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

33. **Spotted Flycatcher – *Muscicapa striata***

13-08

7 birds seen at Buskett., breeding pairs.

34. **Spanish Sparrow – *Passer hispaniolensis***

Common and behaving like House Sparrows on the island.

35. **Tree Sparrow – *Passer montanus***

13-08

3 birds ringed at Buskett.



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