

# Ekoskola NEWSLETTER



**ST MICHAEL**  
SCHOOL



Ħarġa No.28

Kumitat Ekoskola

Jan-Mar 2024

## ATTIVITAJIET MILL-KUMITAT

School Environmental Review  
Elezzjoni Kumitat - President / Seg  
Surface Temperature Campaign  
Phenology Campaign  
Collaboration Air Quality  
Testijiet tal-Ħamrija f'laboratorju  
GLOBE Conference Onlajn  
Green Flag Evaluation  
FEE Fest  
Naddottaw Fekruna tal-Bahar

## F'DIN IL-HARĠA

Editorjal  
Clouds  
Alien Species in Malta  
Marine Species in Malta  
Marine Alien Species in Malta  
Readings Electricity / Solar Panel  
Life Story of the Turtle  
Eco-News  
Ritratti

## EDITORJAL

Din hija l-ewwel ħarġa li qed tiġi ppublikata tul din is-sena skolastika. Tul dawn l-aħħar xhur il-kumitat kompla jaħdem fuq it-tema tal-ilma baħar fost xogħlijiet oħra kif ukoll ideċidejna li t-tema li jmiss se tkun l-importanza tal-ħamrija.

Matul din is-sena diġa' bħala kumitat sar xogħol differenti. Tindif ġo bajja b'mod xjentifiku fejn wara li ġbarna l' fuq minn 10 boroż, dawn ġew analizzati bil-materjal li kien hemm fihom u l-ammonti ġew rekordjati f'websajt. Il-GLOBE kompla jkun parti importanti mix-xogħol fl-iskola fejn apparti l-osservazzjonijiet ta' kuljum, ikkolaborajna ma' skejjel fl-Irlanda u kejjilna kemm għamlet xita f'Jannar li sfortunatament ma' tantx kellna xita. Is-Sur J.Savona ħa sehem għall-konferenza ġewwa Riga fejn fost l-oħrajn ipprezenta xogħol li sar fi snin ta' qabel.

Fejn jidhol LEAF, din is-sena ħadna l-LEAF Award u ċ-ċerimonja saret ġewwa Xrobb l-Għagin. Din is-sena fejn jidhol LEAF se naħdmu b'kollaborazzjoni ma' Grown Ten biex nkbarru siġar fis-serra tal-iskola.

Sena diehla se tkun sena impenjattiva fejn fassalna pjan ta' azzjoni fuq il-ħamrija u hemm pjanat attivitajiet interessanti marbutin kemm ma GLOBE u LEAF. Din is-sena l-iskola tagħna se tospita FEE fest fejn se tilqa ħafna skejjel tal-Ekoskola.

Nixtieq qabel nagħlaq dan l-editorjal nilqgħu fostna lil Mrs. Edwards li se tkun qed tgħin fil-kumitat u GRAZZI speċjali lill-istudenti tal-YR11 li waslu fl-aħħar u minn YR7 kienu u baqgħu ħabrieke fil-kumitat. Awguri għall-futur.

Nieħu l-okkażjoni hekk kif din il-ħarġa tkun fi żmien il-Għid biex nawgurawlkom l-Għid it-Tajjeb.

# CLOUDS

Scott Tabone



## Shelf Cloud

Shelf cloud is a low, horizontal cloud formation typically observed at the leading edge of thunderstorms or intense weather systems. These clouds appear as a distinct, wedge-shaped shelf protruding from the base of the storm cloud. Shelf clouds are often dark and ominous, creating a dramatic visual spectacle in the sky. They form due to the lifting of warm, moist air by the advancing cool air from the storm's downdraft. As the warm air condenses, it creates the characteristic shelf-like appearance. While shelf clouds may look threatening, they are not necessarily indicative of tornado activity. Instead, they signify the presence of strong winds, heavy rain, and potentially severe weather conditions associated with the approaching storm system. Shelf clouds serve as a visual warning to individuals in the path of the storm to take necessary precautions and seek shelter from the worsening weather. As one can assume, since these clouds mean generally rough weather, they can appear in the worst storms of the winter months in Malta.



## Roll Cloud

A roll cloud is a low, horizontal, tube-shaped, and relatively rare type of arcus cloud. They differ from shelf clouds by being completely detached from other cloud features. Roll clouds usually appear to be "rolling" about a horizontal axis. They are a solitary wave called a soliton, which is a wave that has a single crest and moves without changing speed or shape. This rolling is due to the variation in speed and direction of the winds with altitude (wind





# ALIEN SPECIES

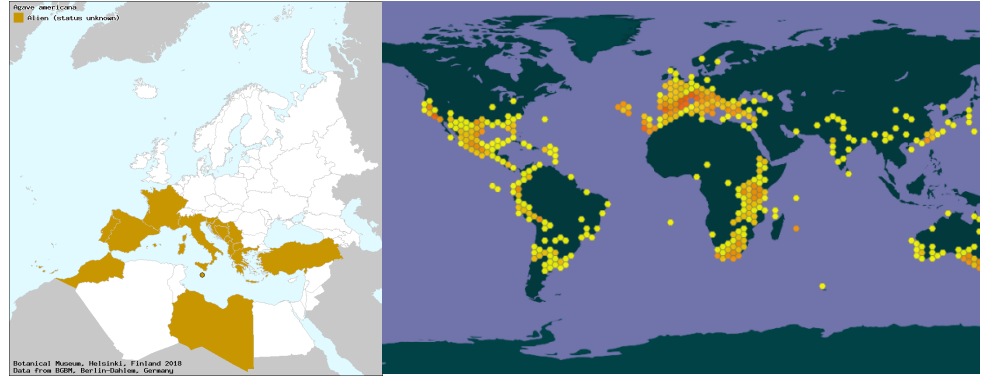


(EN) American Aloe /

Century Plant

(MT) Sabbara tal-Amerika

(SN) *Agave Americana*



*Agave americana*, commonly known as the century plant, maguey, or American aloe, is a flowering plant species belonging to the family Asparagaceae. It is native to Mexico and the United States, specifically Texas. This plant is widely cultivated worldwide for its ornamental value and has become naturalized in various regions, including Southern California, the West Indies, South America, the Mediterranean Basin, Africa, the Canary Islands, India, China, Thailand, and Australia.

Although it is called the century plant, it typically lives only 10 to 30 years. It has a spread around 1.8–3.0m with gray-green leaves measuring 0.9–1.5m in length. Each with a prickly margin and a heavy spike at the tip that can pierce deeply. Towards the end of its life, the plant produces a tall, branched stalk adorned with yellow blossoms, which can reach a height of 8–9m. Flowering time is between June and September, with yellow flowers.

Despite being called "American aloe", the *Agave americana* is not a member of the same family as *Aloe*.

In Malta this plant has been here before 1492 so it's been here more than 1000 years ago. Flowering period is around September–December. Colours of flower are Cream or Green. Introduced as an ornamental plant and naturalised in several wild habitats namely by the coast. Examples include Bahar ic-Caghaq (near Maghtab), Ghar Lapsi and Ta' Cenc. Very similar to *Agave americana* but this have leaves with yellow margins.

There is also a variation of the *Agave Americana* which is called Marginata with yellow lines.



Source: [www.maltawildplants.com](http://www.maltawildplants.com)



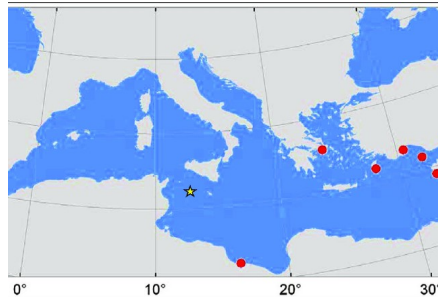
# MARINE ALIEN SPECIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Jamie Sacco

(EN) Persian Conch

(MT)

(SN) *Conomurex persicus*



*Conomurex persicus* as known as Persian Conch is a type of sea snail that has found its way in the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal. This mollusc's shell size has a range of 35mm to 75mm. The Persian Conch is usually found in environments of shallow bays, which contain a mix between rock, sand and mud. Its diet includes algae and zoobenthos like insect

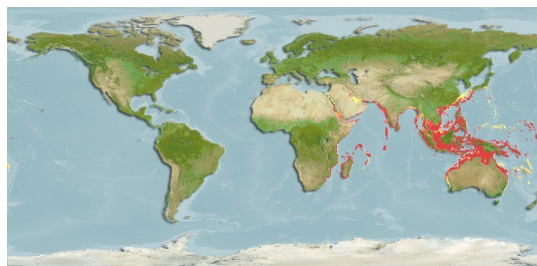


*Conomurex persicus*  
Greece, Dodekanisos, Karpachos  
NMR 39146. Common size 50 mm

(EN) Red coat

(MT)

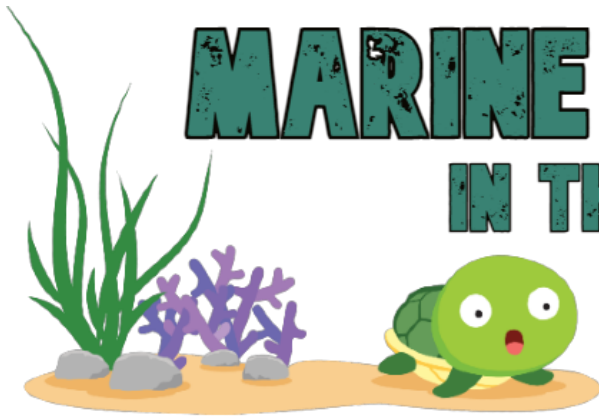
(SN) *Sargocentron rubrum*



*Sargocentron rubrum* commonly known as redcoat are large nocturnal fish that are mostly red in colour. This fish can be found from the Red Sea to the West Pacific. It has recently been found also in the Mediterranean Sea most likely entering from the Suez Canal. *Sargocentron rubrum* is quite territorial but does not have any concern for non-territorial animals. It has a carnivorous diet usually feeding on crabs and shrimps. This fish can be found living in a group or alone near rocky areas. This creature is venomous, and it is highly advised to touch it as that can lead to serious injuries. In Malta first capture was in 2015



# MARINE SPECIES IN THE MALTESE ISLANDS



Neil Abela

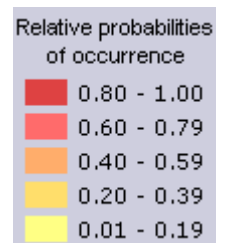
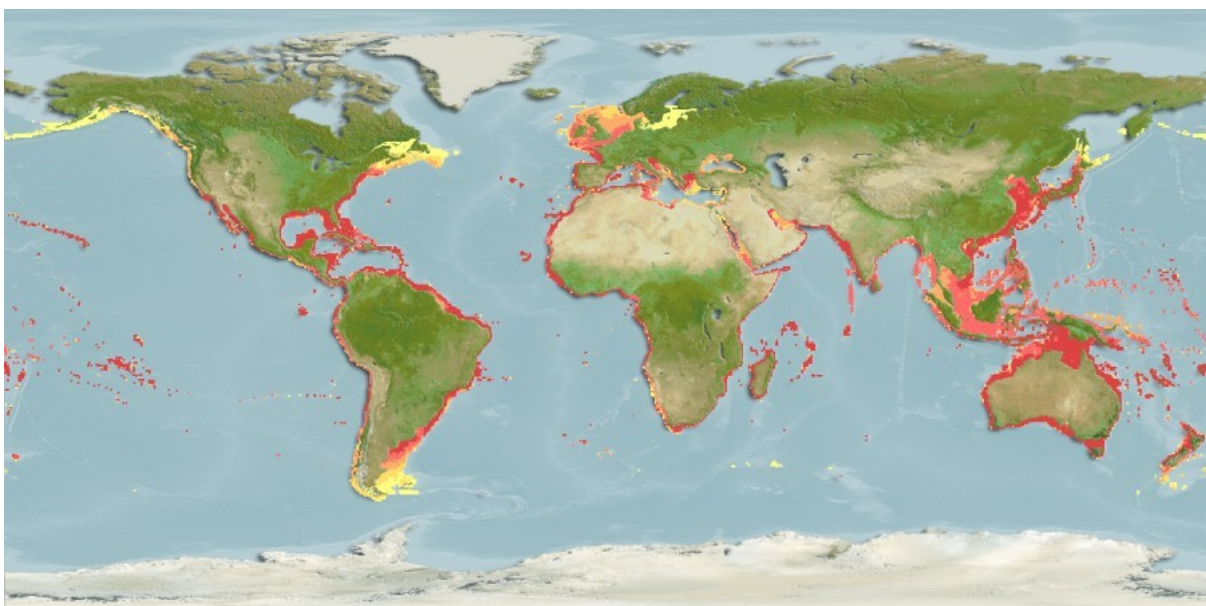
**(EN)** *The Loggerhead turtle*

**(MT)** *Fekruna Komuni*

**(SN)** *Caretta caretta*



The Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) is a large marine sea turtle with a wide geographical range. It prevails in many of the world's oceans, including the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans, and also within the Mediterranean Sea (which supports a distinct subpopulation). The adult Loggerhead Turtle may reach a length of 100 cm. The shell, which offers protection, is large, heart-shaped and is composed of a number of hard, bony plates. The upper-part is typically reddish-brown in colour, whilst the underside has a pale yellow colouration.





**(EN)** *Yelkouan Shearwater*

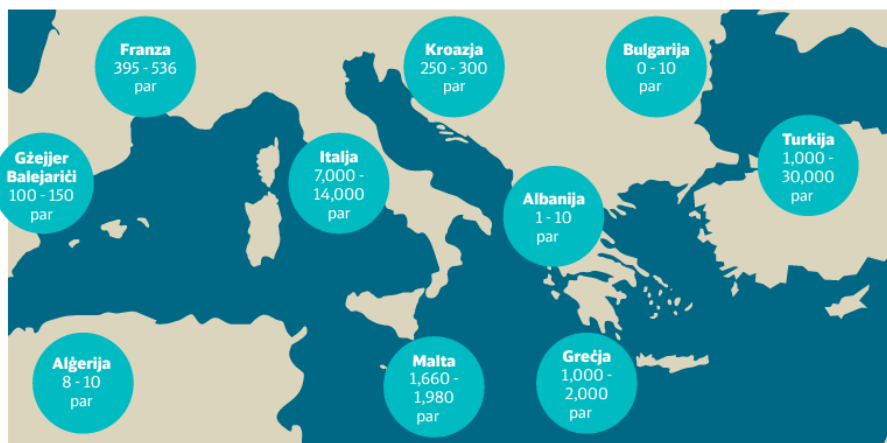
**(MT)** *Garnija*

**(SN)** *Puffinus yelkouan*

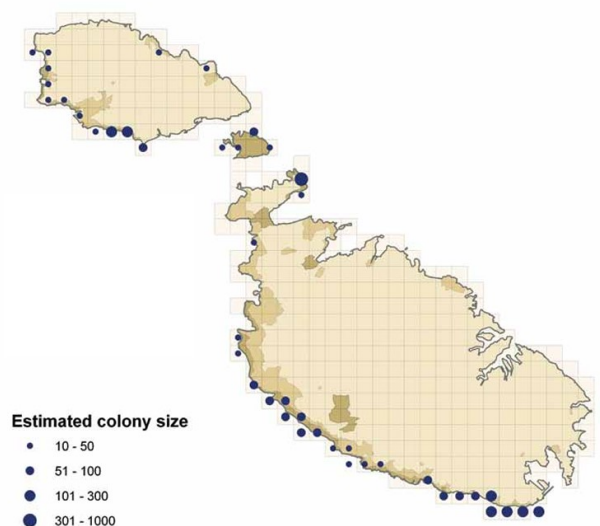
The Yelkouan Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*) is a medium-sized seabird, endemic to the Mediterranean Basin. The main breeding colonies are found in Greece, Italy and Malta. It is frequently observed far out at sea, plunging for bait fish, small crustaceans, and other small animals; during strong winds however, the bird flies closer to the coast.



Yelkouans bear a wingspan of around 85 cm, making them smaller than the Scopoli's Shearwater. Unlike their cousin, Yelkouans do not usually form rafts, but individuals are rather observed sitting on the water in the company of other seabirds.



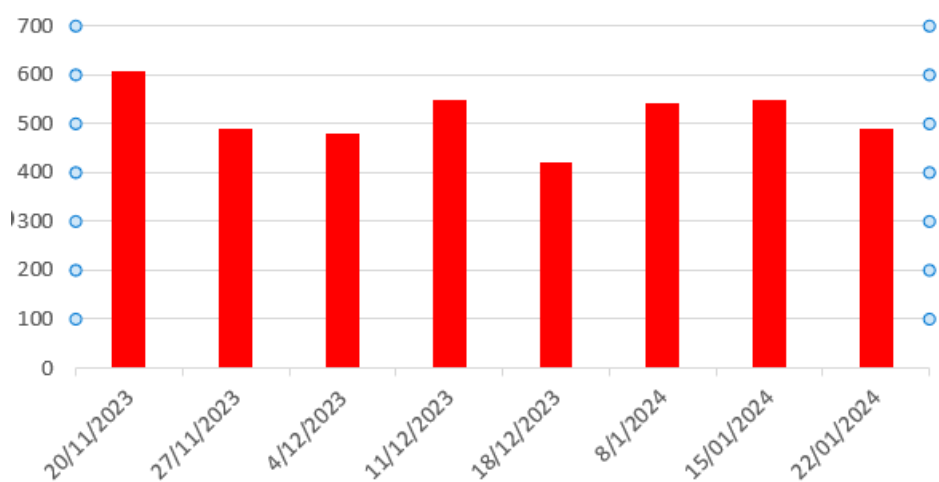
Map of the Maltese Islands showing the estimated numbers of breeding pairs of Yelkouan Shearwaters on Malta, Gozo and Comino



# READINGS

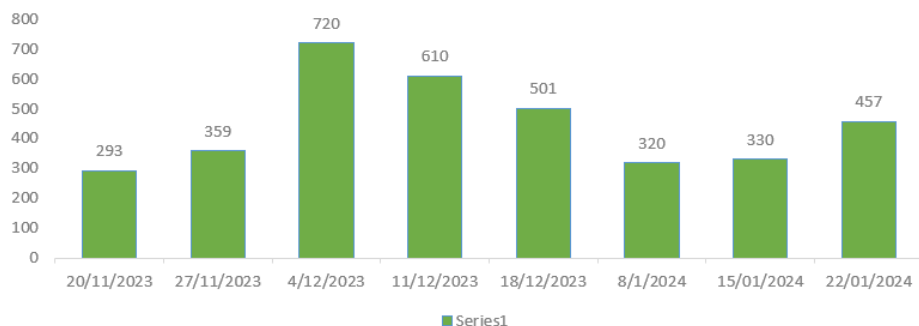


Energy Used (kWh)



20/11/2023	609
27/11/2023	490
4/12/2023	480
11/12/2023	550
18/12/2023	420
8/1/2024	542
15/01/2024	550
22/01/2024	490

Units of Electricity Generated (kW)



20/11/2023	293	Rainy Week
27/11/2023	359	Cloudy Week
4/12/2023	720	
11/12/2023	610	
18/12/2023	501	
8/1/2024	320	
15/01/2024	330	
22/01/2024	457	



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# LIFE STORY OF THE TURTLE



**Matthew Sammut**

Turtles are incredible creatures that have been around for a very long time. In this article, we will explore the different stages of a turtle's life and learn about the challenges they face.

## **1. Nesting and Hatching:**

A female turtle goes to the beach where she was born to lay her eggs. She digs a hole in the sand and carefully places her eggs inside. The eggs are left to hatch and when they do, baby turtles make their way to the ocean guided by the moonlight.

## **2. Early Life in the Ocean:**

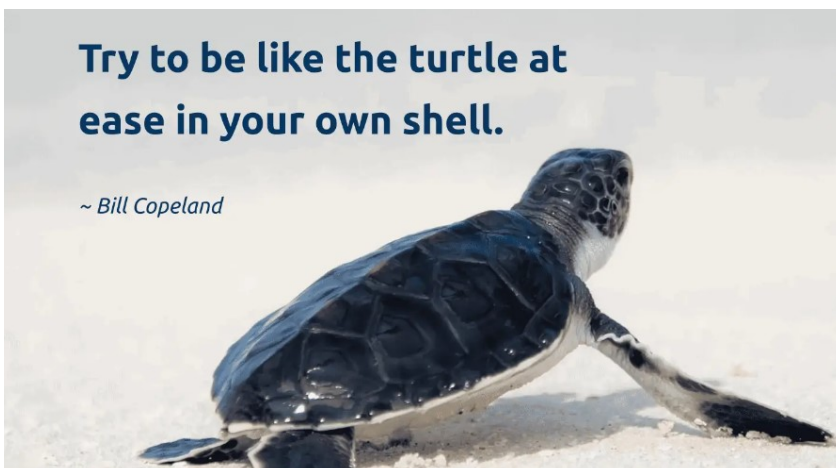
Once in the ocean, baby turtles face dangers from birds, crabs, and fish. Only a few of them survive this journey. They spend some time floating in the ocean, eating small organisms to grow.

## **3. Growing Up:**

As turtles grow bigger, they leave the open ocean and move to places near the coast where they can find food and shelter. They stay there for a few years until they are ready to explore deeper waters.

**Try to be like the turtle at  
ease in your own shell.**

*~ Bill Copeland*





#### 4. Becoming Adults and Having Babies:

When turtles become adults, they return to the beach where they were born to have their own babies. Male turtles compete for the attention of females, and after mating, the females lay their eggs in the sand. The temperature of the sand decides if the baby turtles will be boys or girls.

#### 5. Living Long Lives and Protecting Turtles:

Turtles are known for living a very long time, sometimes even more than 100 years! But turtles are facing many problems like losing their homes, pollution, and changes in the climate. We need to work together to protect them and make sure they continue to exist for future generations.

Turtles have an amazing life story. From hatching on the beach to living in the ocean, they face challenges at every stage. By understanding and caring for turtles, we can help protect these special creatures and the places they call home. Let us work together to ensure a bright future for turtles and our planet.



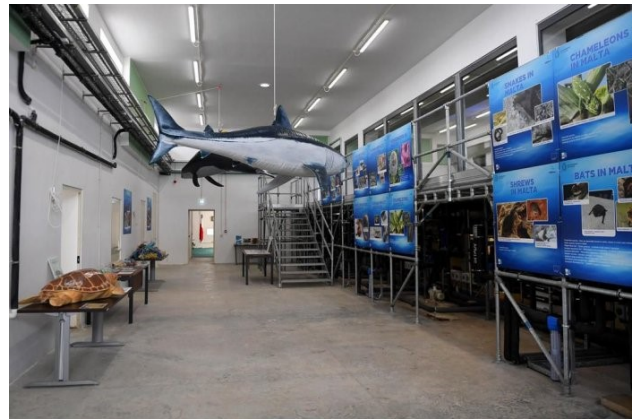
# ECO-NEWS



## Xrobb I-Għagin Rehabilitation Centre

Nature Trust Malta has inaugurated its new wildlife rehabilitation centre at the Xrobb I-Għagin Nature Park, funded by €2.5 million. The €2.5 million project, primarily financed by EU funds, focuses on non-avian wildlife and includes a marine research centre and an educational

area. The centre, which already cares for nine sea turtles and seven hedgehogs, is housed in a building that served as a relay station for Deutsche Welle between 1974 and 1995.



## Malta's Green Vision Summit



Malta is hosting the Green Vision Summit & Expo (GVSE) to encourage ecotourism and instill conscientious awareness towards climate change and the environment. Situated in the Mediterranean, Malta is an archipelago steeped in the legends of sieges, knights, and antiquated cultures. Its honey-hued cities conceal the mysteries of former empires, while its azure seas cradle limestone cliffs. GST Technologies is among the most significant

companies involved in Malta's sustainable development industry. It has arranged for The Green Vision Expo & Summit. GST Technologies' commitment to promoting favorable changes in the environmental landscape benefits Malta's sustainable development industry.



# RITRATTI



**Clean Up and follow Up (Ottobru 2023)**



**Volontarjar (Dicembu 2023)**





# RITRATTI



**LEAF Award (Jannar 2024)**



**Rainfall Collaboration ma' Irlanda—GLOBE  
(Jannar— Frar 2024)**

**Surface Temperatue Campaign —GLOBE  
(Ottubru 2023)**

