

*Ingliz*

8<sup>th</sup> July 2009

### **Swifts & Crossbills...**

For the sixth year in succession swifts have been reported breeding in the same area on the Maltese Islands. The swift is a common passage migrant and summer visitor to Malta.

In the past week few crossbills have been sighted in some various localities of the islands. Crossbills are rare and vagrant passage migrants to Malta, and in most years they are completely absent. However occasionally they do make a good fall, even in a few hundreds.

Crossbills are birds in the finch family. The species is characterised by the mandibles crossing at their tips, which gives the bird its name. Adult males tend to be red or orange in colour, and females green or yellow, but there is much variation. The unusual bill is an adequate tool for getting into the pine cones to get to the seeds on which they feed. These birds are normally found in northern high altitudes, and they disperse when their food supply fails, hence their occasional appearance in Malta.

The Federation for Hunting & Conservation – Malta (FKNK) is kept continuously updated about the status, breeding and quantity of Malta's birds through its network of thousands of members who carry out observations on their hunting lands all over the Maltese islands throughout the year.

The FKNK would like to thank those members for these contributions, amongst who are the wild rabbit hunters who would be hunting wild rabbits at this time of year and encourages them to keep on respecting the relative regulations.

Lino Farrugia  
Secretary – FKNK

*Maltese*

8 ta' Lulju 2009

### **Rundun u Kruċjati....**

Għas-sitt sena konsekuttiva r-rundun reġa għamel il-bejta fl-istess post fil-gżejjer Maltin. F'Malta r-rundun huwa għasfur tal-passa komuni anki fis-sajf.

F'dawn l-aħħar ġimgħat ġew osservati ftit kruċjati fi ftit inħawi tal-gżejjer Maltin. Il-kruċjati huma għasafar tal-passa rari, u f'ħafna snin lanqas biss iżurunha. Madankollu, kultant ikun hawn tefa tajba, anki bil-mijiet.

Il-kruċjati huma għasafar mir-razza tal-isponsuni. L-ispeċi hija ikkaratterizzatha mill-munqar li huwa msallab fil-ponot, u minn fejn ingħata l-isem lill-għasfur. L-irġiel adulti x'aktarx ikunu ta' lewn aħmar jew oranġjo, u n-nies aħdor jew sofor, pero hemm bosta varjazzjonijiet. Il-munqar stramb huwa għodda idejali biex jofsoq iż-żerriegħa minn ġol-prinjola. Dwan l-għasafar normalment jinsabu f'għoljiet f'pajjiżi qrib it-tramuntana, u jtilqu minn hemm meta ma jsibux x'jieklu, b'hekk li kultant jiffaċċaw f'Malta.

L-eluf ta' membri tal-Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti (FKNK) li jinstabu ta' kuljum fl-għelieqi tagħhom madwar Malta u Għawdex kollu, fejn normalment imorru għal kaċċa u jonsbu, iżommu lill-FKNK kontinwament aġġornata b'dak li josservaw rigward stat, bejtiet, kwantita', eċċ., tal-għasafar.

L-FKNK trid tiringrazzja lil dawn il-membri ta' dawn il-kontribuzzjonijiet, fost liema minnhom ikunu għal kaċċa tal-fenek selvaġġ f'dawn iż-żminijiet u tkompli tfeġġiġhom jibqaw josservaw ir-regolamenti relatati.

Lino Farrugia  
Segretarju