

MINISTERU GHALL-IŻVILUPP SOSTENIBBLI, L-  
AMBJENT U TIBDIL FIL-KLIMA

SEGRETARJAT PARLAMENTARI GHALL-BIEDJA,  
SAJD U DRITTIJJET TAL-ANIMALI



MINISTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,  
THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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*Wild Birds Regulation Unit*

## **Scientific study on breeding and wintering birds of the Maltese Islands**

The Wild Birds Regulation Unit has commissioned a scientific study on breeding and wintering bird populations of the Maltese Islands. The study, which was commissioned through an international service tender, has been contracted to Epsilon Malta (MT) – NCC (GR). The study will be carried out by a team of foreign and local scientists during 2017 and 2018 in fulfilment of the requirements of Article 12 of the EU Birds Directive, which mandates Member States to report on the status of breeding and wintering bird species, as well as the progress made with the implementation of the Birds Directive. The findings of the study will subsequently help to inform and guide future national policy in relation to conservation of wild birds in Malta, as well as inform European policy in this domain.

The study will entail extensive field work to be carried out in the early hours of the morning during breeding and wintering seasons with the aim of documenting regular breeding and wintering bird species. The study will also result in the compilation of a Malta Breeding Bird Atlas, which will be updated with the latest scientific findings. Key stakeholders, including Birdlife Malta, the Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta (FKNK) and St Hubert's Hunters (KSU) have been briefed on the project and have pledged their support to the execution of this study.

The Wild Birds Regulation Unit also invites the general public to contribute to this study by reporting sightings of any observed breeding bird species on email to [mtbirdsatlas@gmail.com](mailto:mtbirdsatlas@gmail.com). Such reports should specify the species and the type of breeding behaviour observed (e.g. courtship display, carrying of nesting material, etc), or the presence of fledglings, as well as the location and time of observation. Persons sending such reports may also provide their contact information, to enable the scientists to follow up on such reports where required. All information will be treated in strictest confidence.