



CABS Bird Guards on Gozo

Harsien tal-ghasafar tal-passa li jżuruna f'Għawdex fil-Ħarifa

Who are CABS?

- The *Committee Against Bird Slaughter* (CABS) is the only trans-national bird protection organisation working actively in the field in Europe to protect birds from illegal hunting and trapping.
- CABS has worked for the protection of birds for more than 35 years. Together with the *Foundation Pro Biodiversity* (SPA) we number more than 65,000 supporters in more than 40 countries.
- CABS works closely on Għawdex (Gozo) with the SPA. Both are registered charity organisations and own extensive real estate in Germany that they manage and develop as nature reserves.
- CABS specialises in combating illegal hunting and trapping of endangered bird species along their migration routes in Southern Europe.
- CABS, with the support of the SPA, conducts annual Bird Protection Camps (BPCs) in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and on Cyprus and Malta, working hand in hand with the authorities and local NGOs. Some 150 nature lovers, young and old, from Europe and beyond, take time off from their work and families each year to take part in the spring and autumn BPCs on a voluntary basis.

What are CABS and SPA doing on Għawdex?

- Illegal hunting on Malta and Għawdex is a severe threat to many bird species breeding in continental Europe such as Honey Buzzards, Marsh Harriers and other birds of prey, storks, herons, waders and many species of song birds.
- CABS has been active on Malta from 2001 and, in cooperation with its partner organisation SPA, has teams stationed on Għawdex since spring 2012. Our main task is to monitor and protect important roost sites and migration corridors and to record and report illegal hunting to the authorities.
- All CABS/SPA members are instructed to respect genuine private property and data protection rights. We are here to assist the authorities - and the vast majority of the population of Għawdex - to ensure that Maltese and European wildlife protection laws are complied with.
- You can recognise CABS and SPA volunteers by their olive-green or beige T-shirts with the words BIRD GUARD prominently displayed on the back.



***We work within the law, to ensure observance of the law...
and in close cooperation with the law enforcement agencies***

As a resident of or visitor to Għawdex (Gozo) please take a moment to help our birds

Illegal hunting of protected birds is widespread on Malta and Għawdex. This damages intensive and costly wildlife conservation efforts in other European states.

Every responsible European citizen - not just members of conservation organisations - can help to preserve our common natural heritage both today, and for generations to come. Report illegal hunting and trapping whenever and wherever you see it - it is a criminal offence and must be reported to the local police. They are obliged to record your complaint and take action. Convicted poachers can receive a heavy fine and lose their hunting licence.

AUTUMN HUNTING SEASON 2013

This year's autumn hunting season, between 1 September 2013 and 31 January 2014, has been published in a legal notice by the Maltese government. The only species which may be hunted on land during this period are Turtle Dove and Quail.

WHAT IS ILLEGAL?

- Shooting protected bird species. The main targets of illegal hunting are large soaring birds such as Eagles, Buzzards, Storks and Herons.
- Trapping of any birds. Finch species or water birds (waders) are targeted by illegal trappers.
- Hunting within 200 metres from buildings or 50 metres from public roads, hunting from the coastline or at sea within 3 km of the coast (sea hunting not before 1 October).
- Use of a firearm with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition (i.e. 3 immediately consecutive shots from the same weapon is illegal).
- Hunting in or 50 metres from the boundary of designated protected areas (Comino, Ta' Cenc, beaches, cemeteries, other bird sanctuaries and nature reserves).
- From 15 September to 7 October 2013 hunting is forbidden after 7.00 pm on weekdays, and after 1.00 pm on Sundays and public holidays.

If you are unsure if an incident is illegal contact CABS Għawdex on (+356) 99 64 63 21

HOW DO I MAKE A COMPLAINT?

Call the police control room in Rabat (Victoria) on (+356) 2156 2040 who will record your complaint and as necessary despatch an anti-poaching patrol. The police are obliged to accept your verbal report. You need not go personally to the police station.




Stiftung Pro Artenvielfalt[®]
Foundation Pro Biodiversity

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