



# **Game Reporting Data**

2023 Report

Wild Birds Regulation Unit

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# Introduction

In February 2016, the Government enacted Legal Notice 69 of 2016 (Conservation of Wild Birds (Amendment) Regulations), which paved the way for reform of the system of general hunting licences. Instead of the previous *Carnet de Chasse* reporting system, hunting and live-capturing reports are now submitted through a telephonic game reporting system or mobile app. The data in this report was collated from this game reporting system.

For autumn–winter bird hunting and rabbit hunting/ferreting seasons, licensees were legally required to report their bags before leaving the location where their activity was taking place. For seasons opened under derogation (Spring Hunting and Autumn Live-Capturing), licensees were required to report their bags immediately upon making a catch, thus allowing for real-time data to be gathered. The reports were aggregated in a central database which allows the Wild Birds Regulation Unit to monitor the data at any point in time for both scientific and enforcement purposes.

Live-capturing data for song thrush and golden plover pertains to reports made under derogation. Detailed reports on the outcome of these derogations can be found in the official derogations report available at:

<https://ministryforgozo.gov.mt/en/Pages/WBRU/Reports%20and%20Statistics/Autumn-Live-Capturing-Derogations%E2%80%8B-.aspx>

Spring hunting derogation reports are also available at:

<https://ministryforgozo.gov.mt/en/Pages/WBRU/Spring-Hunting-Derogation.aspx>

The table below outlines the number of licences active for each general licence category in 2023. Individual licensees could have one or a combination of multiple categories of these licences. Licensees could only report game caught pertaining to their respective licence categories.

Licence Category	Nº of licences
General Licence for Hunting birds on land	9,934
Special Spring Hunting licence – <i>Quail &amp; Turtle Dove</i>	7,954
General Licence for Hunting birds at sea	284
General Licence for Hunting of wild rabbit	3,075
General Licence for Capture of wild rabbit with nets	65
General Licence for Live-Capturing of birds	4,025
Special Autumn Live-Capturing Licence – <i>Song Thrush and Golden Plover</i>	1,241

In order to practice hunting during the reporting period, in addition to their general hunting licences, licensees were required to have a valid weapons permit issued by the Police, a valid insurance cover, and a paid membership in a recognised hunting organisation.

During the reporting period, a total of 9,188 specimens belonging to huntable species were reported hunted and a total of 1,986 specimens were reported captured under Article 9(1)(c) live-capturing derogations. The system received a total of 6,064 telephonic reports from 1,592 individuals.

The following table lists the reports submitted by licensees within each licence category and the corresponding total number of specimens reported. The number of licensees submitting a report as a percentage of the total number of licences within each category is also provided.

<b>Licence Category</b>	<b>Total licences</b>	<b>Nº of licensees participating in game reporting</b>	<b>Percentage of total licences within category (%)</b>	<b>Nº of reports received</b>	<b>Specimens reported</b>
General Licence for Hunting birds on land	9,934	542	5.5	2,966	7,025
Special Spring Hunting licence – <i>Quail &amp; Turtle Dove</i>	7,954	905	11.4	2,072	2,106
General Licence for Hunting birds at sea	284	3	1.1	3	3
General Licence for Hunting of wild rabbit	3,075	48	1.6	46	52
General Licence for Capture of wild rabbit with nets	65	1	1.5	1	2
General Licence for Live-Capturing of birds	4,025	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Special Autumn Live-Capturing Licence – <i>Song Thrush and Golden Plover</i>	1,241	391	31.5	1,016	1,986

# Hunting Data

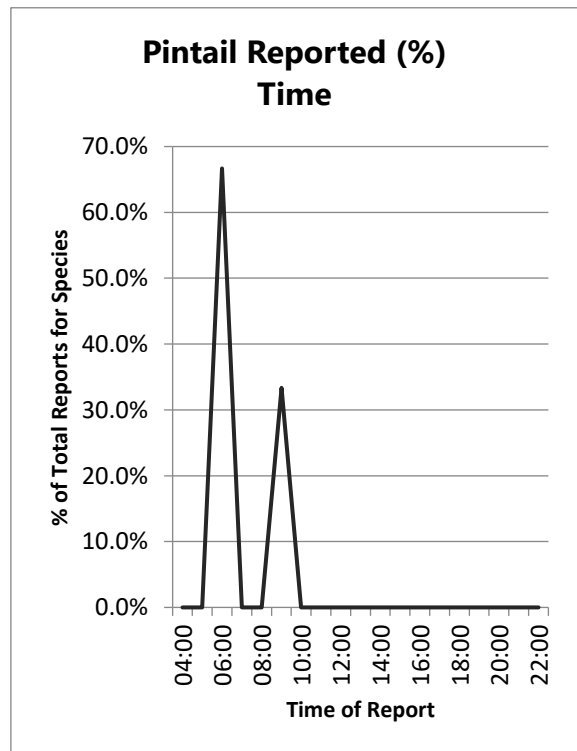
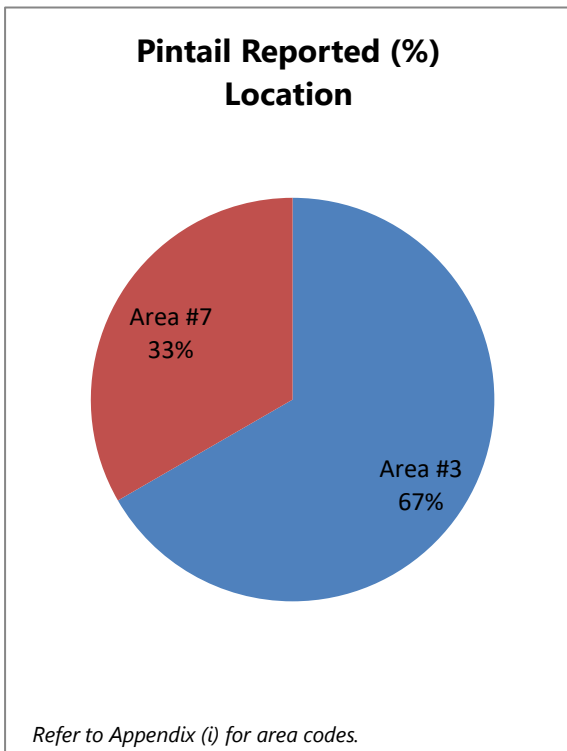
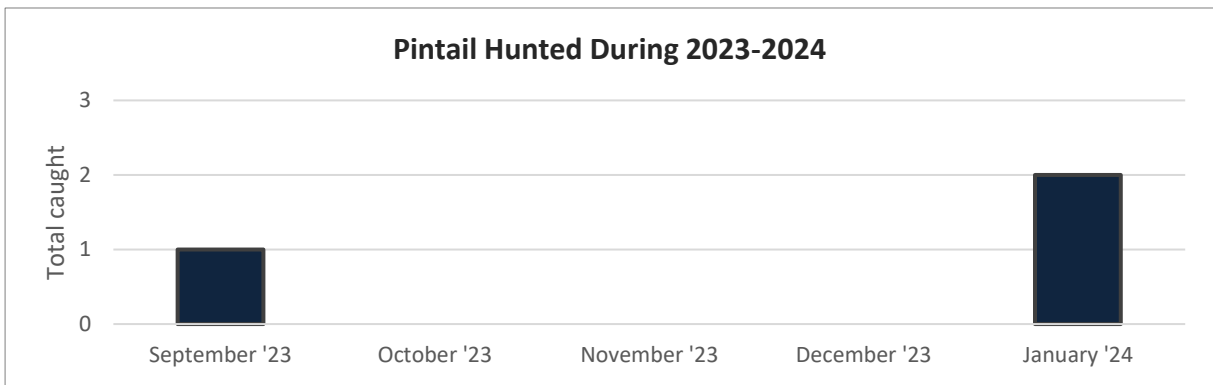
2023 Report

*Anas acuta*

**Pintail**

Silfjun

September '23	1
October '23	0
November '23	0
December '23	0
January '24	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>

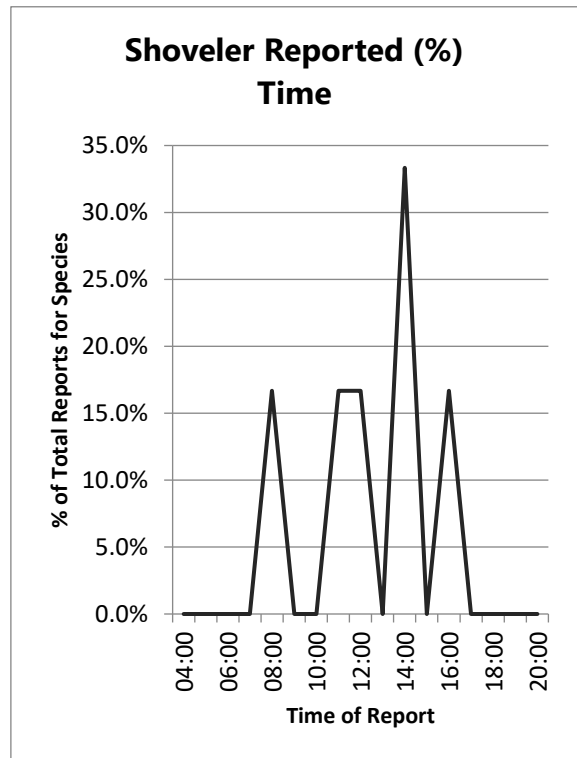
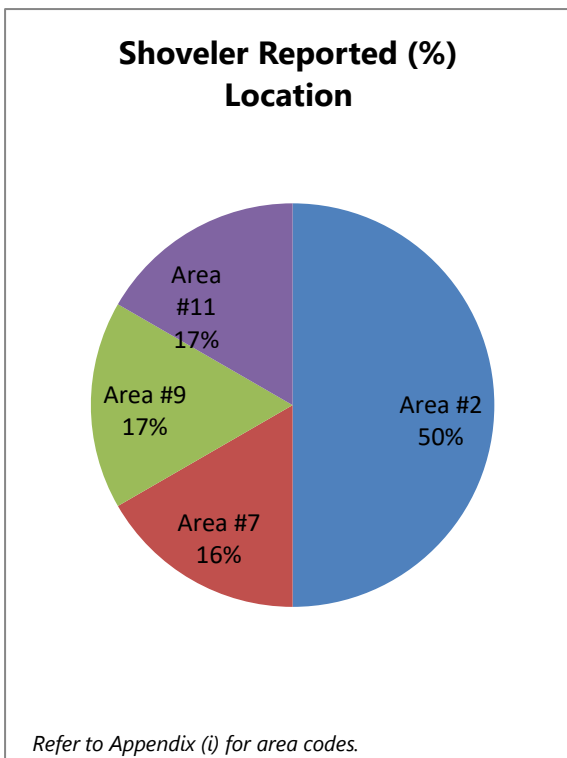
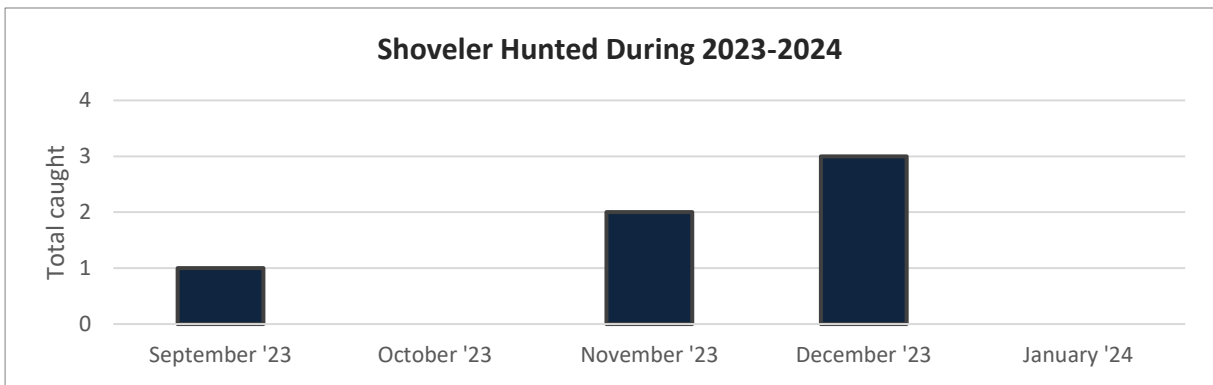


*Anas clypeata*

**Shoveler**

Palettuna

September '23	1
October '23	0
November '23	2
December '23	3
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

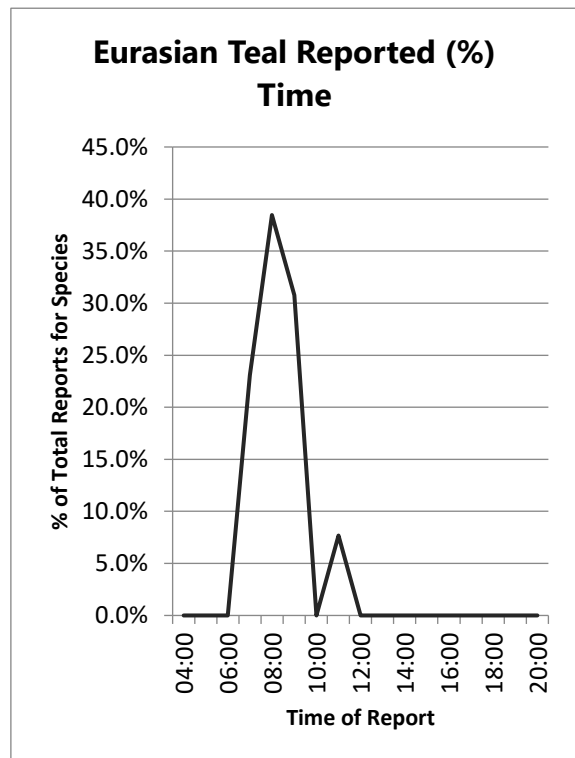
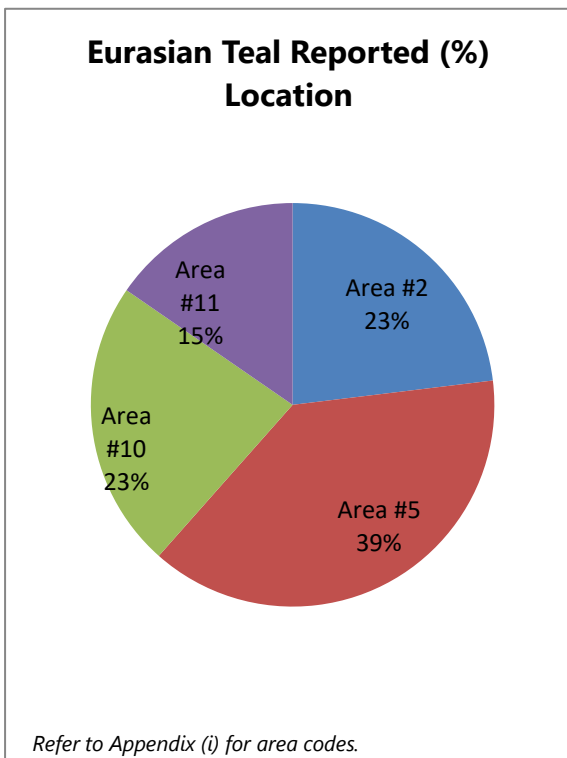
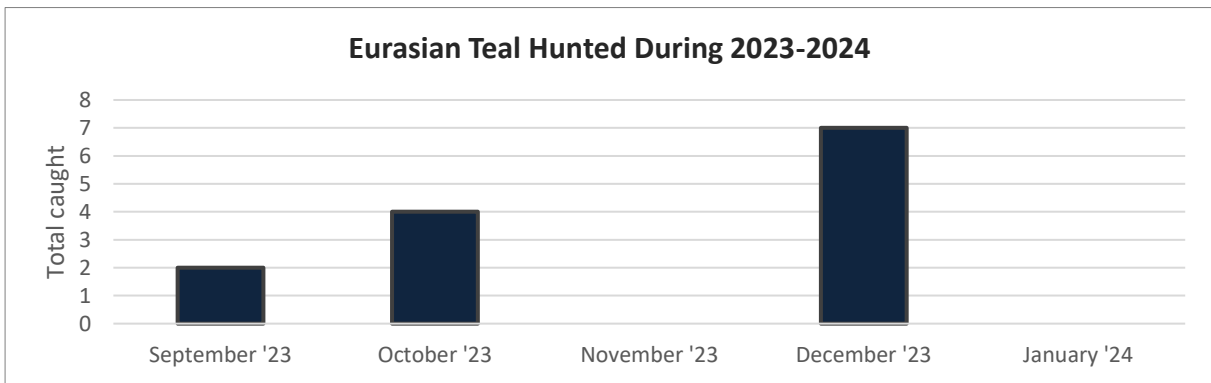


*Anas crecca*

**Eurasian Teal**

Sarsella

September '23	2
October '23	4
November '23	0
December '23	7
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>



Anseriformes

- Anatidae

Month

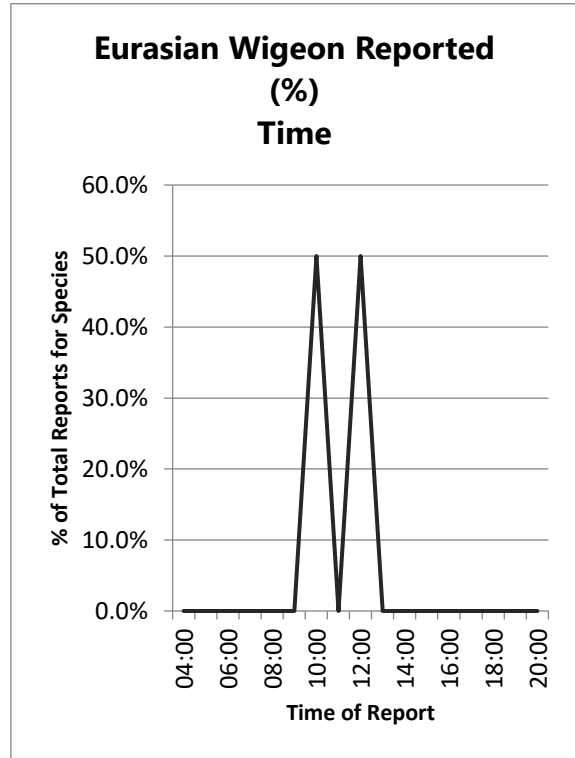
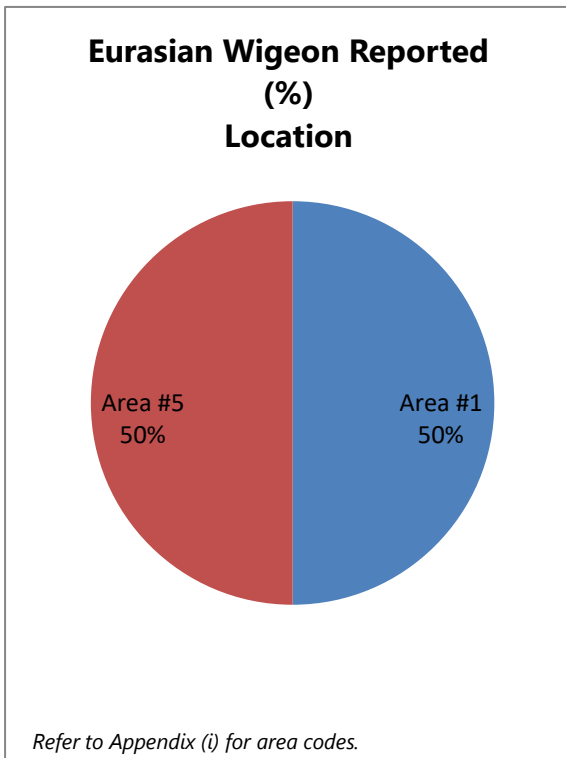
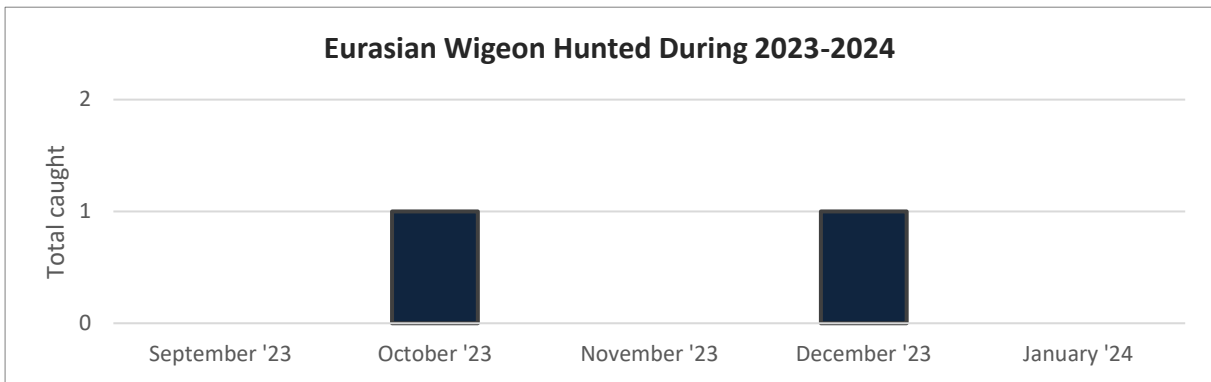
Specimens Hunted

*Anas penelope*

**Eurasian Wigeon**

Silfjun Ewropew

September '23	0
October '23	1
November '23	0
December '23	1
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>



Anseriformes - Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		
<b>Mallard</b>		
Kuluvert		
	September '23	0
	October '23	0
	November '23	0
	December '23	0
	January '24	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Anseriformes

- Anatidae

Month

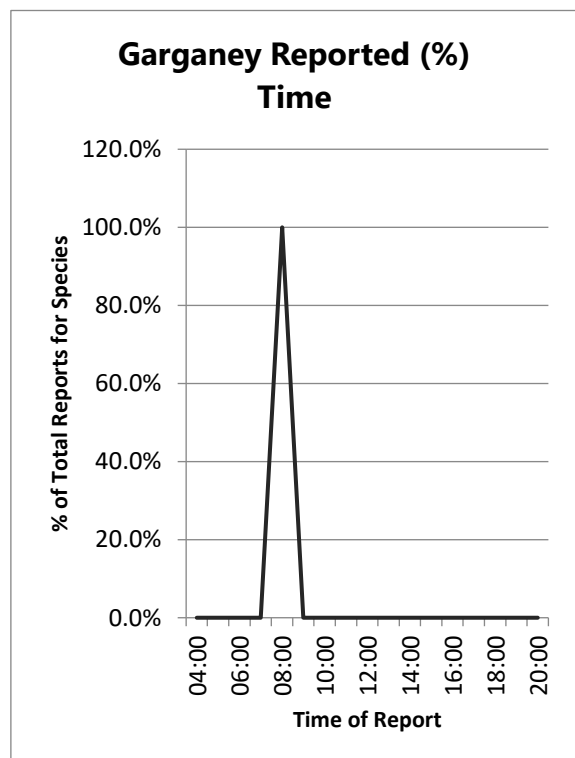
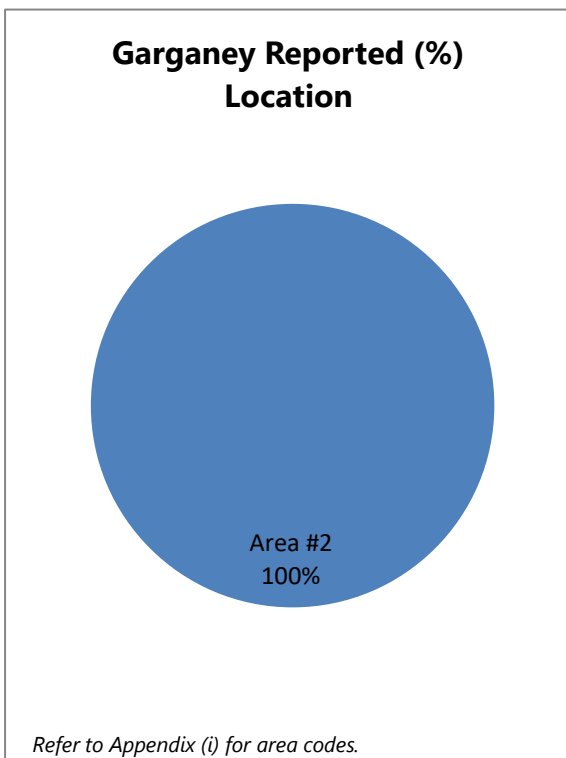
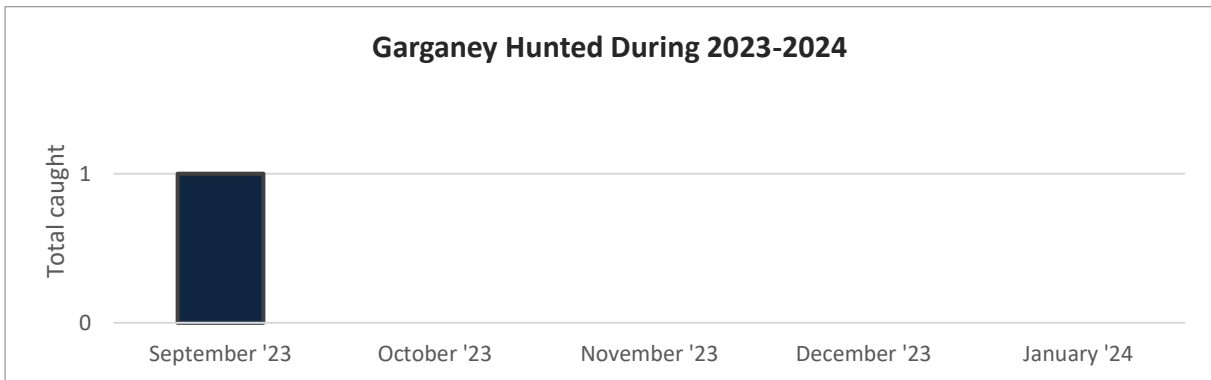
Specimens Hunted

*Anas querquedula*

**Garganey**

Sarsella Hamra

September '23	1
October '23	0
November '23	0
December '23	0
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>



Anseriformes

- Anatidae

Month

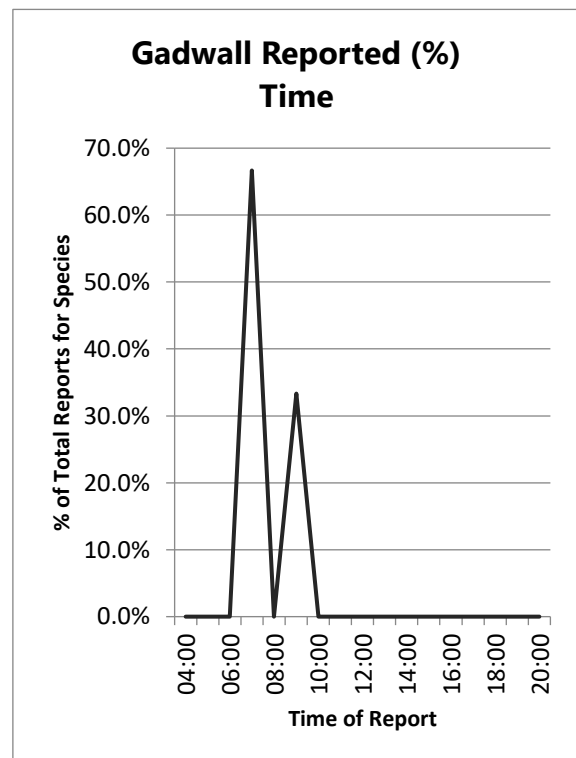
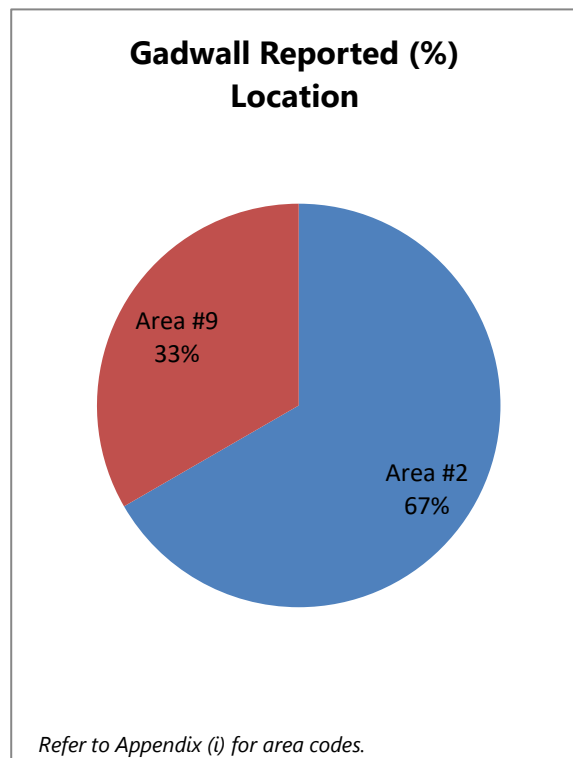
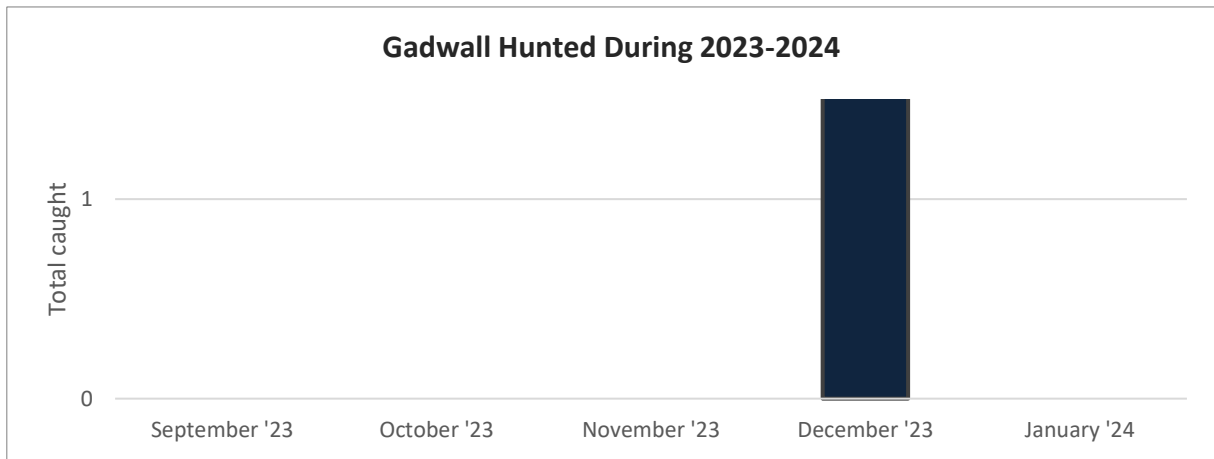
Specimens Hunted

*Anas strepera*

**Gadwall**

Kuluvert Griz

September '23	0
October '23	0
November '23	0
December '23	3
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>



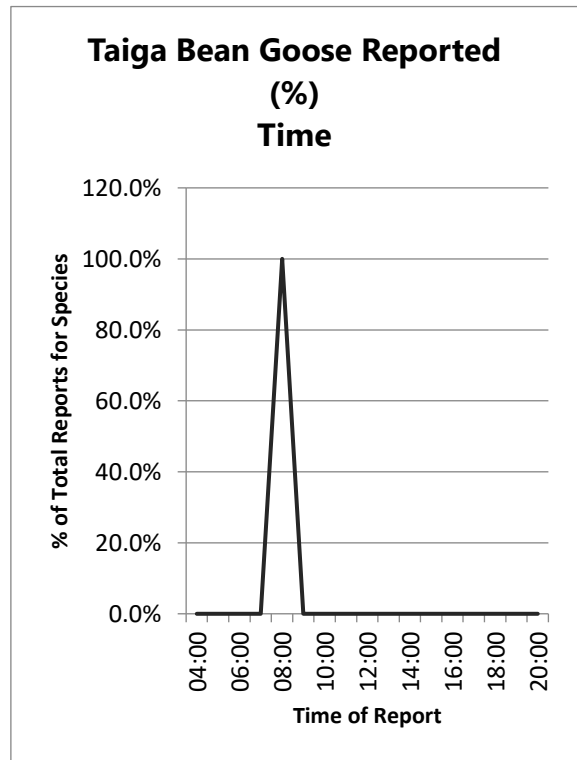
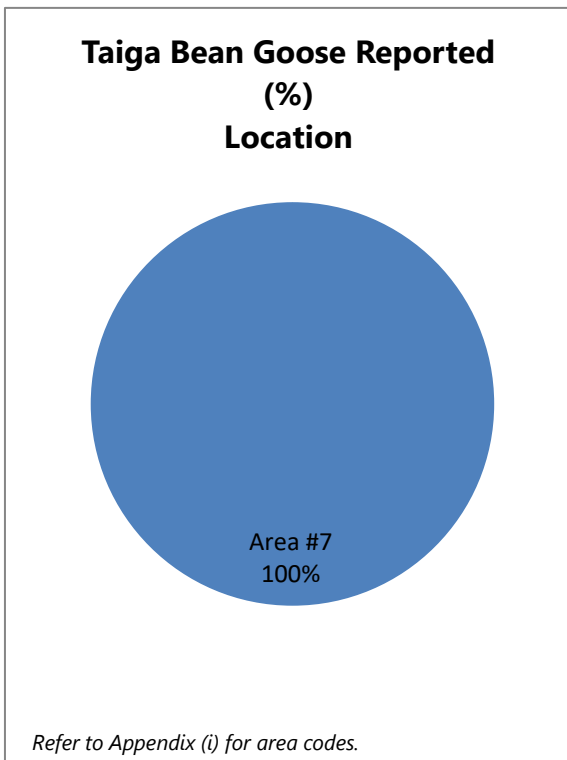
Anseriformes - Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Anser anser</i>		
<b>Greylag Goose</b>		
Wizza Griza		
	September '23	0
	October '23	0
	November '23	0
	December '23	0
	January '24	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

*Anser fabalis*

**Taiga Bean Goose**

Wizza tal-Ful

September '23	1
October '23	0
November '23	0
December '23	0
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>



Anseriformes	- Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Aythya ferina</i>			
<b>Pochard</b>			
Brajmla			
		September '23	0
		October '23	0
		November '23	0
		December '23	0
		January '24	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Anseriformes	- Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			
<b>Tufted Duck</b>			
Brajmla tat-Toppu			
		September '23	0
		October '23	0
		November '23	0
		December '23	0
		January '24	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

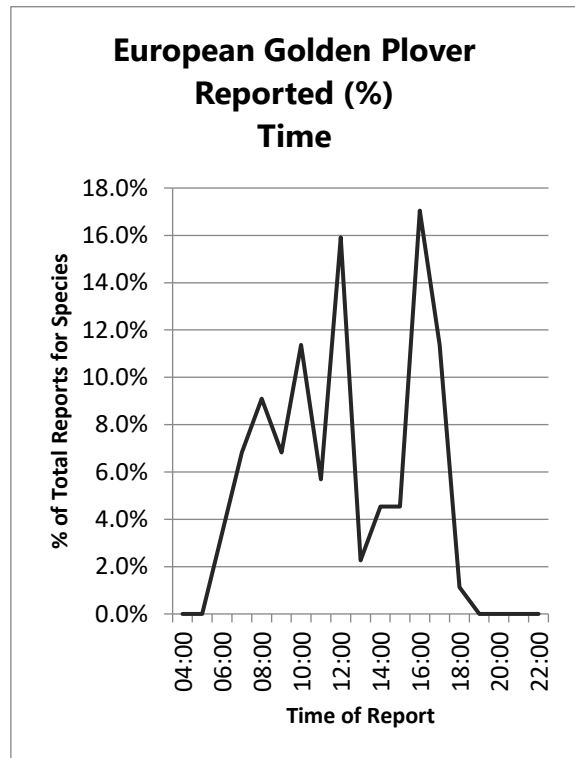
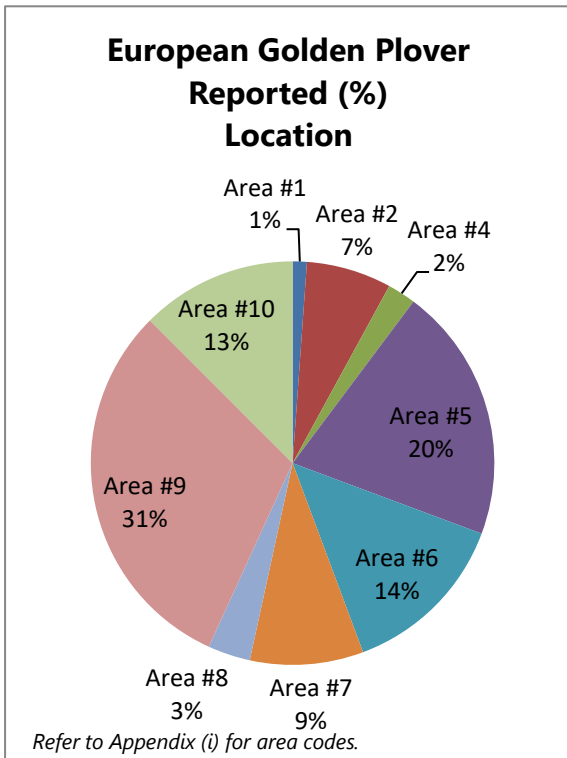
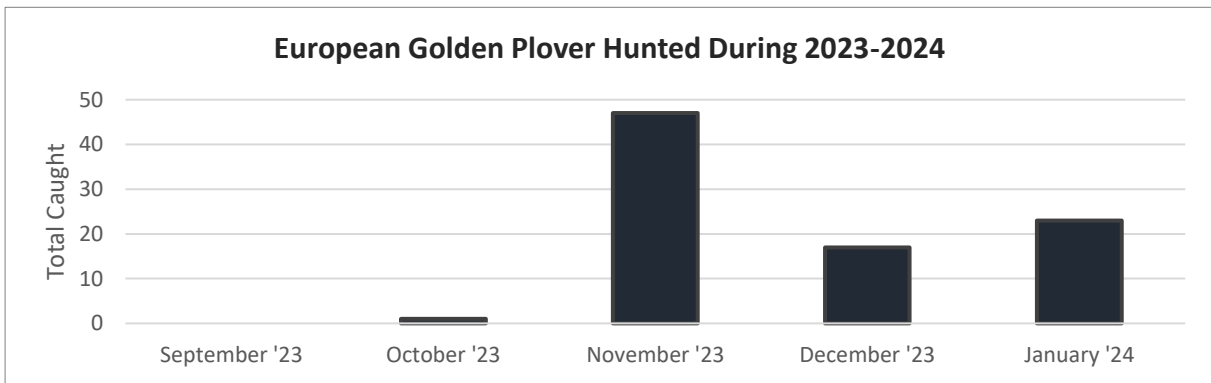
*Pluvialis apricaria*

**European Golden Plover**

Pluviera

(Hunting Data)

September '23	0
October '23	1
November '23	47
December '23	17
January '24	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>

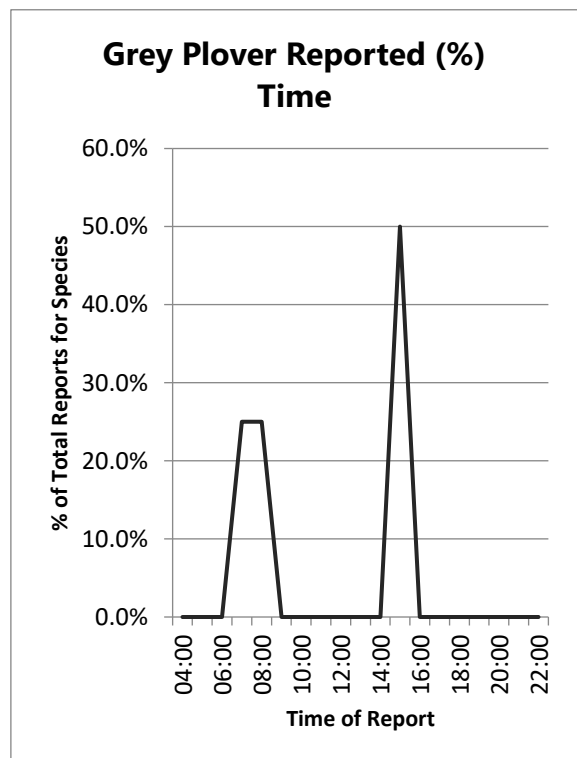
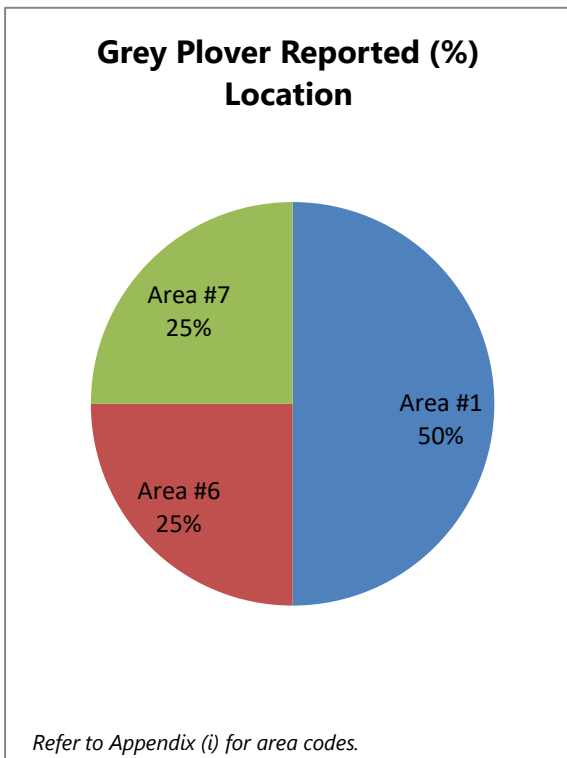
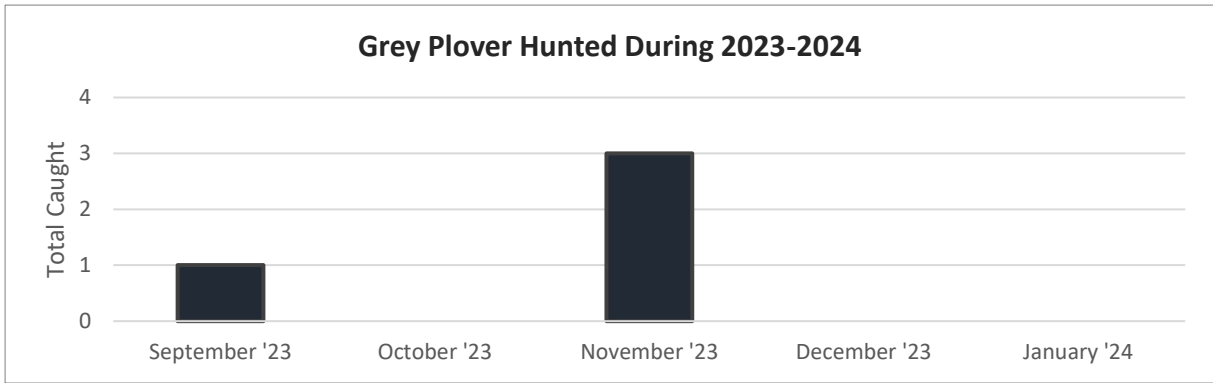


*Pluvialis squatarola*

**Grey Plover**

*Pluviera Pastarda*

Month	Specimens Hunted
September '23	1
October '23	0
November '23	3
December '23	0
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>

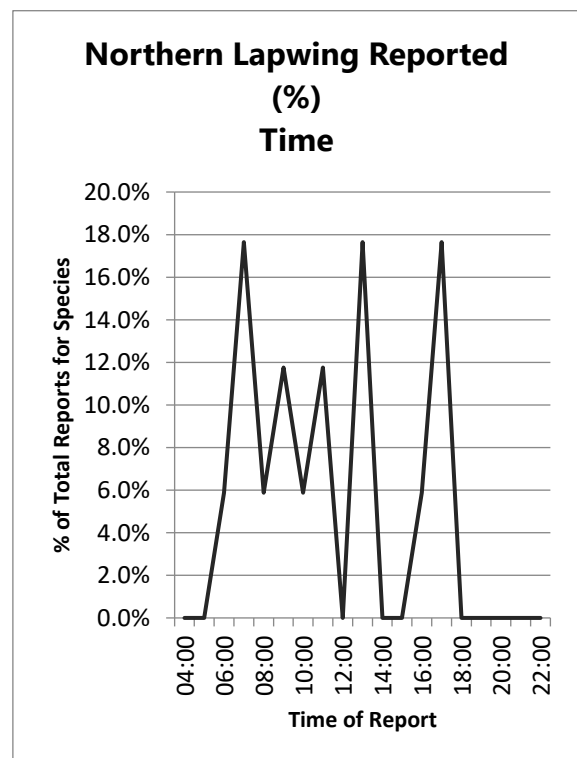
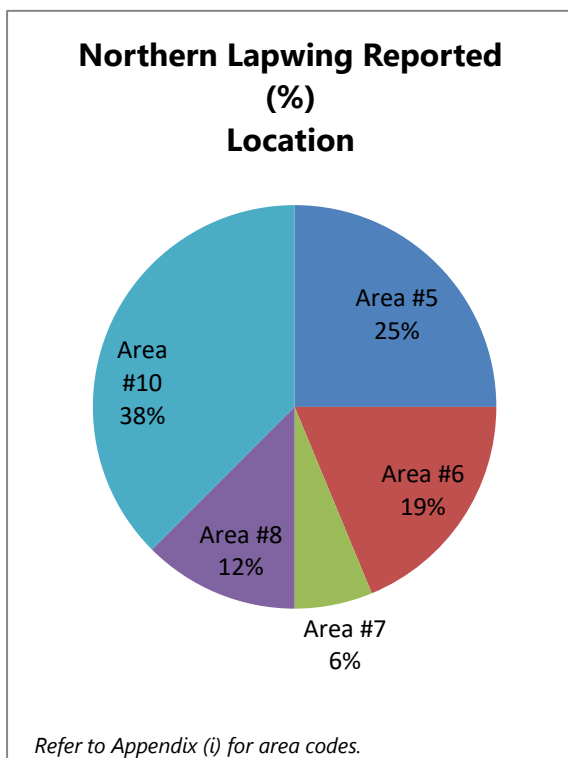
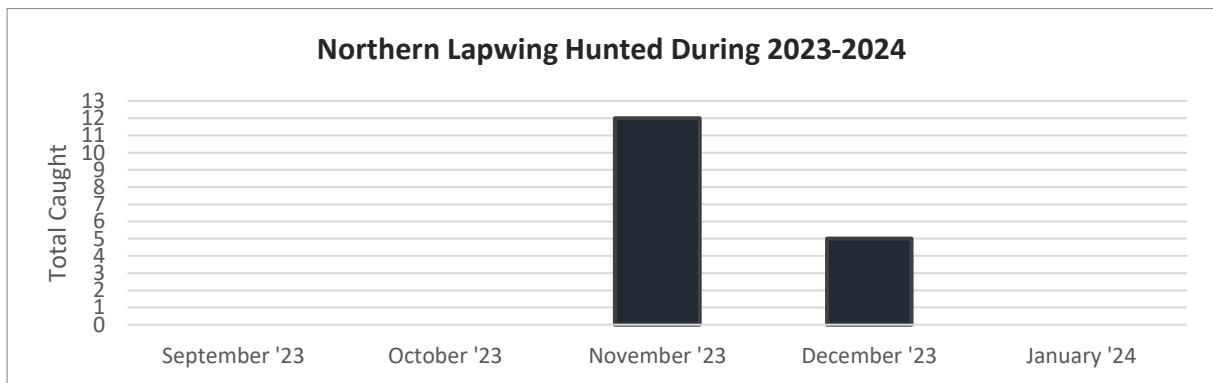


*Vanellus vanellus*

**Northern Lapwing**

Venewwa

September '23	0
October '23	0
November '23	12
December '23	5
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

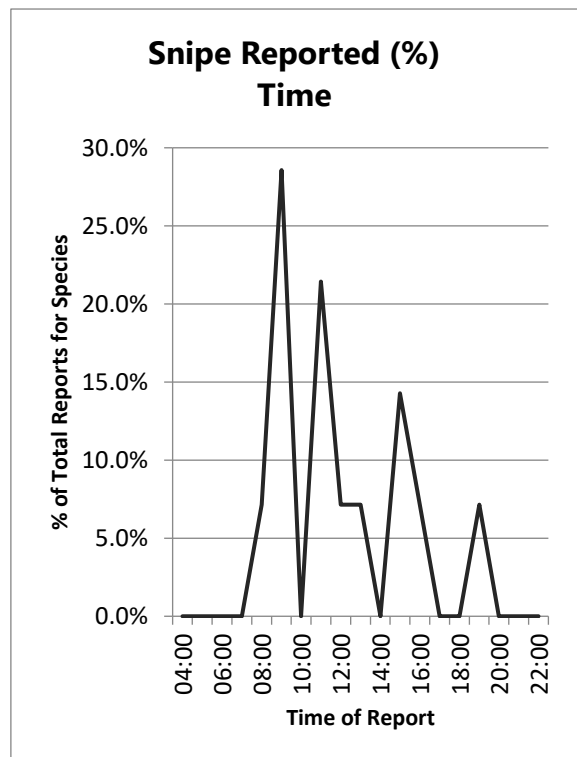
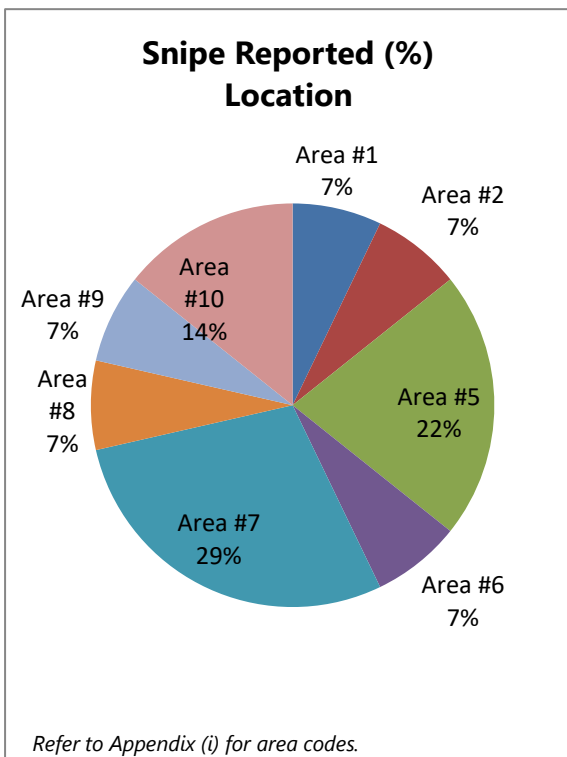
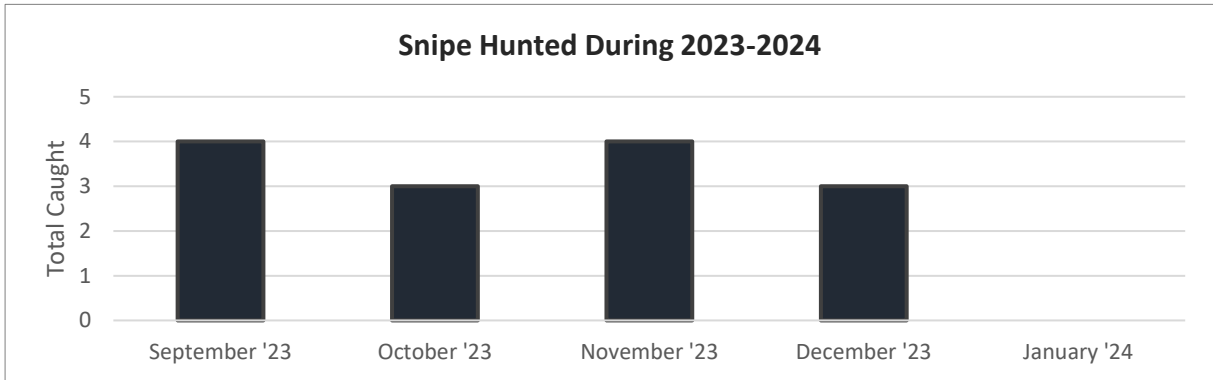


*Gallinago gallinago*

**Snipe**

Беккацц

September '23	4
October '23	3
November '23	4
December '23	3
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

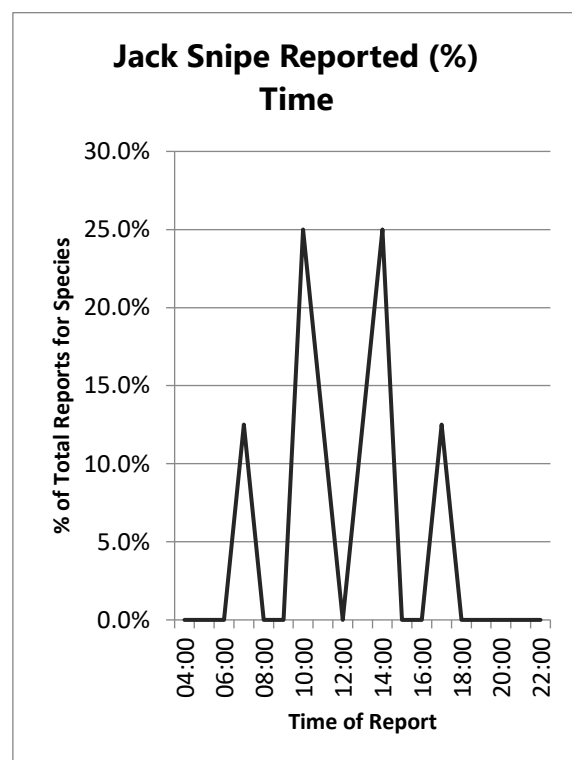
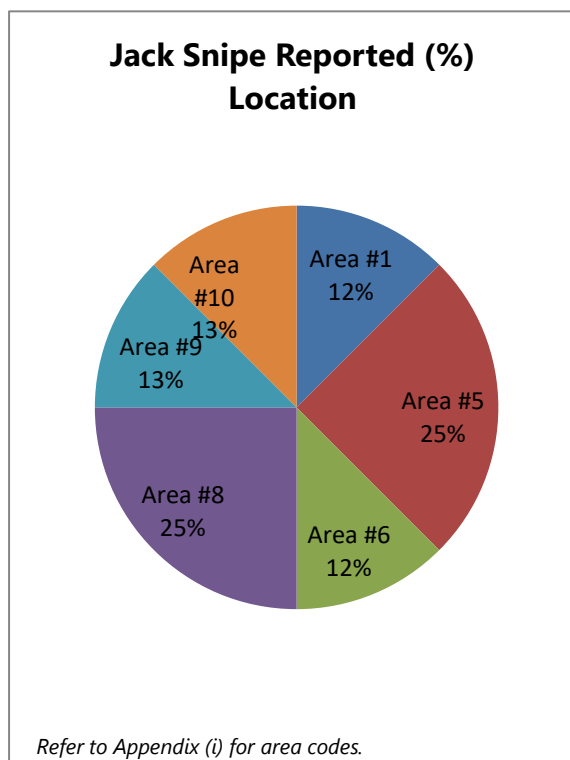
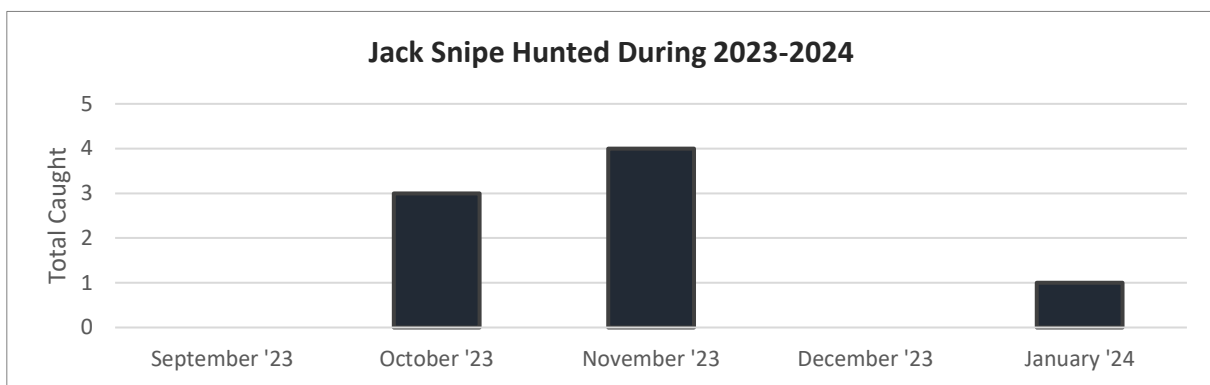


*Lymnocyptes minimus*

**Jack Snipe**

Činkonja

Month	Specimens Hunted
September '23	0
October '23	3
November '23	4
December '23	0
January '24	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

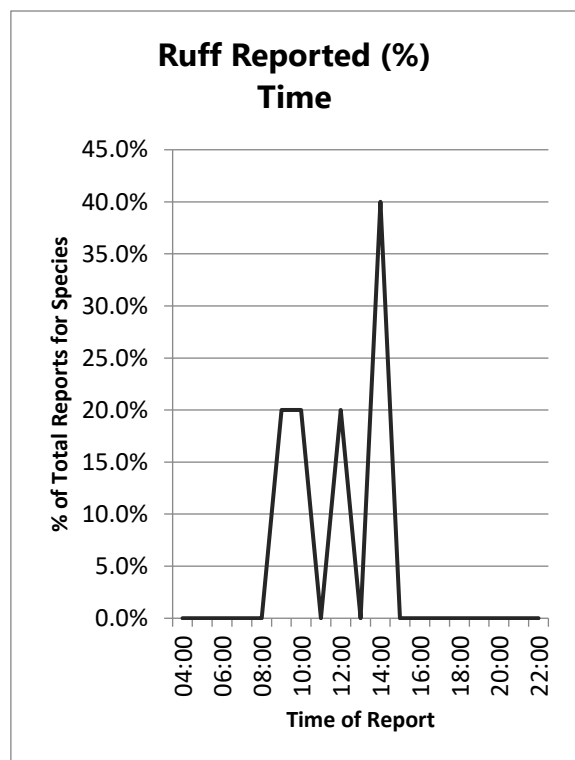
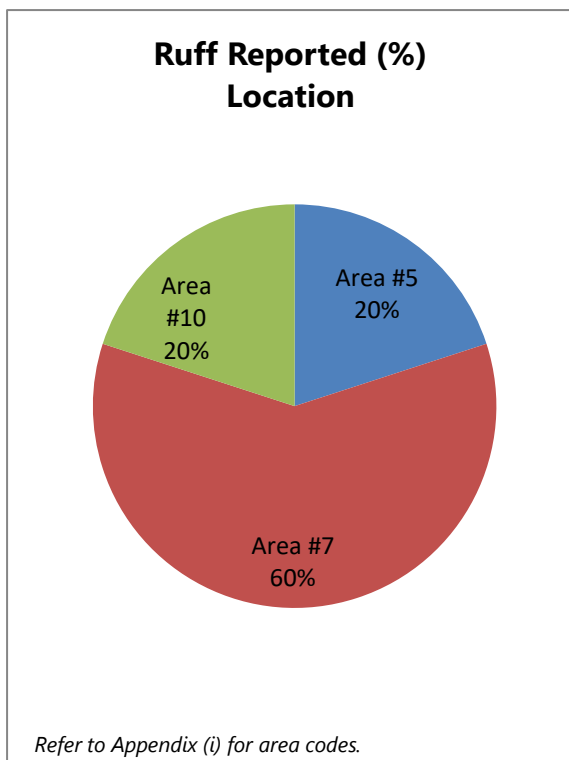
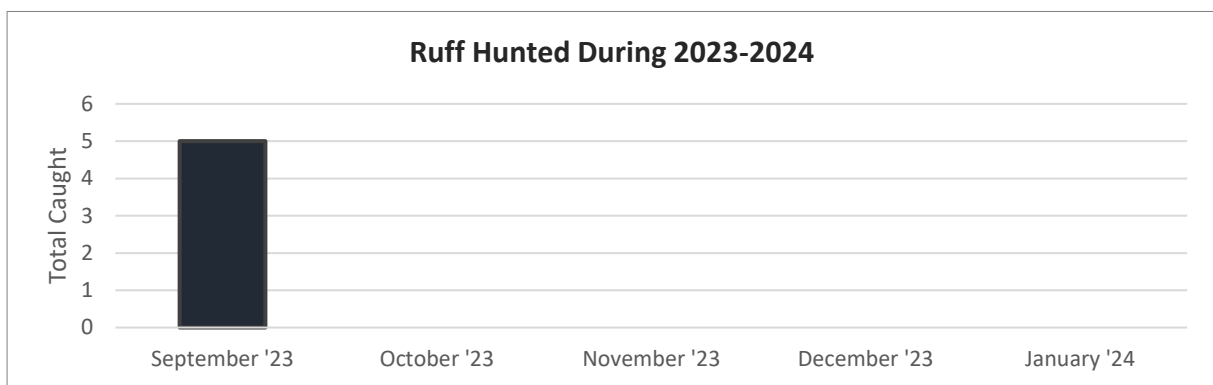


*Philomachus pugnax*

**Ruff**

Girviel

Month	Specimens Hunted
September '23	5
October '23	0
November '23	0
December '23	0
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

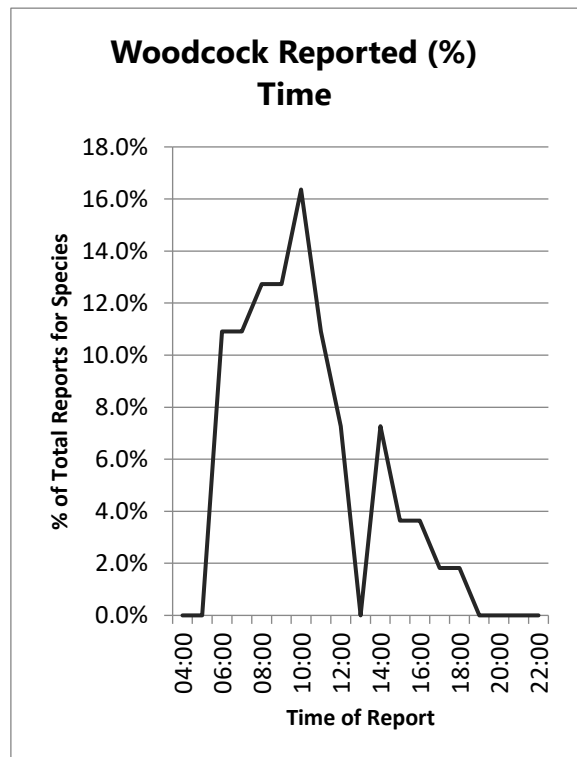
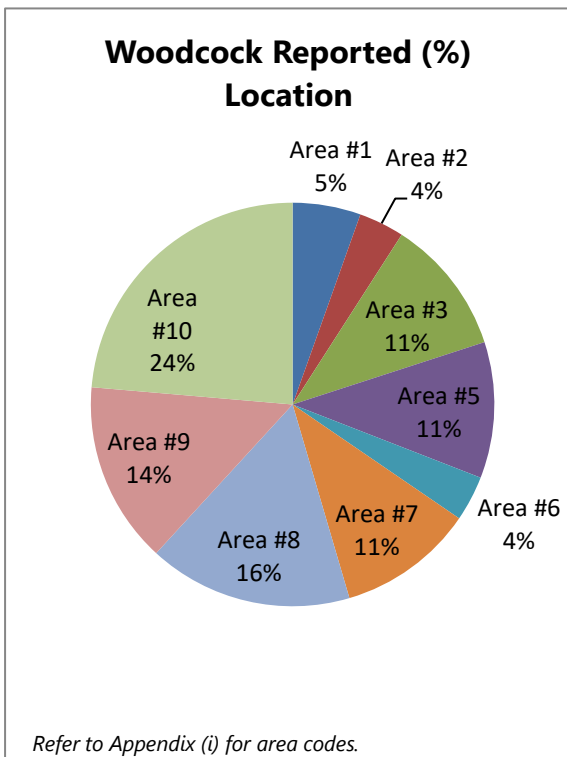
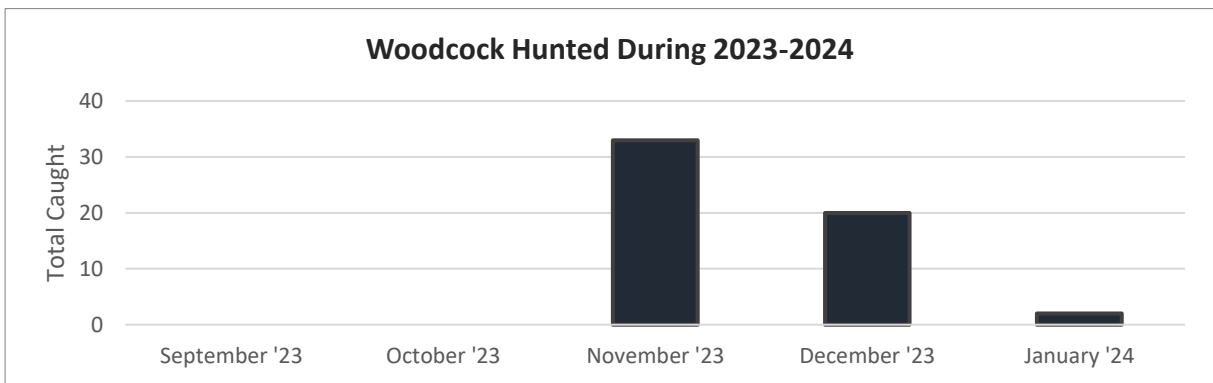


*Scolopax rusticola*

**Woodcock**

Gallina

Month	Specimens Hunted
September '23	0
October '23	0
November '23	33
December '23	20
January '24	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>

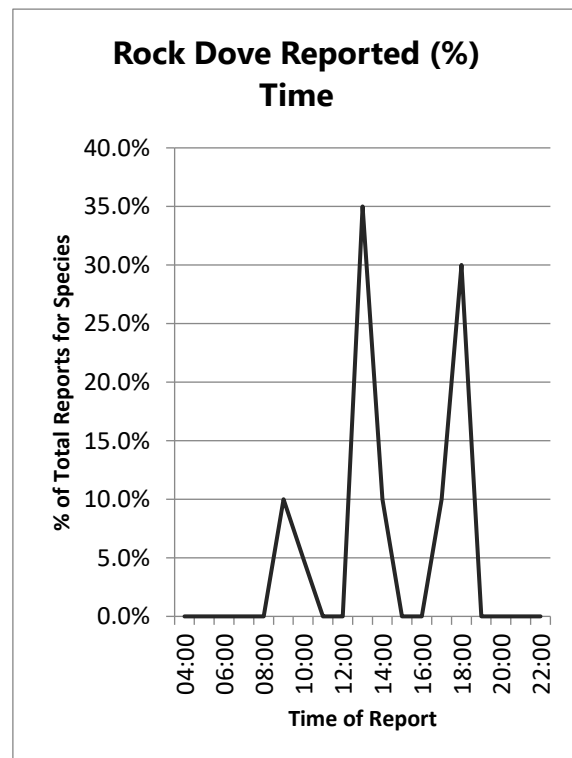
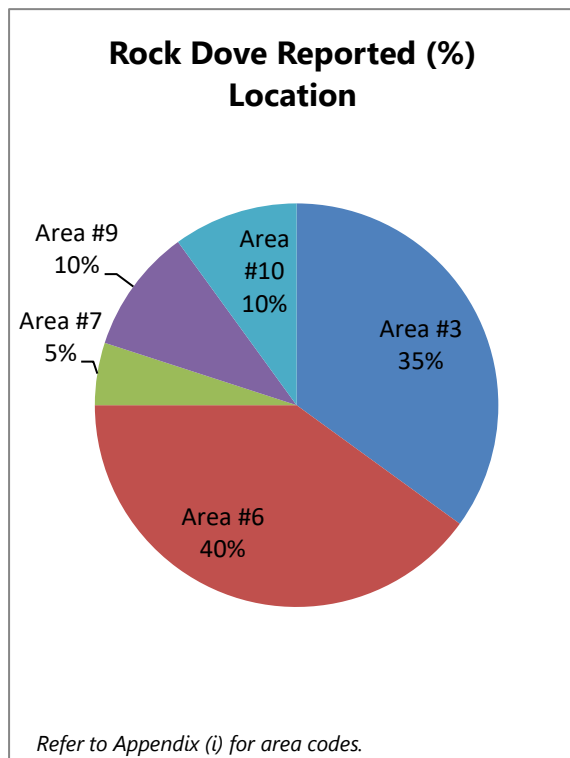
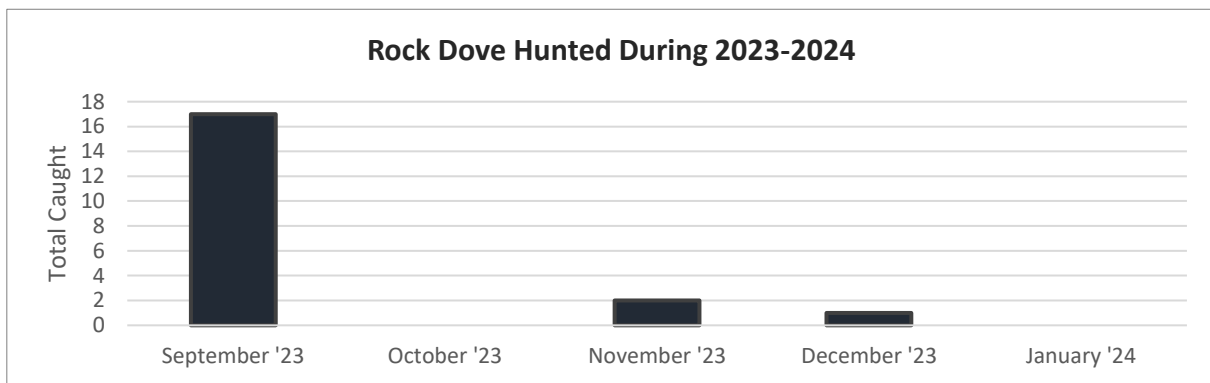


*Columba livia*

**Rock Dove**

Tudun tal-Ġebel

September '23	17
October '23	0
November '23	2
December '23	1
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

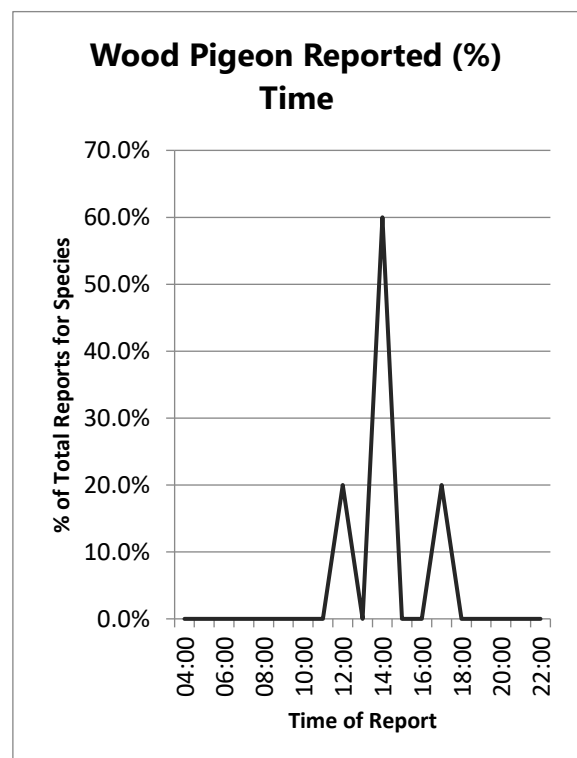
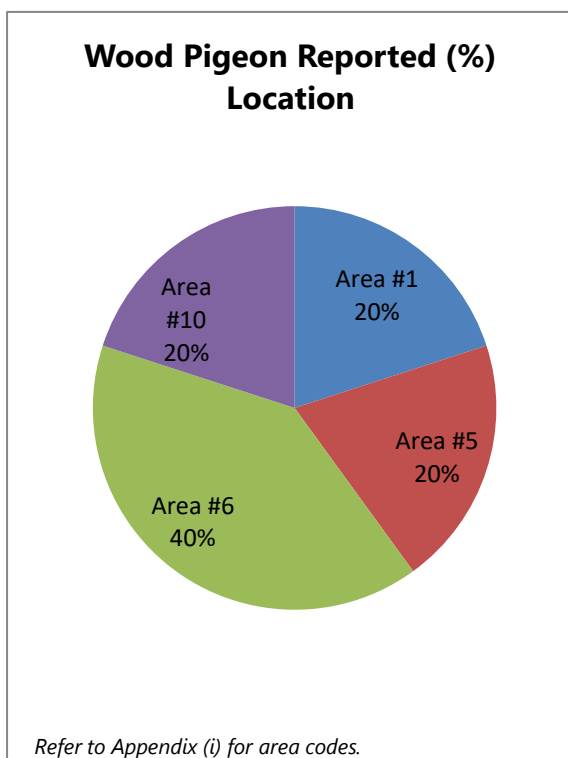
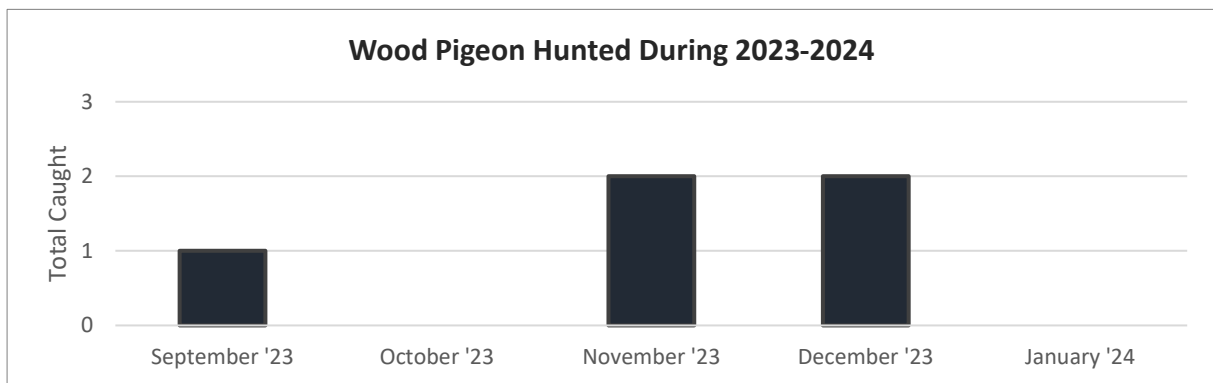


*Columba palumbus*

**Wood Pigeon**

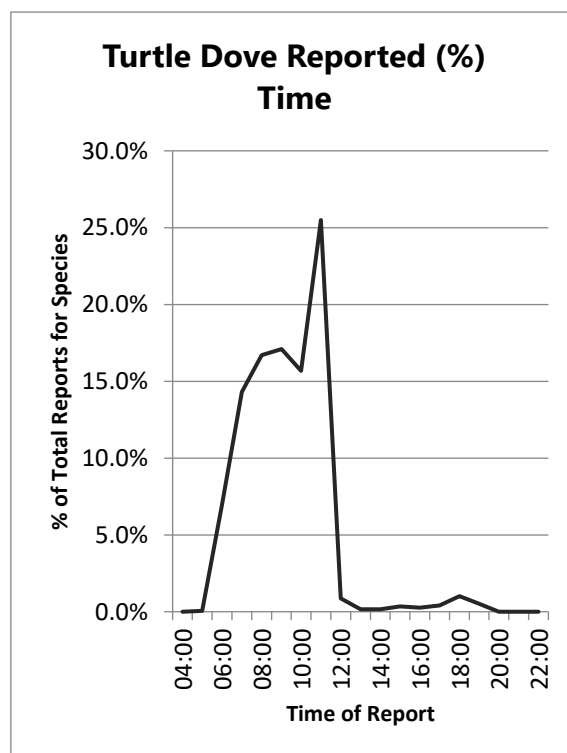
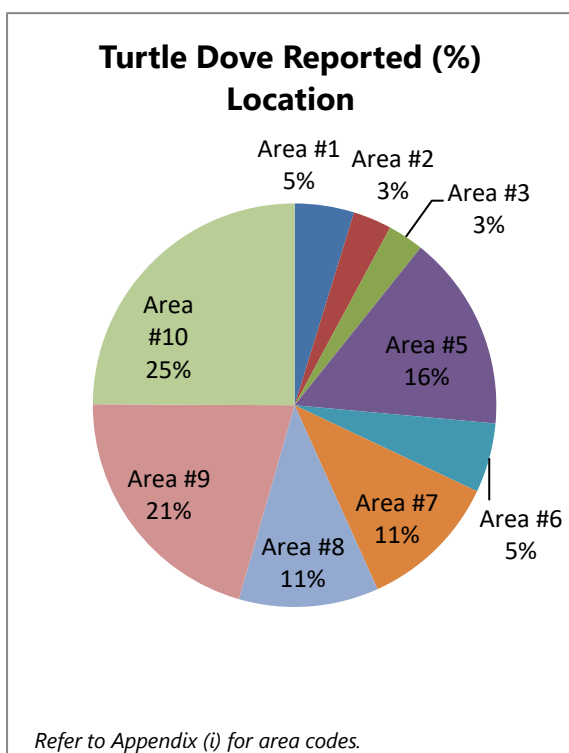
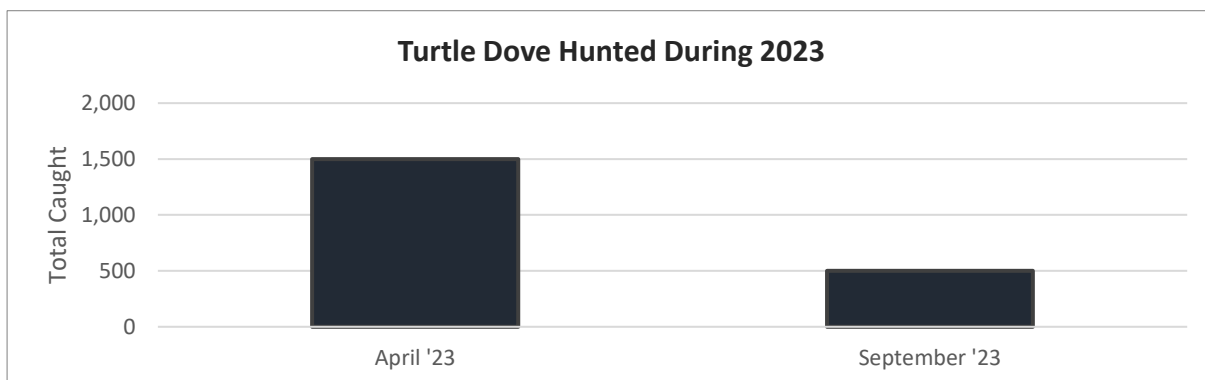
Tudun

September '23	1
October '23	0
November '23	2
December '23	2
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>



Columbiformes	Columbidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			
<b>European Turtle-dove</b>			
Gamiema			

April '23	1,500
September '23	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,000</b>



**Note:** Hunting of this species in spring was authorised through derogation by virtue of [L.N.87 of 2023](#). Full details on the application of this derogation are available at <https://mgoz.gov.mt/en/Pages/WBRU/Spring-Hunting-Derogation.aspx>.

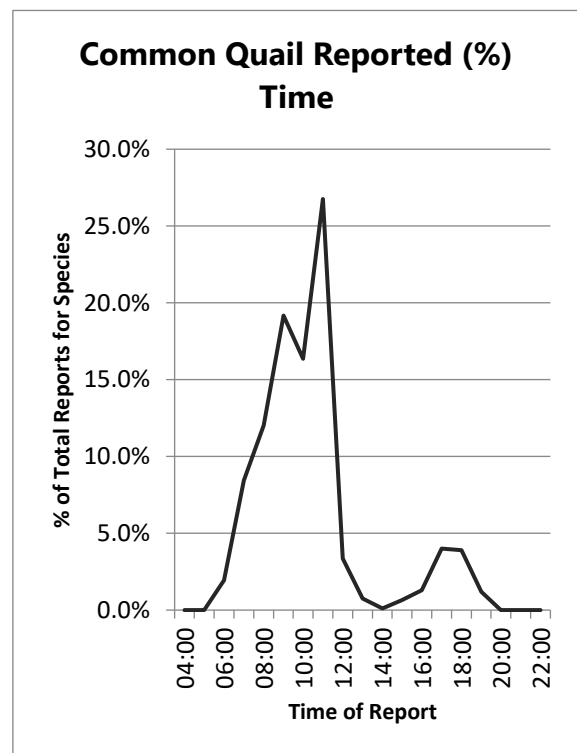
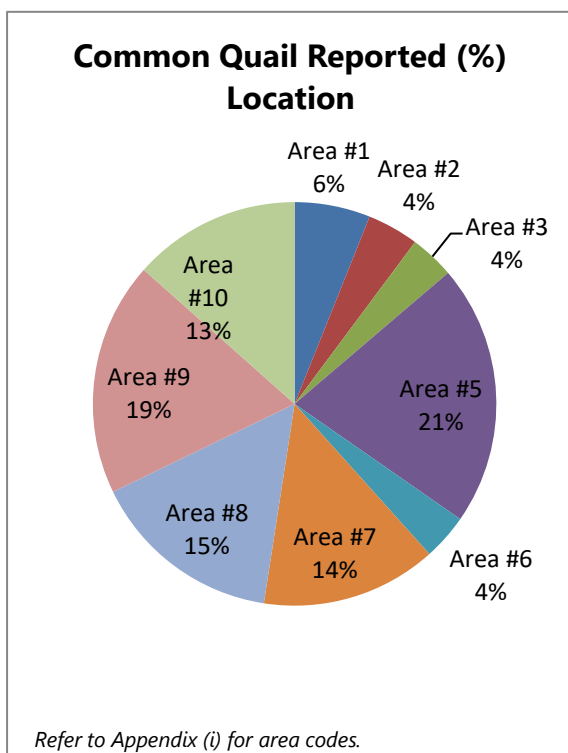
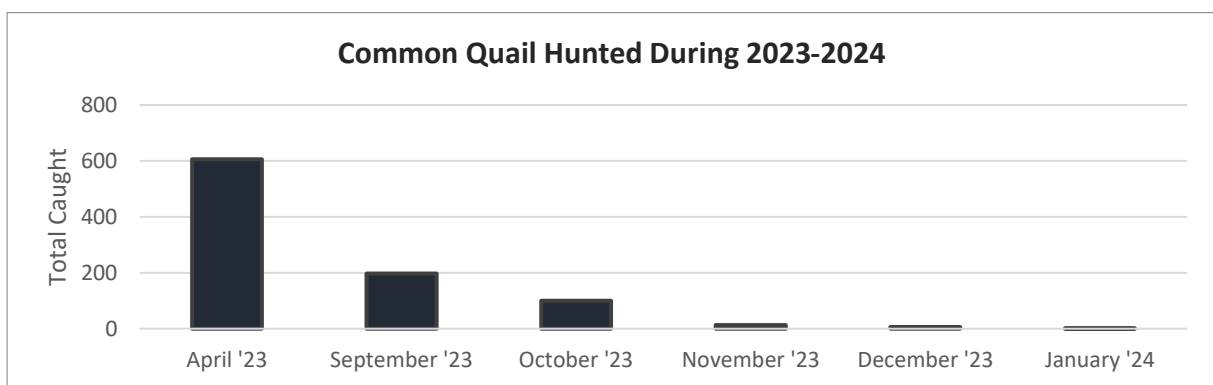
**Note:** Hunting of this species in September is governed through L.N. 341 of 2021. Full details on this are available at <https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2021/341/eng>.

*Coturnix coturnix*

**Common Quail**

Summiena

April '23	606
September '23	197
October '23	100
November '23	13
December '23	6
January '24	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>923</b>



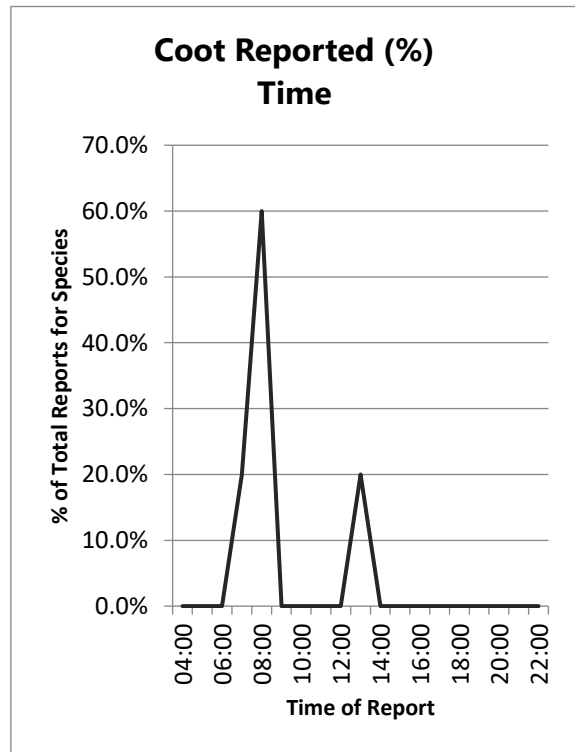
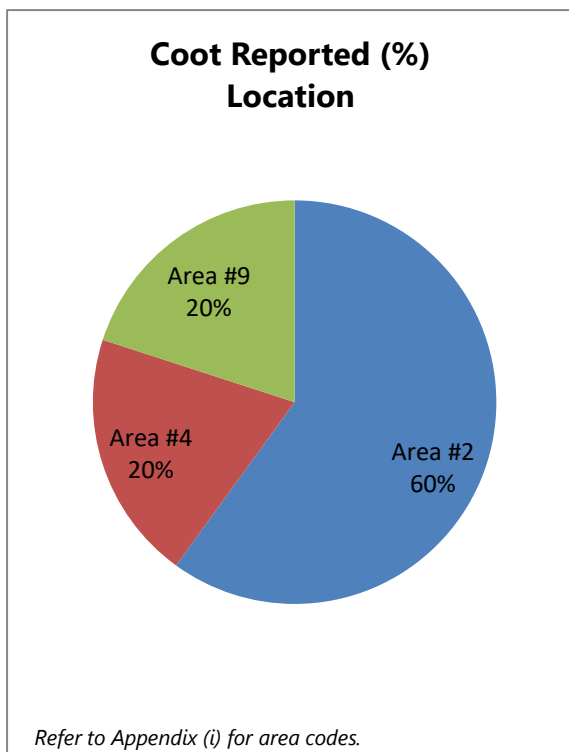
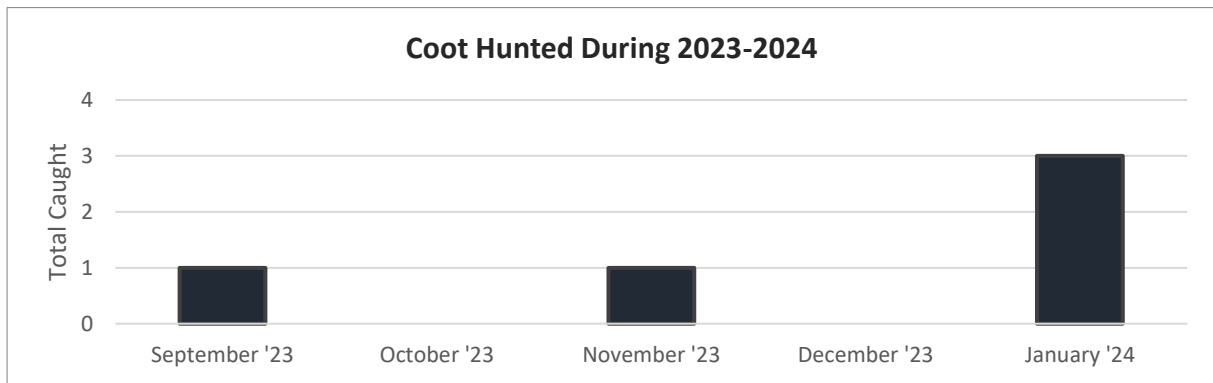
**Note:** Hunting of this species in spring was authorised through derogation by virtue of [L.N. 78 of 2023](#). Full details on the application of this derogation are available at <https://mgoz.gov.mt/en/Pages/WBRU/Spring-Hunting-Derogation.aspx>.

*Fulica atra*

**Coot**

Tigiega tal-Baħar

September '23	1
October '23	0
November '23	1
December '23	0
January '24	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

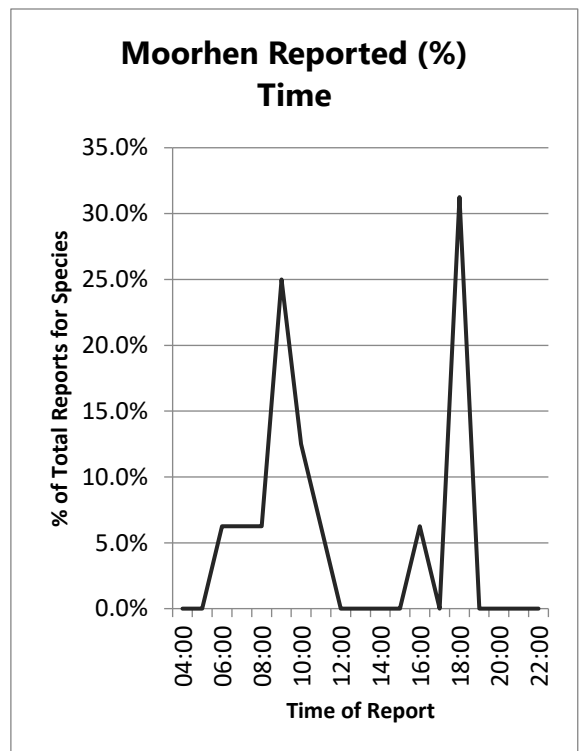
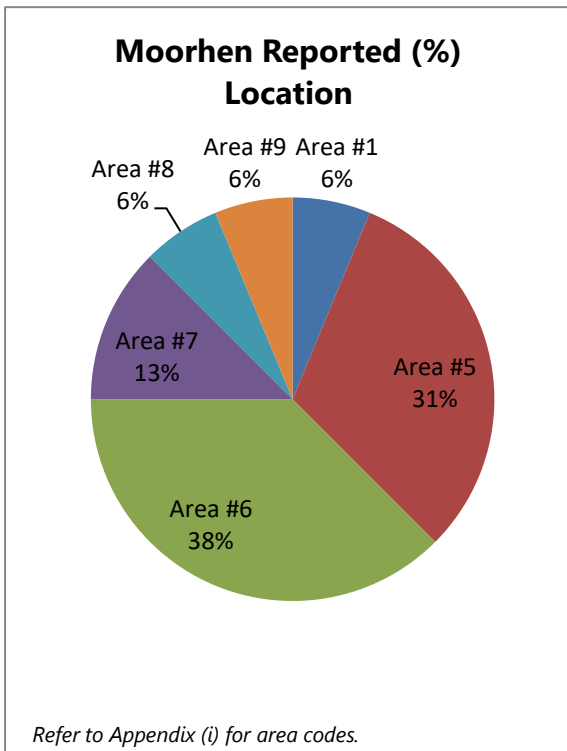
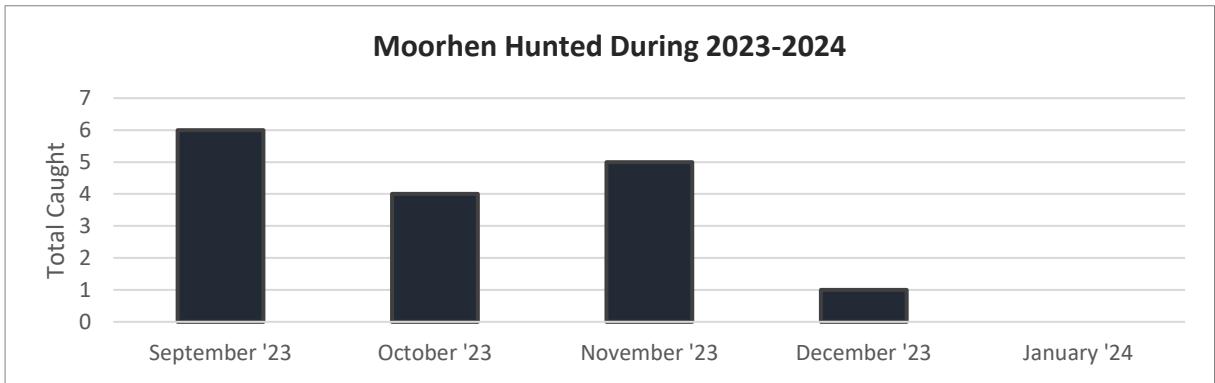


*Gallinula chloropus*

**Moorhen**

Gallozz Iswed

September '23	6
October '23	4
November '23	5
December '23	1
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

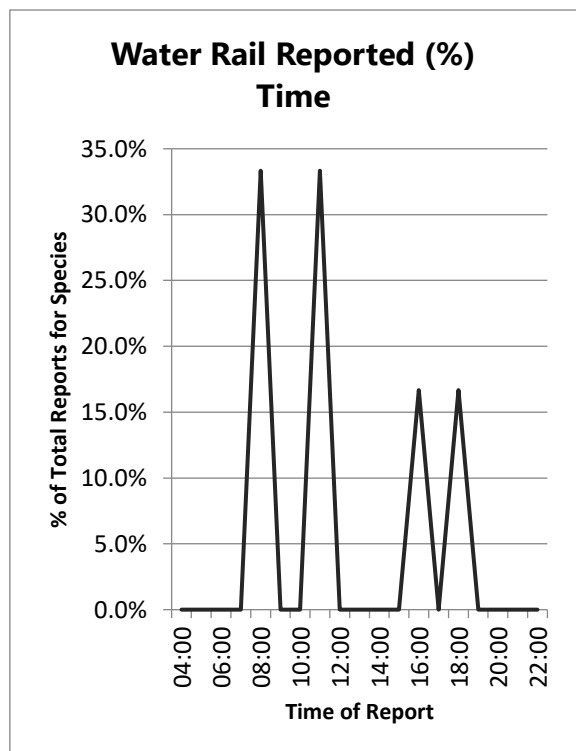
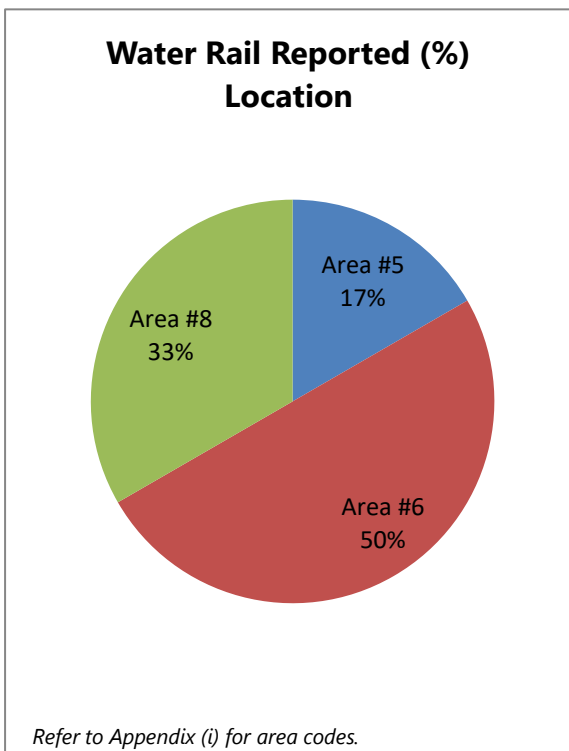
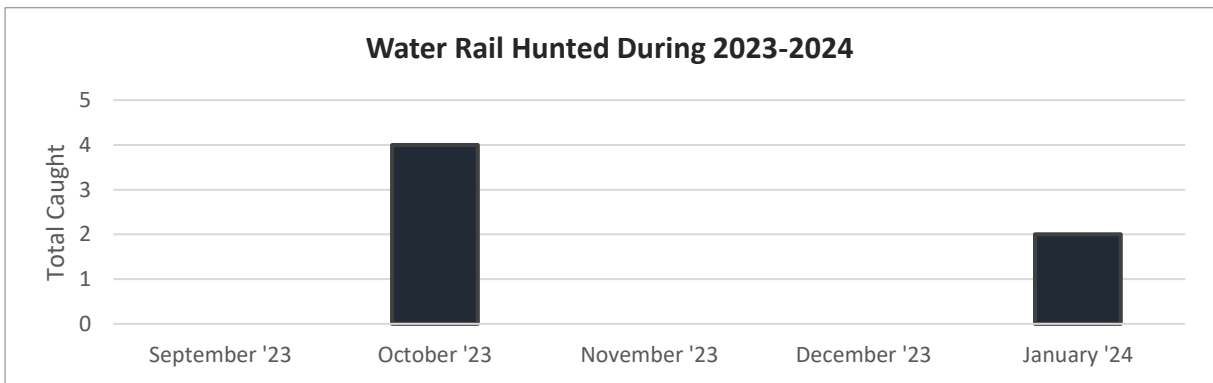


*Rallus aquaticus*

**Water Rail**

Gallozz tax-Xitwa

September '23	0
October '23	4
November '23	0
December '23	0
January '24	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

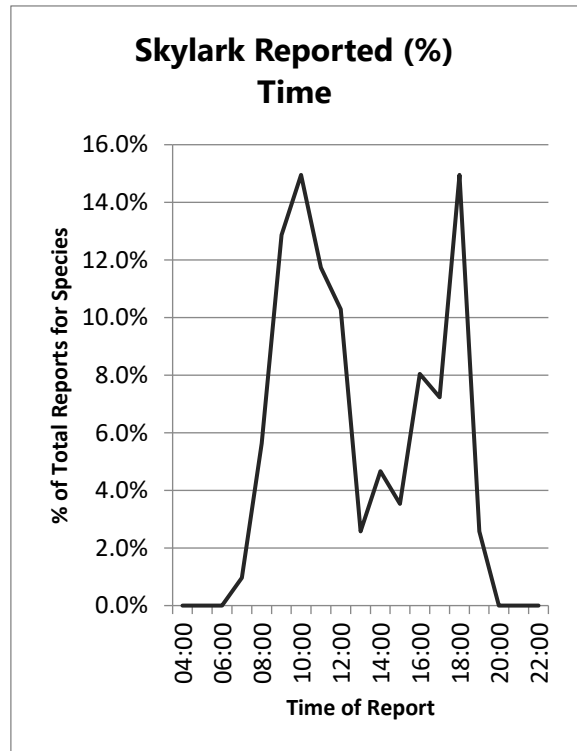
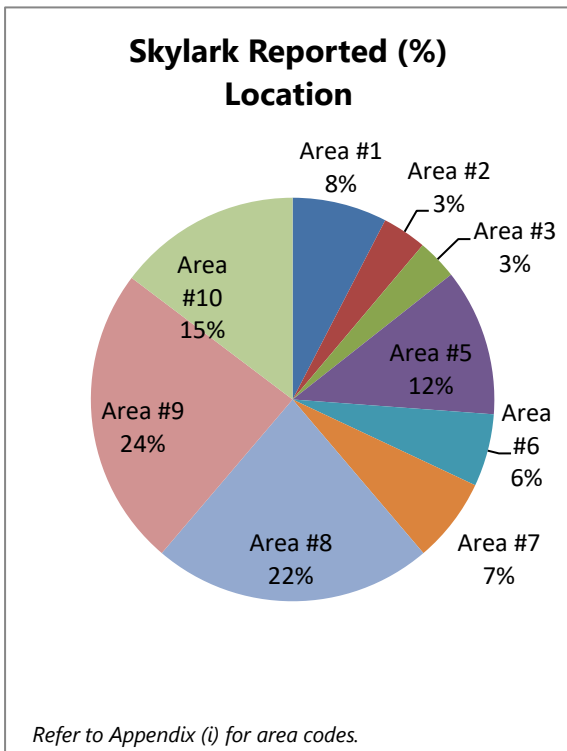
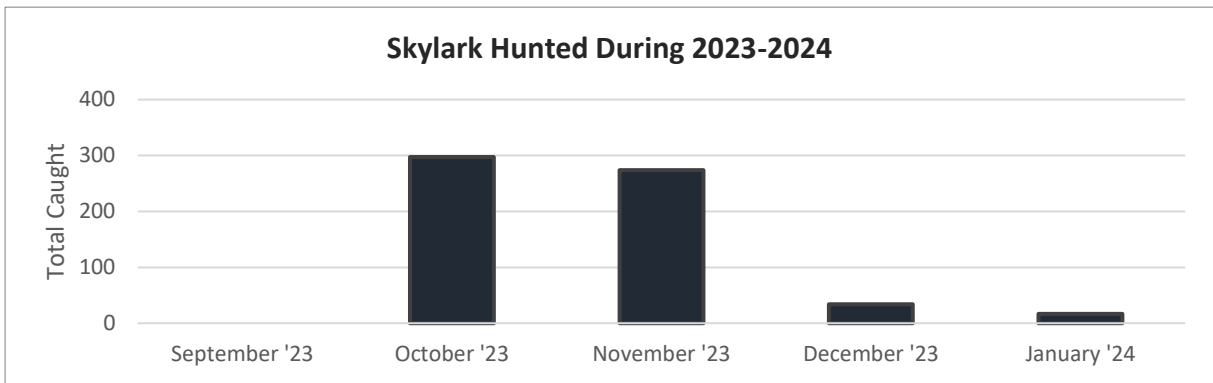


*Alauda arvensis*

**Skylark**

Alwetta

September '23	0
October '23	297
November '23	274
December '23	34
January '24	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>622</b>

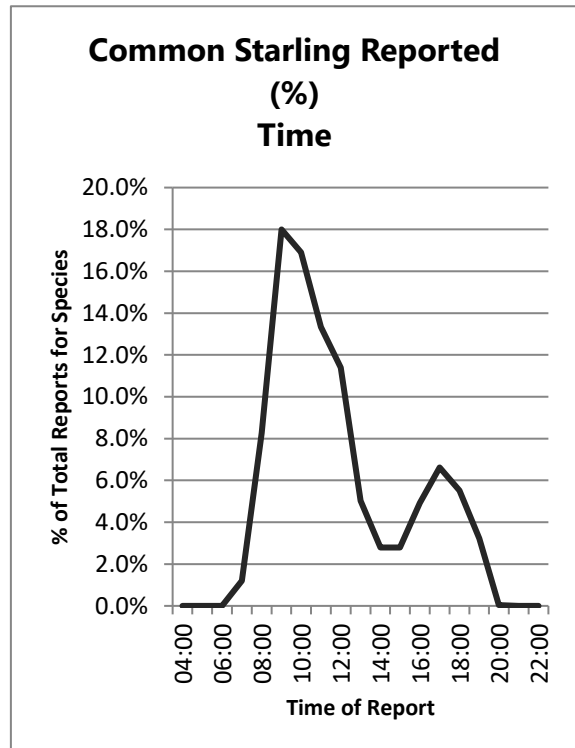
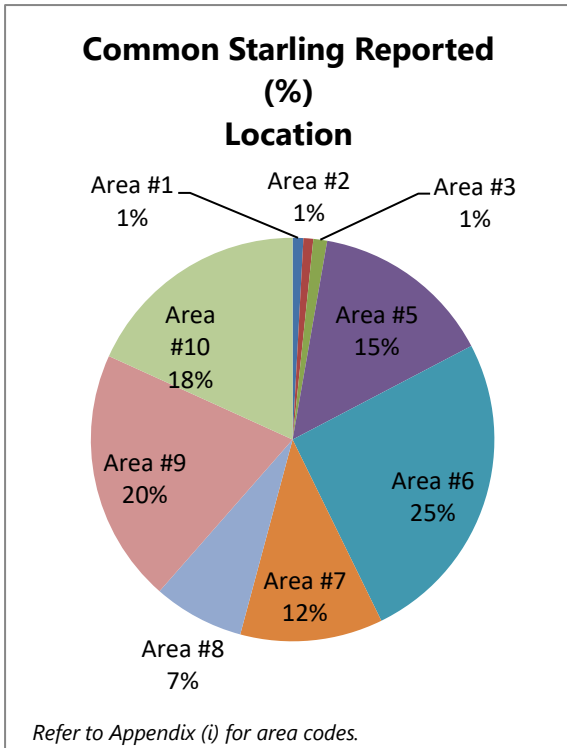
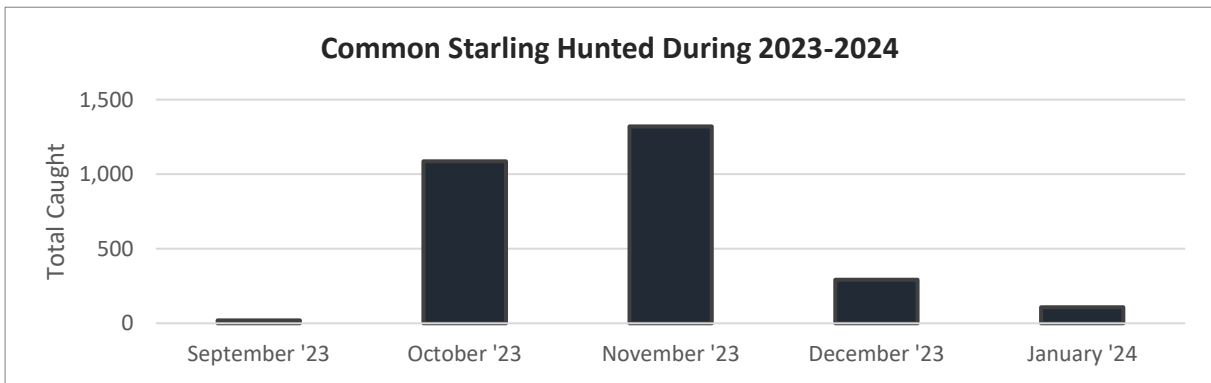


*Sturnus vulgaris*

**Common Starling**

Sturnell

September '23	20
October '23	1,087
November '23	1,321
December '23	293
January '24	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,828</b>

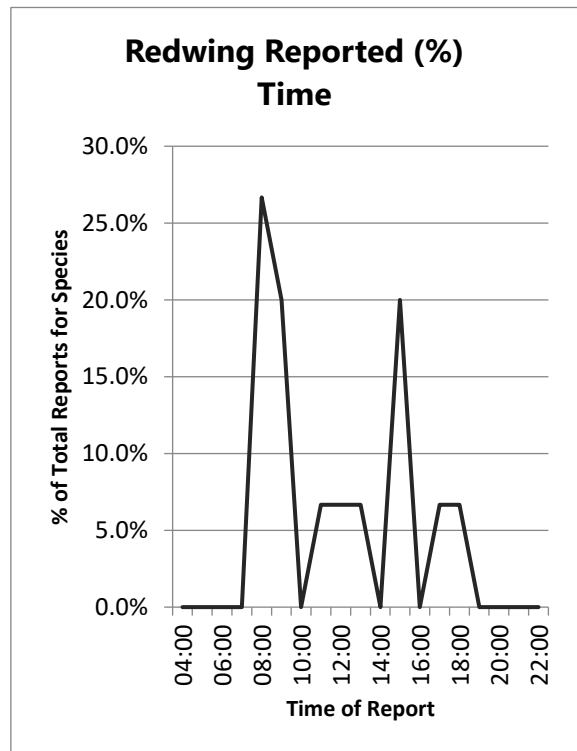
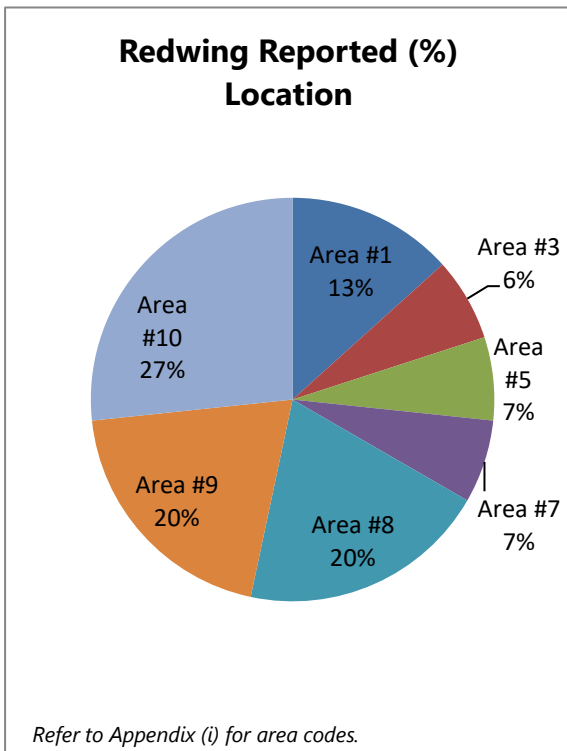
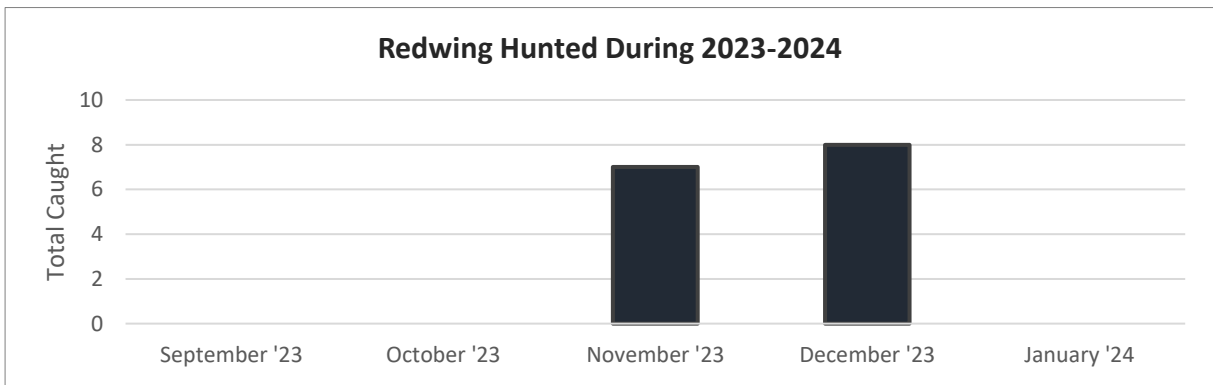


*Turdus iliacus*

**Redwing**

Malvizz Aħmar

September '23	0
October '23	0
November '23	7
December '23	8
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

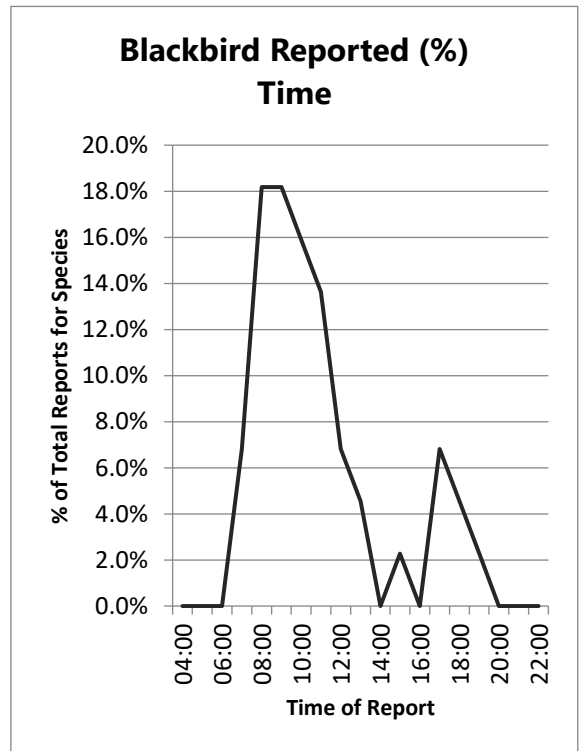
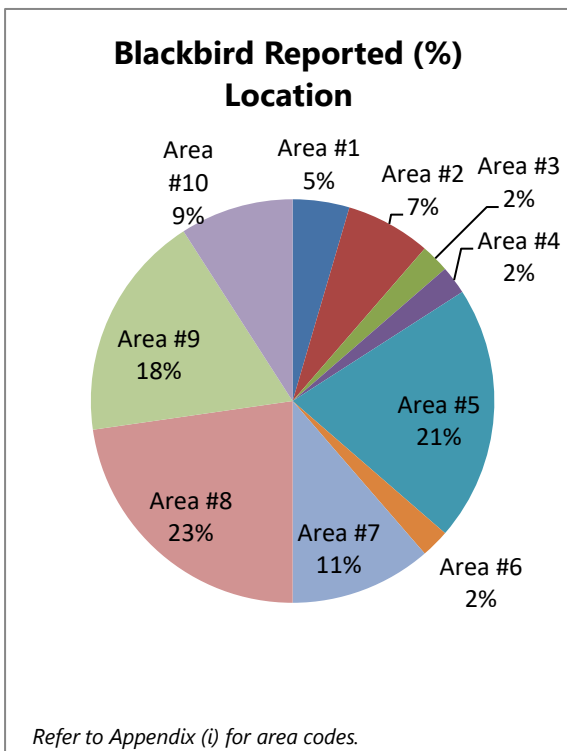
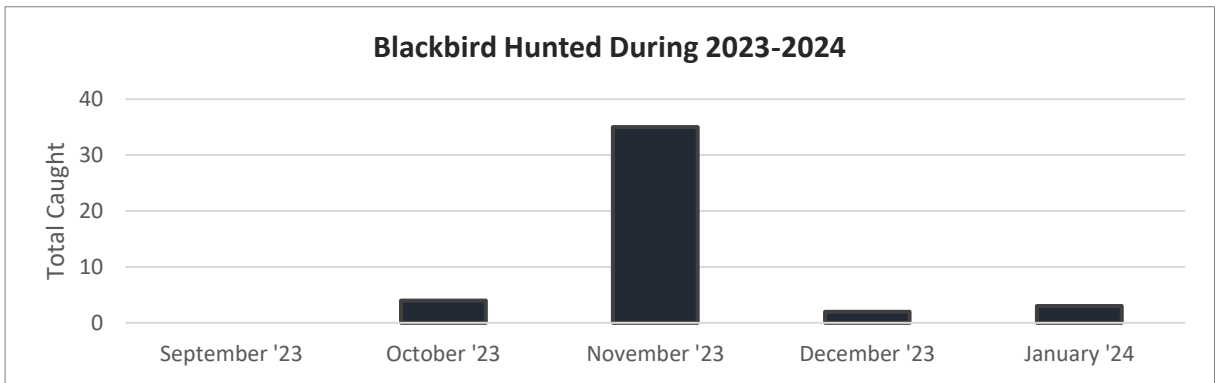


*Turdus merula*

**Blackbird**

Malvizz Iswed

September '23	0
October '23	4
November '23	35
December '23	2
January '24	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>



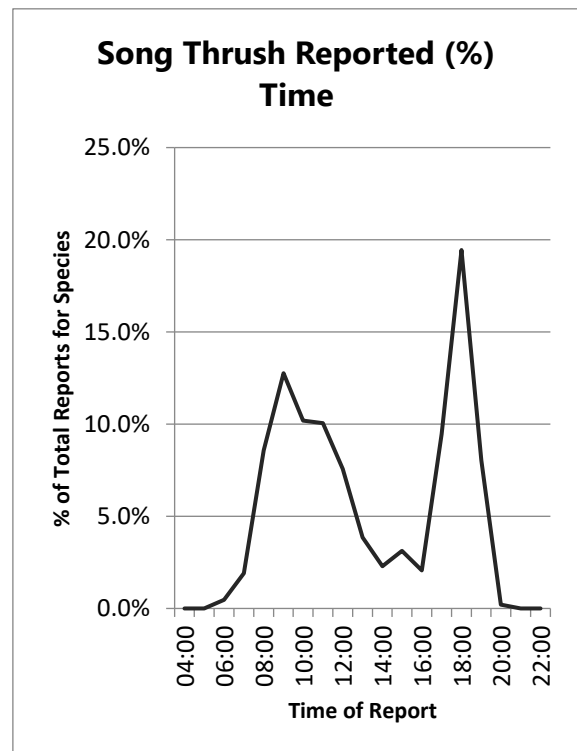
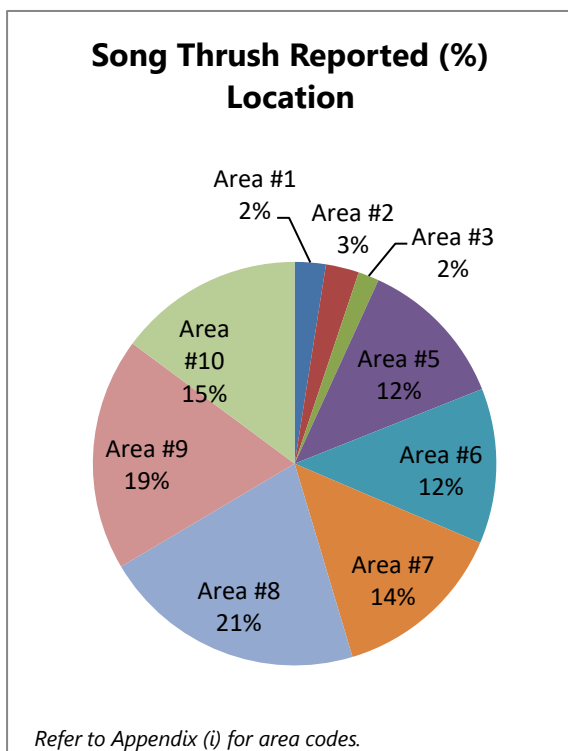
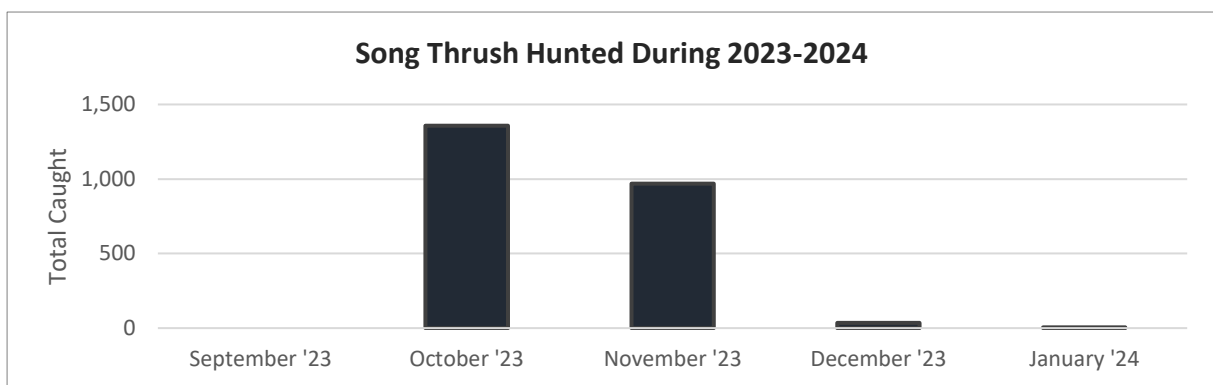
*Turdus philomelos*

**Song Thrush**

Malvizz

(Hunting Data)

September '23	0
October '23	1,357
November '23	969
December '23	35
January '24	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,366</b>

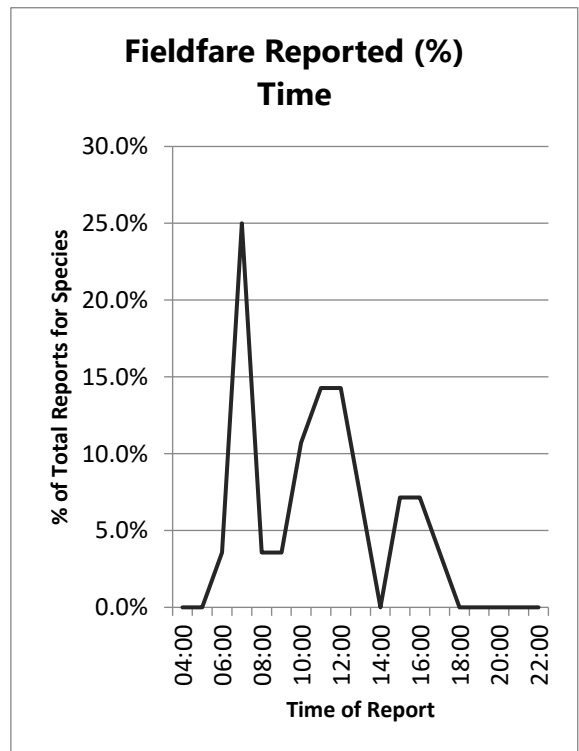
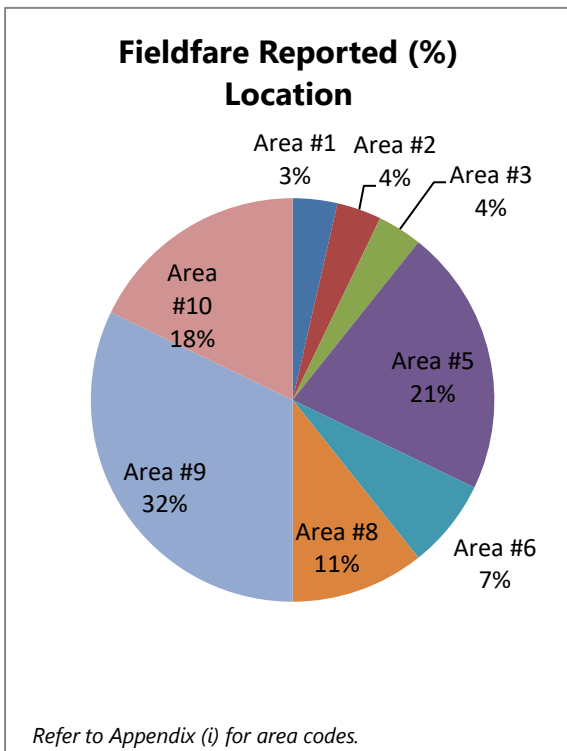
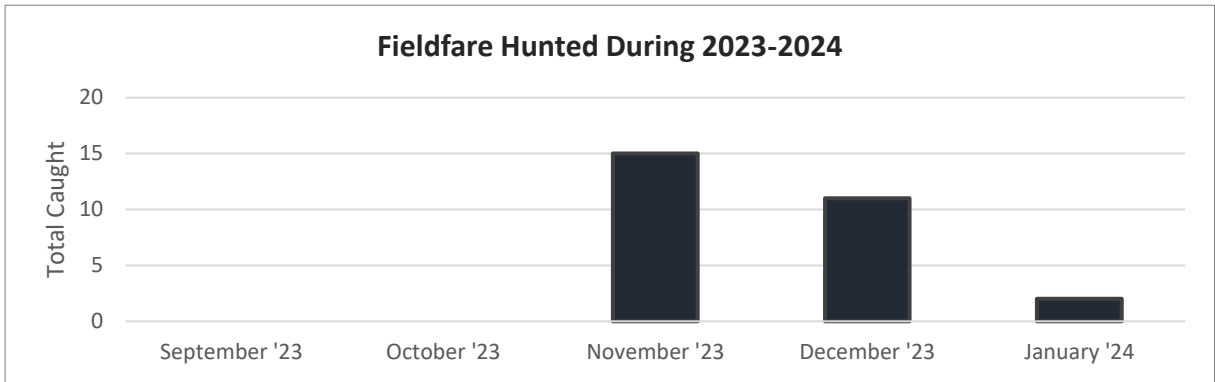


*Turdus pilaris*

**Fieldfare**

Malvizz tal-Qtajja'

September '23	0
October '23	0
November '23	15
December '23	11
January '24	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

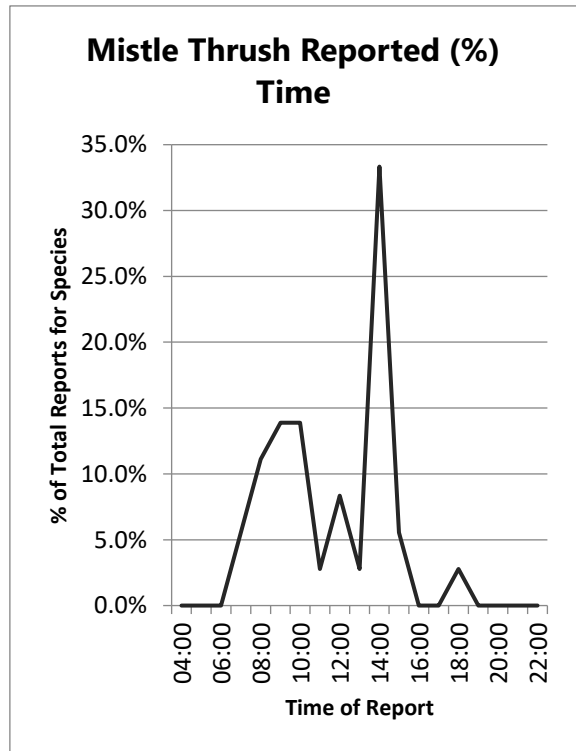
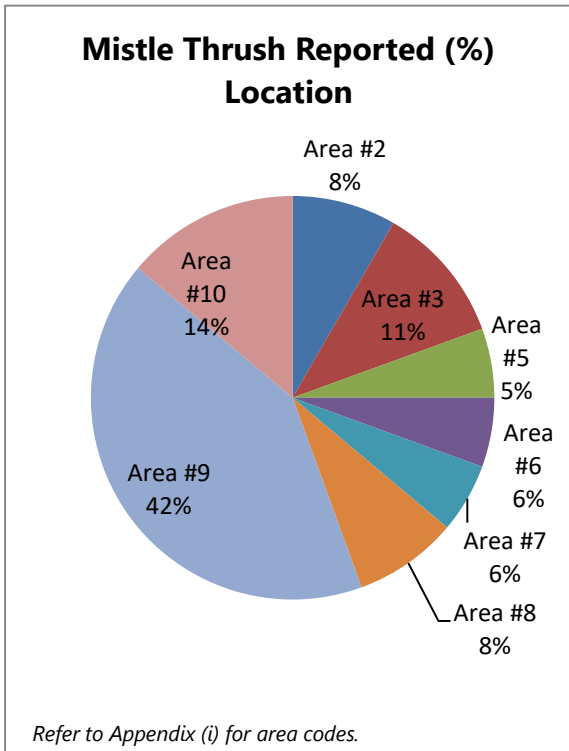
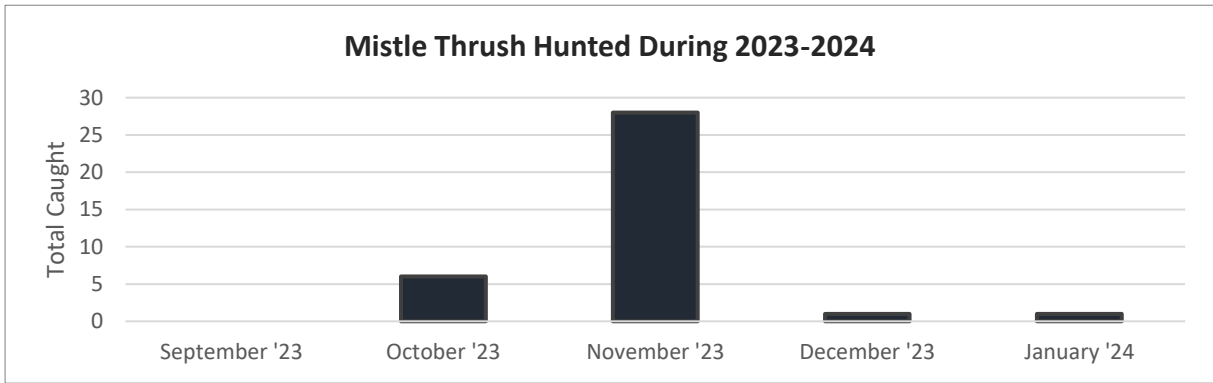


*Turdus viscivorus*

**Mistle Thrush**

Malvizzun Prim

September '23	0
October '23	6
November '23	28
December '23	1
January '24	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>



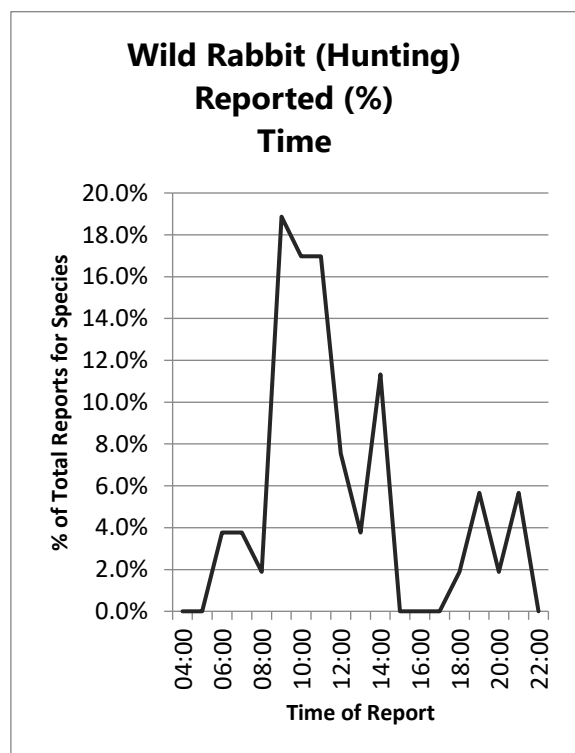
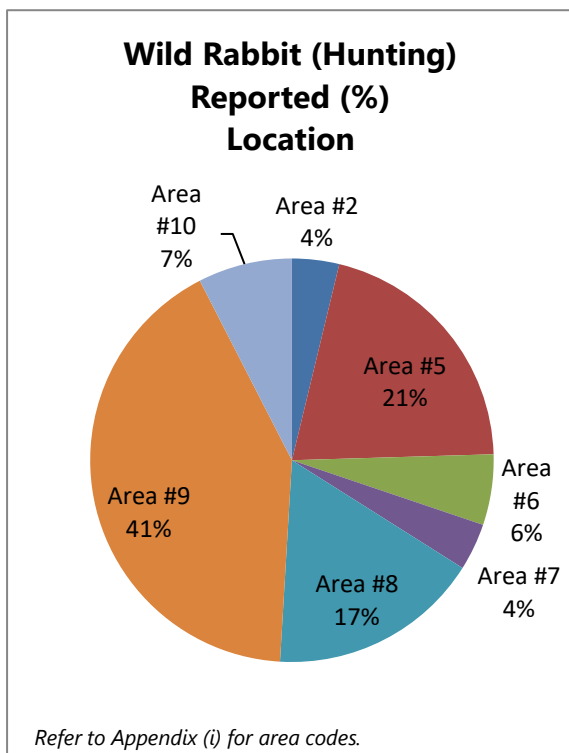
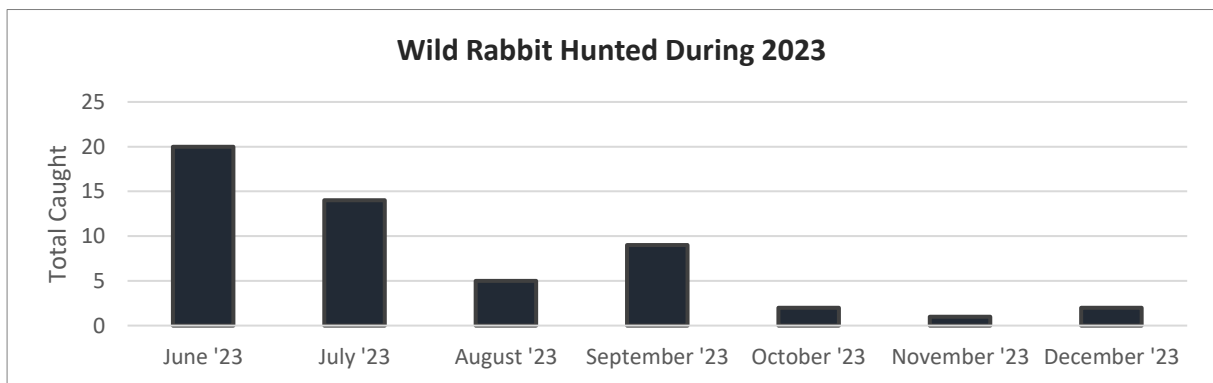
*Oryctolagus cuniculus*

**Wild Rabbit**

Fenek Selvağğ

(Hunting for Wild Rabbit)

June '23	20
July '23	14
August '23	5
September '23	9
October '23	2
November '23	1
December '23	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>



Lagomorpha - Leporidae Month Specimens Caught

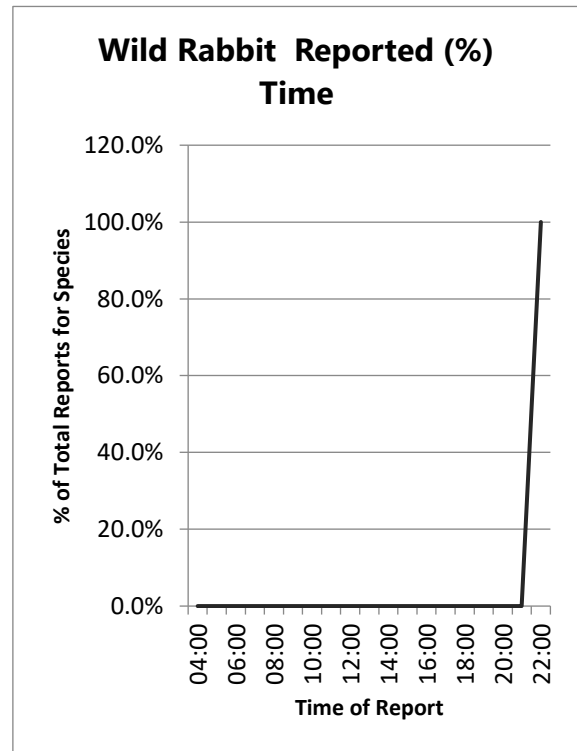
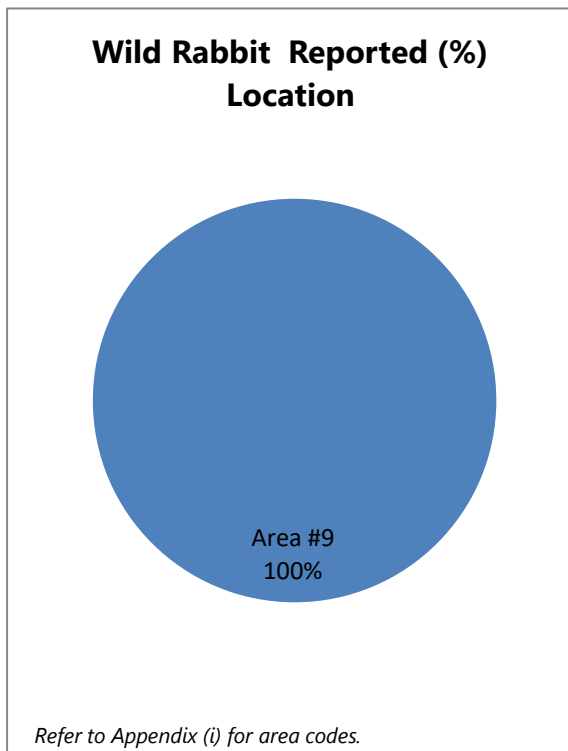
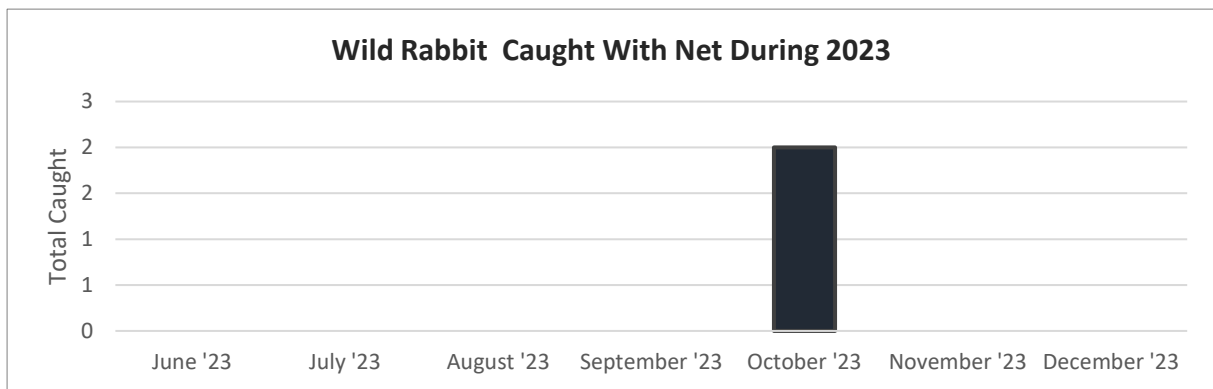
*Oryctolagus cuniculus*

**Wild Rabbit**

Fenek Selvağg

(Capture of Wild Rabbit with nets [ferreting])

June '23	0
July '23	0
August '23	0
September '23	0
October '23	2
November '23	0
December '23	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>



# **Live-Capturing Data**

## 2023 Report

Note: Since live-capturing applications are submitted alongside registered site-plans, individuals were not required to report location on the game reporting system.

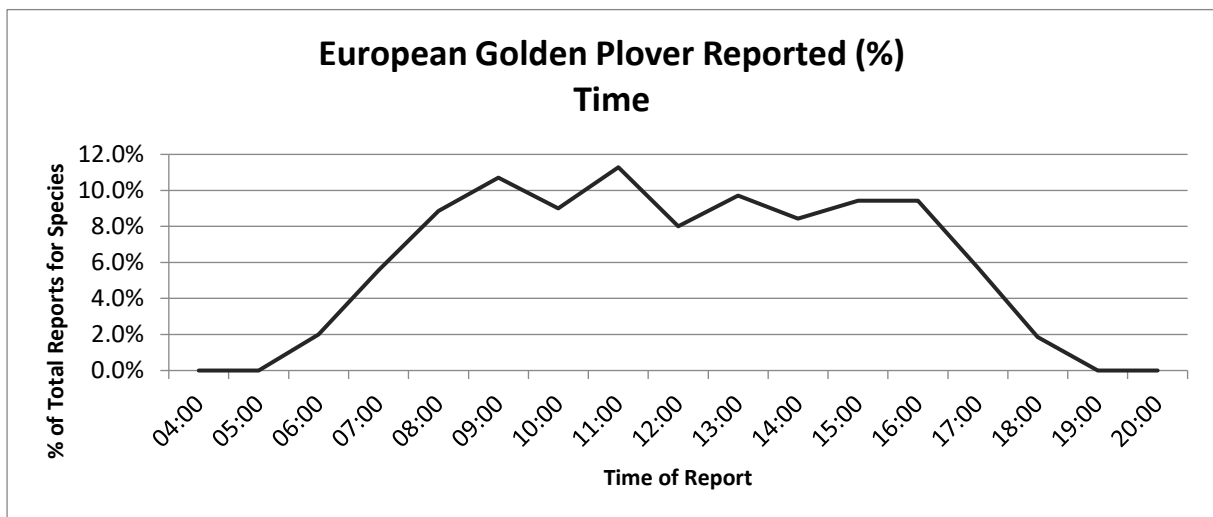
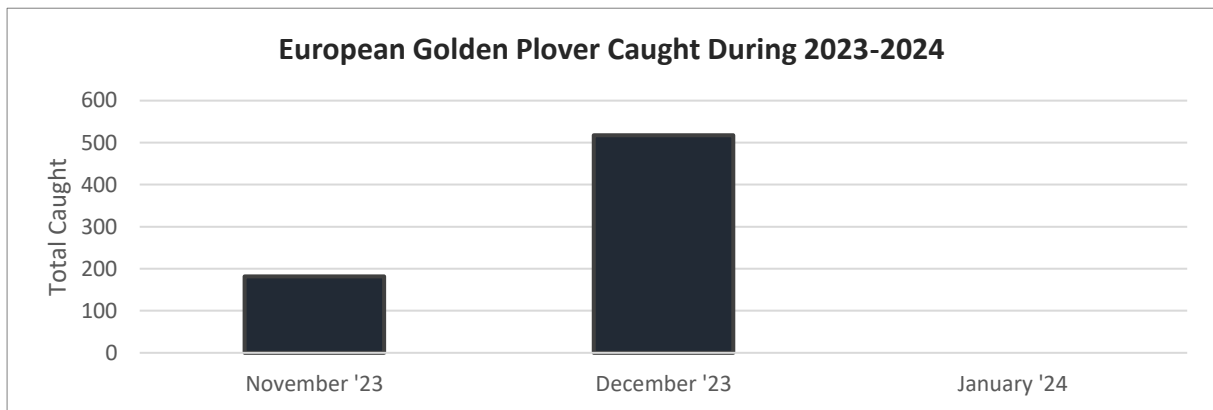
*Pluvialis apricaria*

**European Golden Plover**

Pluviera

(Live-Capturing Data)

November '23	182
December '23	518
January '24	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>



Passeriformes

- Turdidae

Month

Specimens Caught

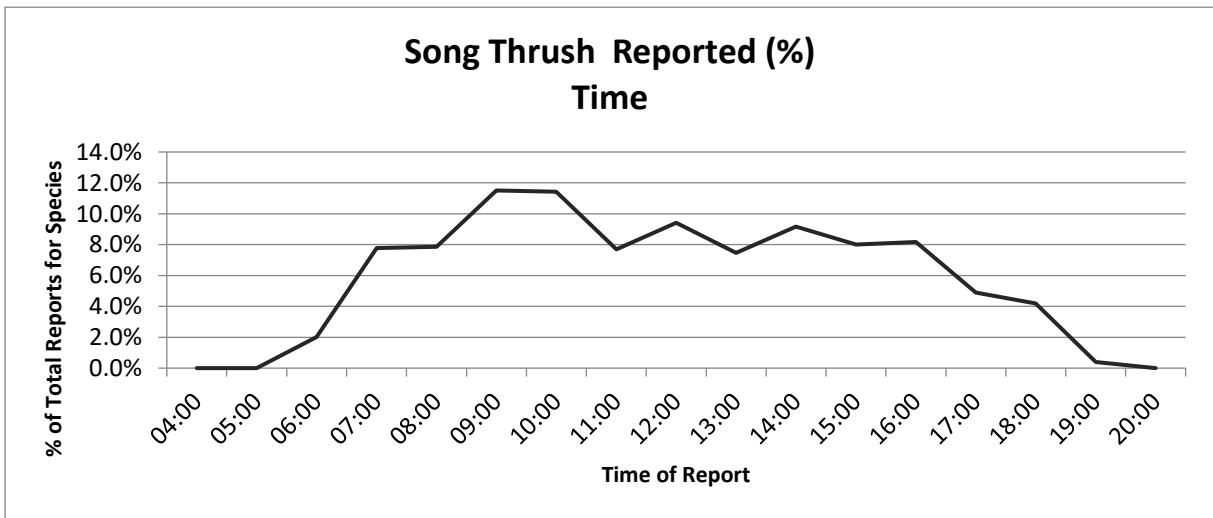
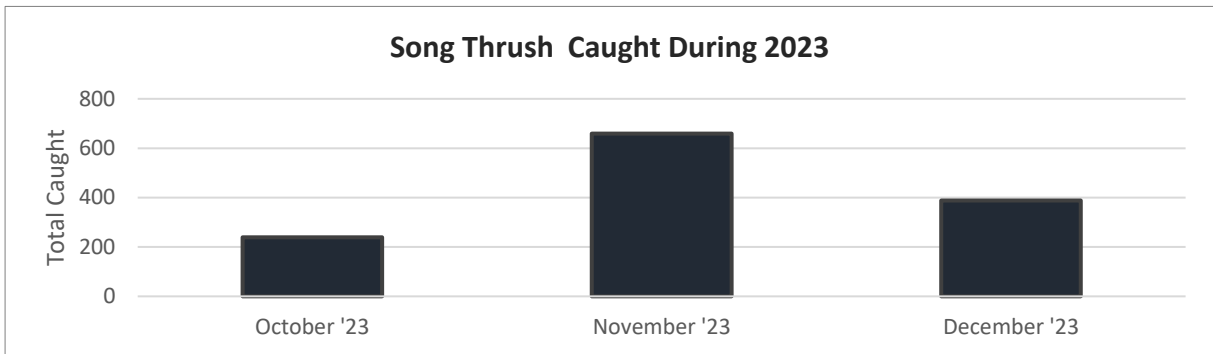
*Turdus philomelos*

**Song Thrush**

Malvizz

(Live-Capturing Data)

October '23	239
November '23	659
December '23	388
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,286</b>



# Appendix (i): Area codes

**Note:** Birds hunted under the 'Hunting birds at sea' licence are marked as **Area #11**

