



Game Reporting Data

2024 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://wb ru.gov.mt/en/resources/reports-and-statistics/autumn-live-capturing-derogations/>

Spring hunting derogation reports are also available at:

<https://wb ru.gov.mt/en/resources/reports-and-statistics/sprin-hunting-derogations/>

The table below outlines the number of licences active for each general licence category in 2024. 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	10,029
Special Spring Hunting licence – <i>Quail & Turtle Dove</i>	7,871
General Licence for Hunting birds at sea	294
General Licence for Hunting of wild rabbit	3,162
General Licence for Capture of wild rabbit with nets (rabbit ferreting)	77
General Licence for Live-Capturing of birds	4,105
Special Autumn Live-Capturing Licence – <i>Song Thrush and Golden Plover</i>	1,382

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 13,695 specimens belonging to huntable species were reported hunted and a total of 2,473 specimens were reported captured under Article 9(1)(c) live-capturing derogations. The system received a total of 7,971 telephonic reports from 1,516 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.

Licence Category	Total licences	Nº of licensees participating in game reporting	Percentage of total licences within category (%)	Nº of reports received	Specimens reported
General Licence for Hunting birds on land	10,029	734	7.3	4,446	11,521
Special Spring Hunting licence – <i>Quail & Turtle Dove</i>	7,871	931	11.8	2,187	2,108
General Licence for Hunting birds at sea	294	1	0.3	3	4
General Licence for Hunting of wild rabbit	3,162	40	1.3	56	62
General Licence for Capture of wild rabbit with nets	77	0	0	0	0
General Licence for Live-Capturing of birds	4,105	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Special Autumn Live-Capturing Licence – <i>Song Thrush and Golden Plover</i>	1,382	343	24.8	1,257	2,473

Hunting Data

2024 Report

Anseriformes

- Anatidae

Month

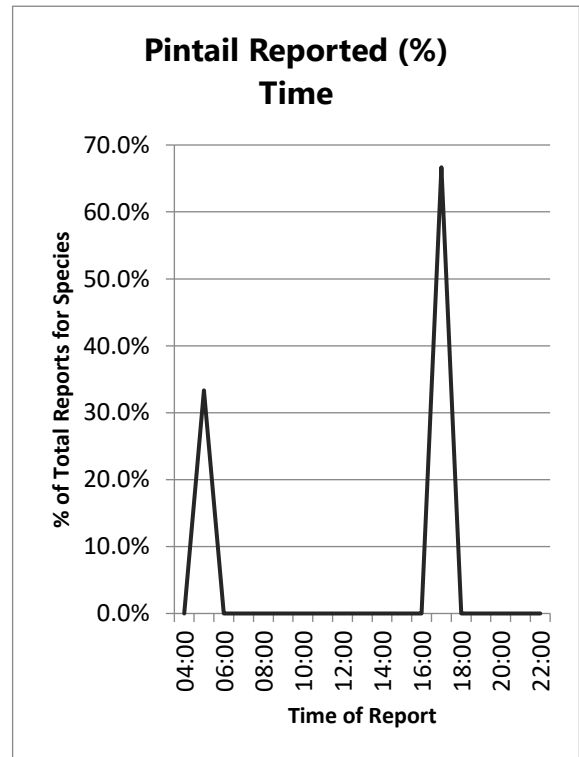
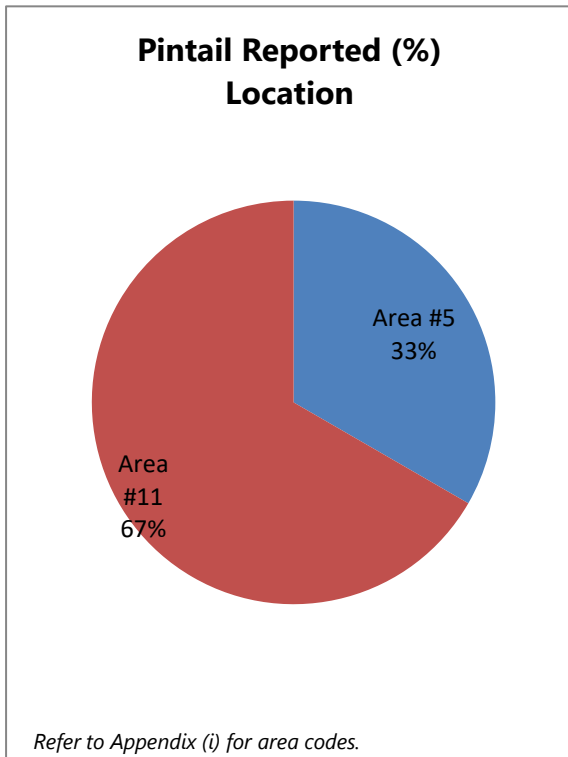
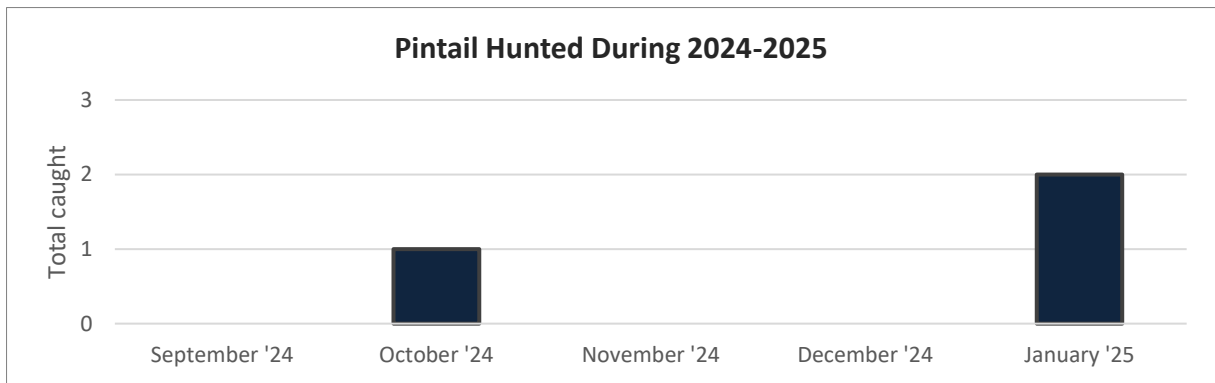
Specimens Hunted

Anas acuta

Pintail

Silfjun

September '24	0
October '24	1
November '24	0
December '24	0
January '25	2
Total	3

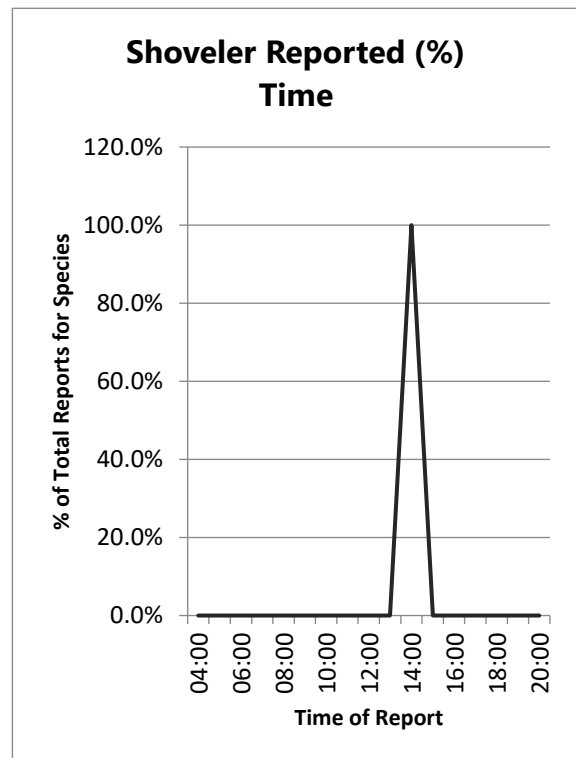
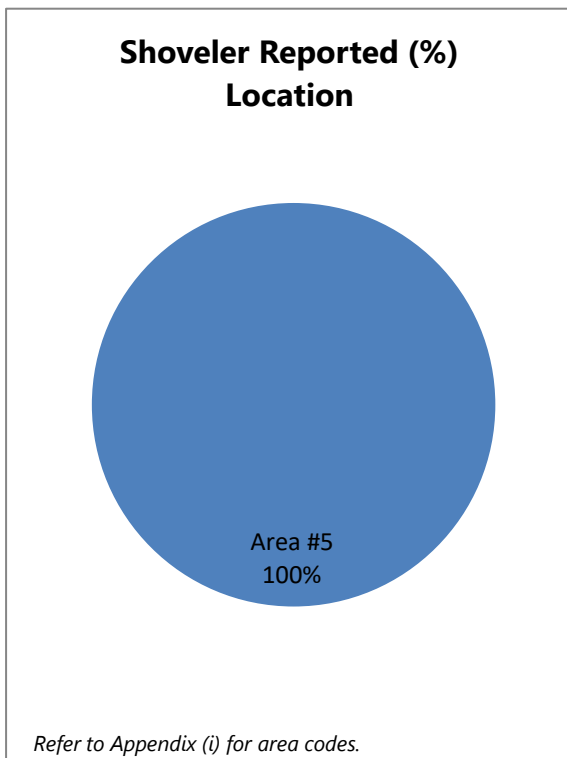
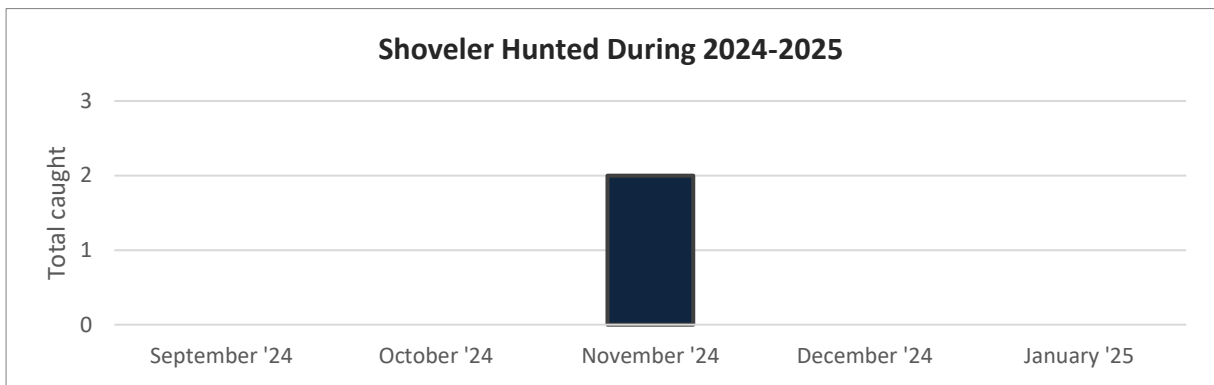


Anas clypeata

Shoveler

Palettuna

Month	Specimens Hunted
September '24	0
October '24	0
November '24	2
December '24	0
January '25	0
Total	2

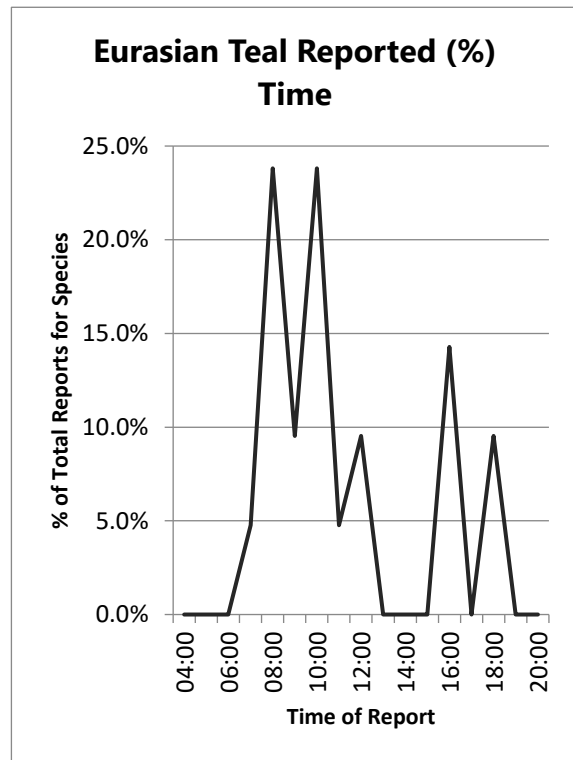
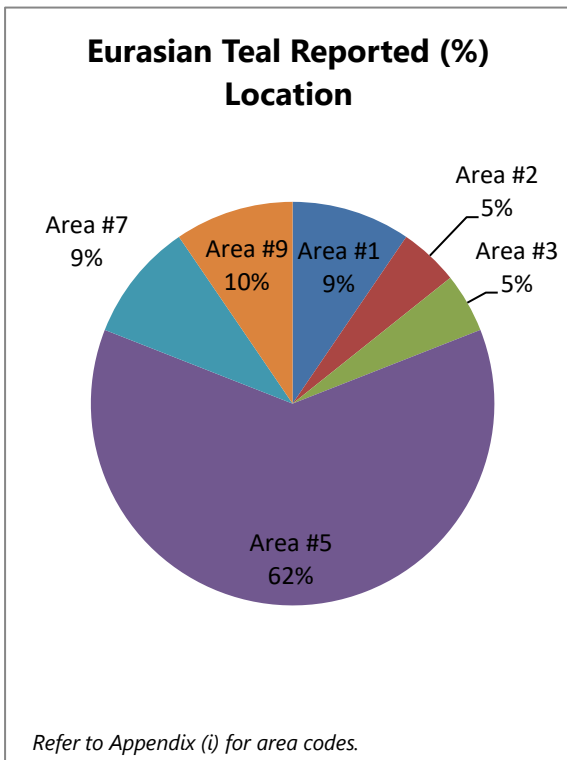
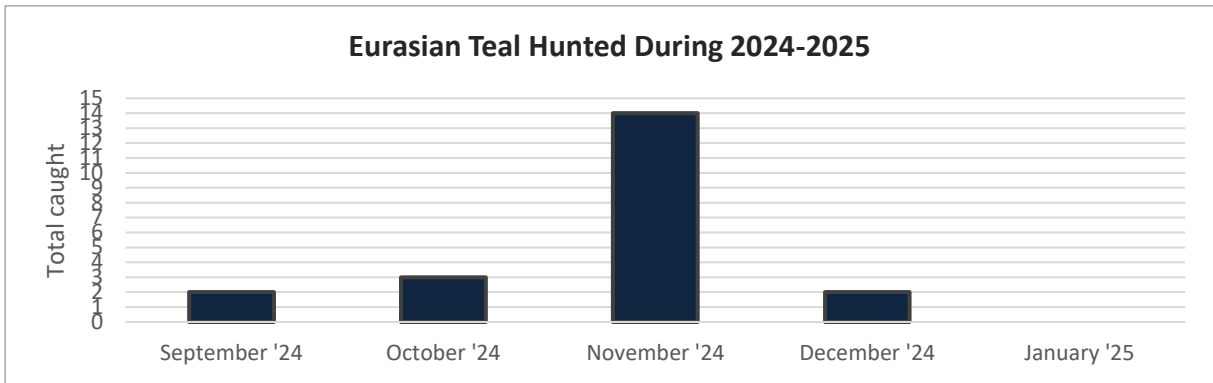


Anas crecca

Eurasian Teal

Sarsella

September '24	2
October '24	3
November '24	14
December '24	2
January '25	0
Total	21

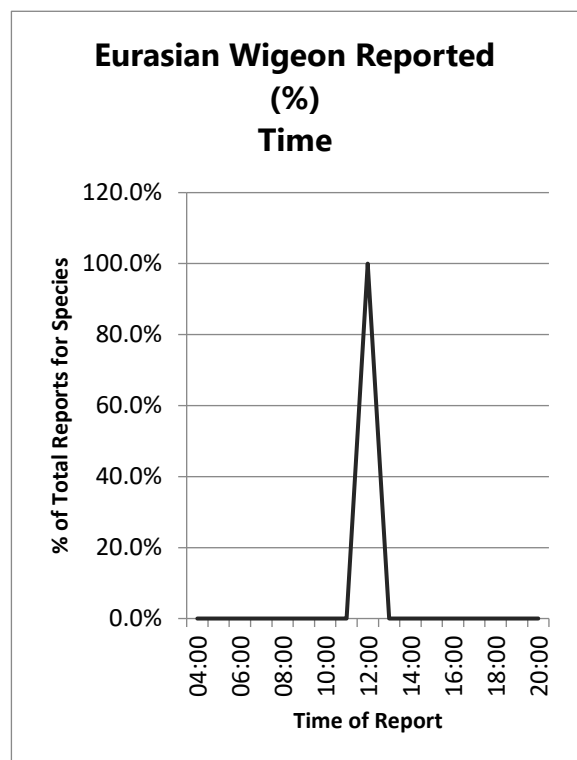
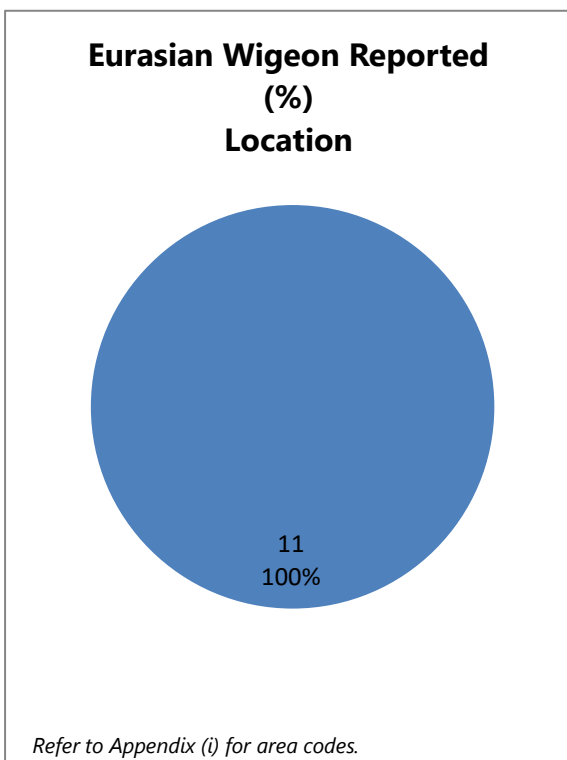
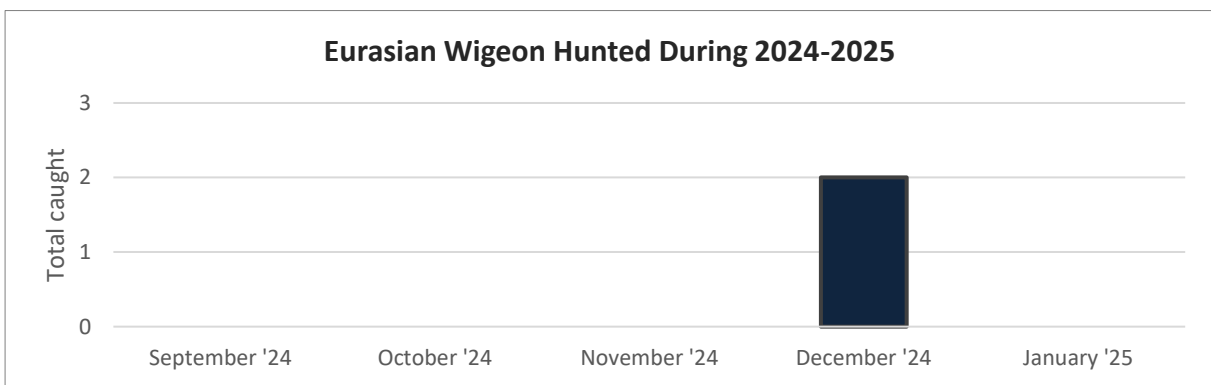


Anas penelope

Eurasian Wigeon

Silfjun Ewropew

September '24	0
October '24	0
November '24	0
December '24	2
January '25	0
Total	2

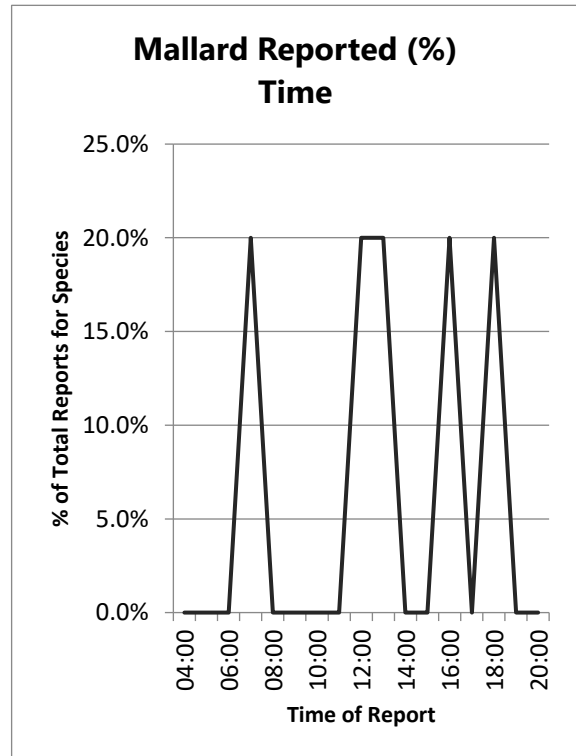
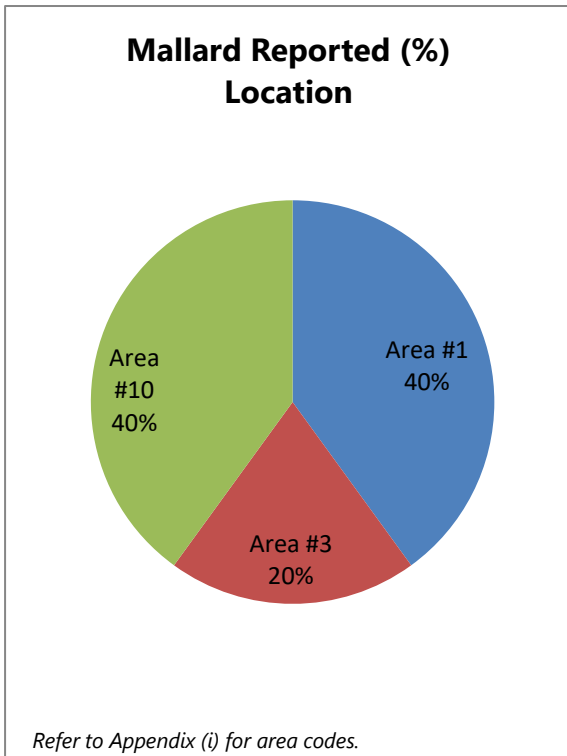
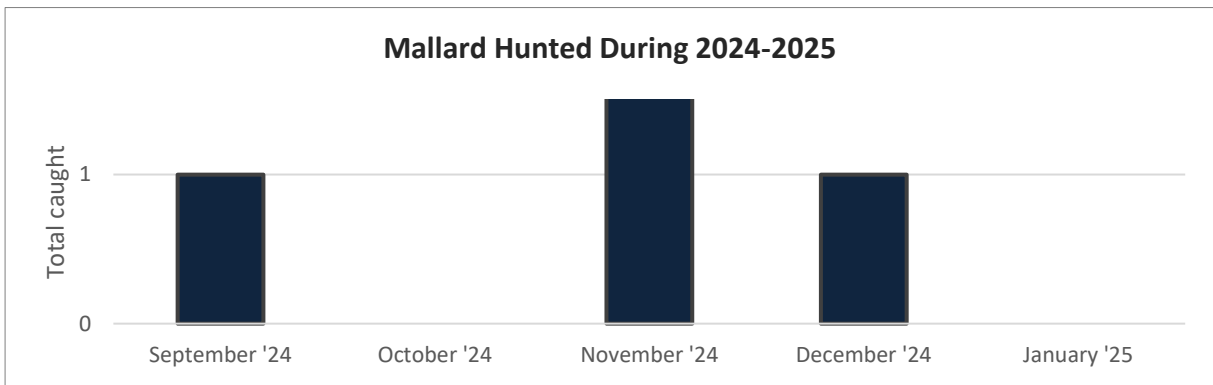


Anas platyrhynchos

Mallard

Kuluvert

September '24	1
October '24	0
November '24	3
December '24	1
January '25	0
Total	5

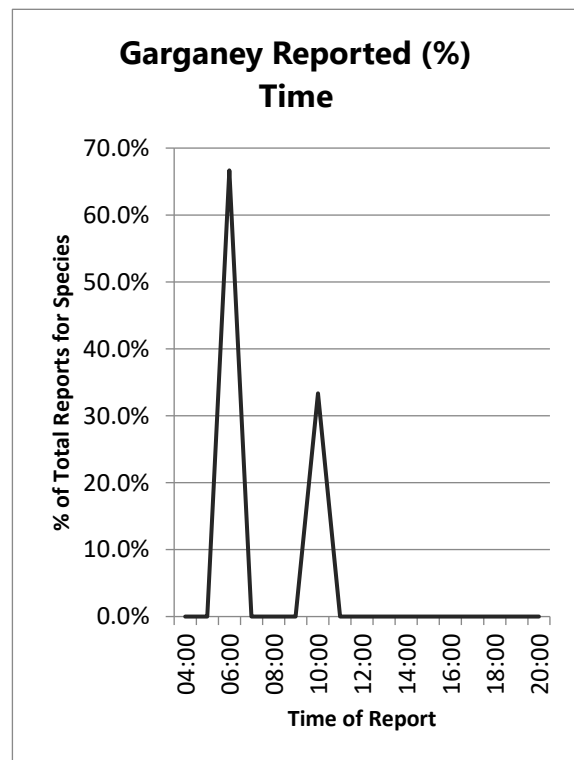
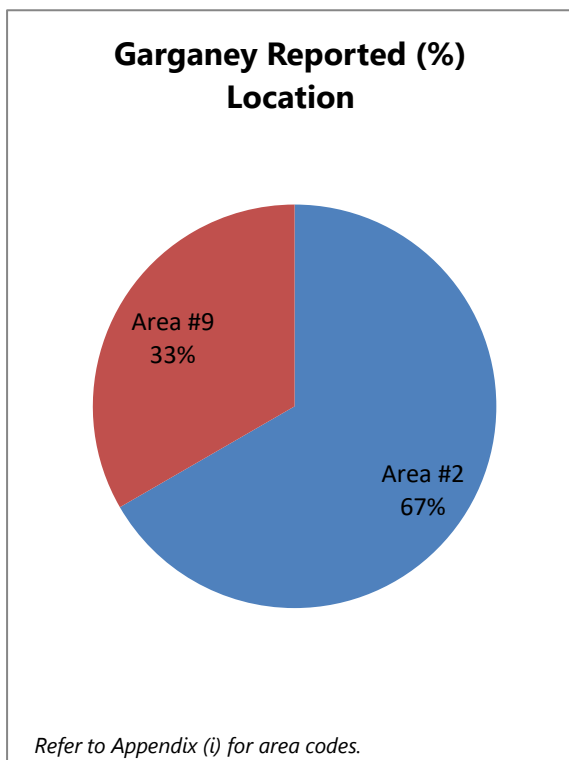
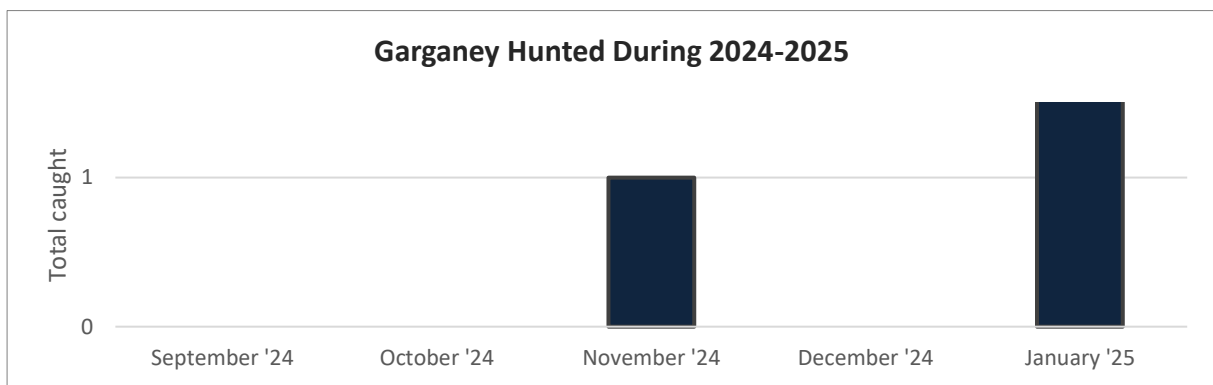


Anas querquedula

Garganey

Sarsella Hamra

September '24	0
October '24	0
November '24	1
December '24	0
January '25	2
Total	3



Anseriformes - Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Anas strepera</i>		
Gadwall		
Kuluvert Griz		
	September '24	0
	October '24	0
	November '24	0
	December '24	0
	January '25	0
	Total	0

Anseriformes

- Anatidae

Month

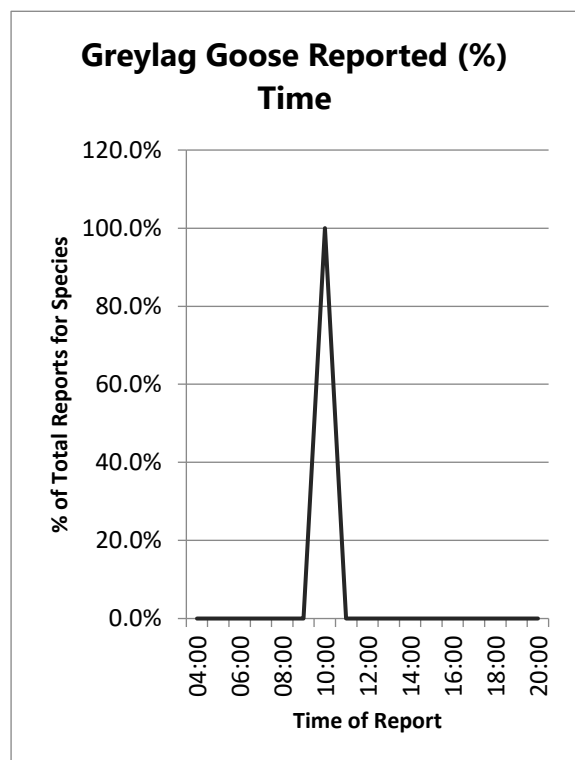
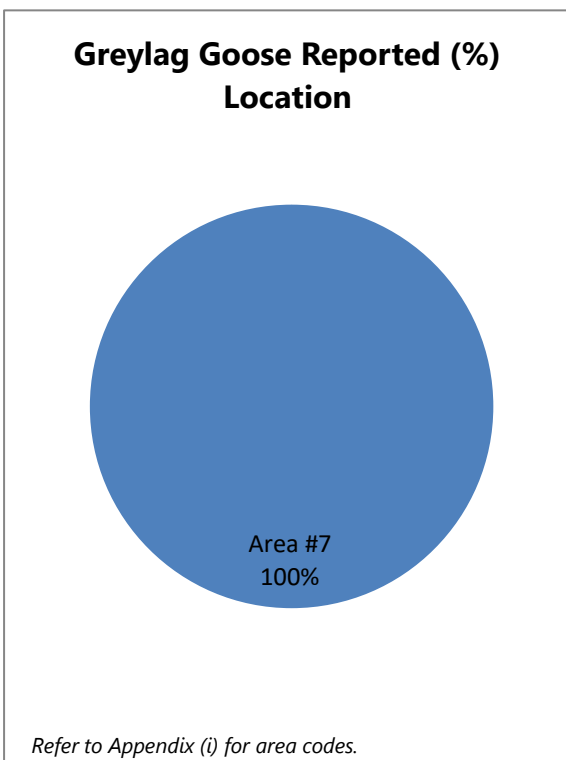
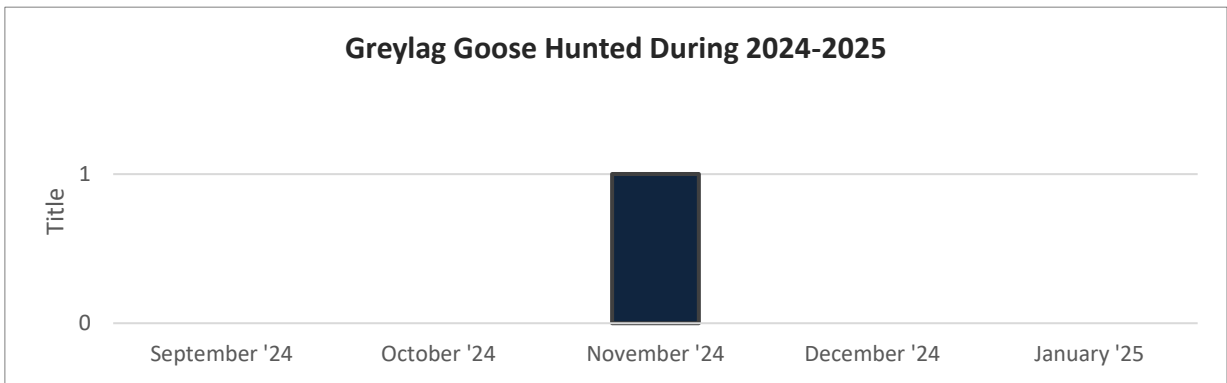
Specimens Hunted

Anser anser

Greylag Goose

Wizza Griza

September '24	0
October '24	0
November '24	1
December '24	0
January '25	0
Total	1

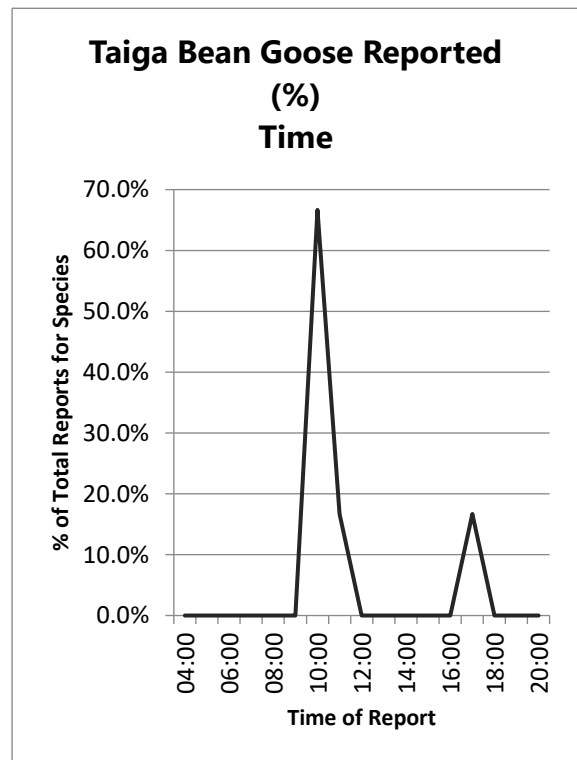
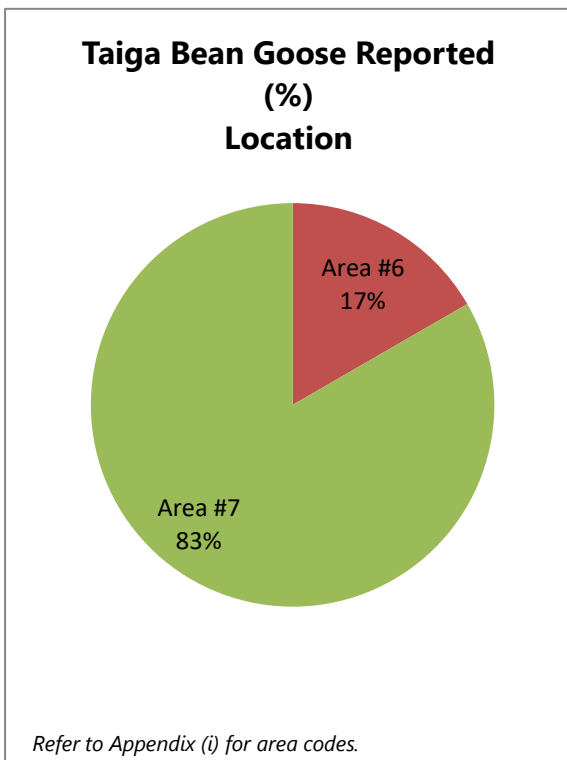
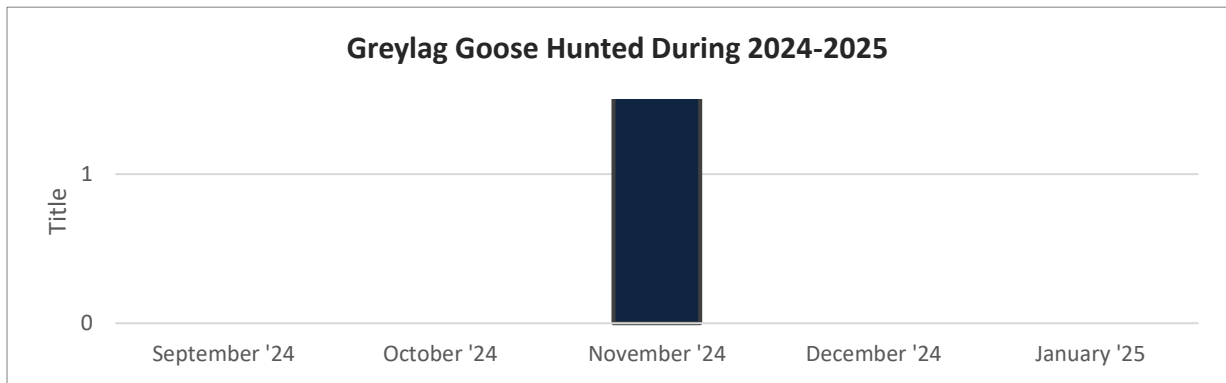


Anser fabalis

Taiga Bean Goose

Wizza tal-Ful

September '24	0
October '24	0
November '24	6
December '24	0
January '25	0
Total	6



Anseriformes

- Anatidae

Month

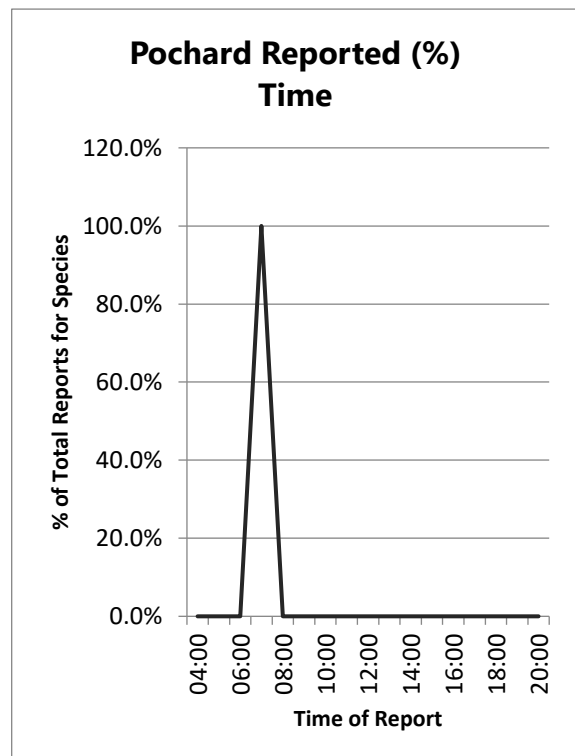
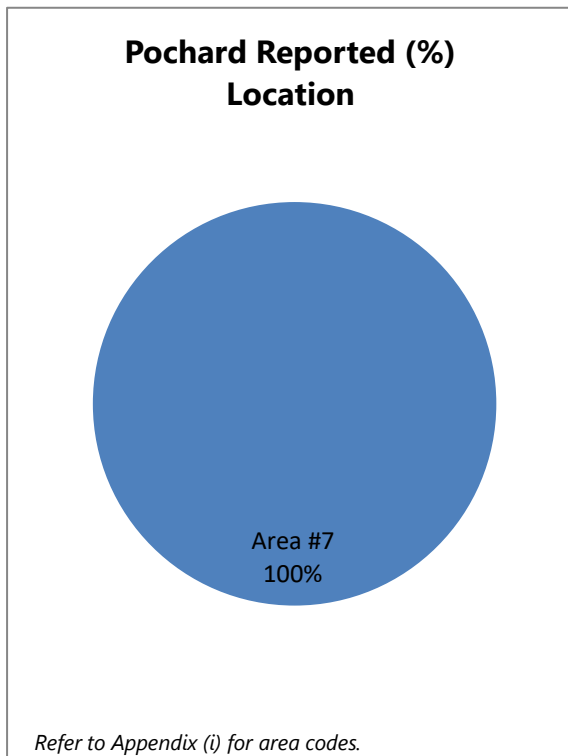
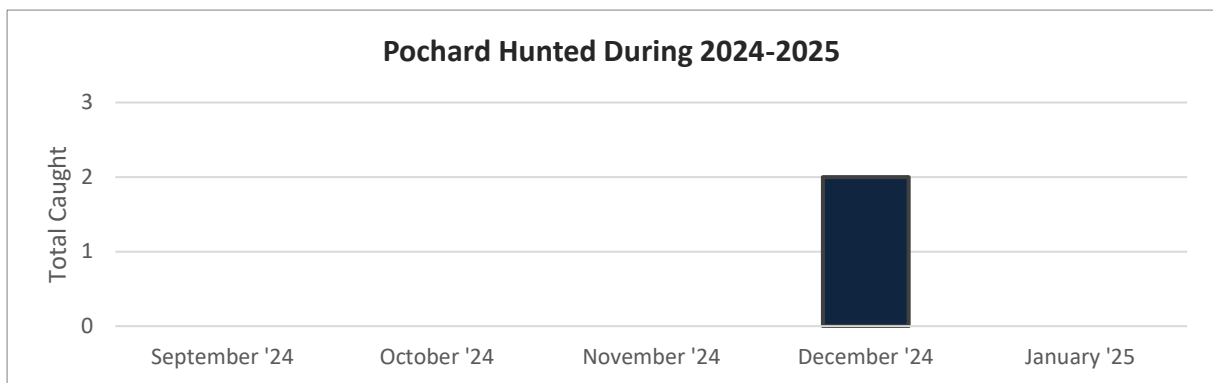
Specimens Hunted

Aythya ferina

Pochard

Brajmla

September '24	0
October '24	0
November '24	0
December '24	2
January '25	0
Total	2



Anseriformes

- Anatidae

Month

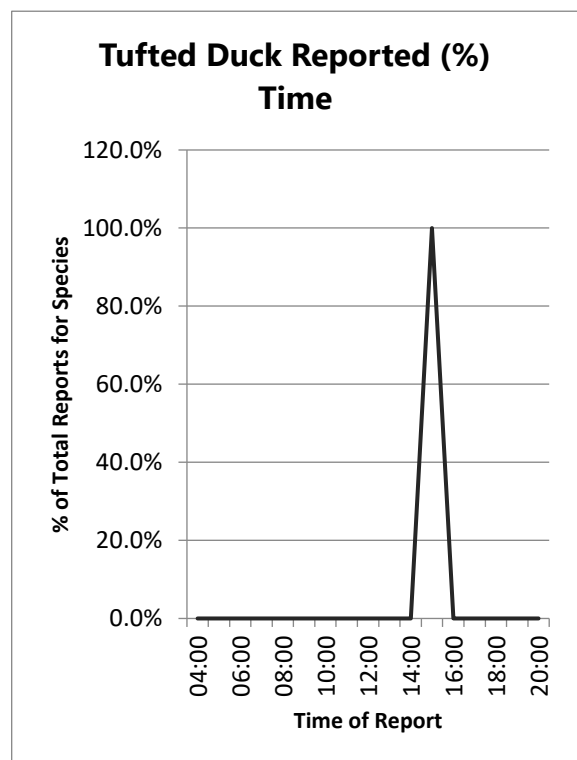
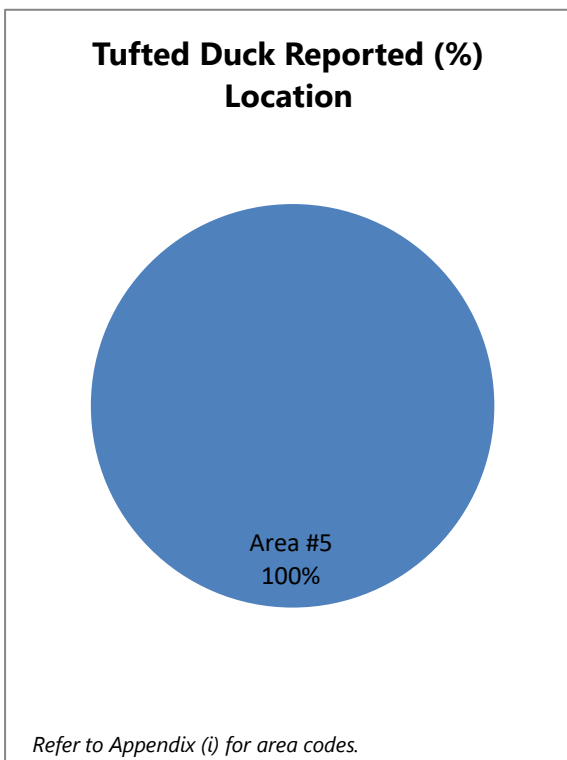
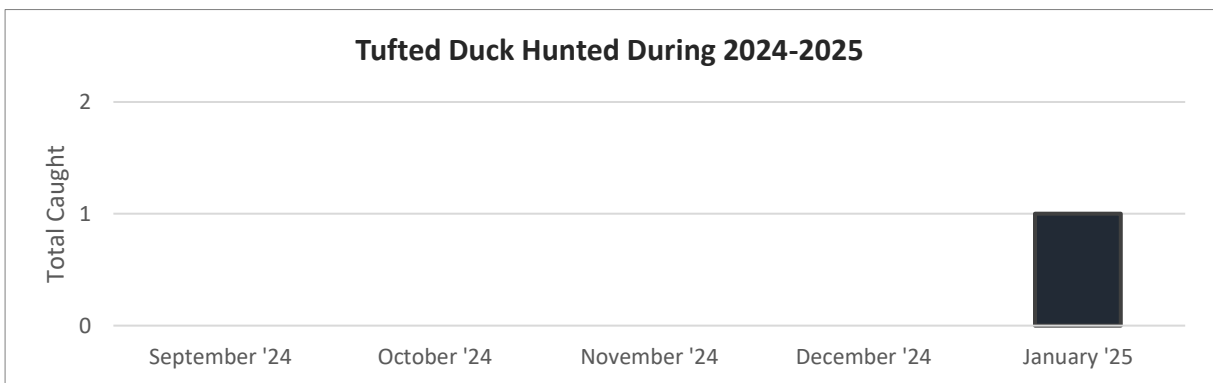
Specimens Hunted

Aythya fuligula

Tufted Duck

Brajmla tat-Toppu

September '24	0
October '24	0
November '24	0
December '24	0
January '25	1
Total	1



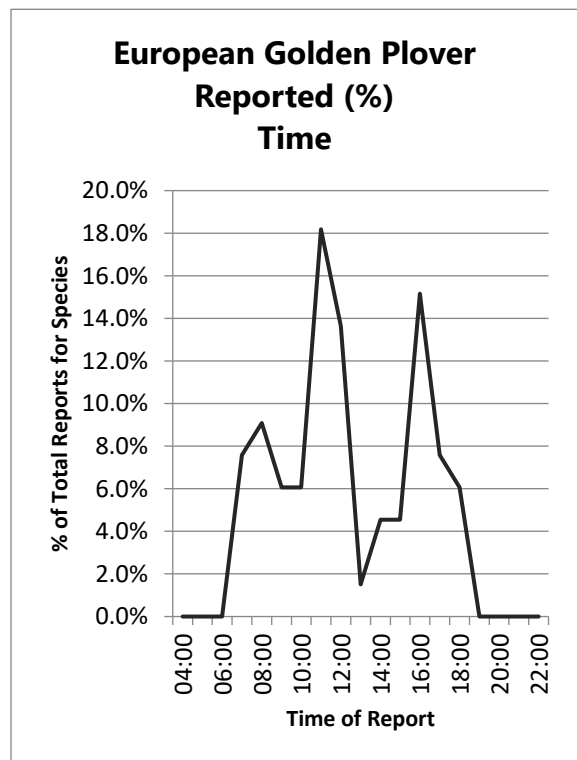
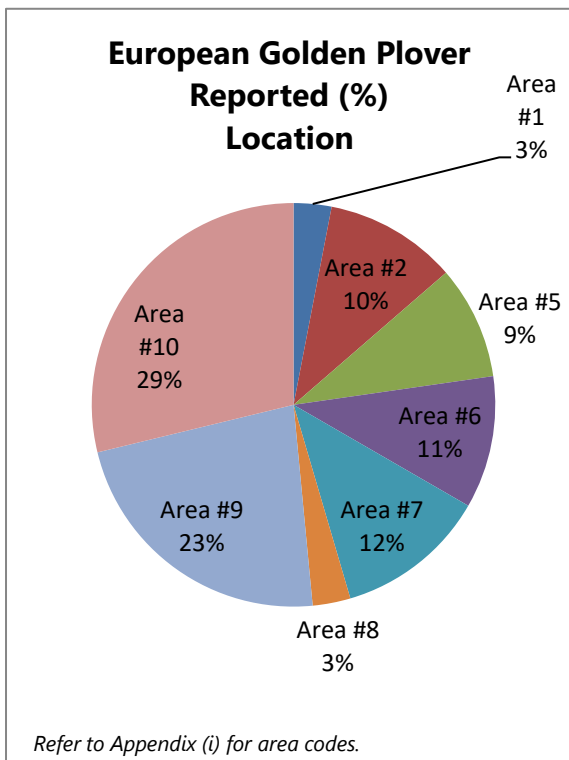
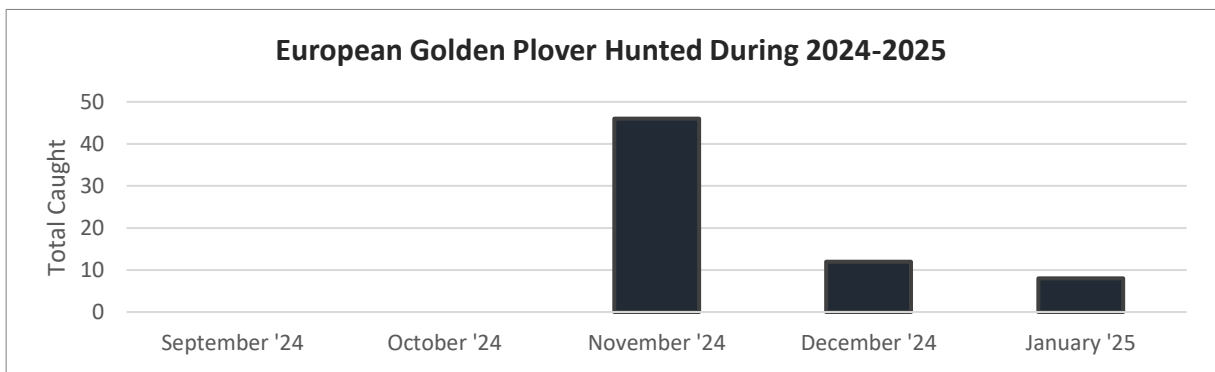
Pluvialis apricaria

European Golden Plover

Pluviera

(Hunting Data)

September '24	0
October '24	0
November '24	46
December '24	12
January '25	8
Total	66

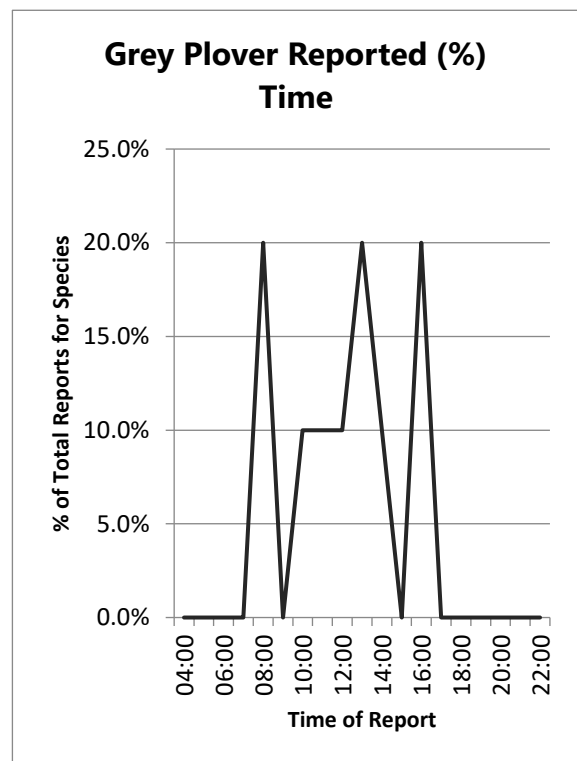
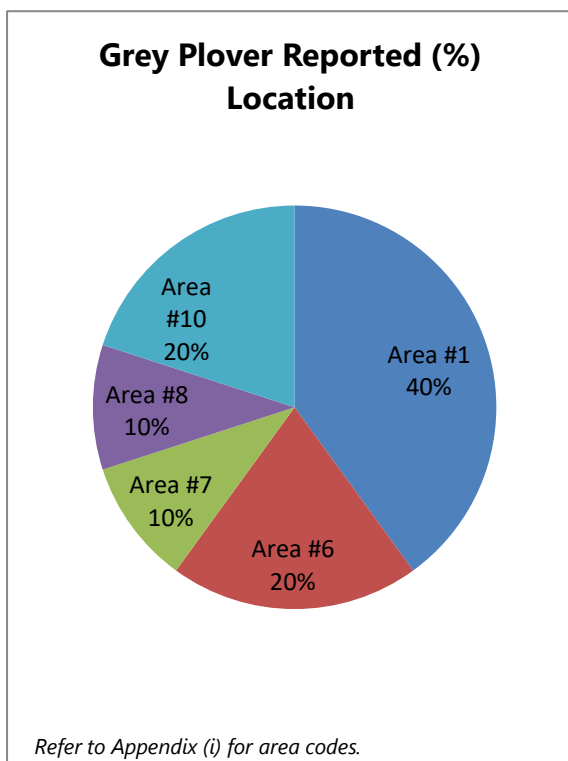
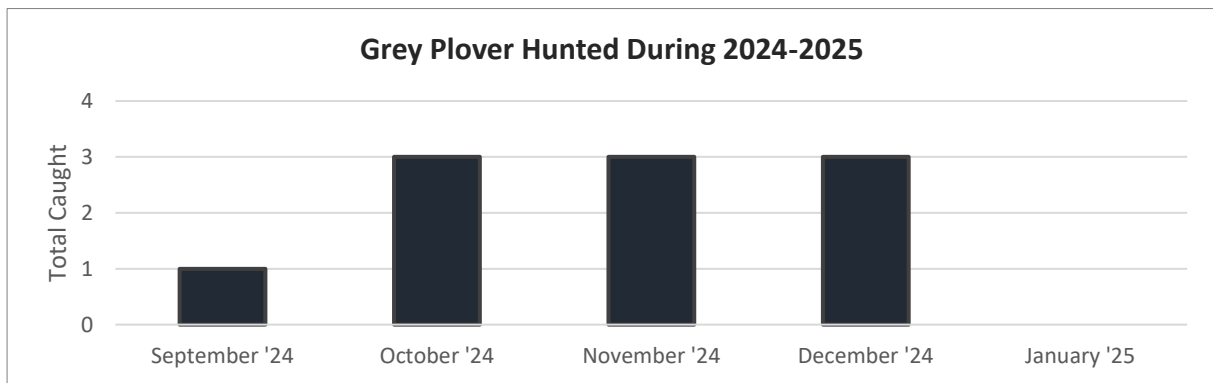


Pluvialis squatarola

Grey Plover

Pluviera Pastarda

September '24	1
October '24	3
November '24	3
December '24	3
January '25	0
Total	10

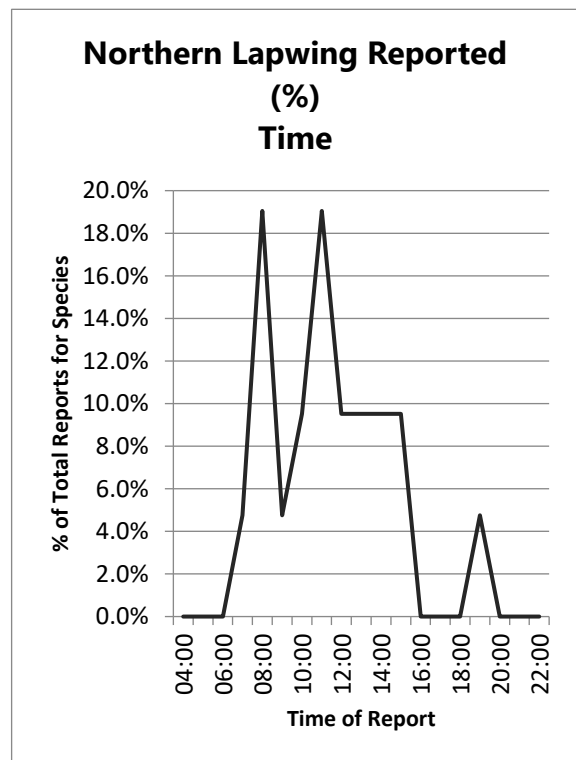
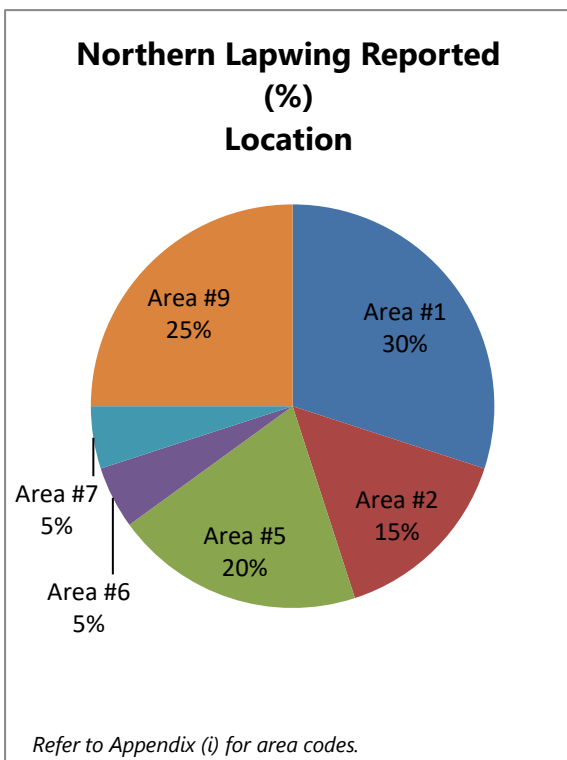
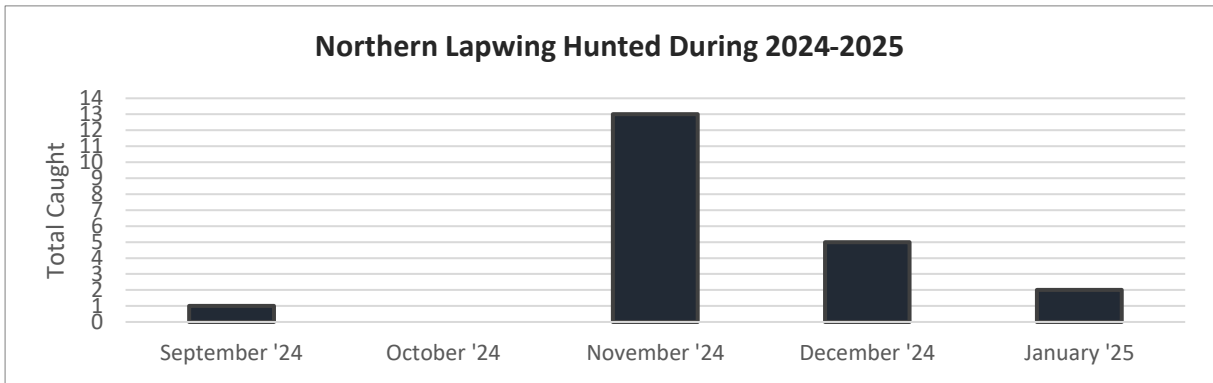


Vanellus vanellus

Northern Lapwing

Venewwa

Month	Specimens Hunted
September '24	1
October '24	0
November '24	13
December '24	5
January '25	2
Total	21

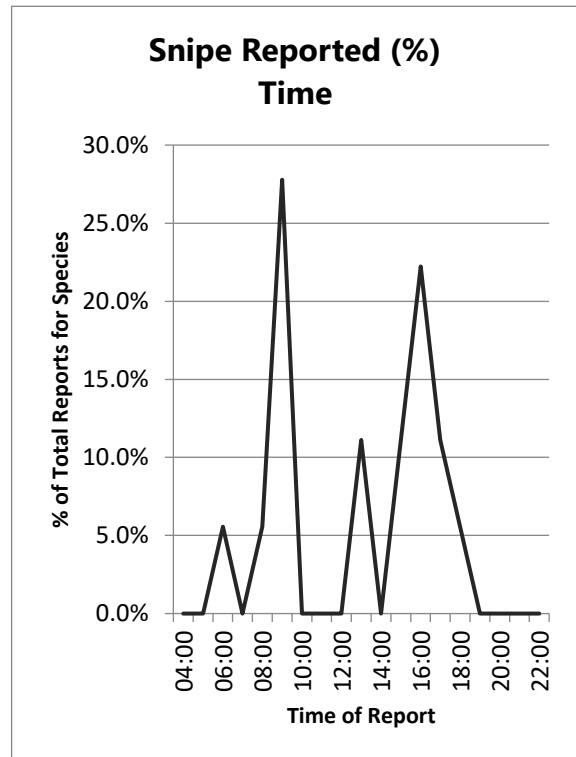
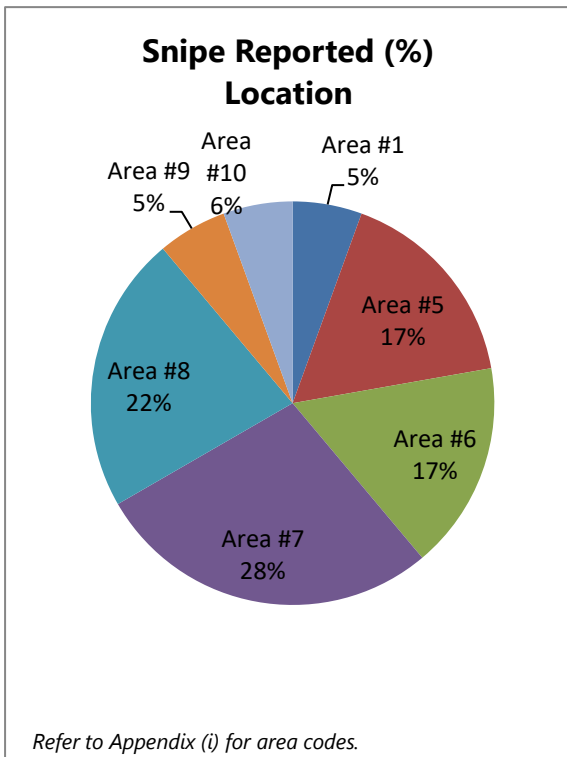
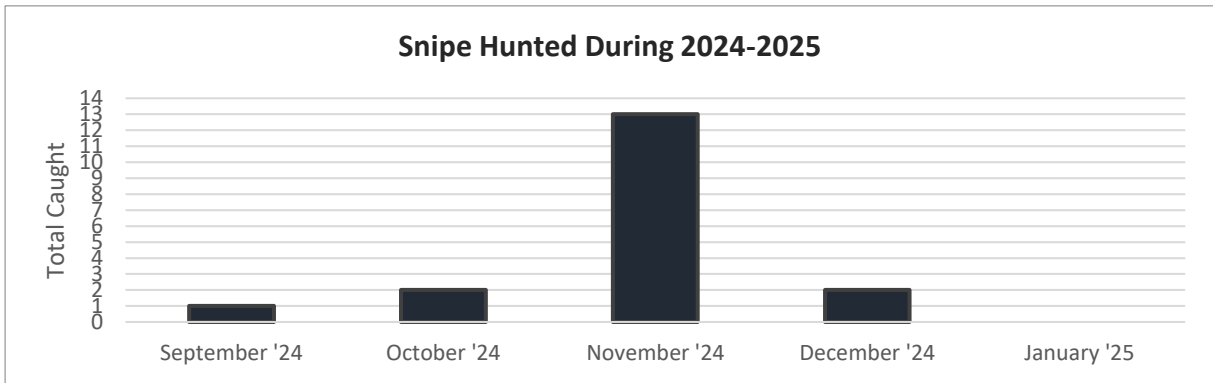


Gallinago gallinago

Snipe

Bekkaçc

September '24	1
October '24	2
November '24	13
December '24	2
January '25	0
Total	18

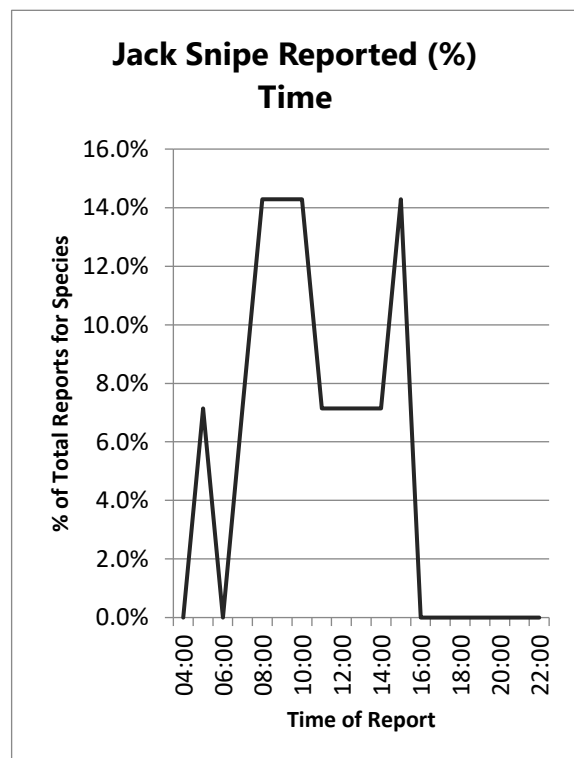
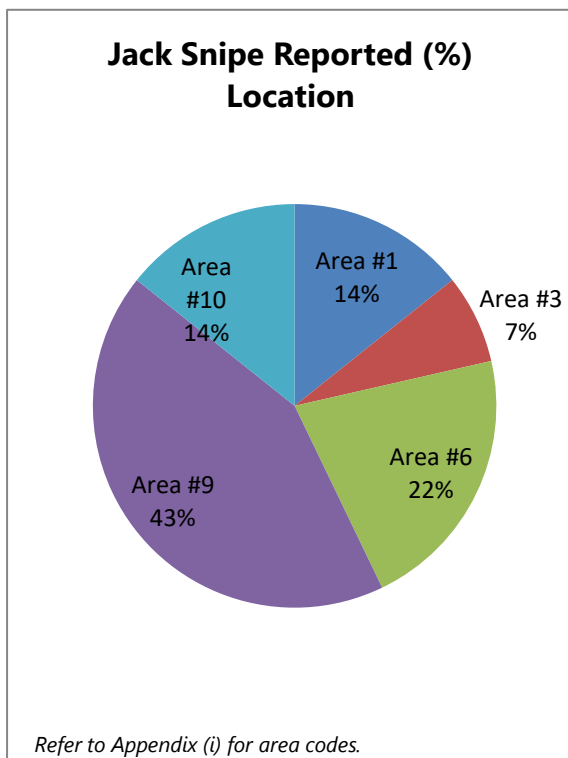
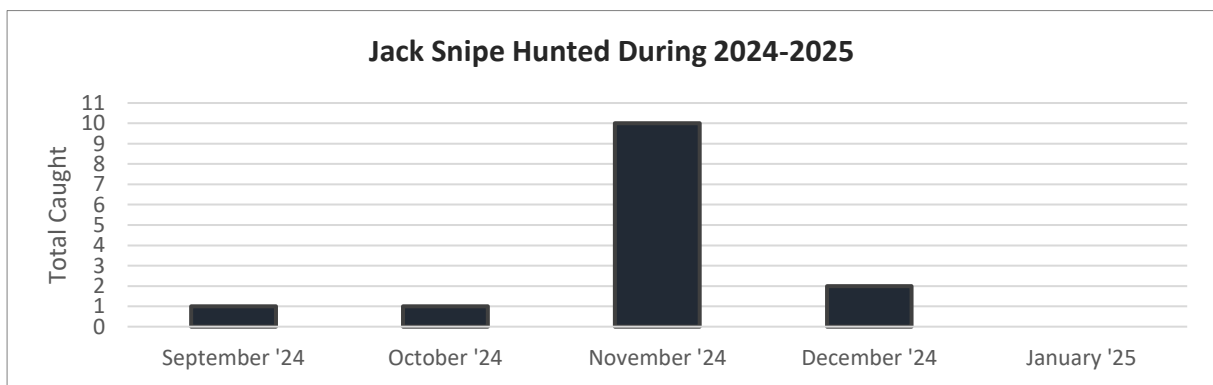


Lymnocyptes minimus

Jack Snipe

Činkonja

September '24	1
October '24	1
November '24	10
December '24	2
January '25	0
Total	14

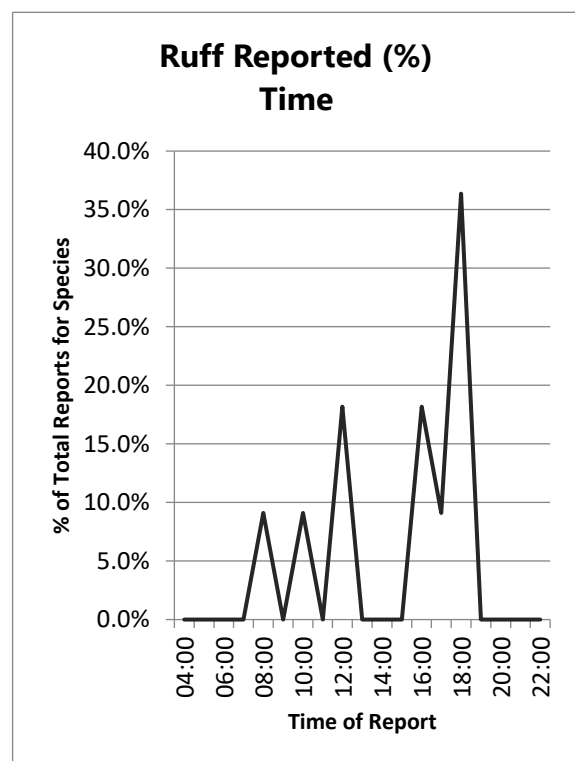
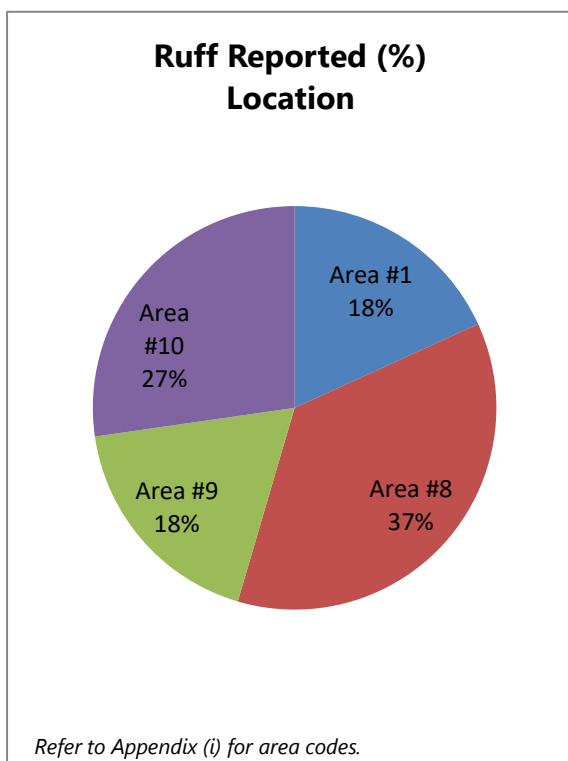
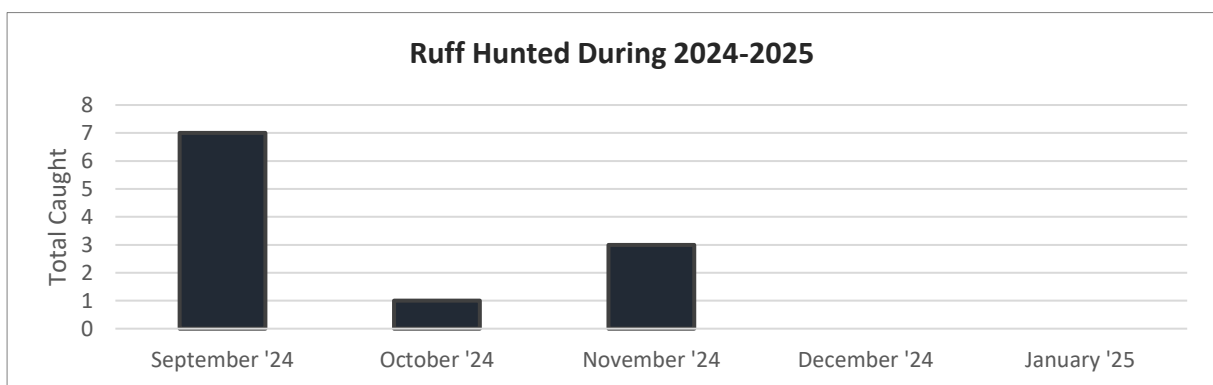


Philomachus pugnax

Ruff

Girviel

September '24	7
October '24	1
November '24	3
December '24	0
January '25	0
Total	11

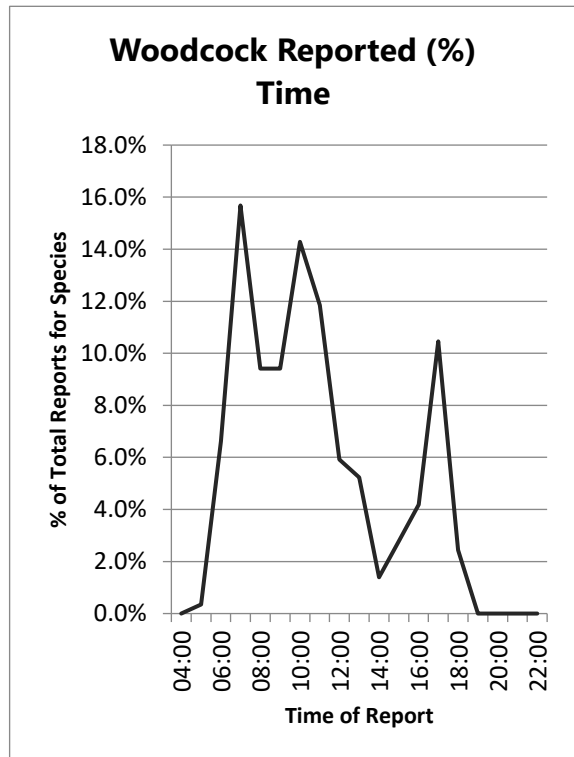
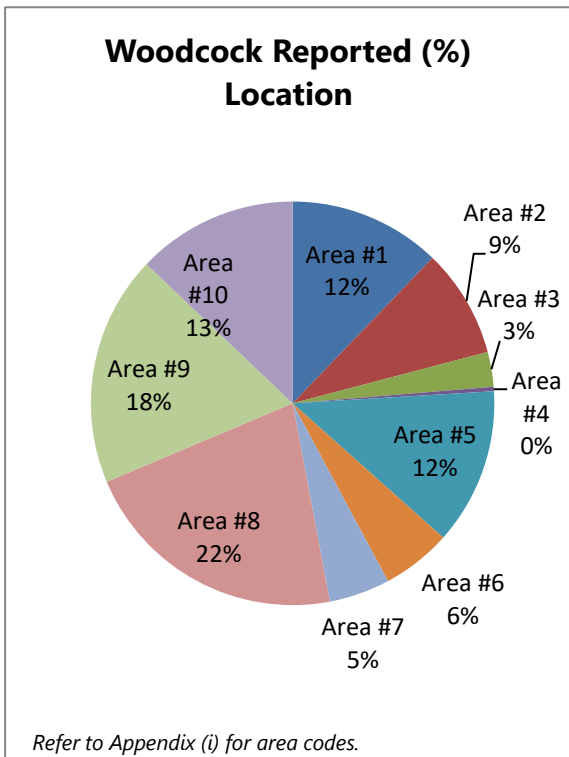
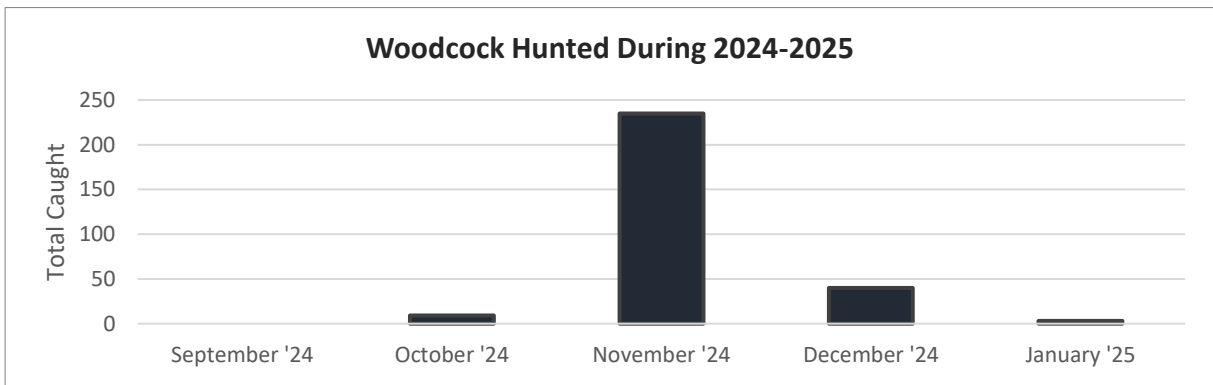


Scolopax rusticola

Woodcock

Gallina

September '24	0
October '24	9
November '24	235
December '24	40
January '25	3
Total	287

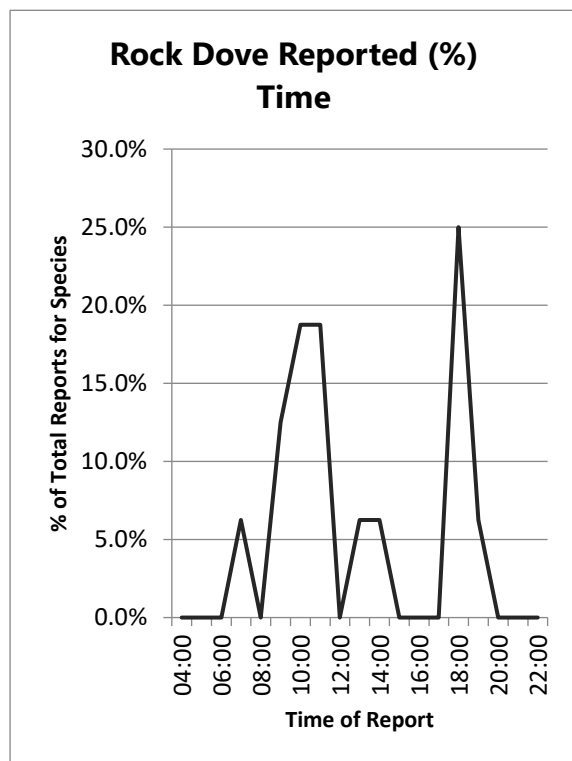
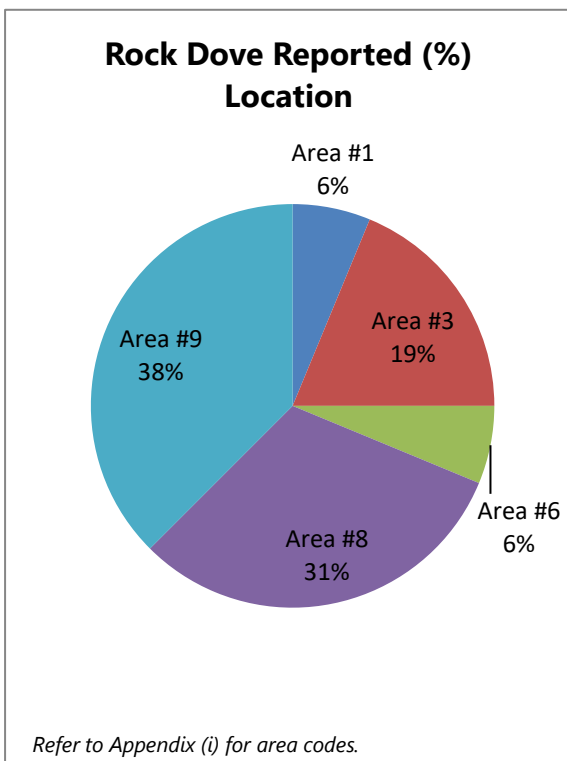
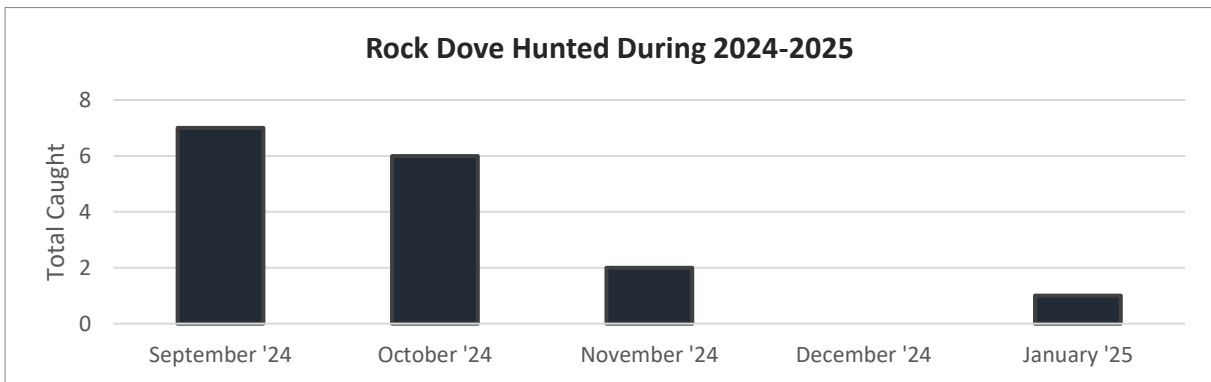


Columba livia

Rock Dove

Tudun tal-Ġebel

Month	Specimens Hunted
September '24	7
October '24	6
November '24	2
December '24	0
January '25	1
Total	16

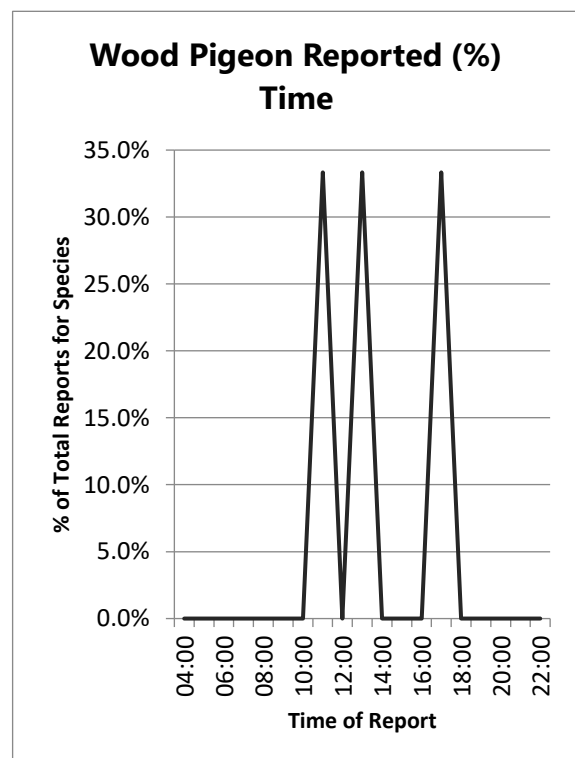
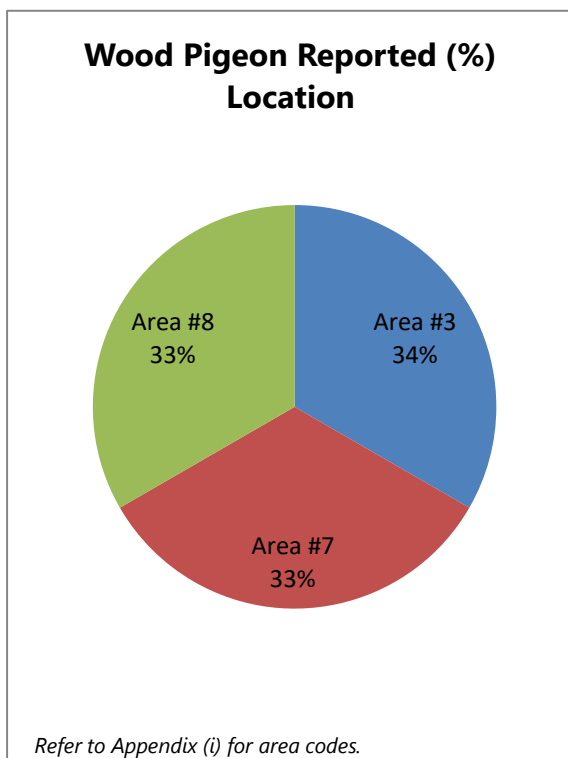
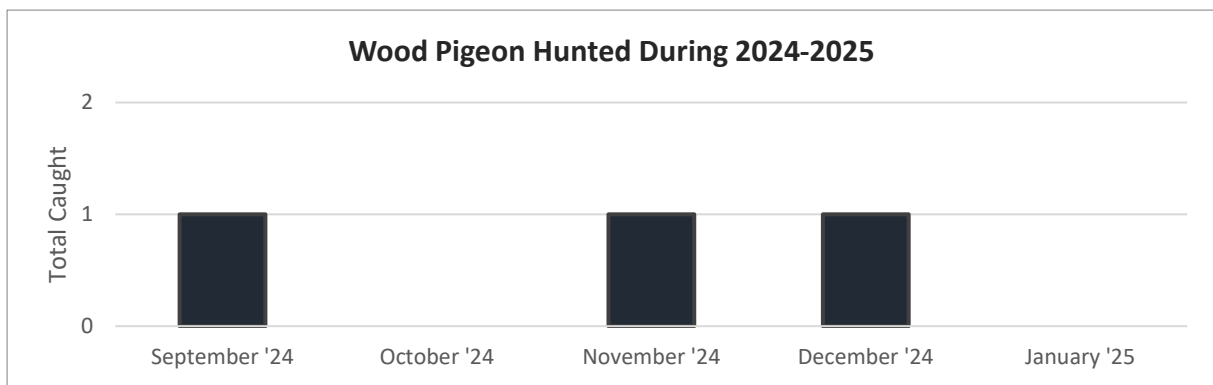


Columba palumbus

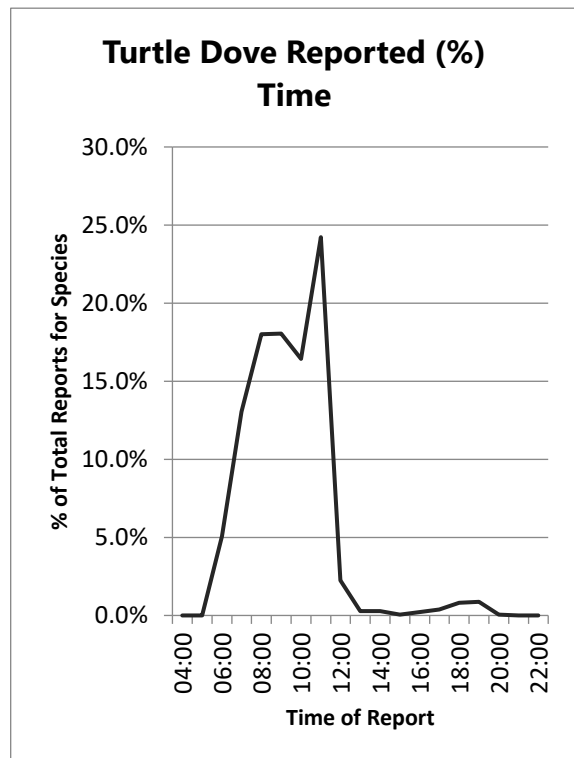
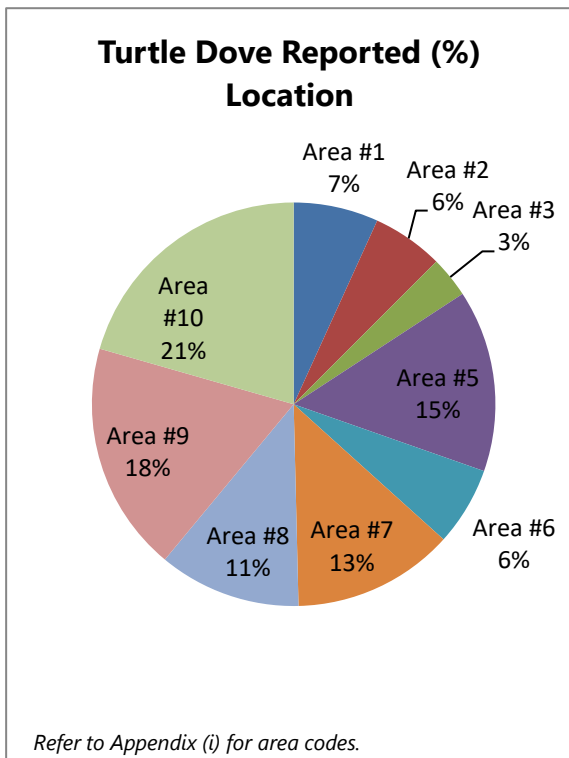
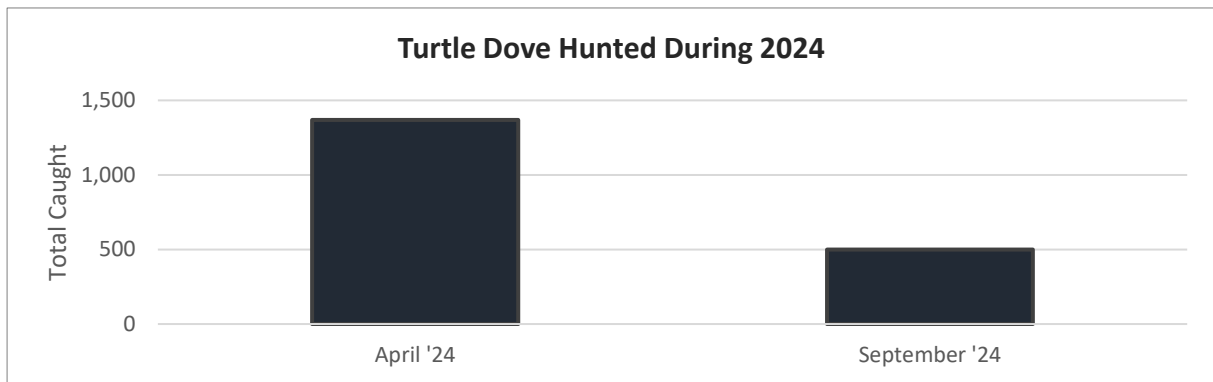
Wood Pigeon

Tudun

September '24	1
October '24	0
November '24	1
December '24	1
January '25	0
Total	3



Columbiformes	Columbidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			
European Turtle-dove			
Gamiema			
		April '24	1,370
		September '24	500
		Total	1,870



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://wbru.gov.mt/en/resources/reports-and-statistics/sprin-hunting-derogations/>

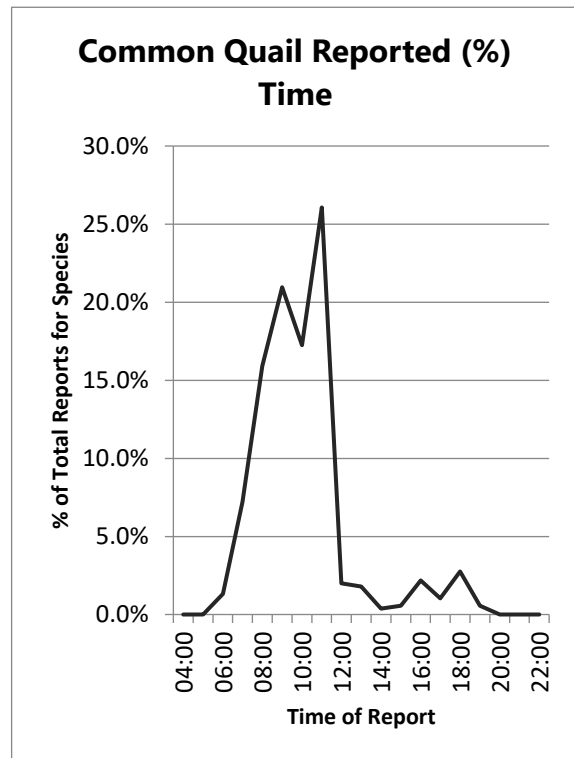
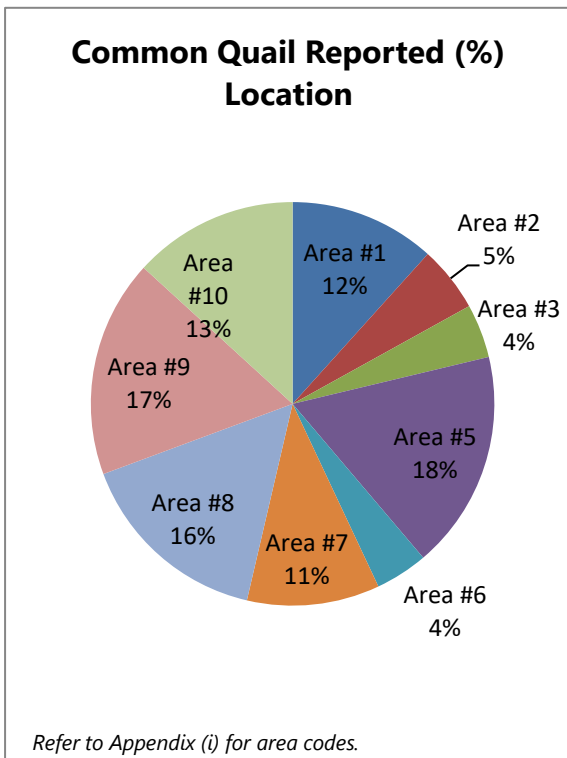
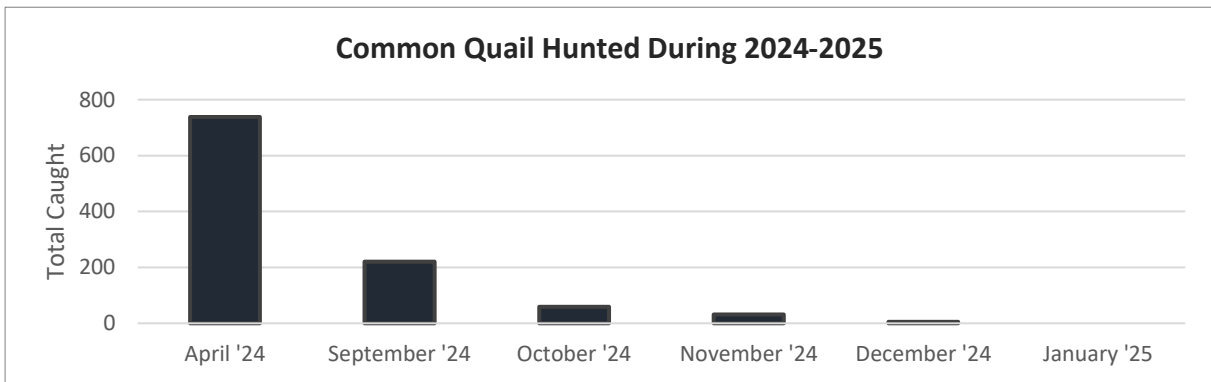
Note: Hunting of this species in September is governed through L.N. 341 of 2021. Full details on this are available at <https://legislation.mt/eli/l/2021/341/eng>.

Coturnix coturnix

Common Quail

Summiena

April '24	738
September '24	221
October '24	59
November '24	32
December '24	5
January '25	0
Total	1,055



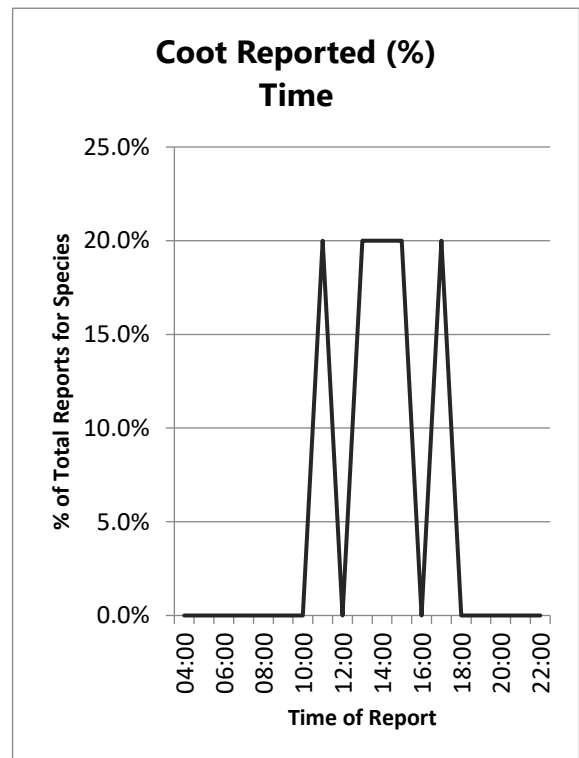
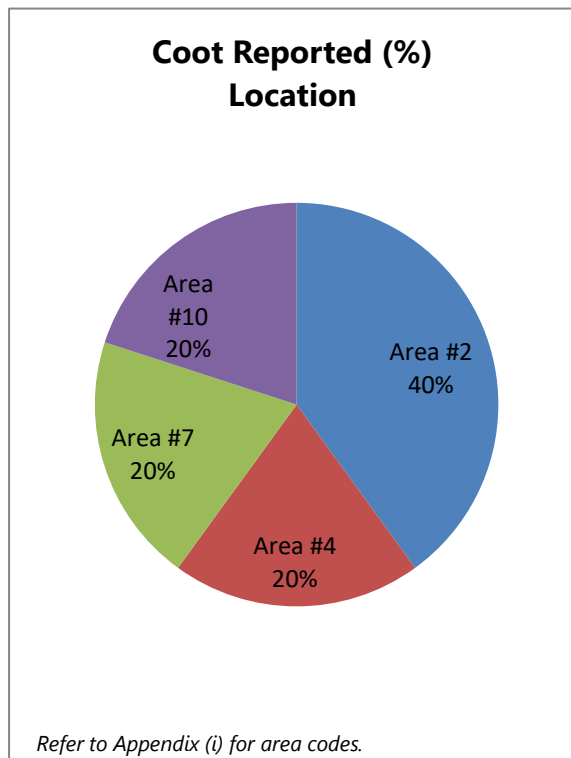
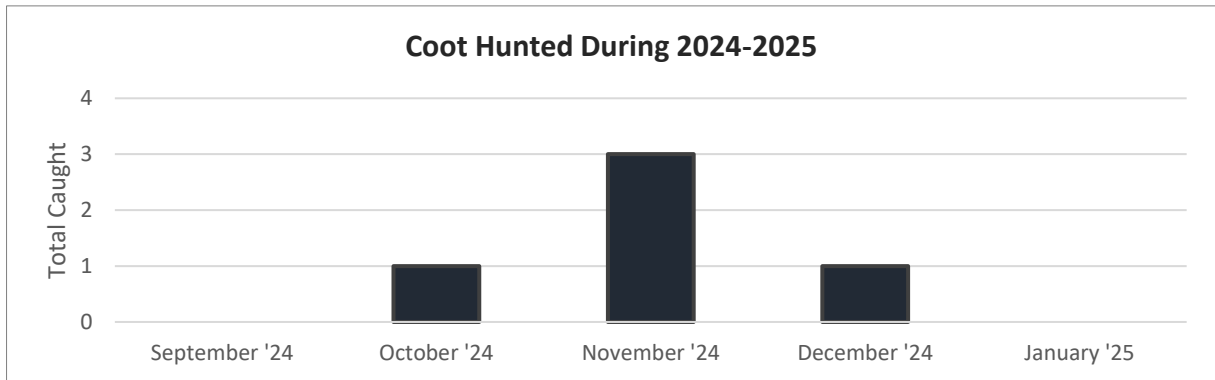
Note: Hunting of this species in spring was authorised through derogation by virtue of [L.N. 85 of 2024](#). Full details on the application of this derogation are available at <https://wbru.gov.mt/en/resources/reports-and-statistics/sprin-hunting-derogations/>.

Fulica atra

Coot

Tigiega tal-Baħar

September '24	0
October '24	1
November '24	3
December '24	1
January '25	0
Total	5

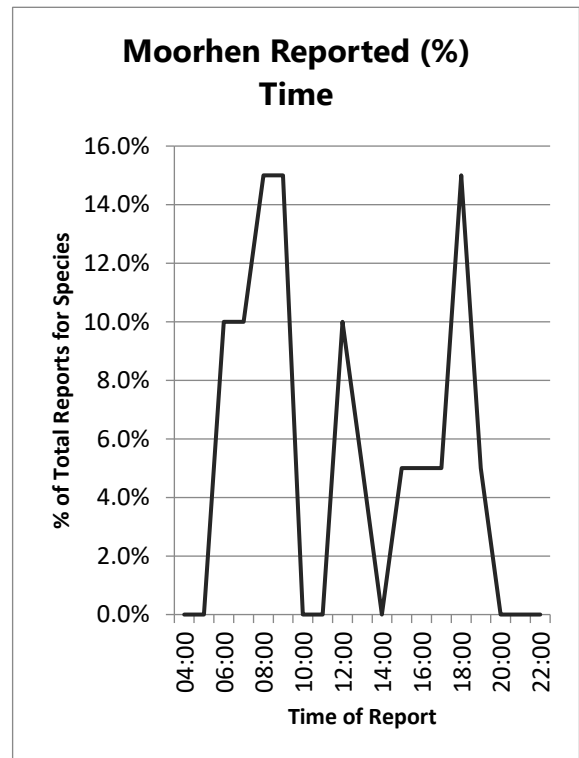
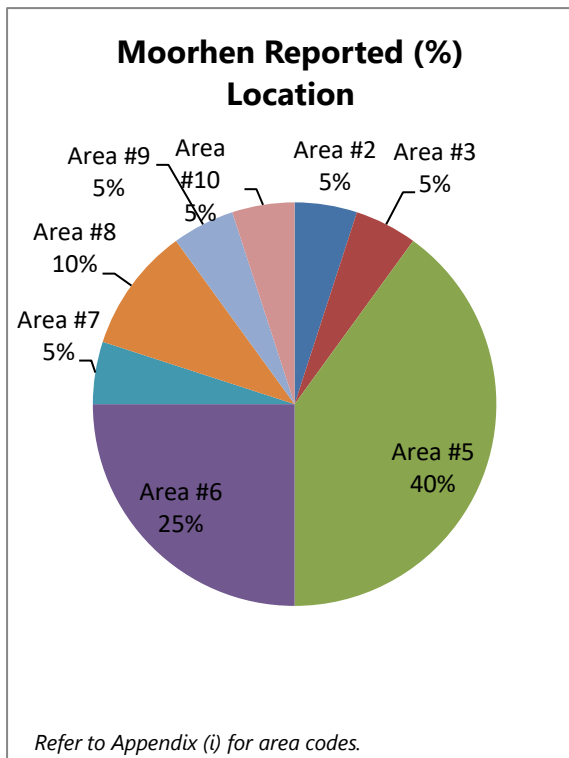
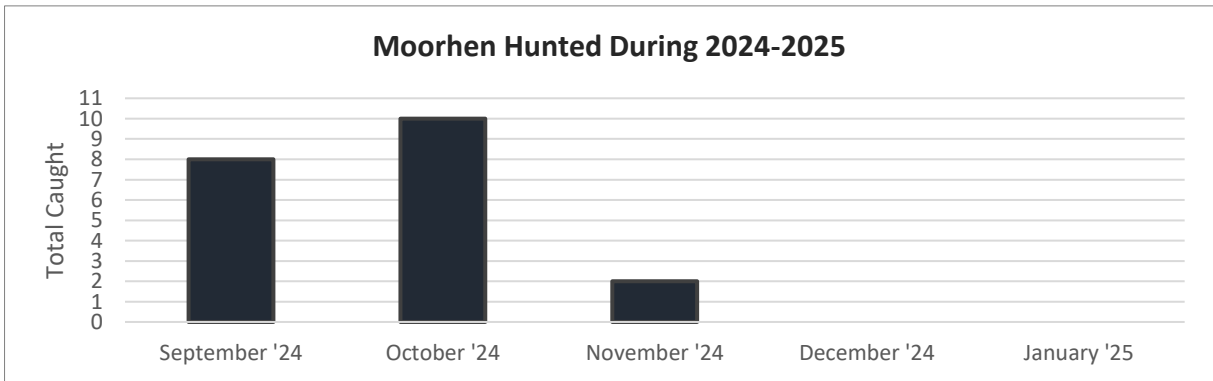


Gallinula chloropus

Moorhen

Gallozz Iswed

September '24	8
October '24	10
November '24	2
December '24	0
January '25	0
Total	20

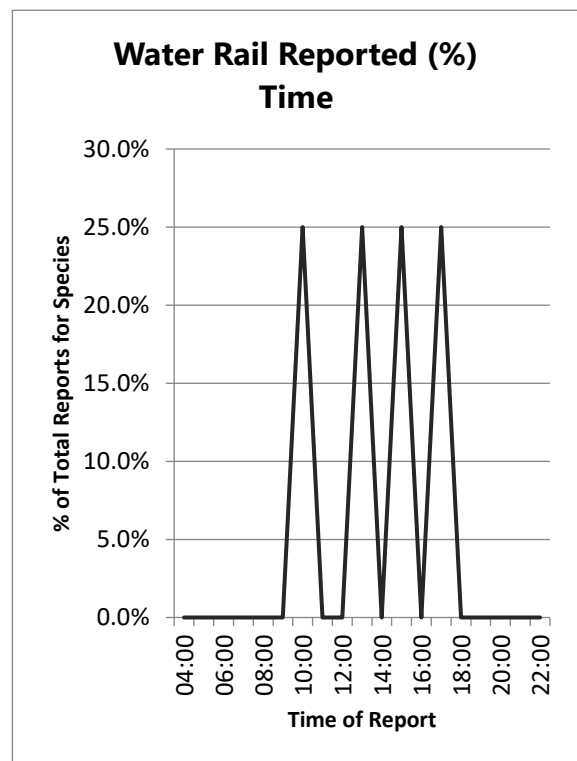
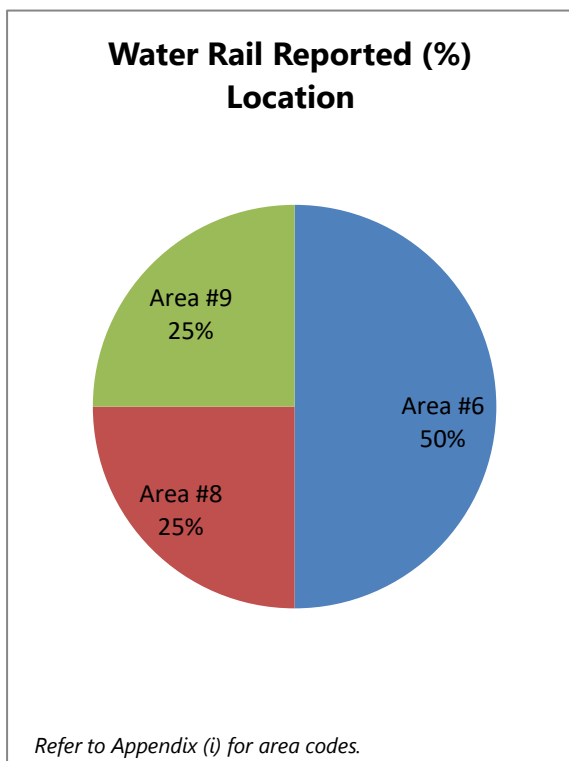
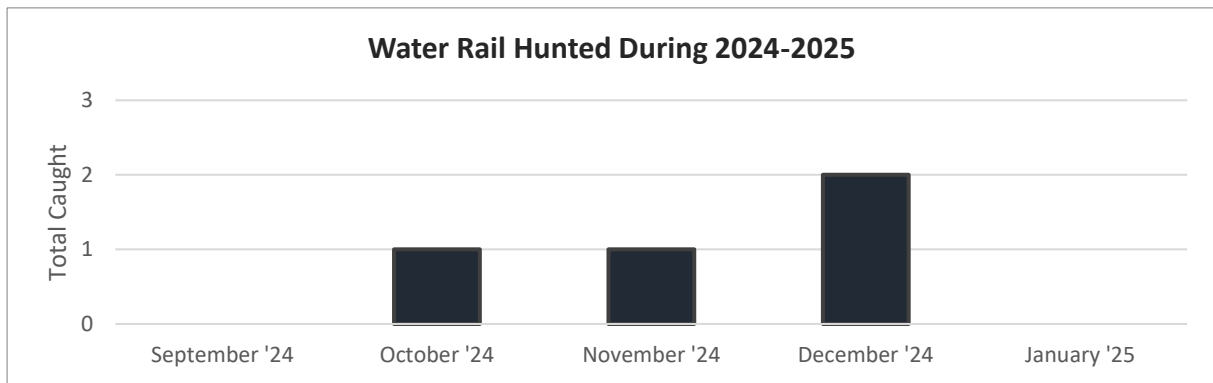


Rallus aquaticus

Water Rail

Gallozz tax-Xitwa

September '24	0
October '24	1
November '24	1
December '24	2
January '25	0
Total	4

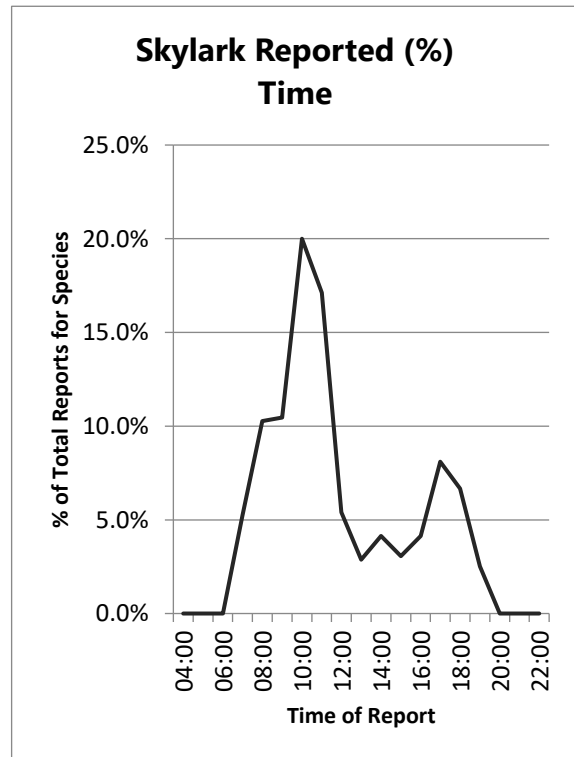
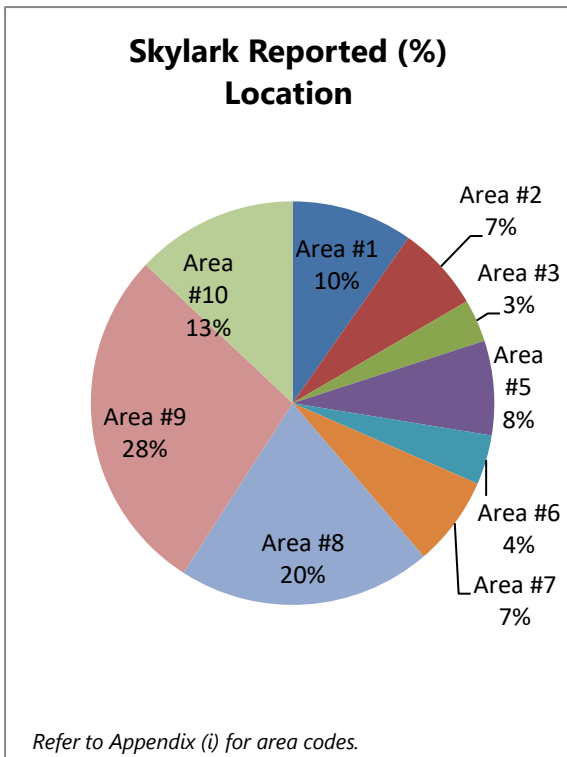
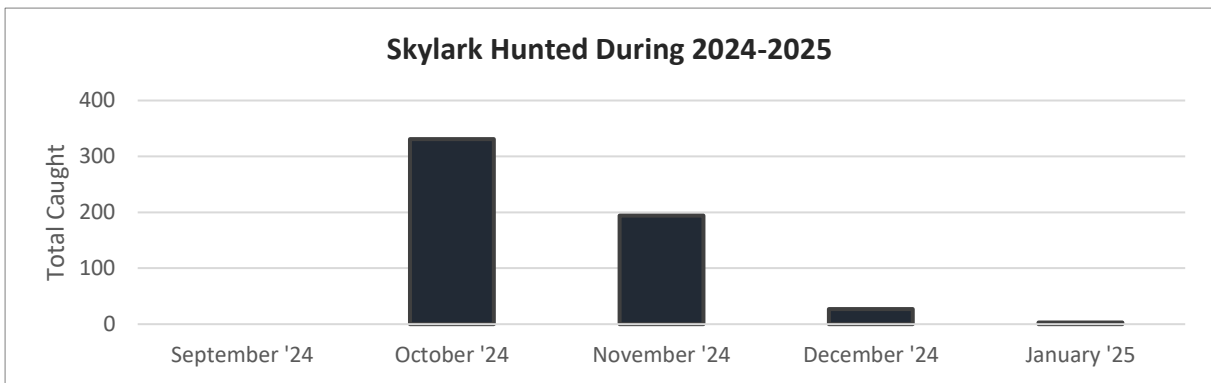


Alauda arvensis

Skylark

Alwetta

September '24	0
October '24	331
November '24	194
December '24	27
January '25	3
Total	555

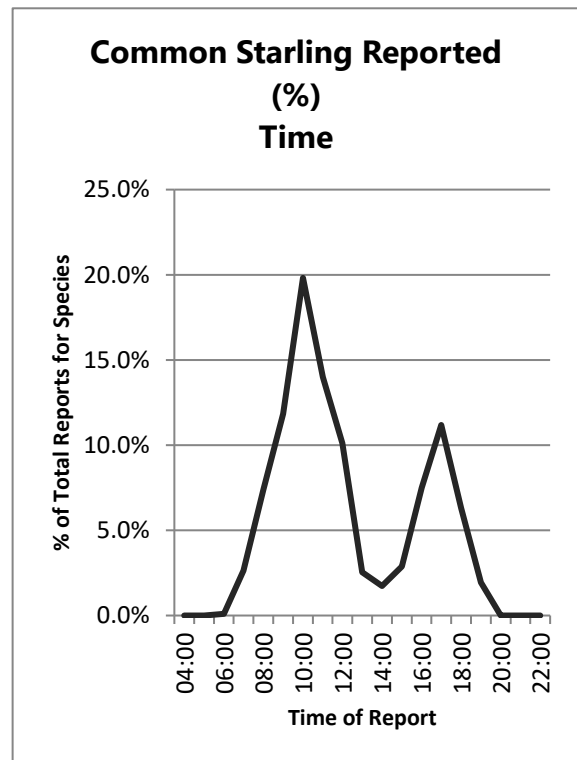
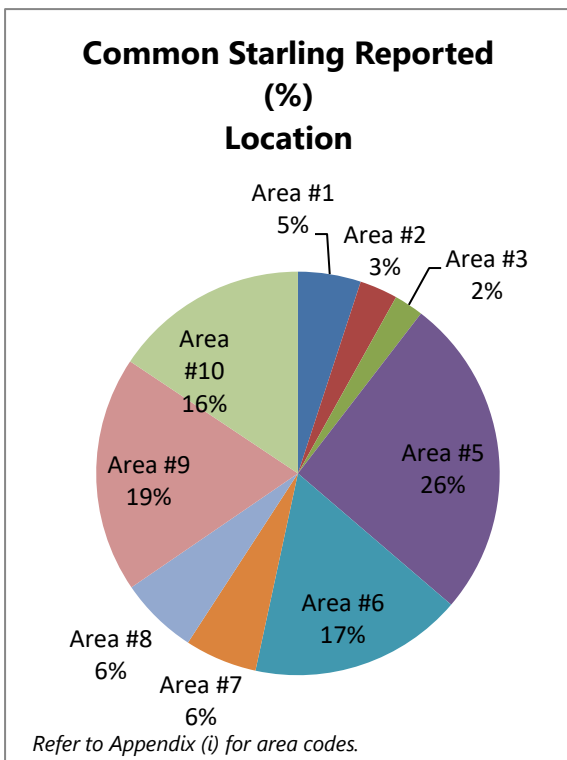
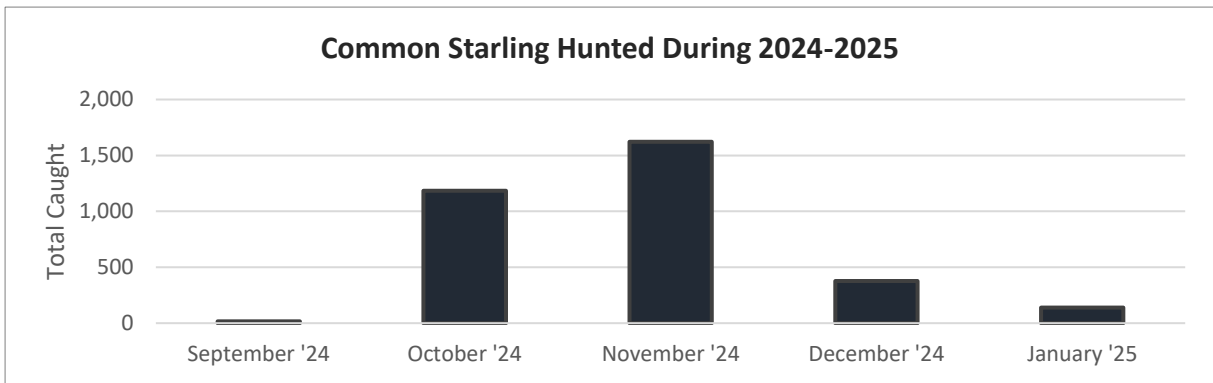


Sturnus vulgaris

Common Starling

Sturnell

September '24	15
October '24	1,184
November '24	1,622
December '24	376
January '25	138
Total	3,335

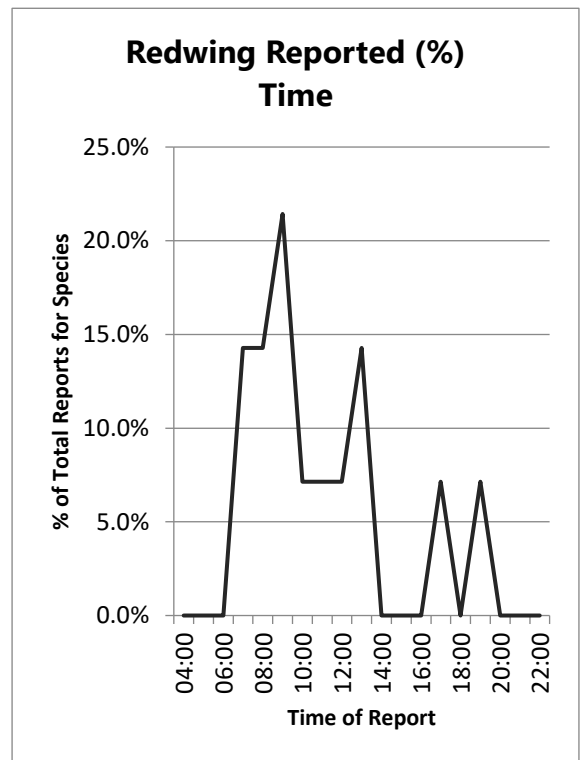
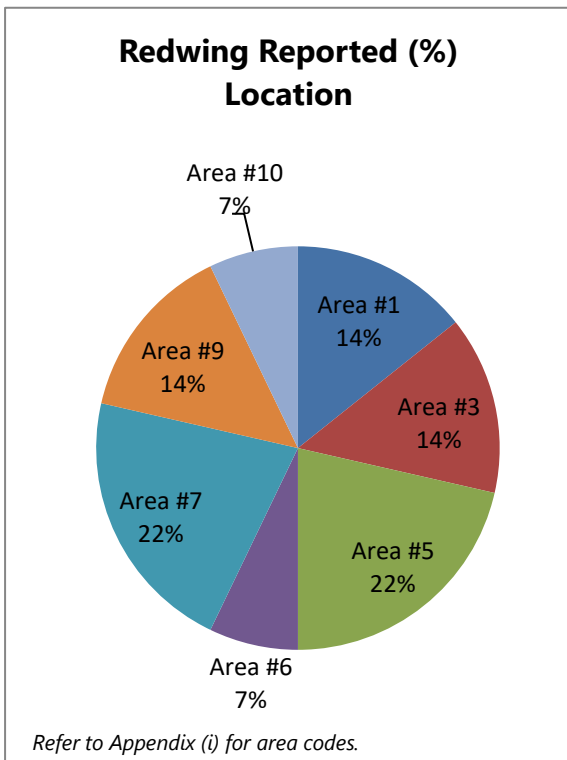
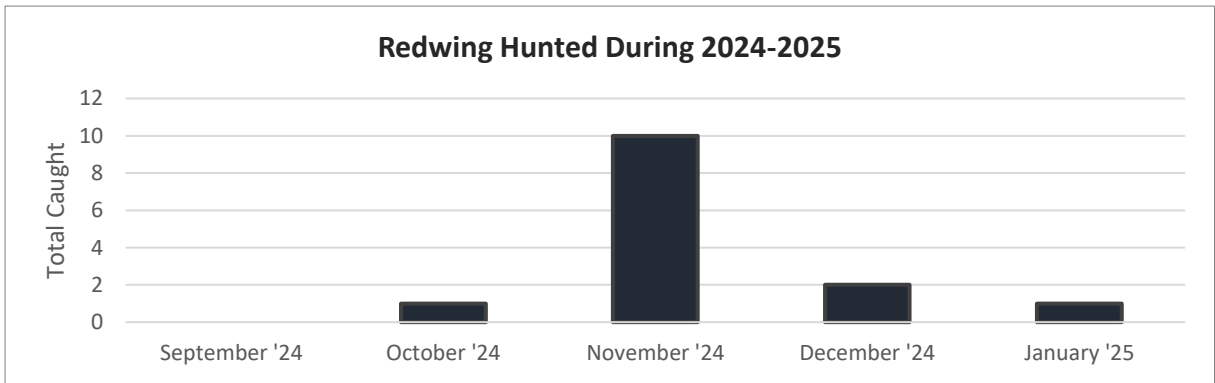


Turdus iliacus

Redwing

Malvizz Aħmar

September '24	0
October '24	1
November '24	10
December '24	2
January '25	1
Total	14

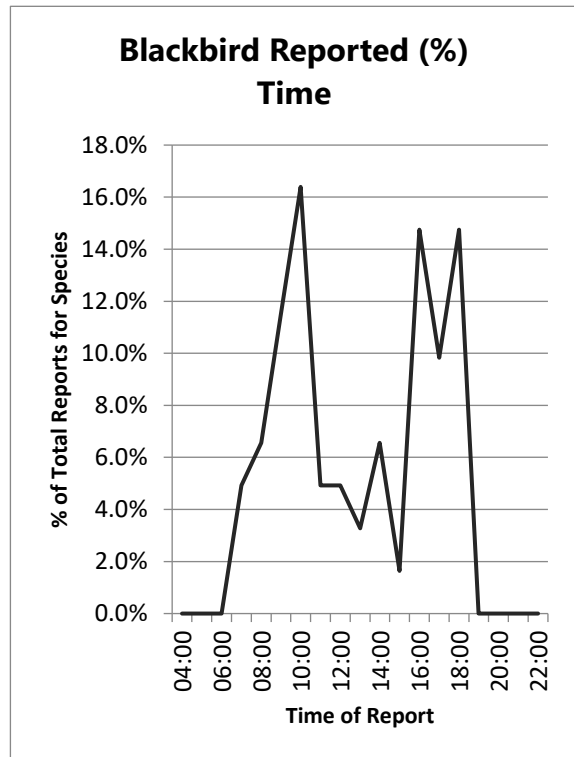
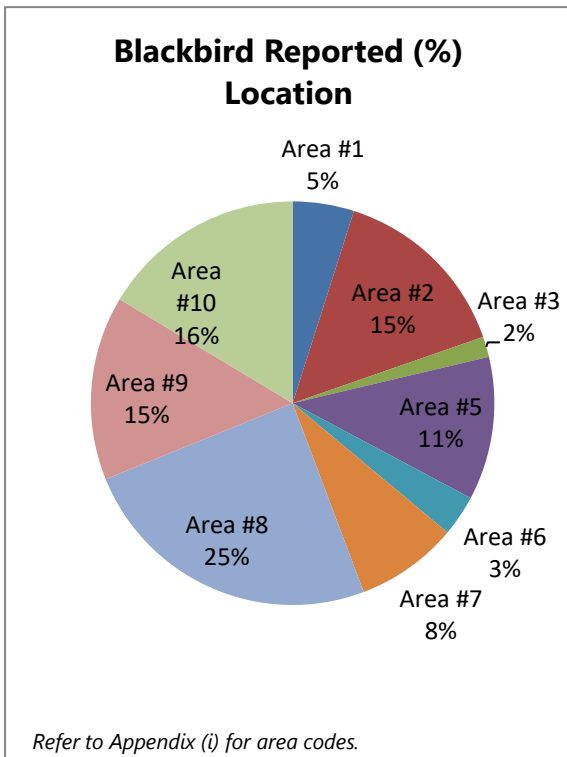
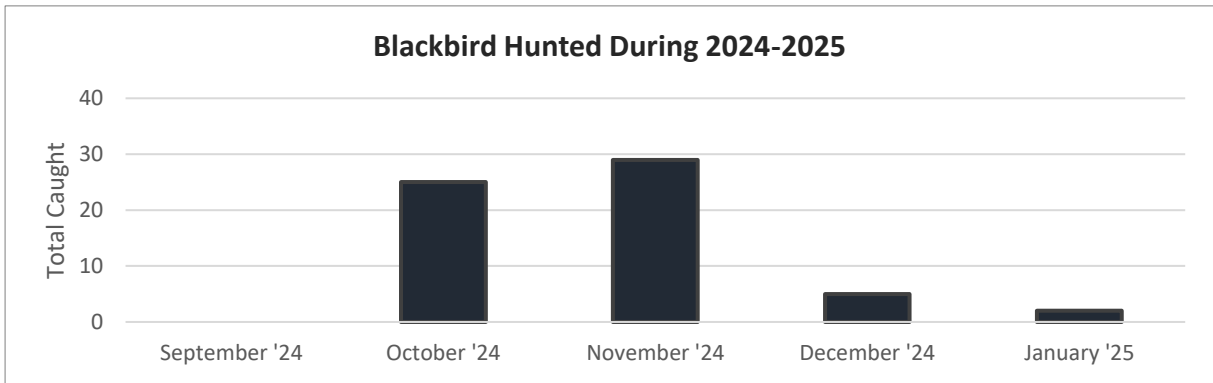


Turdus merula

Blackbird

Malvizz Iswed

September '24	0
October '24	25
November '24	29
December '24	5
January '25	2
Total	61



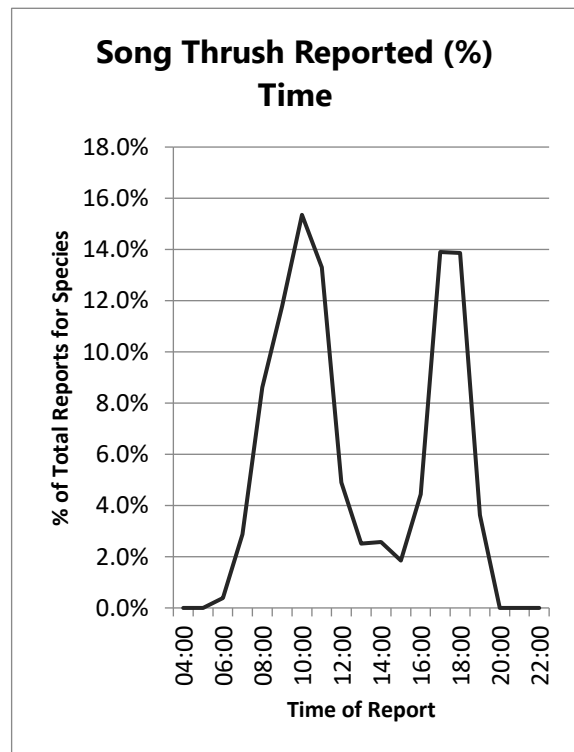
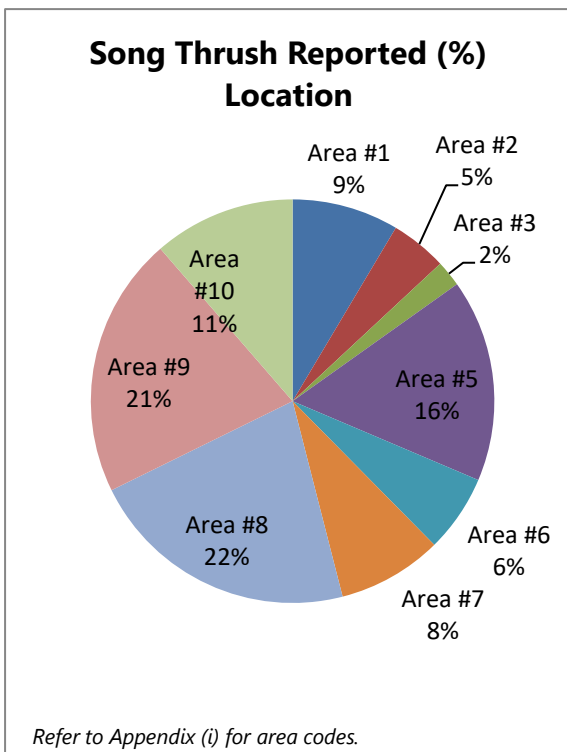
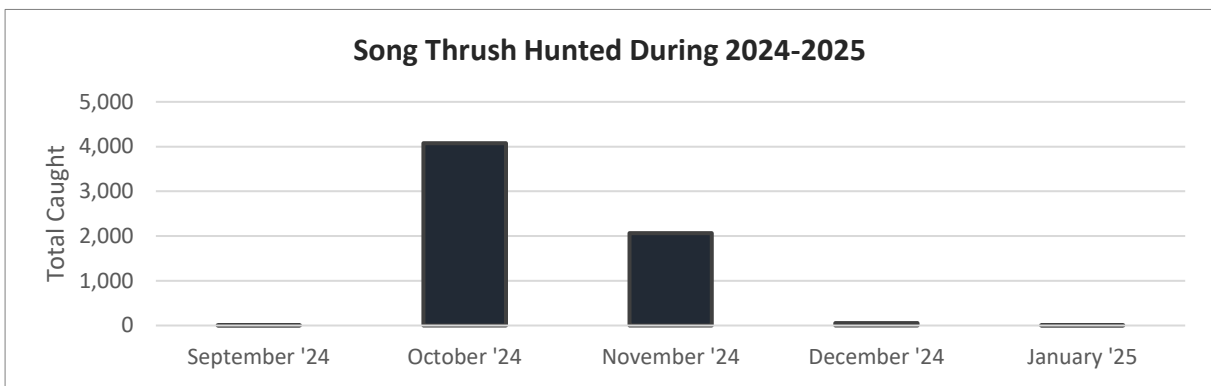
Turdus philomelos

Song Thrush

Malvizz

(Hunting Data)

September '24	1
October '24	4,077
November '24	2,067
December '24	52
January '25	4
Total	6,201

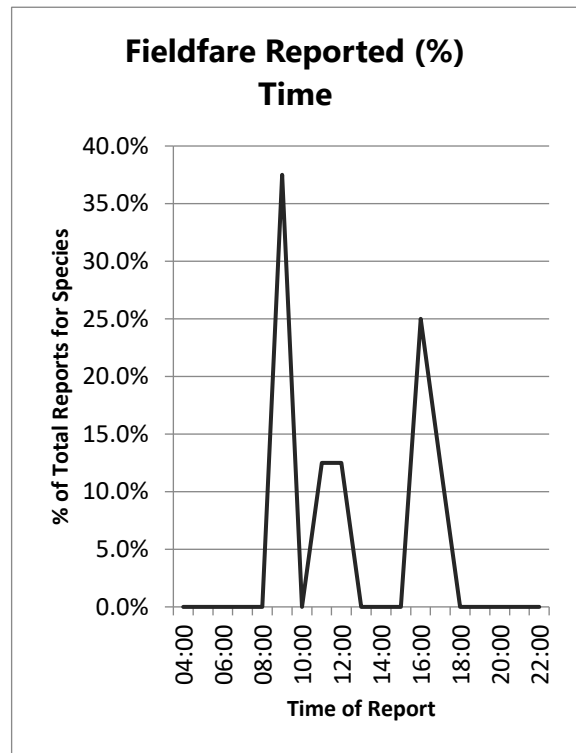
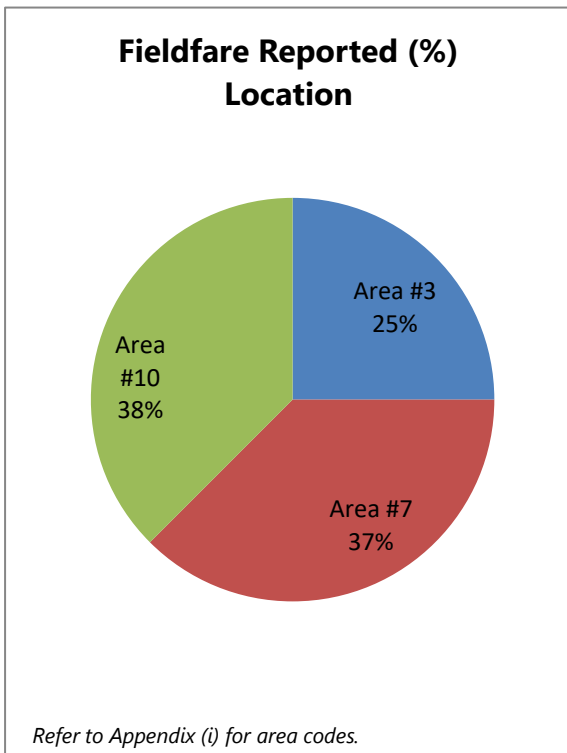
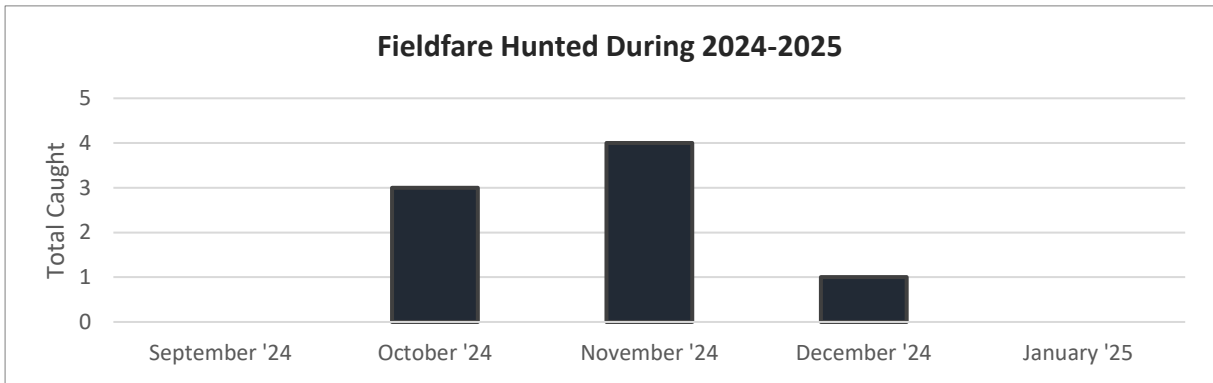


Turdus pilaris

Fieldfare

Malvizz tal-Qtajja'

September '24	0
October '24	3
November '24	4
December '24	1
January '25	0
Total	8

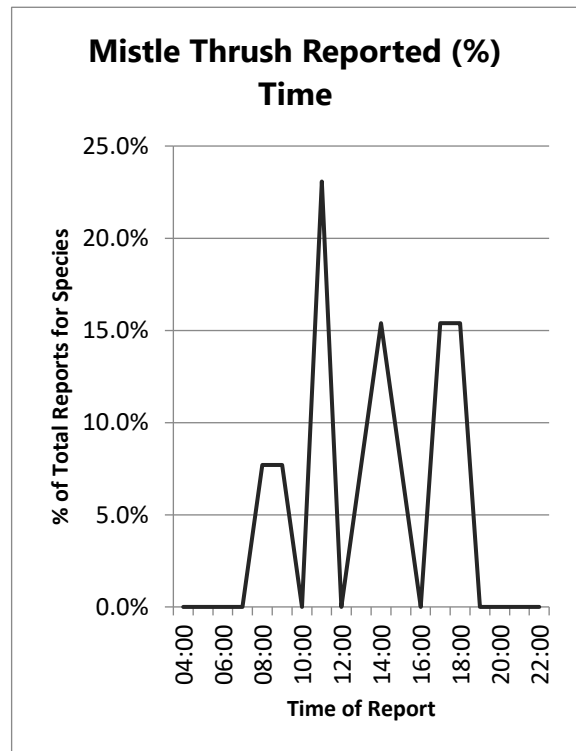
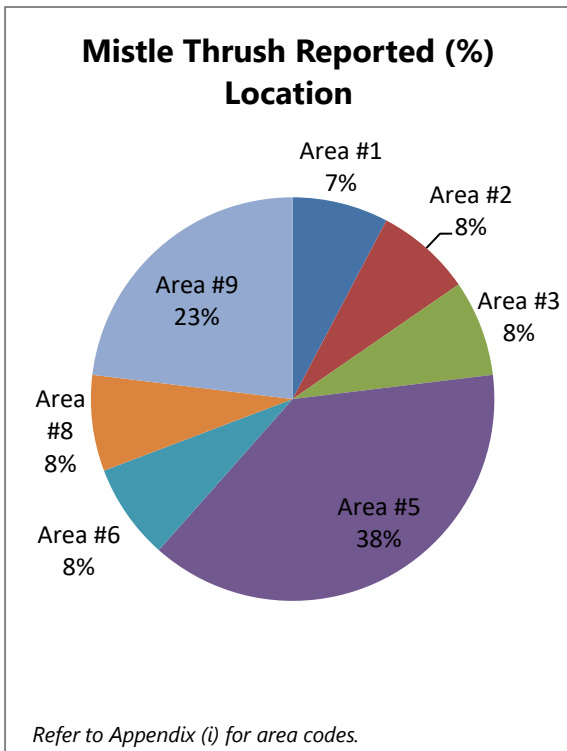
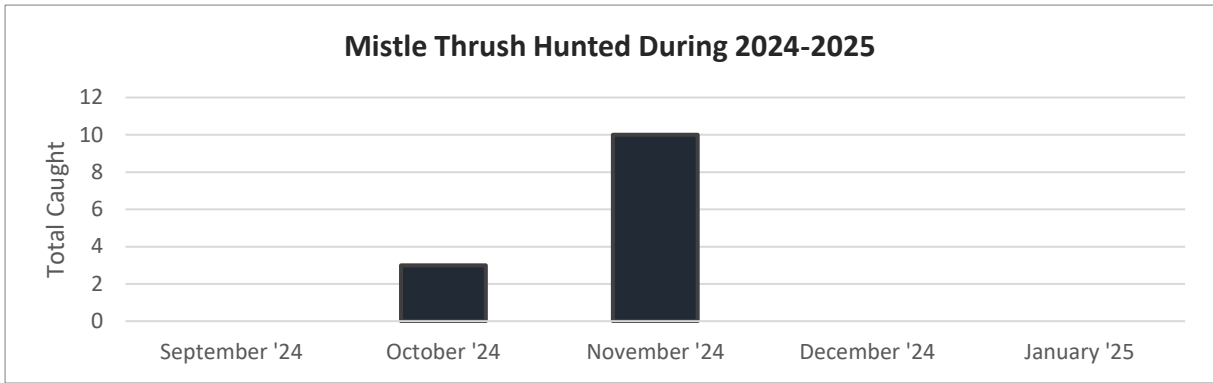


Turdus viscivorus

Mistle Thrush

Malvizzun Prim

September '24	0
October '24	3
November '24	10
December '24	0
January '25	0
Total	13



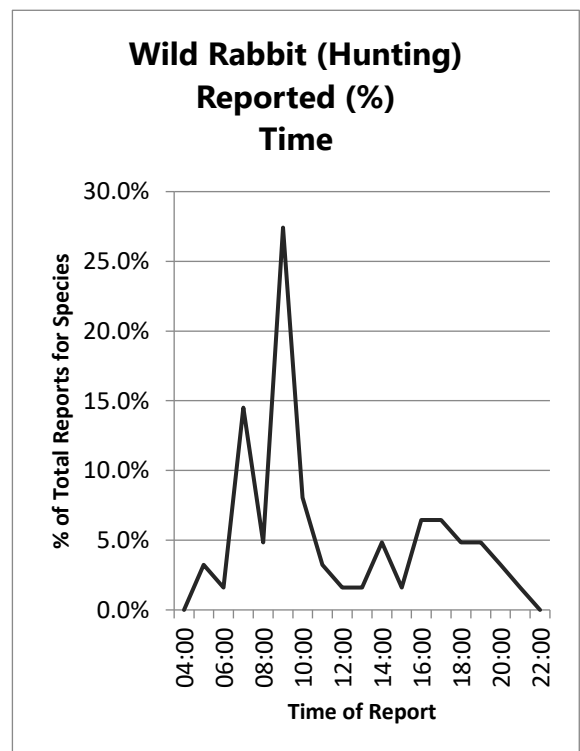
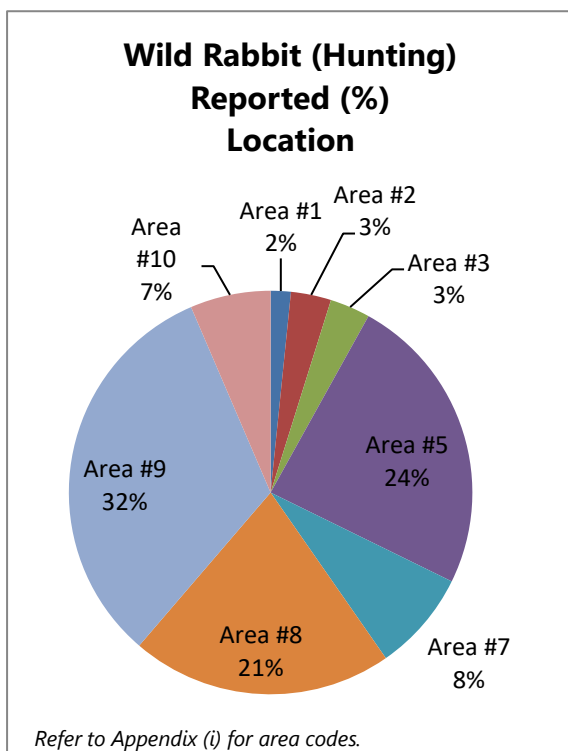
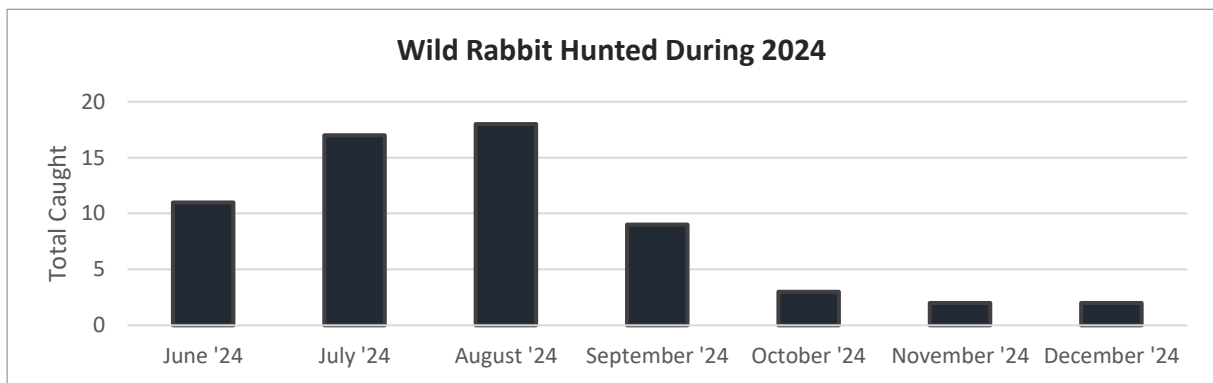
Oryctolagus cuniculus

Wild Rabbit

Fenek Selvağg

(Hunting for Wild Rabbit)

June '24	11
July '24	17
August '24	18
September '24	9
October '24	3
November '24	2
December '24	2
Total	62



Lagomorpha	- Leporidae	Month	Specimens Caught
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			
Wild Rabbit			
Fenek Selvaðg			
<i>(Capture of Wild Rabbit with nets [ferreting])</i>			
		June '24	0
		July '24	0
		August '24	0
		September '24	0
		October '24	0
		November '24	0
		December '24	0
		Total	0

Live-Capturing Data

2024 Report

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

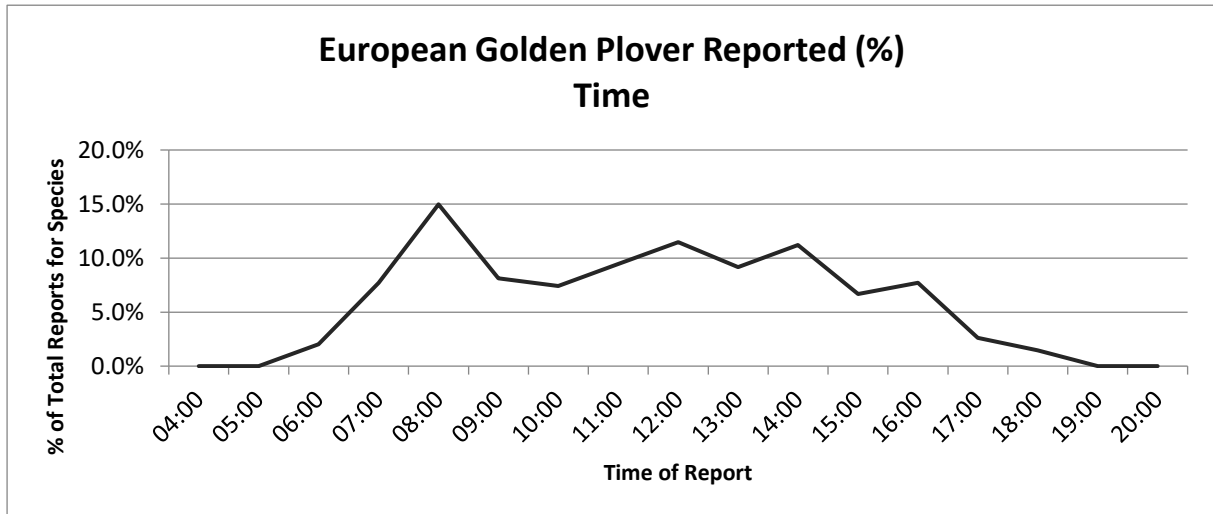
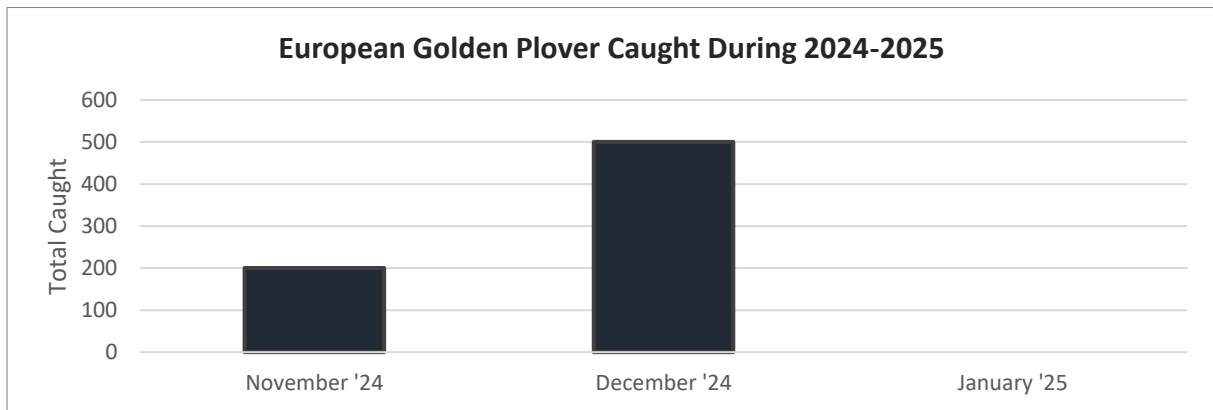
Pluvialis apricaria

European Golden Plover

Pluviera

(Live-Capturing Data)

November '24	200
December '24	500
January '25	0
Total	700



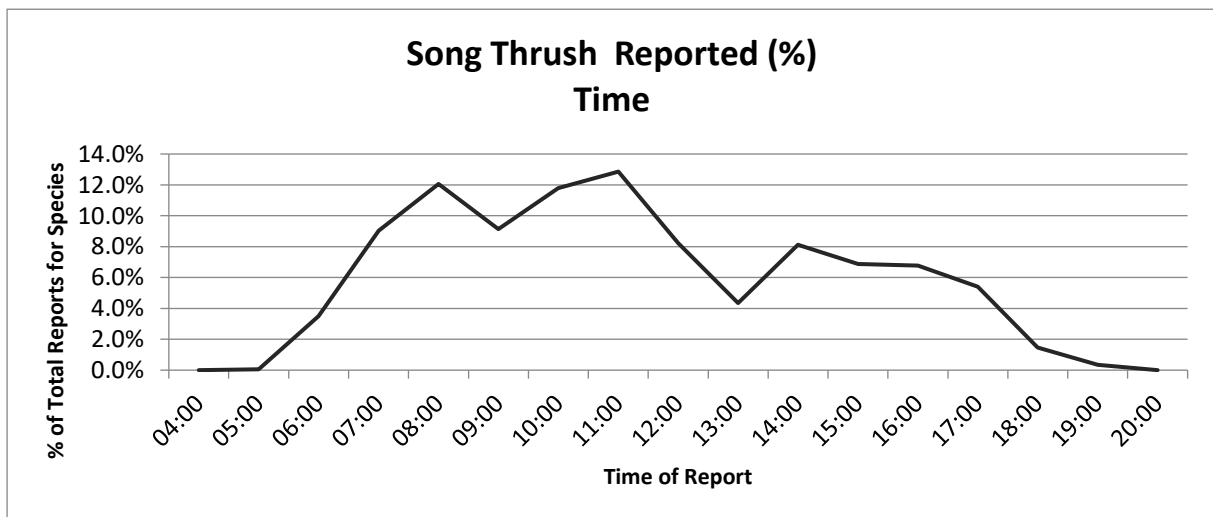
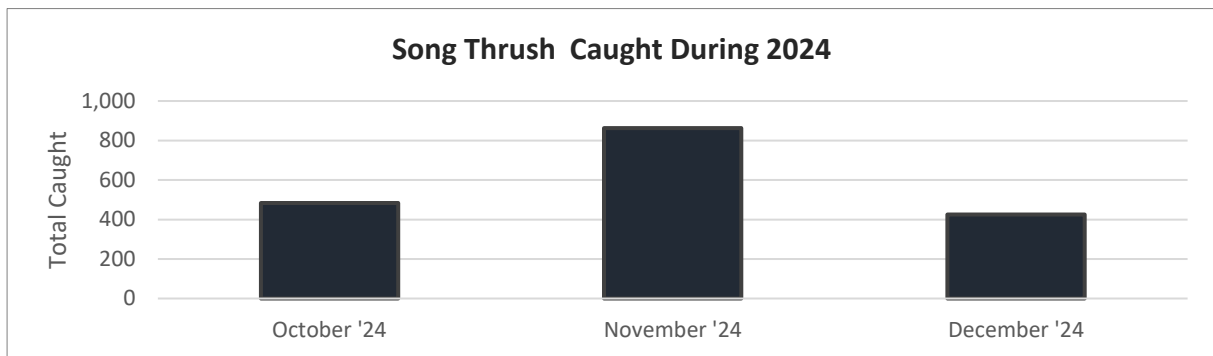
Turdus philomelos

Song Thrush

Malvizz

(Live-Capturing Data)

October '24	484
November '24	863
December '24	426
Total	1,773



Appendix (i): Area codes

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

