



Game Reporting Data

2025 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 a reform of the general hunting licences system. Instead of the previous *Carnet de Chasse* reporting system, hunting and live-capturing reports have since been 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 bagged game 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 bagged game 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 derogation reports available at:

<https://wbru.gov.mt/en/resources/reports-and-statistics/autumn-live-capturing-derogations/>

Spring hunting derogation reports are also available at:

<https://wbru.gov.mt/en/resources/reports-and-statistics/spring-hunting-derogations/>

The table below outlines the number of licences active for each general licence category in 2025. 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	10,091
Special Spring Hunting licence – <i>Quail & Turtle Dove</i>	7,913
General Licence for Hunting birds at sea	312
General Licence for Hunting of wild rabbit	3,301
General Licence for Capture of wild rabbit with nets (rabbit ferreting)	113
General Licence for Live-Capturing of birds	4,099
Special Autumn Live-Capturing Licence – <i>Song Thrush and Golden Plover</i>	1,414

In order to practice hunting during an open season, 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 9,418 specimens belonging to huntable species were reported hunted and a total of 2,066 specimens were reported captured under Article 9(1)(c) live-capturing derogations. The system received a total of 5,924 game reports from 1,265 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.

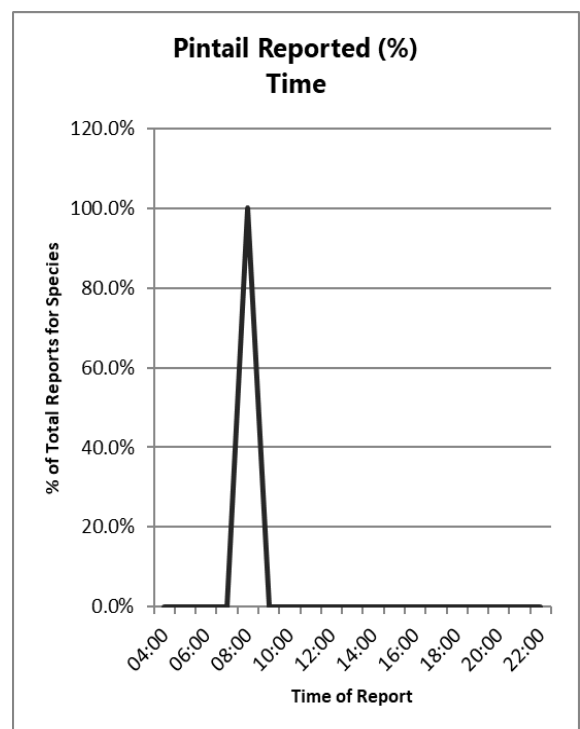
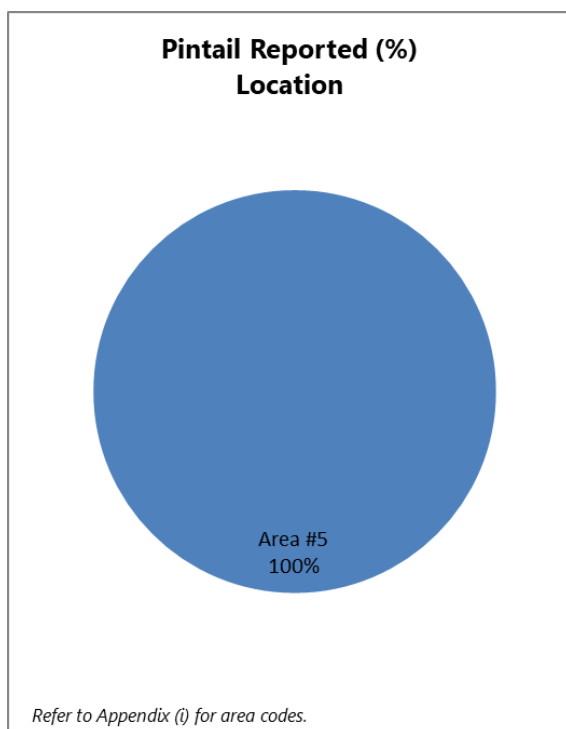
Licence Category	Total licences	Nº of licensees participating in game reporting	Percentage of total licences within category (%)	Nº of reports received	Specimens reported
General Licence for Hunting birds on land	10,091	636	6.3	3,405	7,577
Special Spring Hunting licence – <i>Quail & Turtle Dove</i>	7,913	702	8.8	1,329	1,600
General Licence for Hunting birds at sea	312	4	1.3	5	8
General Licence for Hunting of wild rabbit	3,301	75	2.3	145	230
General Licence for Capture of wild rabbit with nets	113	1	0.9	2	3
General Licence for Live-Capturing of birds	4,099	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Special Autumn Live-Capturing Licence – <i>Song Thrush and Golden Plover</i>	1,414	304	21.5	1,038	2,066

Hunting Data

2025 Report

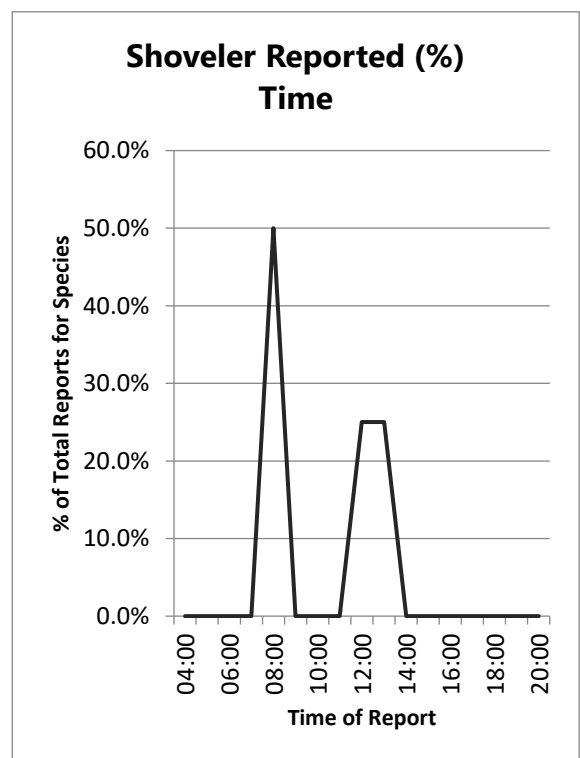
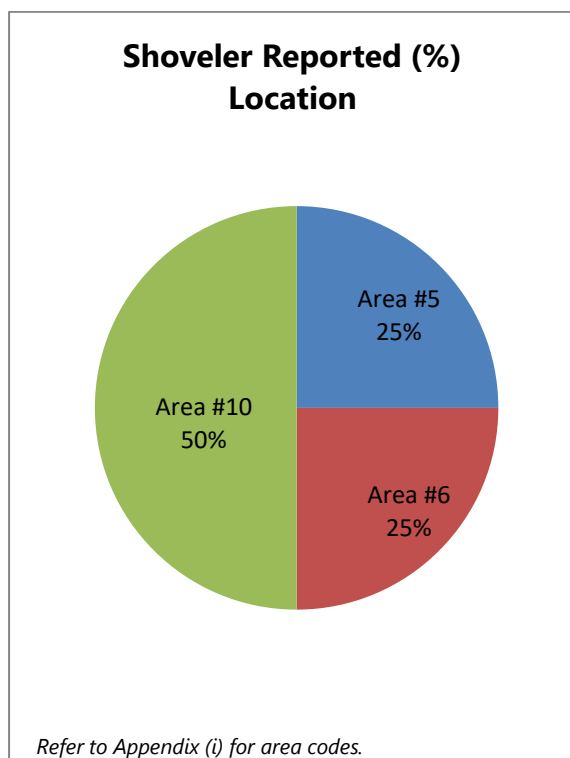
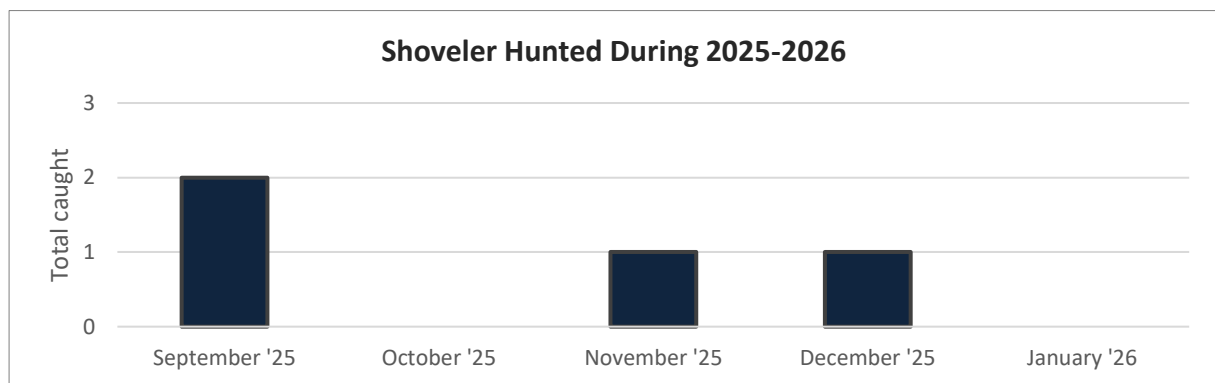
Anseriformes	- Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Anas acuta</i>			
Pintail			
Silfjun			

September '25	0
October '25	0
November '25	0
December '25	1
January '26	0
Total	1



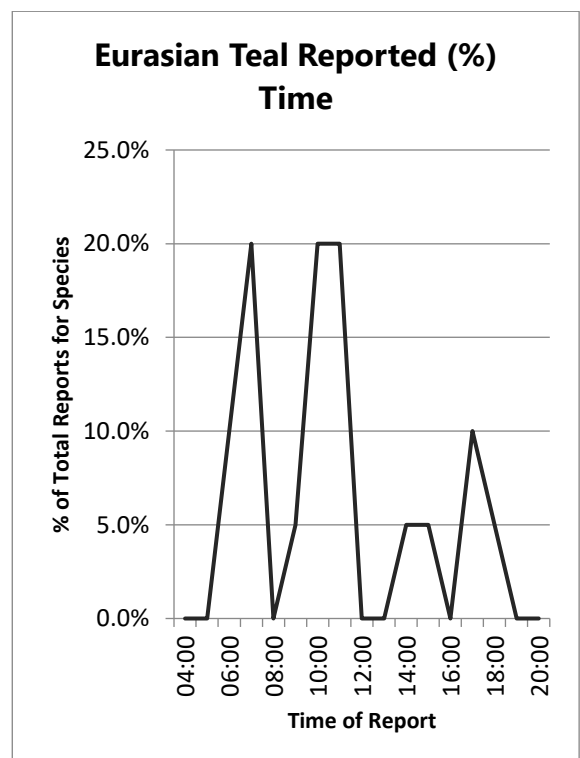
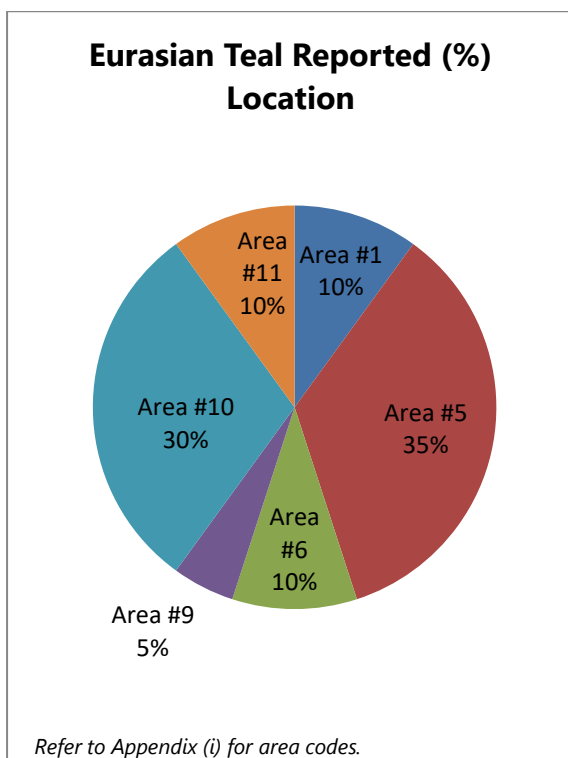
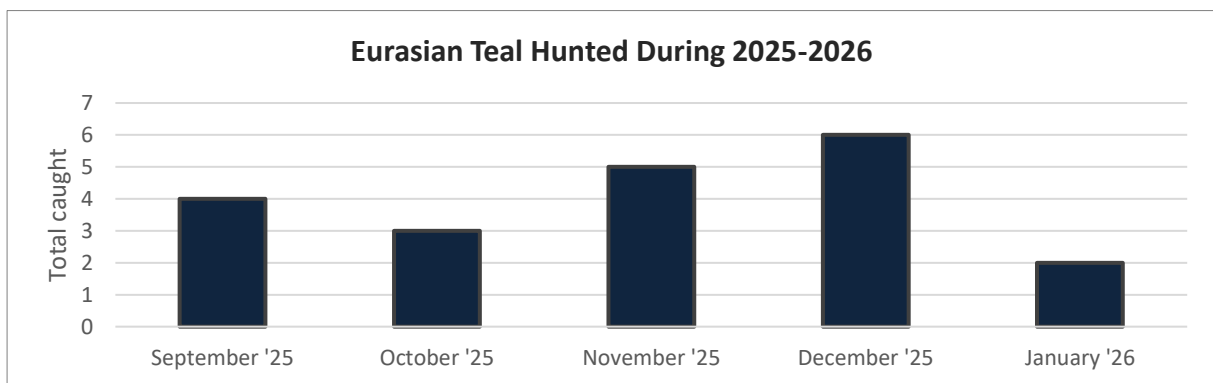
Anseriformes	- Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Anas clypeata</i>			
Shoveler			
Palettuna			

September '25	2
October '25	0
November '25	1
December '25	1
January '26	0
Total	4



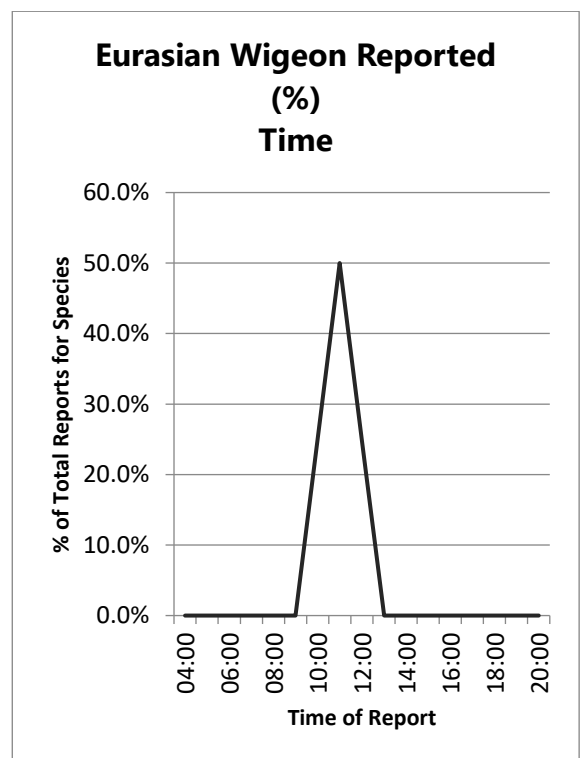
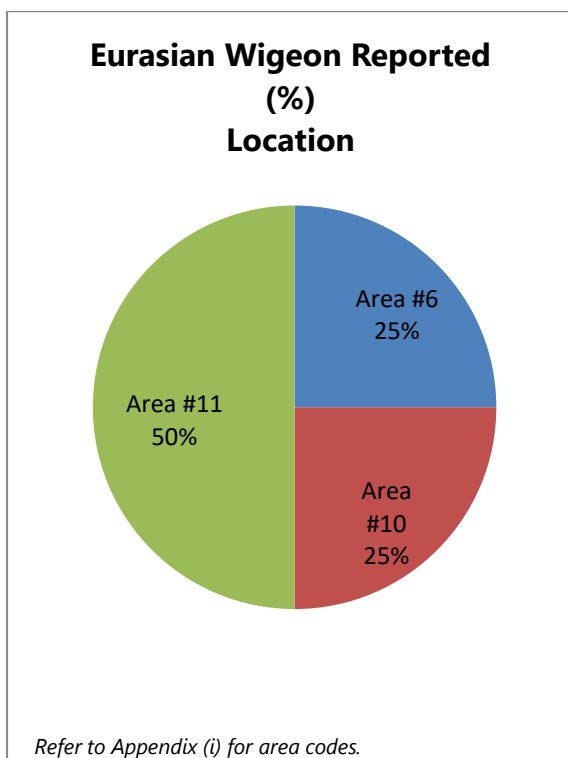
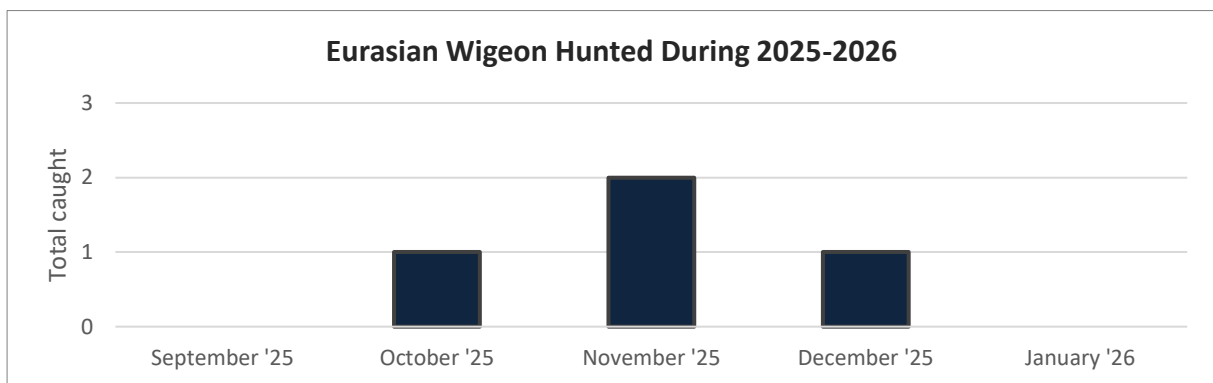
Anseriformes	- Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Anas crecca</i>			
Eurasian Teal			
Sarsella			

September '25	4
October '25	3
November '25	5
December '25	6
January '26	2
Total	20



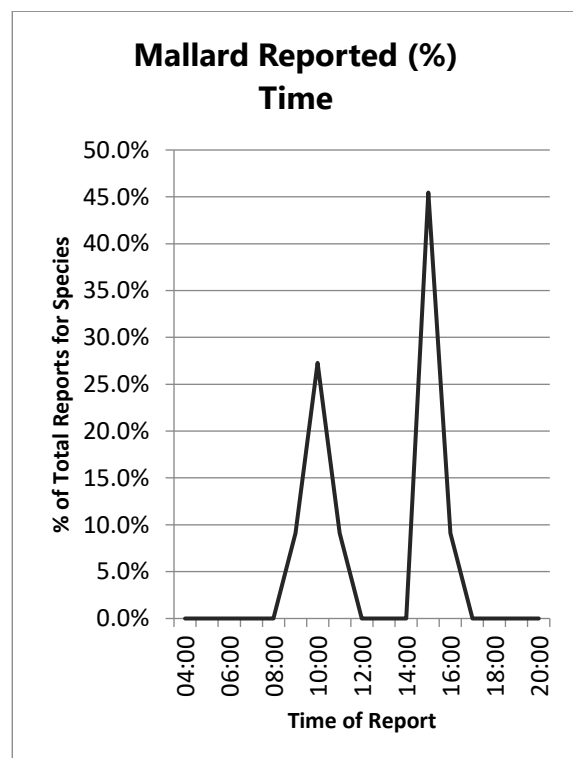
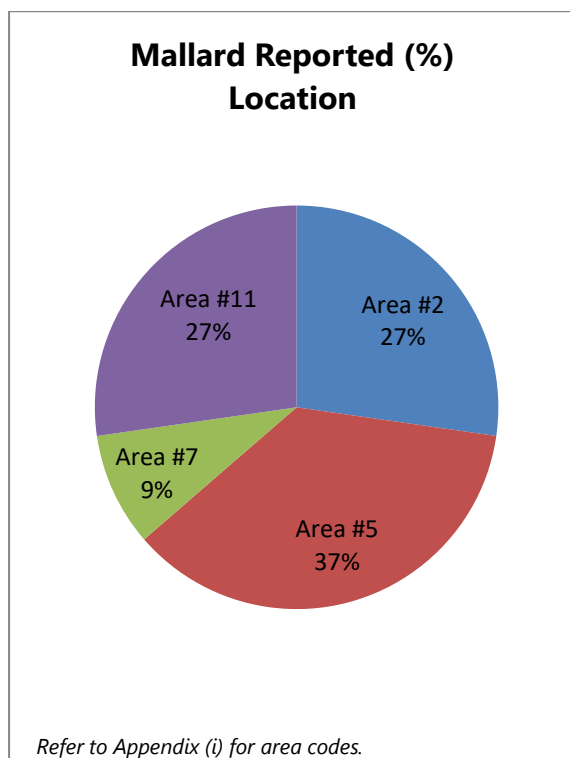
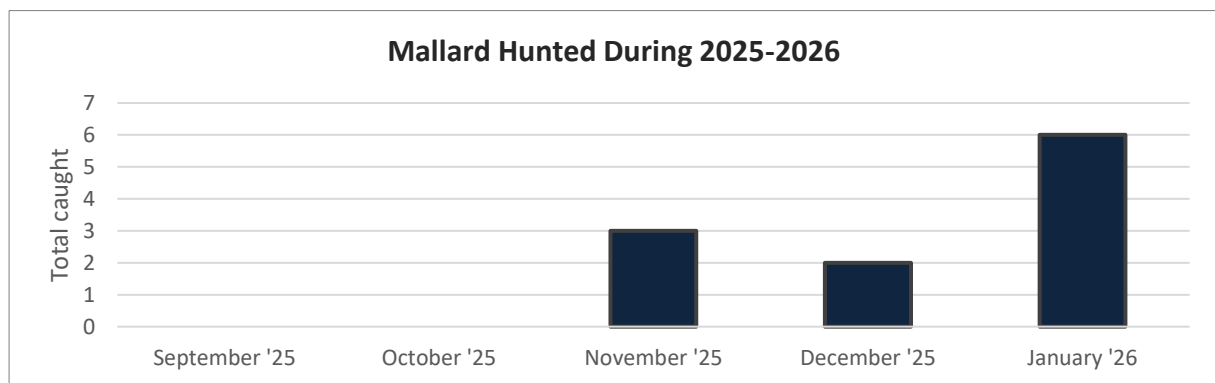
Anseriformes	- Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Anas penelope</i>			
Eurasian Wigeon			
Silfjun Ewropew			

September '25	0
October '25	1
November '25	2
December '25	1
January '26	0
Total	4



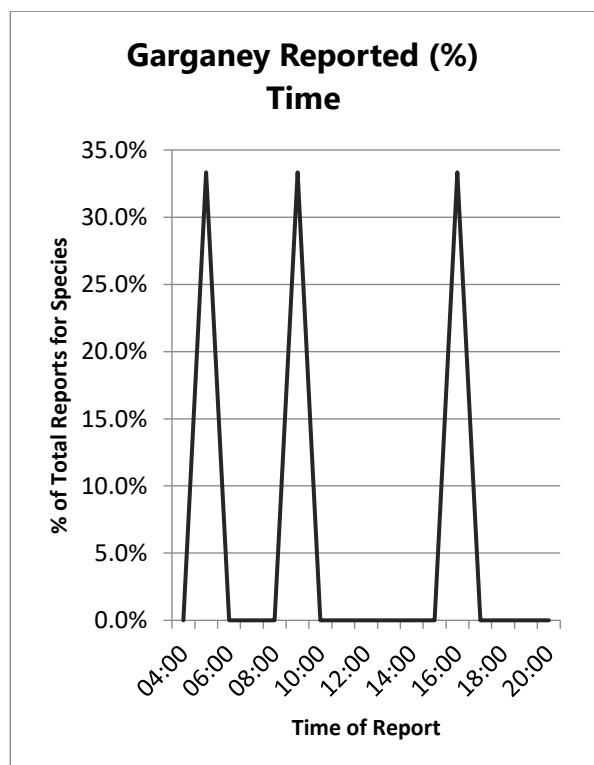
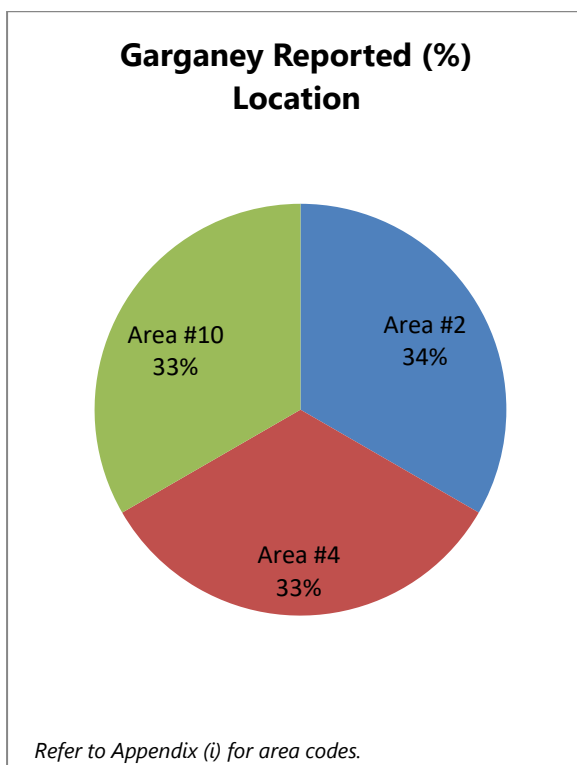
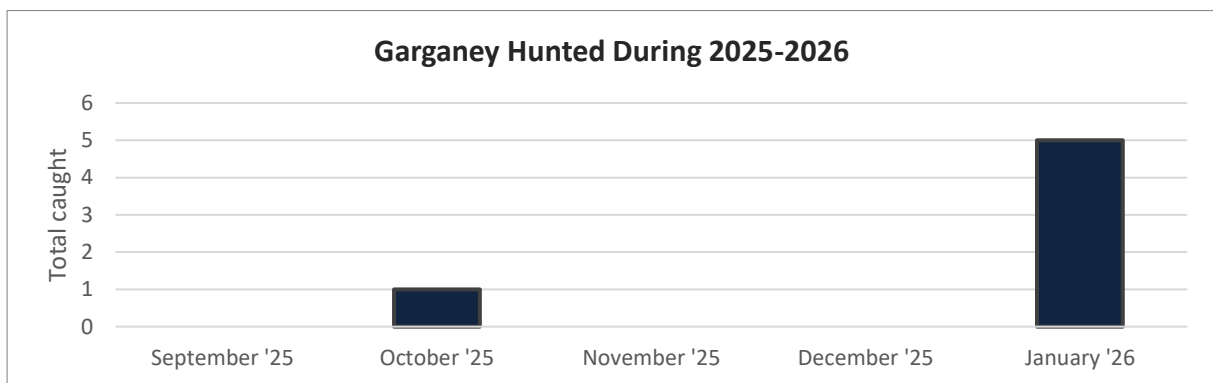
Anseriformes	-	Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				
Mallard				
Kuluvert				

September '25	0
October '25	0
November '25	3
December '25	2
January '26	6
Total	11



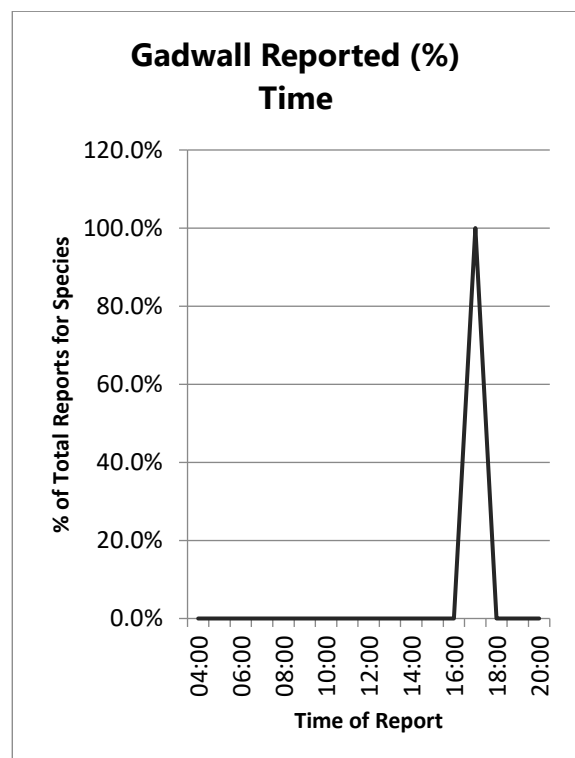
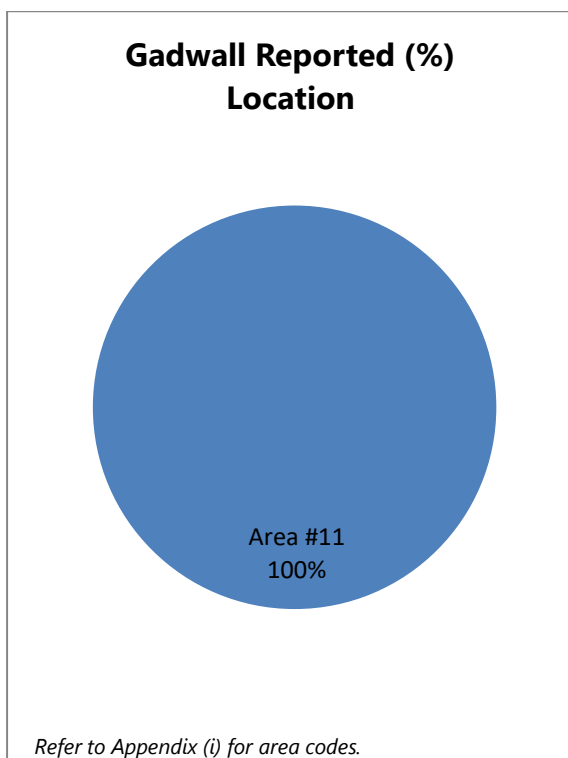
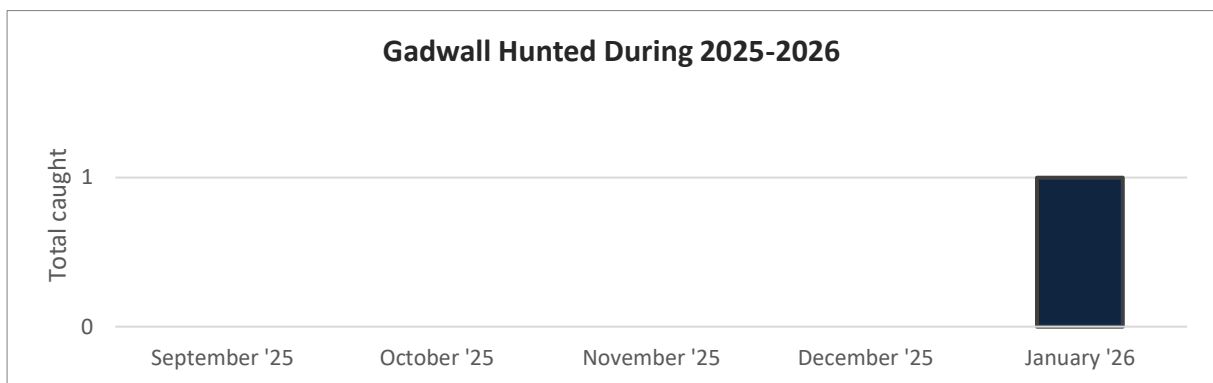
Anseriformes	- Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Anas querquedula</i>			
Garganey			
Sarsella Hamra			

September '25	0
October '25	1
November '25	0
December '25	0
January '26	5
Total	6



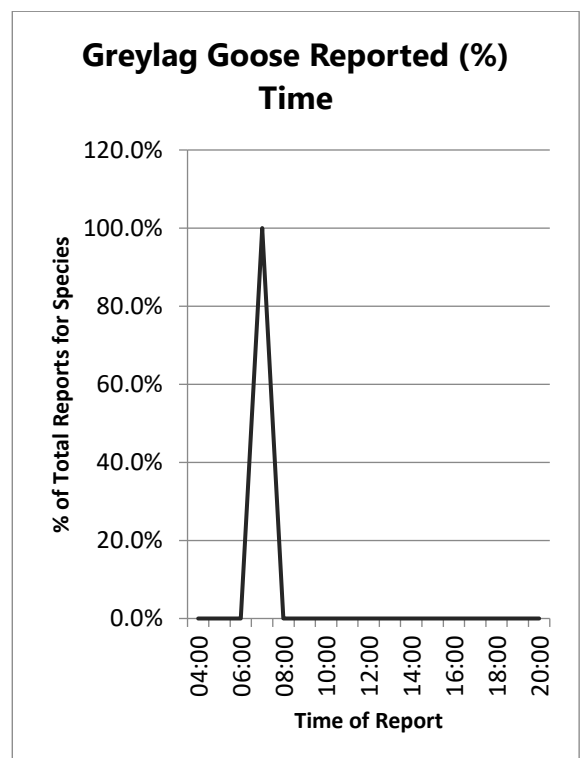
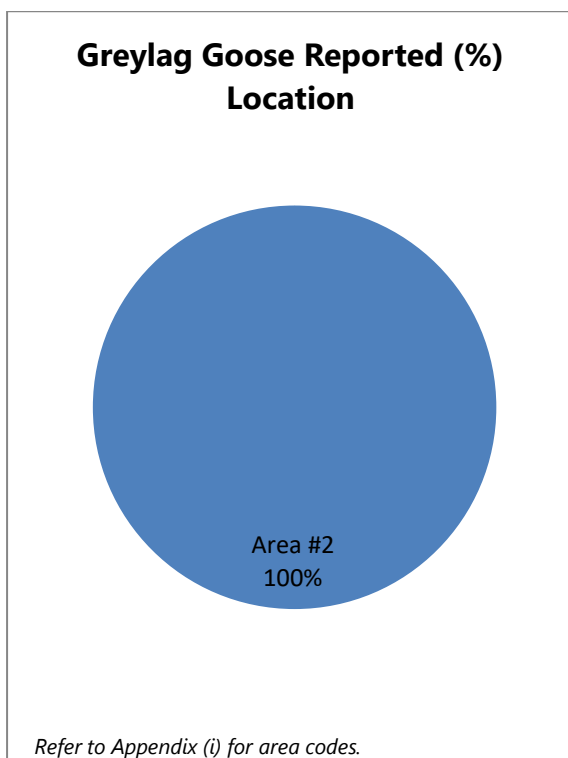
Anseriformes	- Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Anas strepera</i>			
Gadwall			
Kuluvert Griz			

September '25	0
October '25	0
November '25	0
December '25	0
January '26	1
Total	1



Anseriformes	-	Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Anser anser</i>				
Greylag Goose				
<i>Wizza Griza</i>				

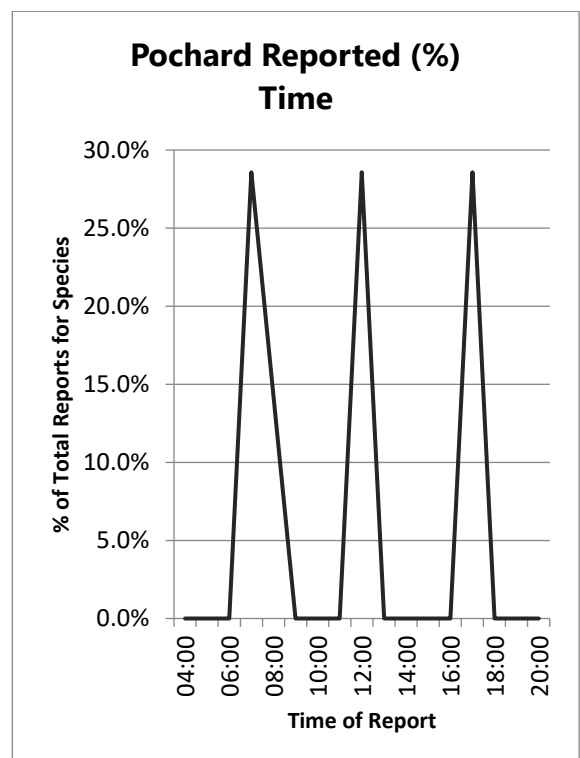
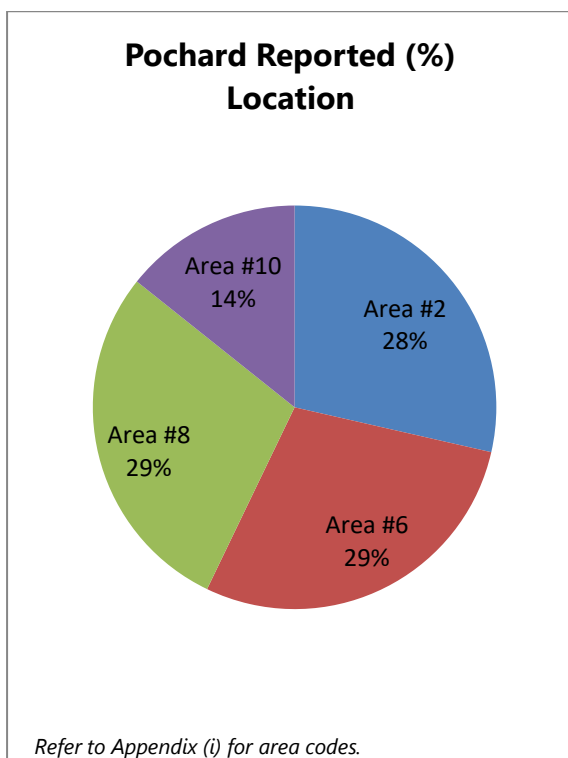
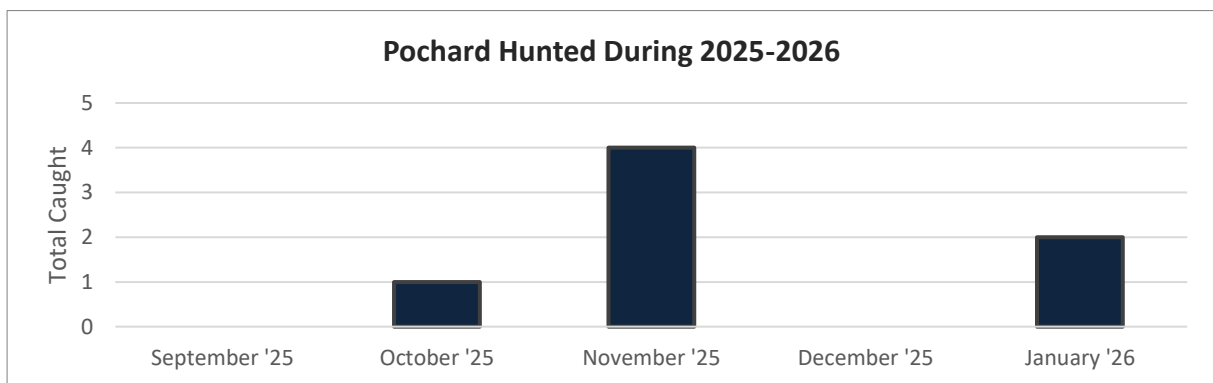
September '25	0
October '25	0
November '25	0
December '25	1
January '26	0
Total	1



Anseriformes	- Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Anser fabalis</i>			
Taiga Bean Goose			
Wizza tal-Ful			
		September '25	0
		October '25	0
		November '25	0
		December '25	0
		January '26	0
		Total	0

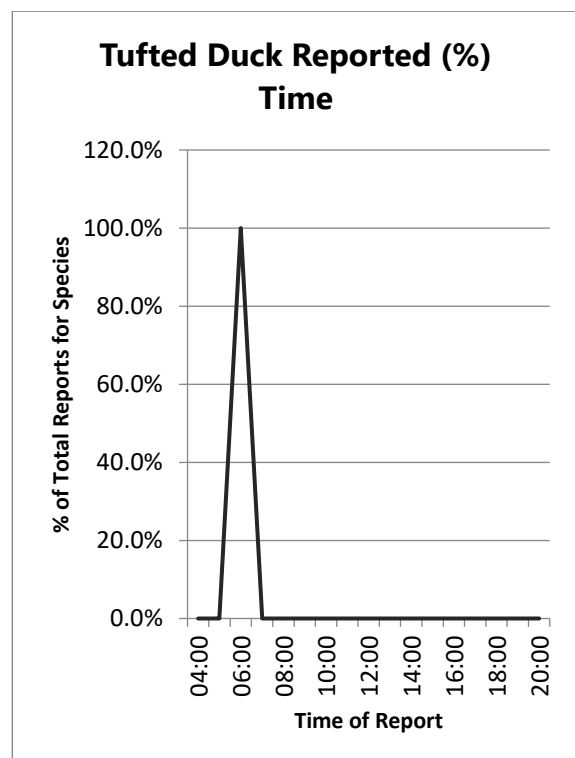
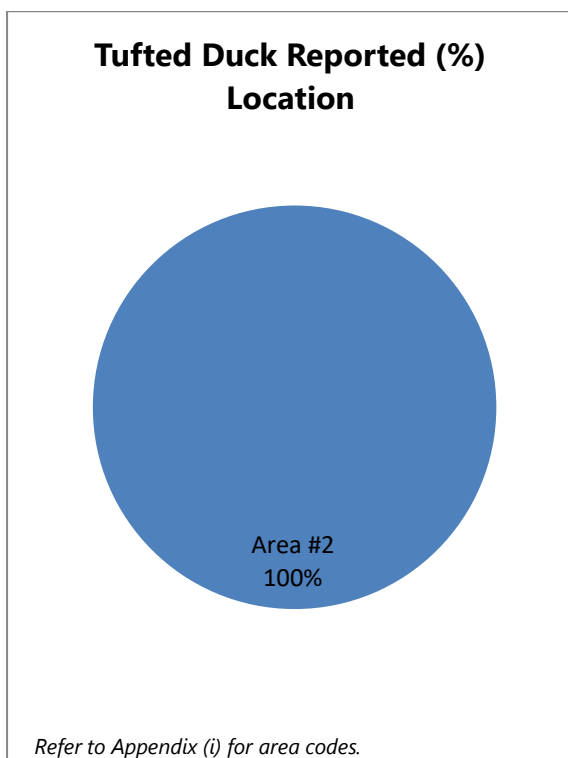
Anseriformes	-	Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Aythya ferina</i>				
Pochard				
Brajmla				

September '25	0
October '25	1
November '25	4
December '25	0
January '26	2
Total	7



Anseriformes	-	Anatidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				
Tufted Duck				
Brajmla tat-Toppu				

September '25	0
October '25	0
November '25	0
December '25	0
January '26	1
Total	1

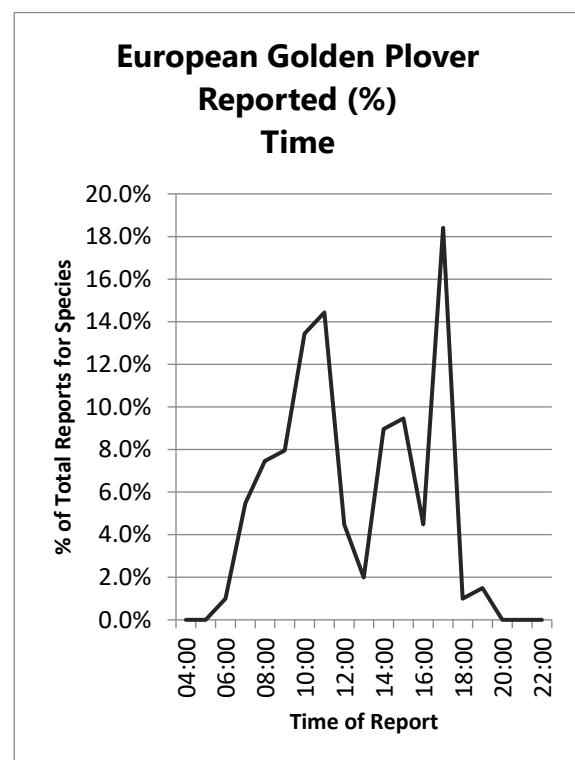
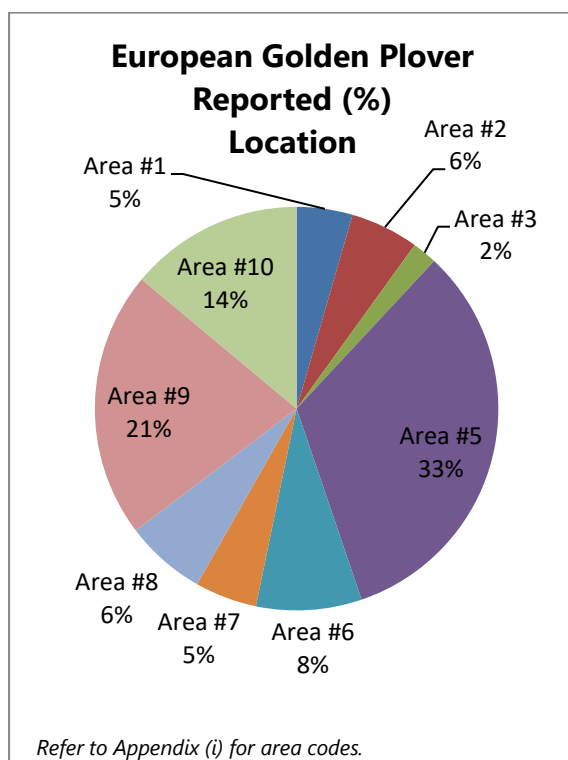
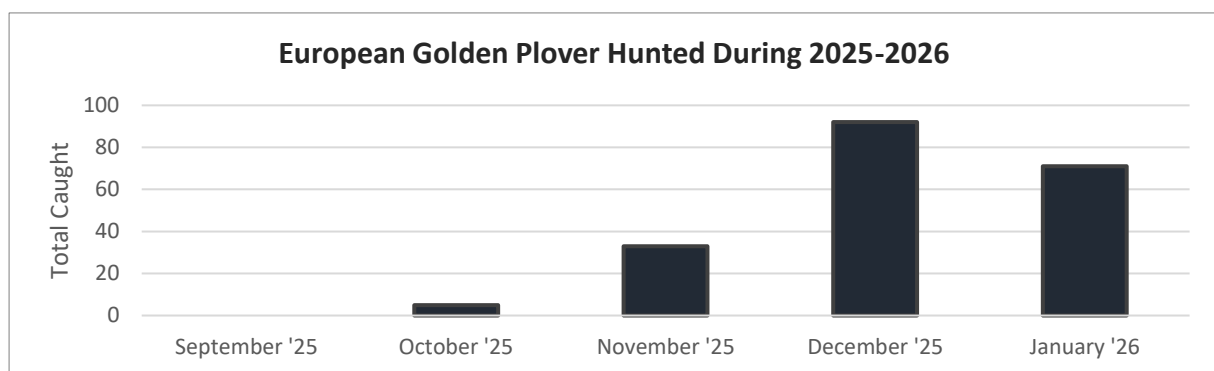


*Pluvialis apricaria***European Golden Plover**

Pluviera

(Hunting Data)

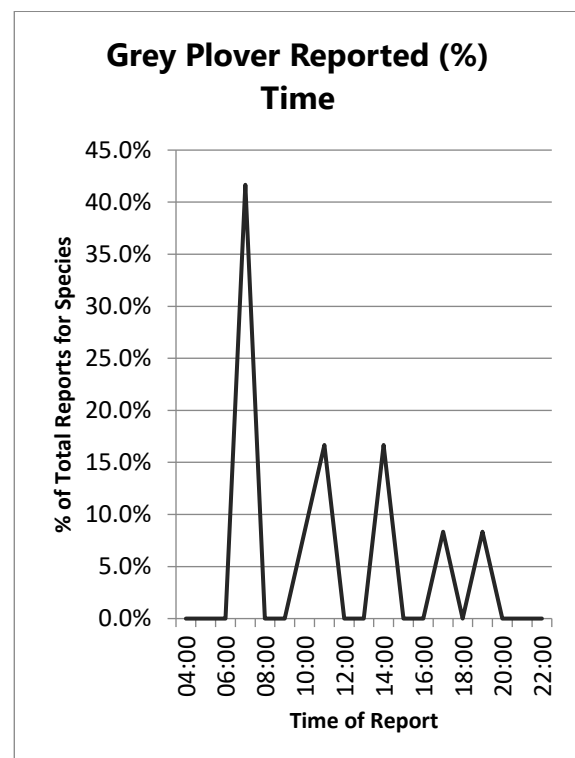
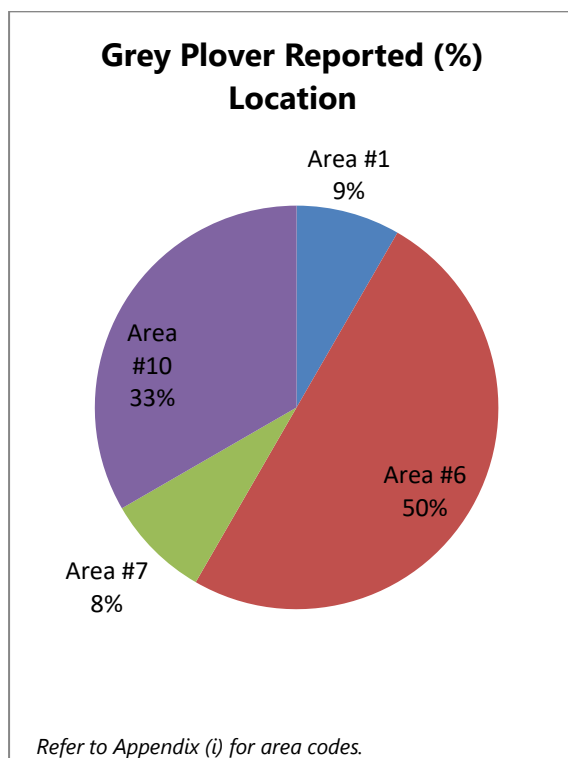
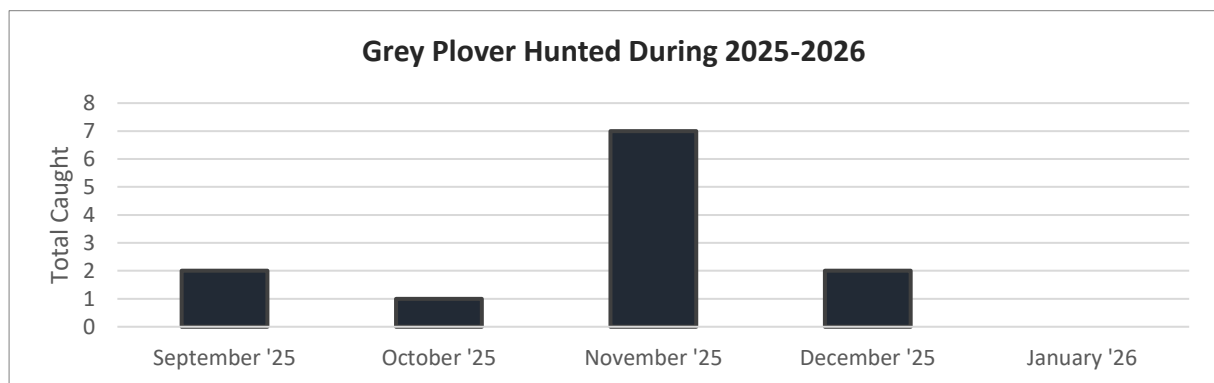
September '25	0
October '25	5
November '25	33
December '25	92
January '26	71
Total	201



*Pluvialis squatarola***Grey Plover**

Pluviera Pastarda

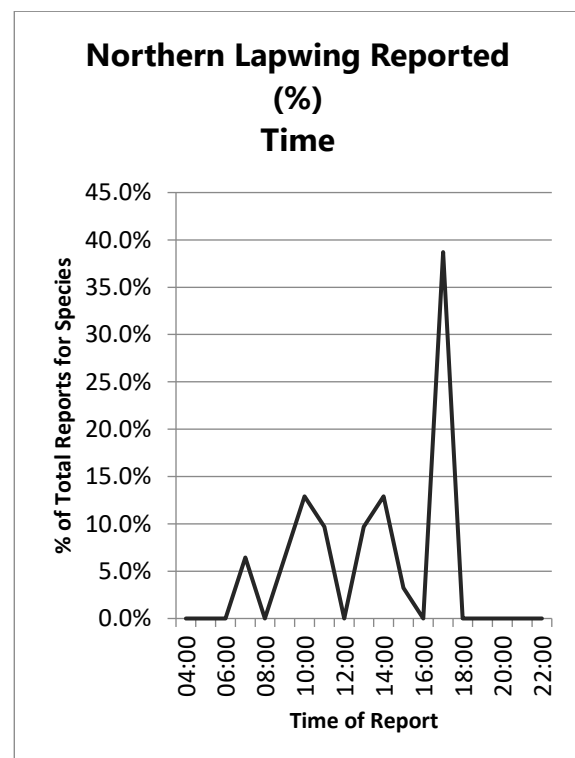
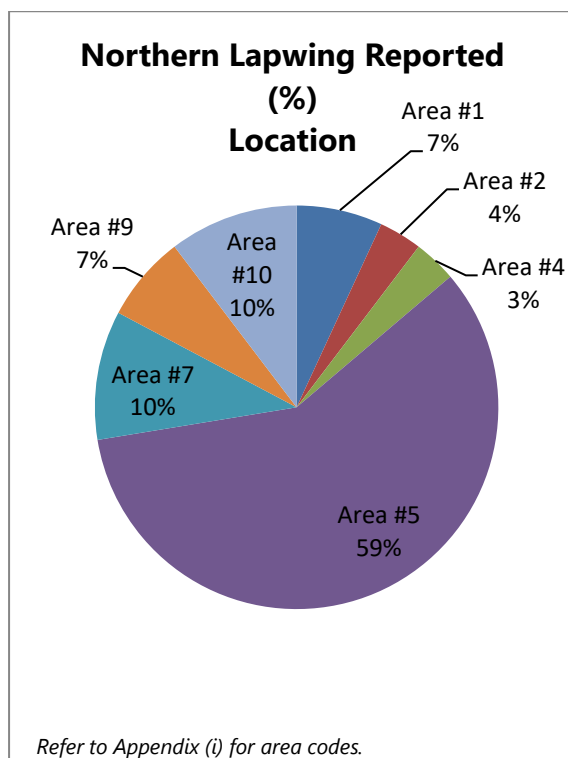
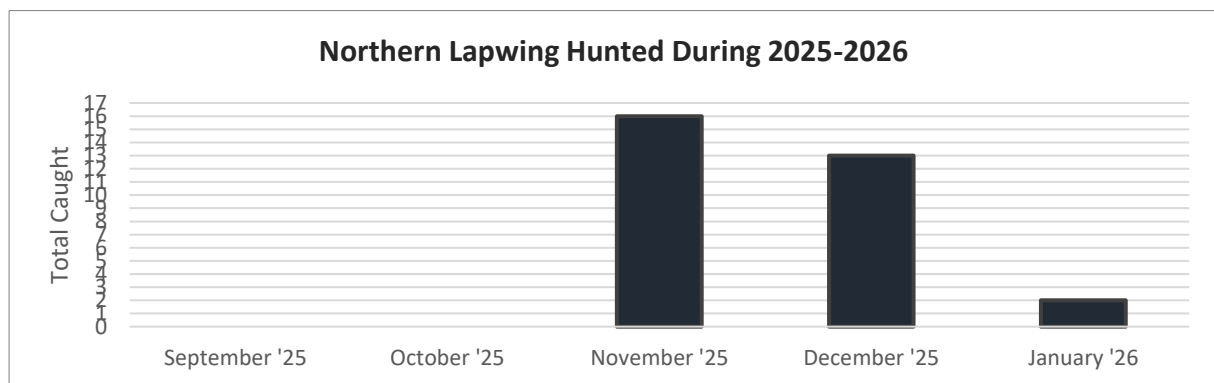
September '25	2
October '25	1
November '25	7
December '25	2
January '26	0
Total	12



*Vanellus vanellus***Northern Lapwing**

Venewwa

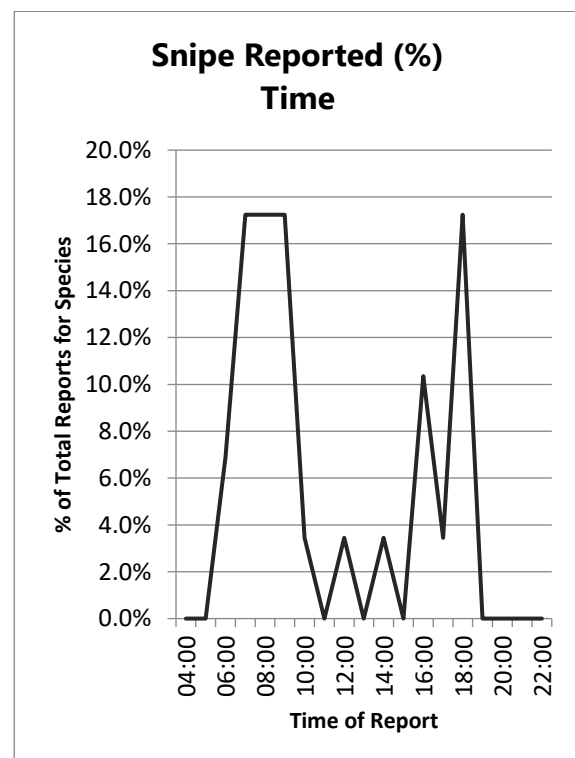
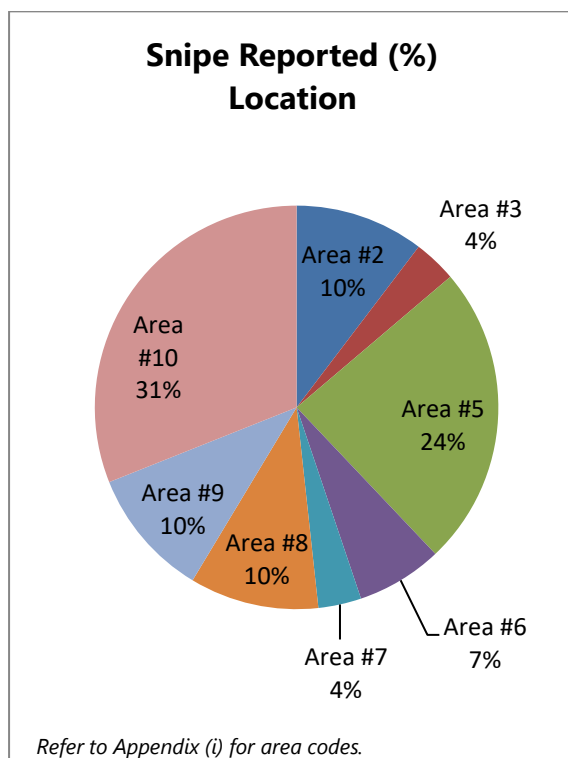
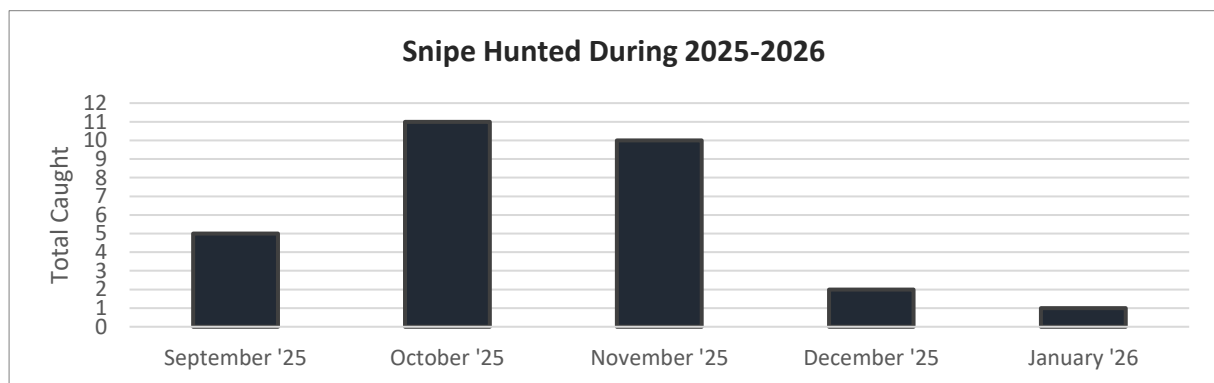
September '25	0
October '25	0
November '25	16
December '25	13
January '26	2
Total	31



*Gallinago gallinago***Snipe**

Bekkaçç

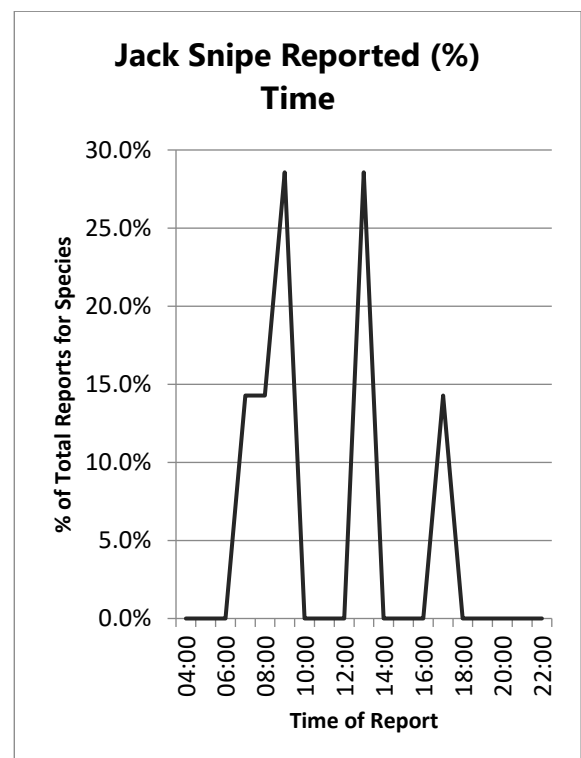
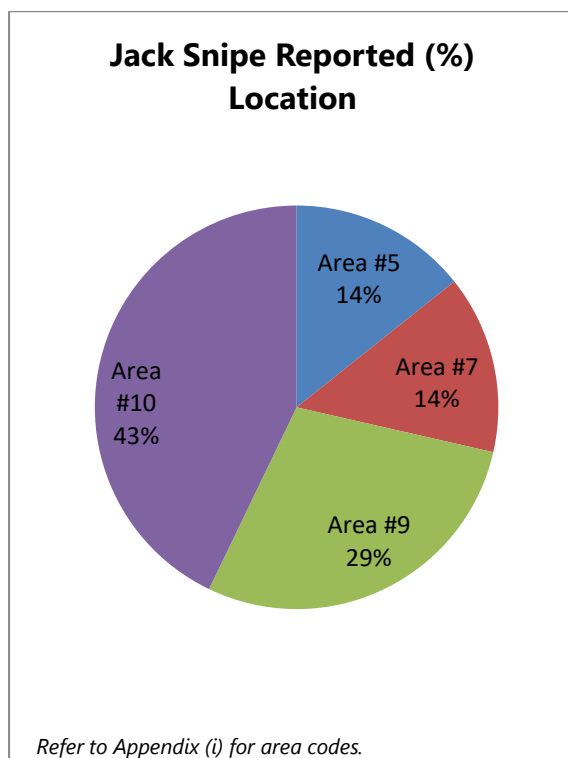
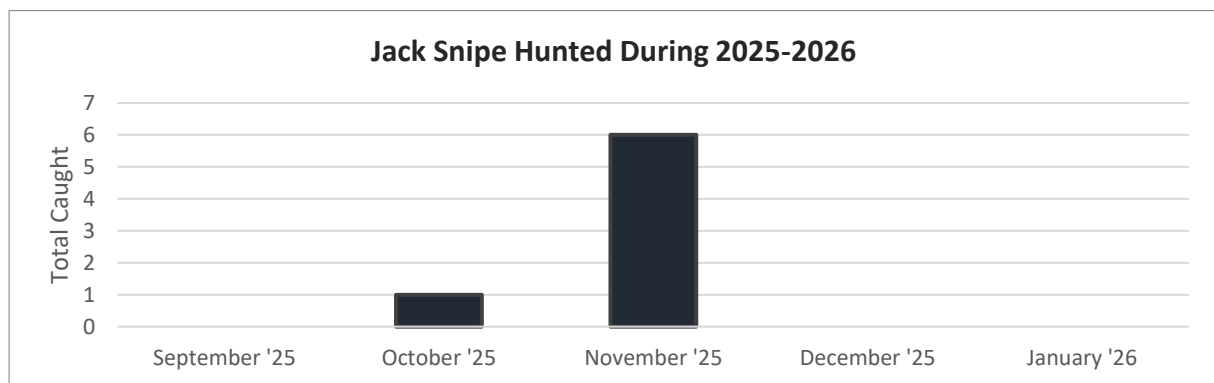
September '25	5
October '25	11
November '25	10
December '25	2
January '26	1
Total	29



*Lymnocryptes minimus***Jack Snipe**

Činkonja

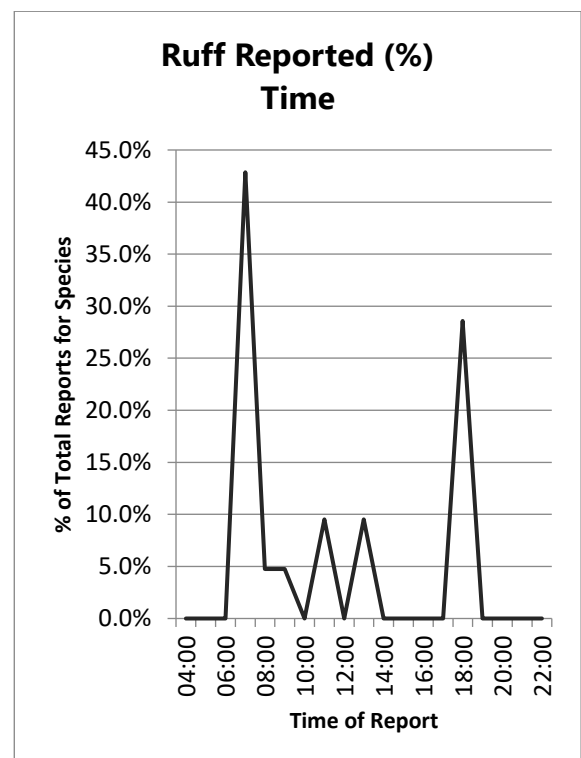
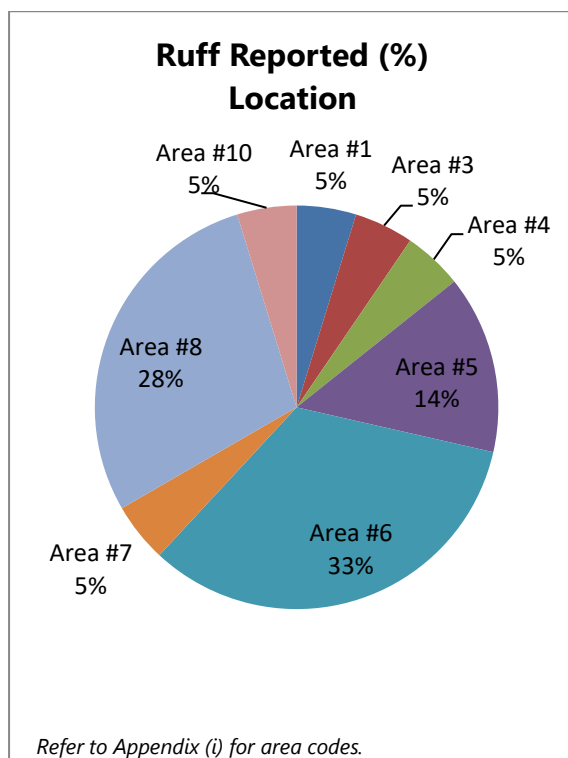
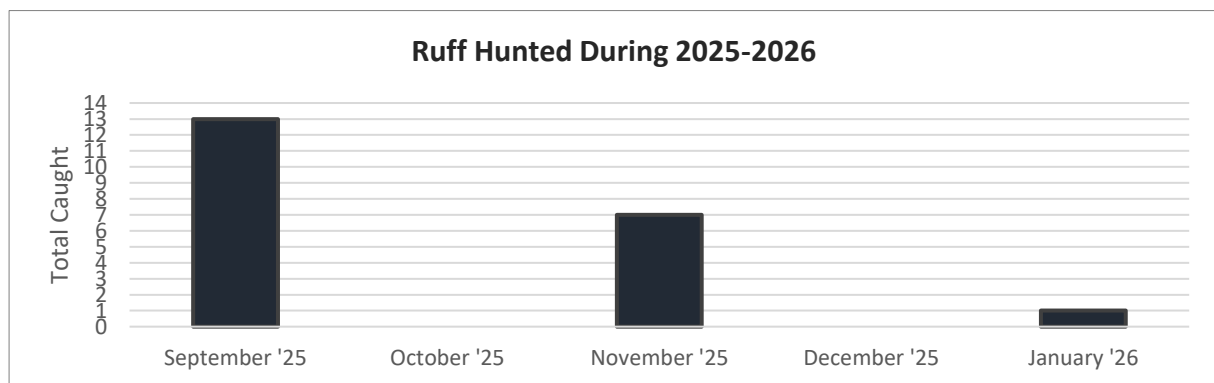
September '25	0
October '25	1
November '25	6
December '25	0
January '26	0
Total	7



*Philomachus pugnax***Ruff**

Girviel

September '25	13
October '25	0
November '25	7
December '25	0
January '26	1
Total	21

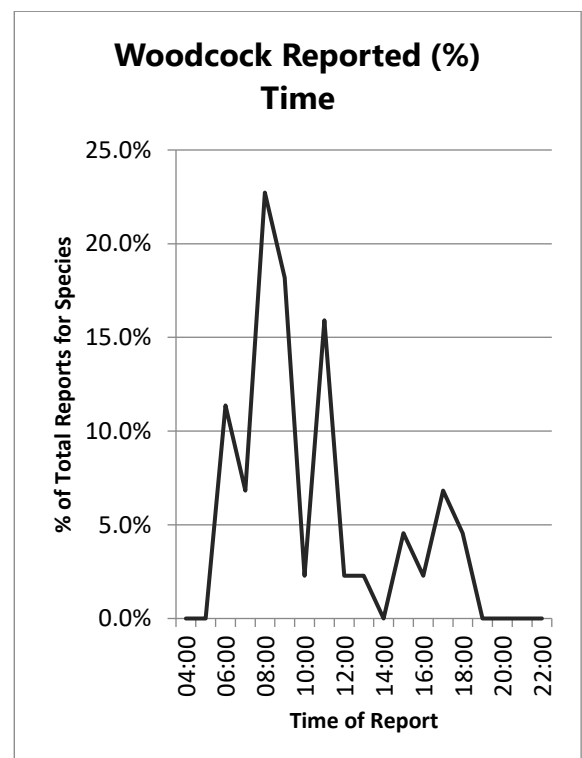
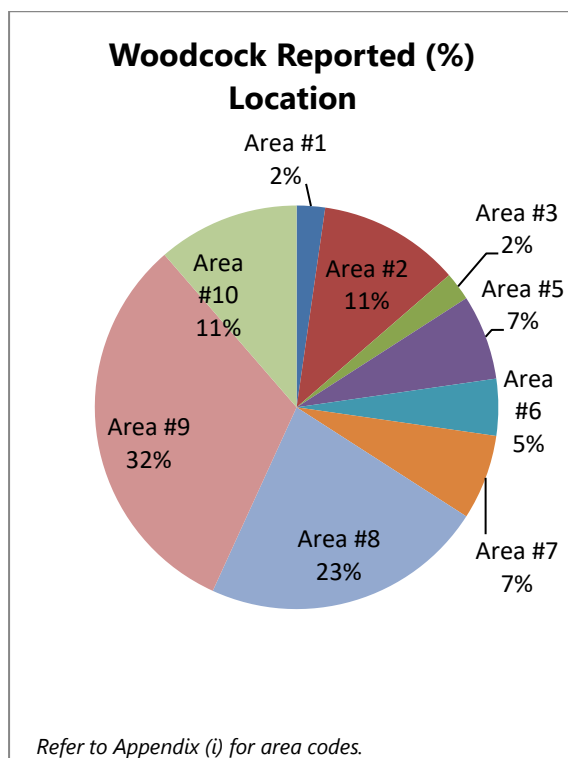
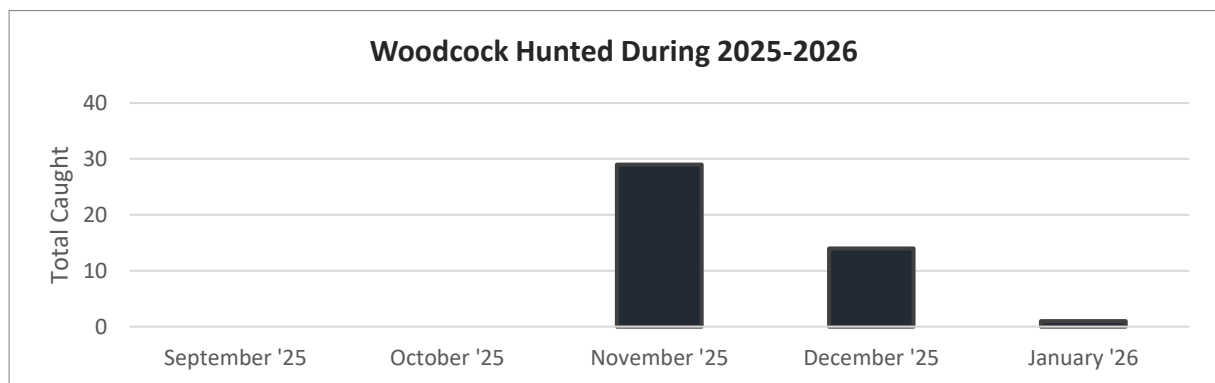


Scolopax rusticola

Woodcock

Gallina

September '25	0
October '25	0
November '25	29
December '25	14
January '26	1
Total	44

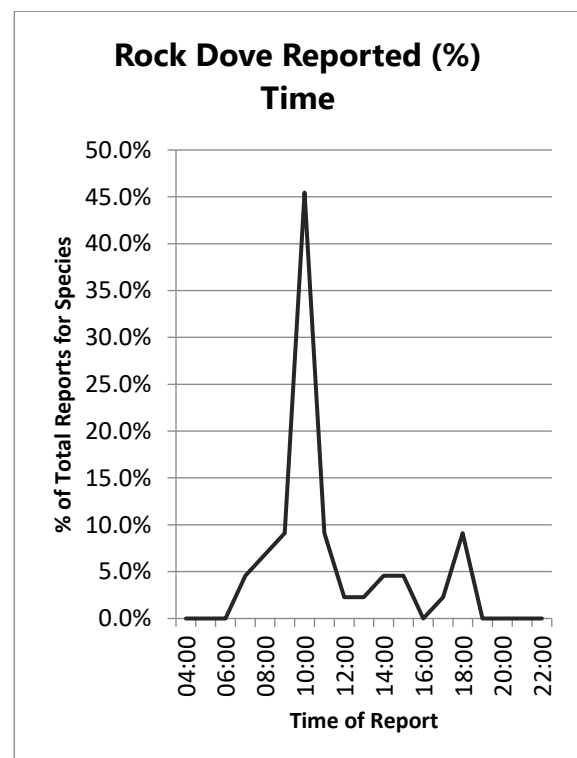
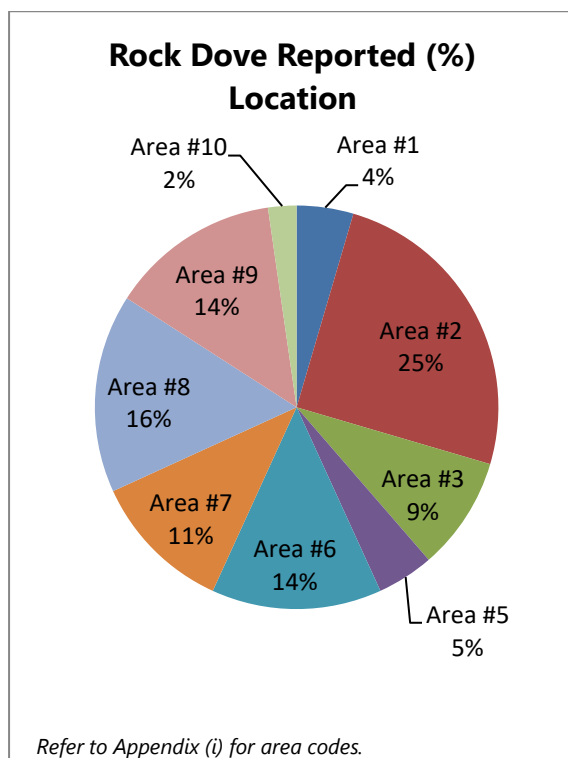
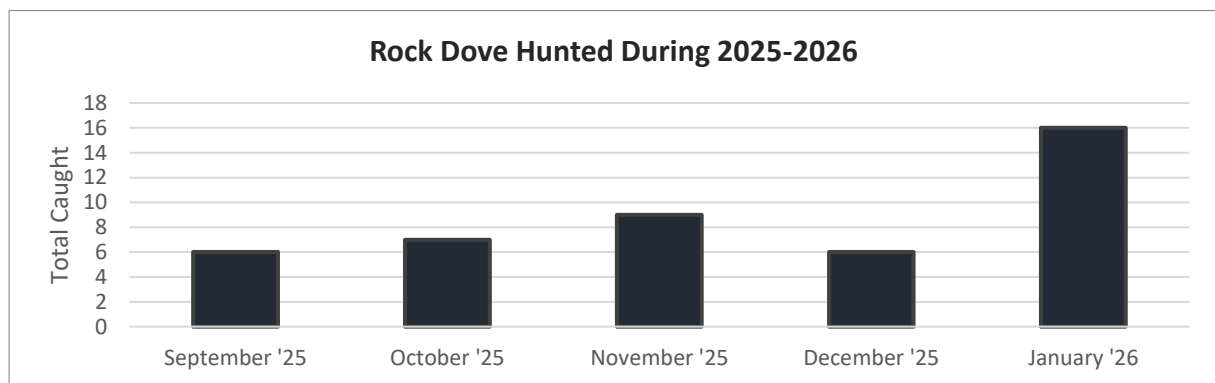


Columba livia

Rock Dove

Tudun tal-Gebel

September '25	6
October '25	7
November '25	9
December '25	6
January '26	16
Total	44

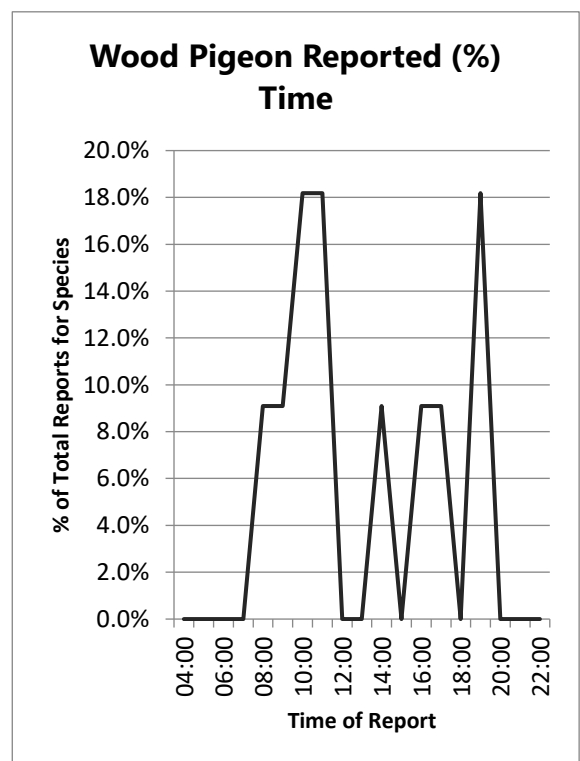
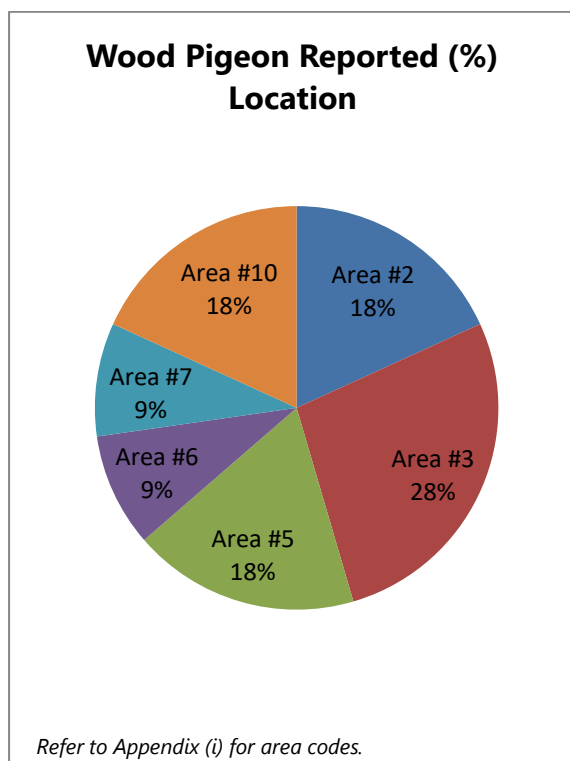
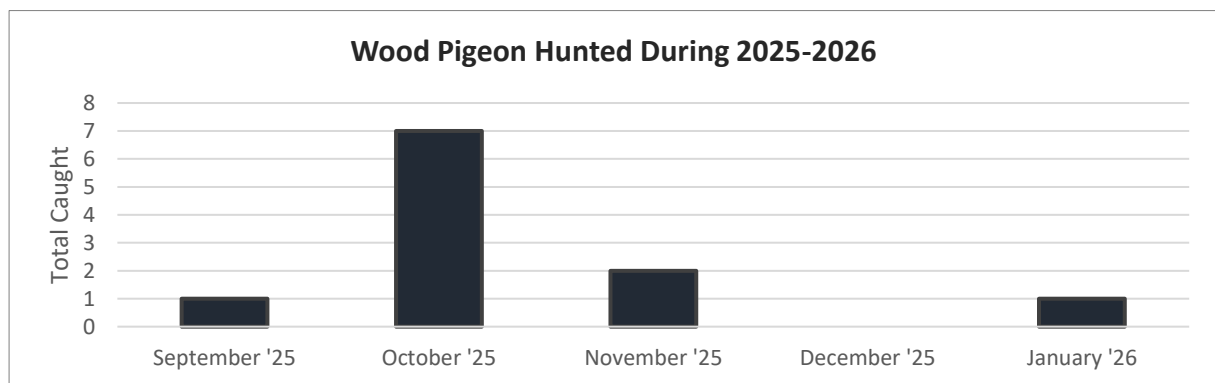


Columba palumbus

Wood Pigeon

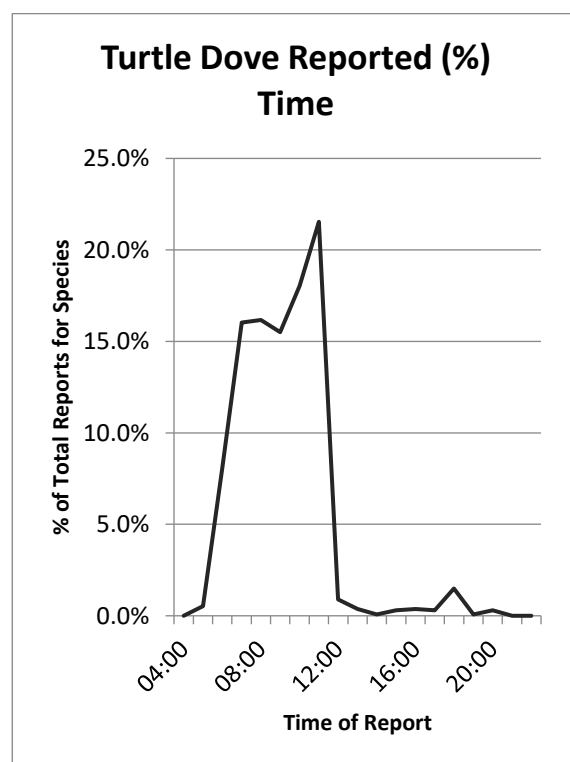
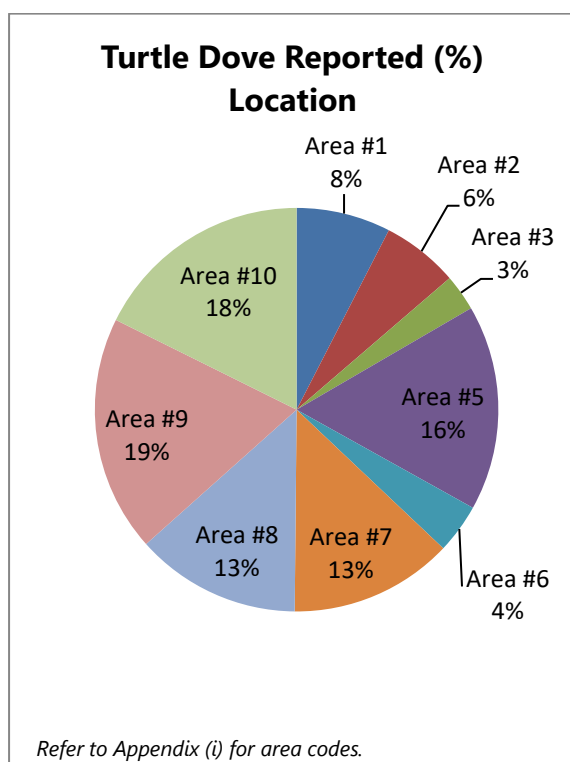
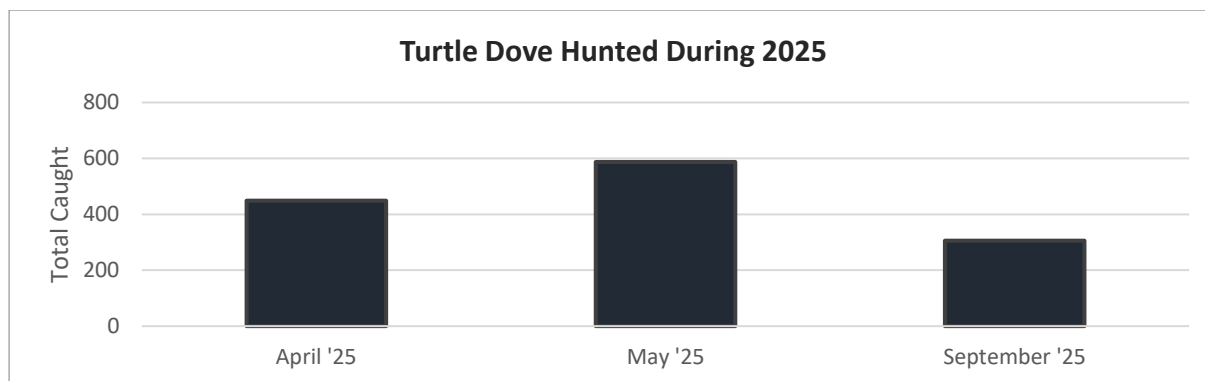
Tudun

September '25	1
October '25	7
November '25	2
December '25	0
January '26	1
Total	11



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

April '25	449
May '25	587
September '25	306
Total	1,342

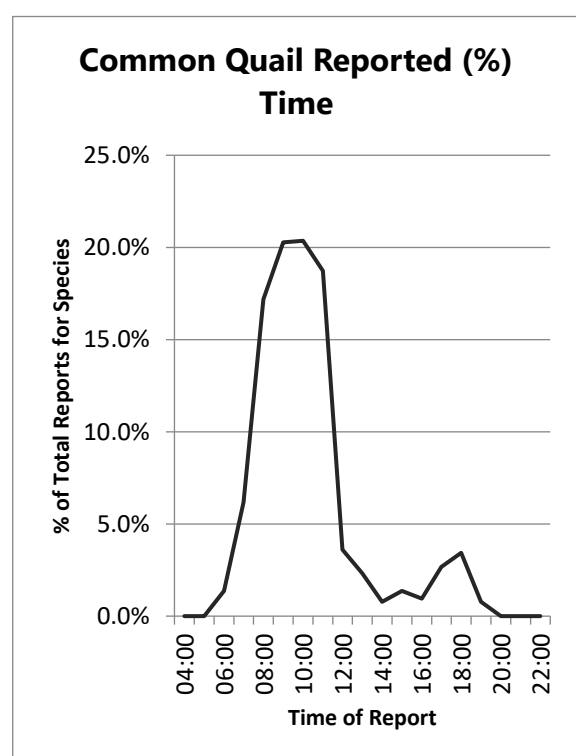
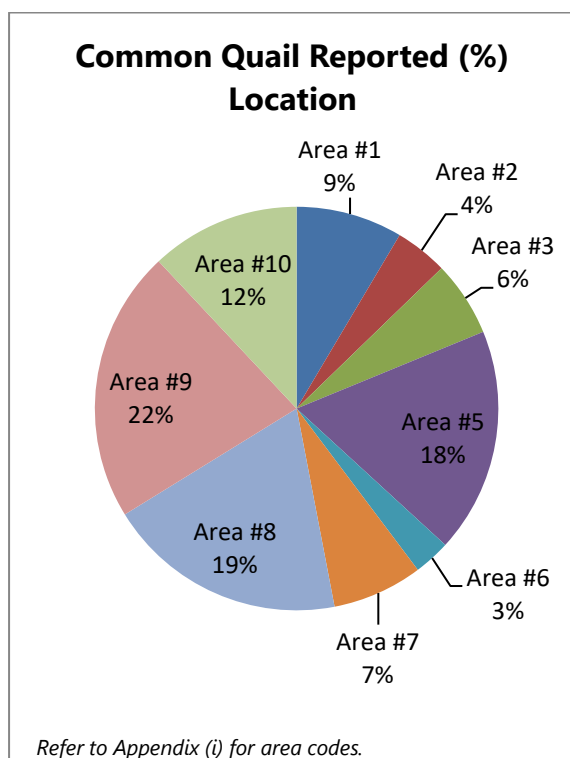
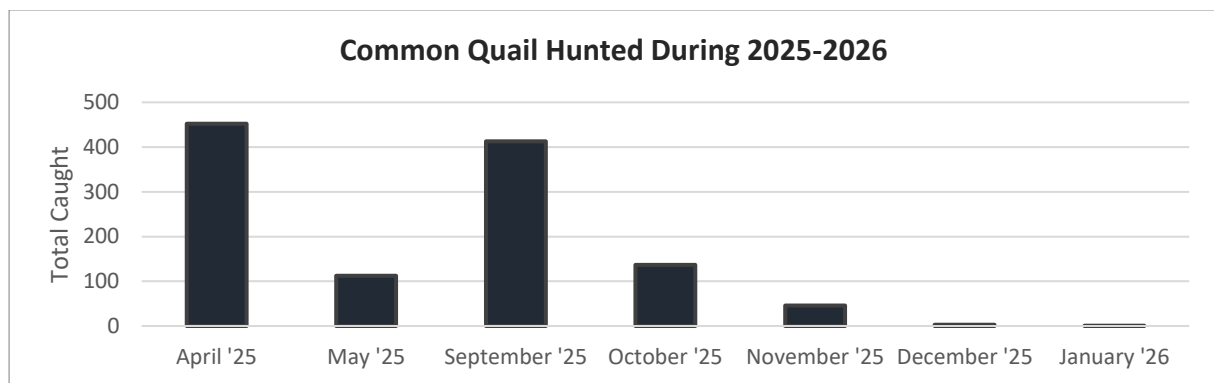


Notes: Hunting of this species in spring was authorised through derogation by virtue of [L.N.74 of 2025](#). Full details on the application of this derogation are available at <https://wbru.gov.mt/en/resources/reports-and-statistics/sprin-hunting-derogations/>

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>.

Galliformes	- Phasianidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>			
Common Quail			
Summiena			

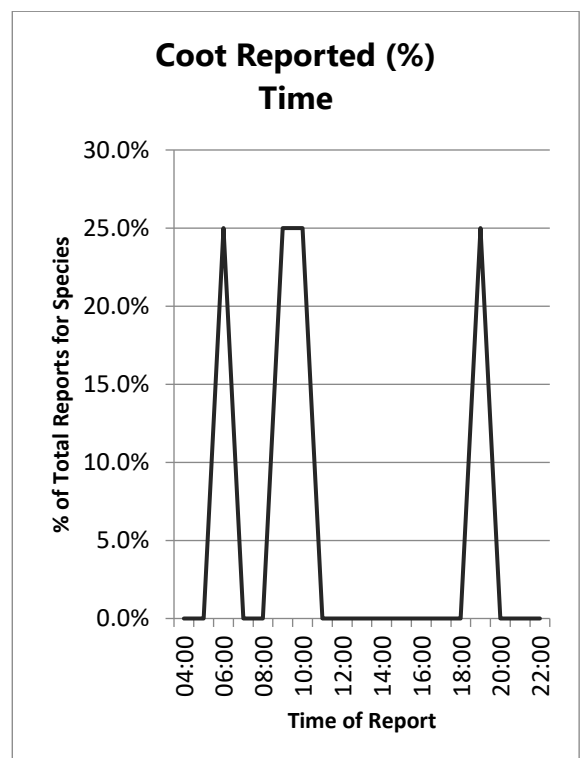
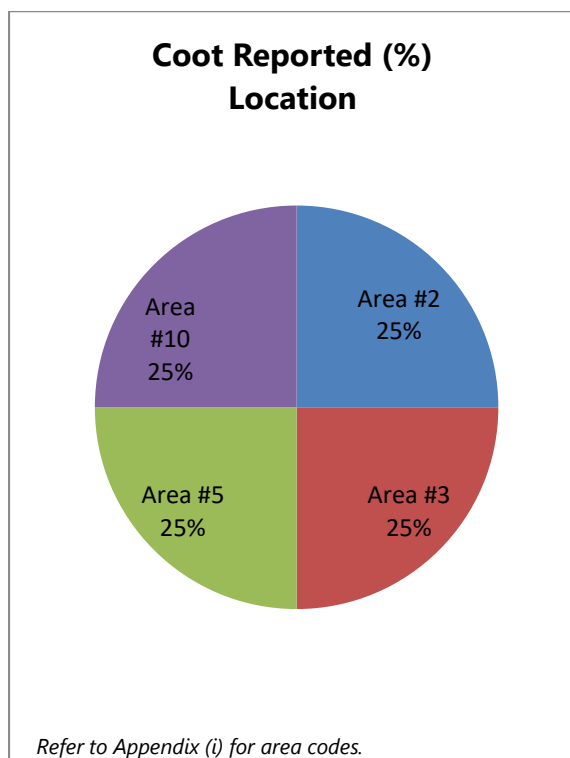
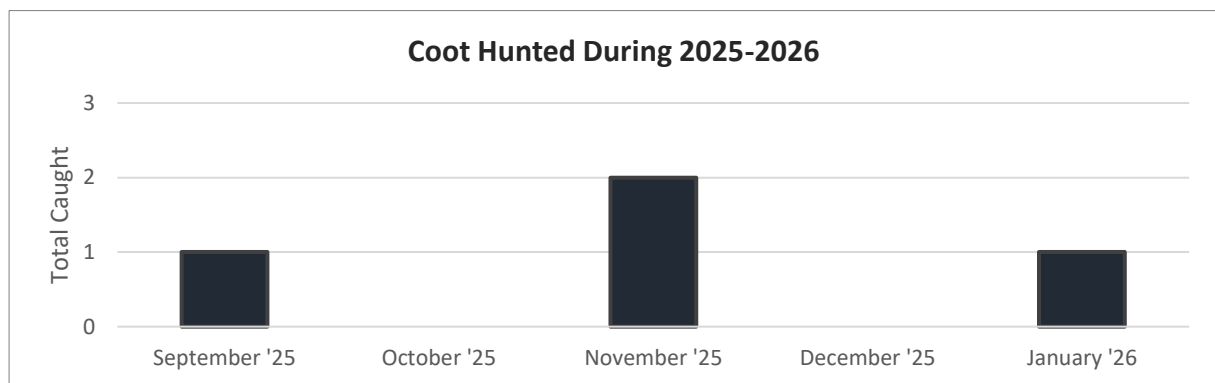
April '25	452
May '25	112
September '25	413
October '25	137
November '25	46
December '25	3
January '26	1
Total	1,164



Note: Hunting of this species in spring was authorised through derogation by virtue of [L.N. 73 of 2025](#). Full details on the application of this derogation are available at <https://wbru.gov.mt/en/resources/reports-and-statistics/sprin-hunting-derogations/>.

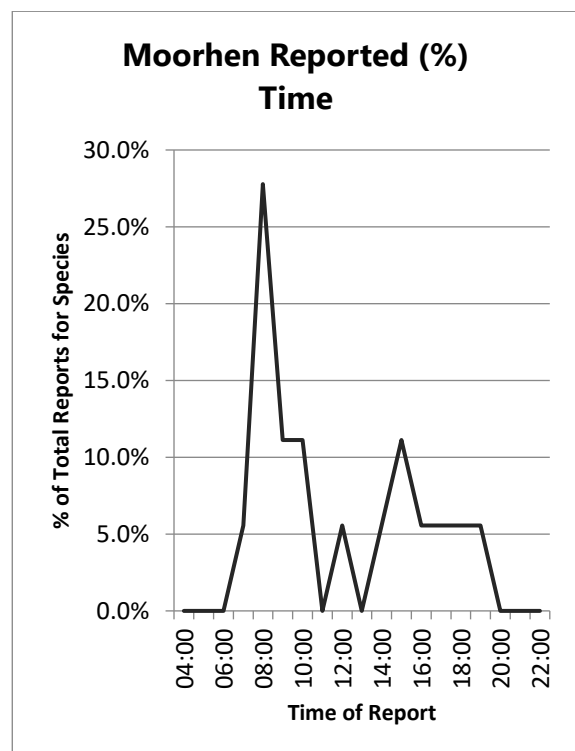
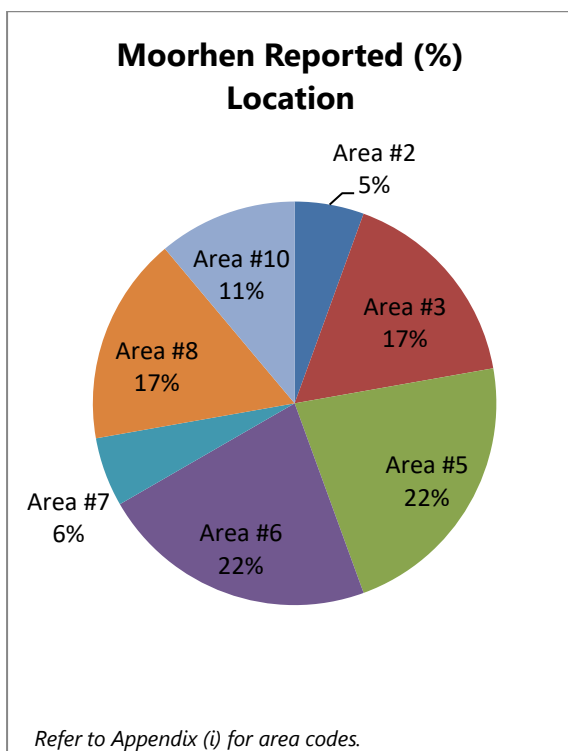
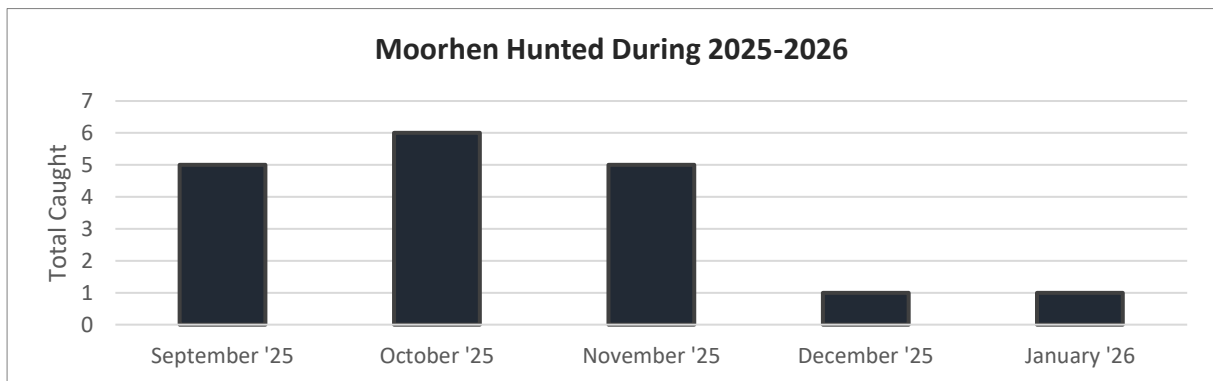
Gruiformes	- Rallidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Fulica atra</i>			
Coot			
Tigiega tal-Baħar			

September '25	1
October '25	0
November '25	2
December '25	0
January '26	1
Total	4



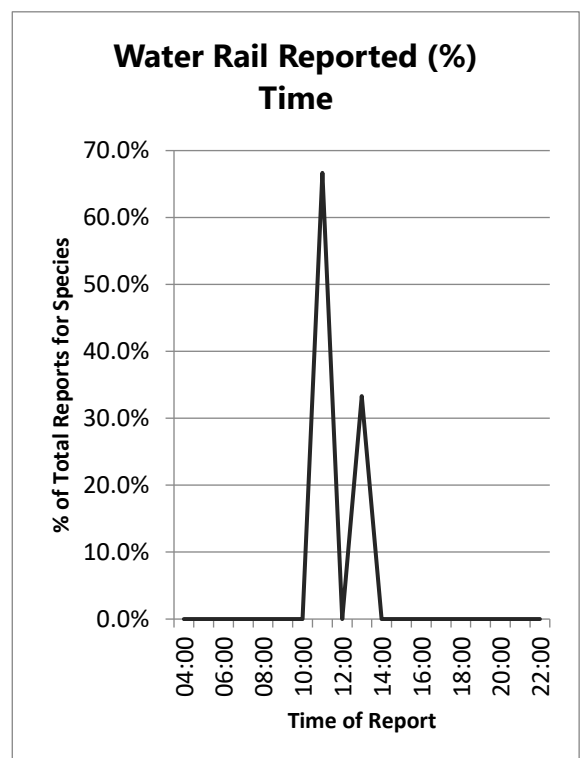
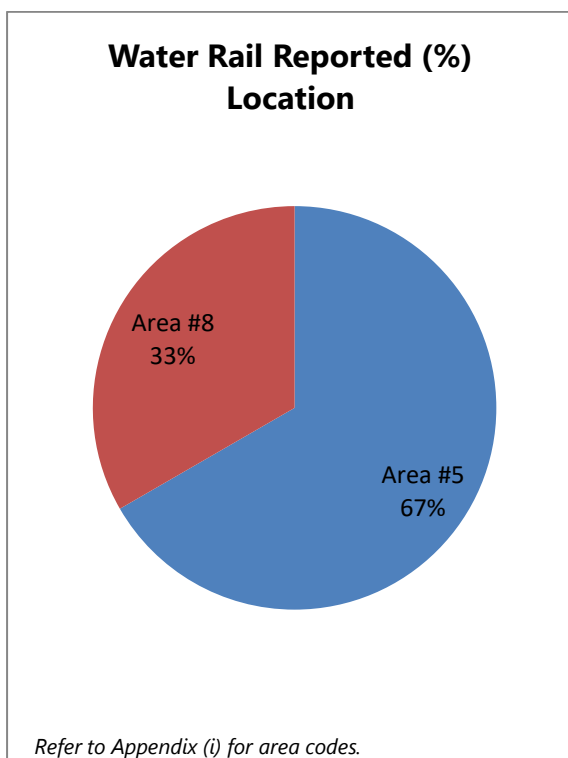
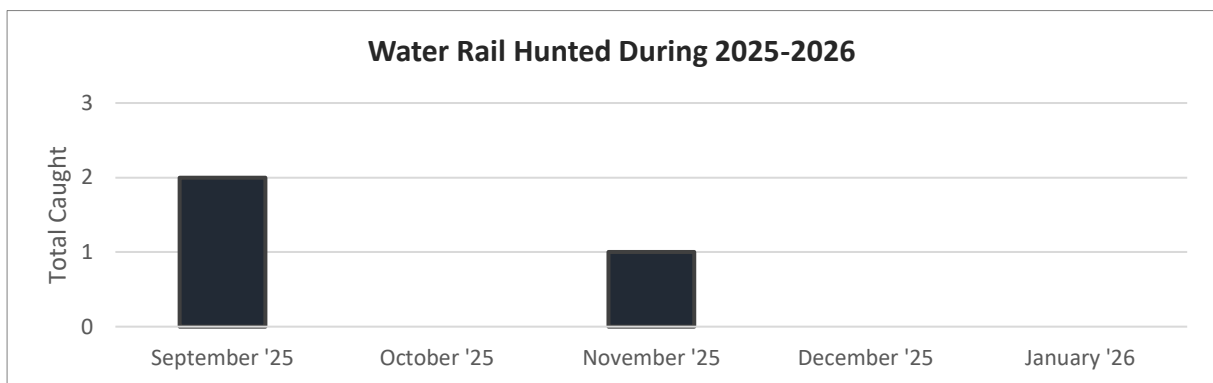
Gruiformes	- Rallidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			
Moorhen			
Gallozz Iswed			

September '25	5
October '25	6
November '25	5
December '25	1
January '26	1
Total	18



Gruiformes	- Rallidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>			
Water Rail			
Gallozz tax-Xitwa			

September '25	2
October '25	0
November '25	1
December '25	0
January '26	0
Total	3

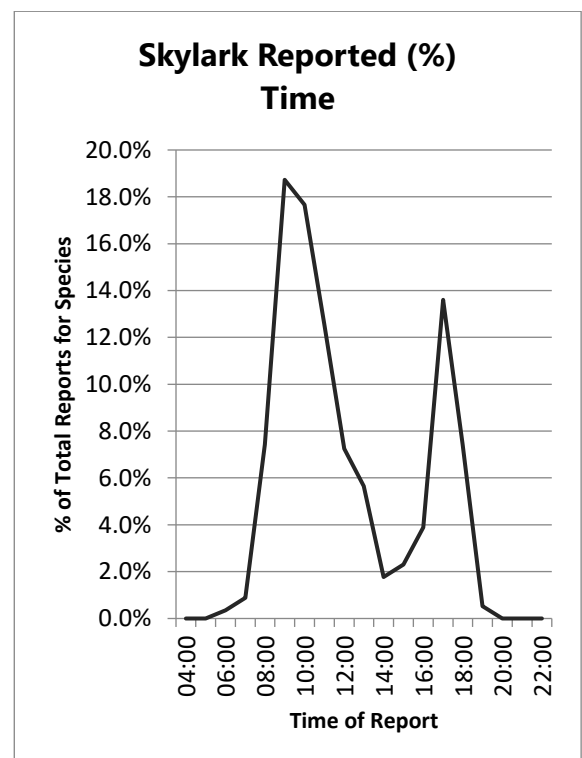
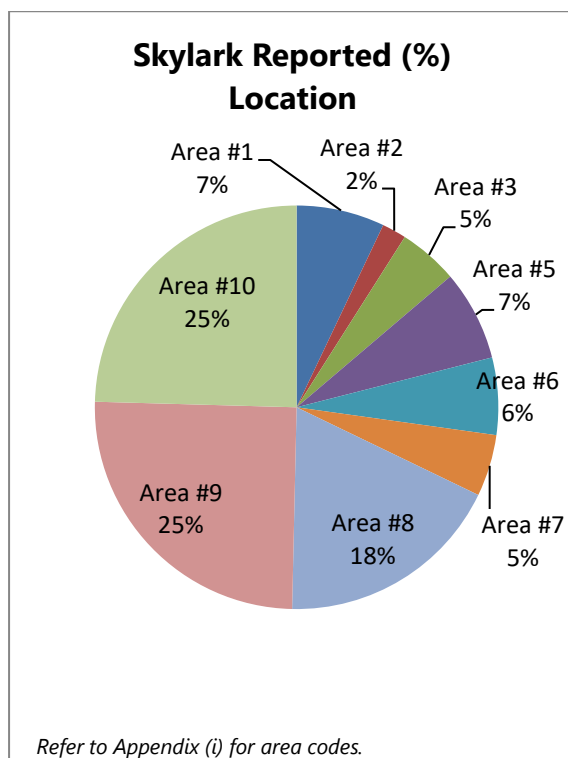
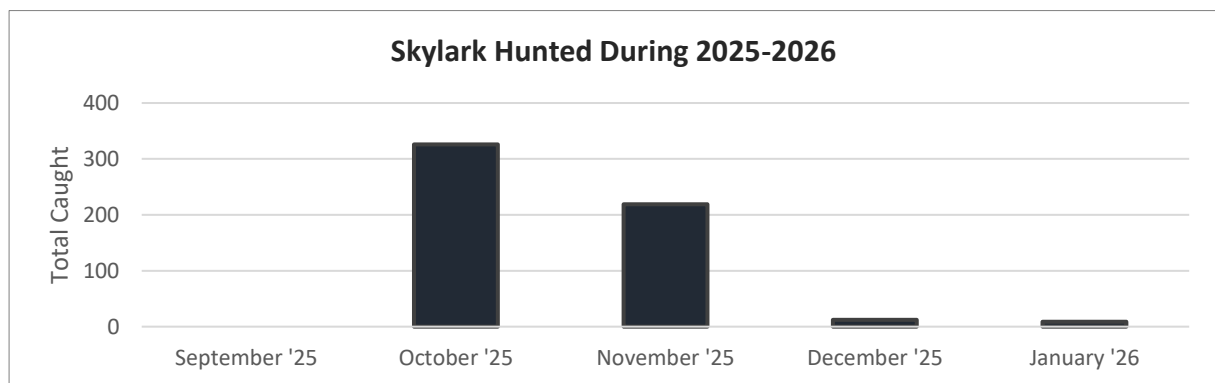


Alauda arvensis

Skylark

Alwetta

September '25	0
October '25	326
November '25	219
December '25	12
January '26	9
Total	566

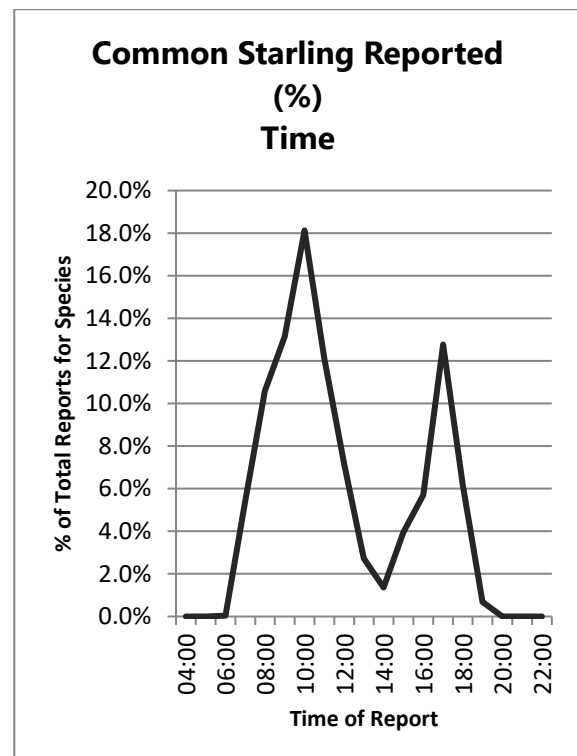
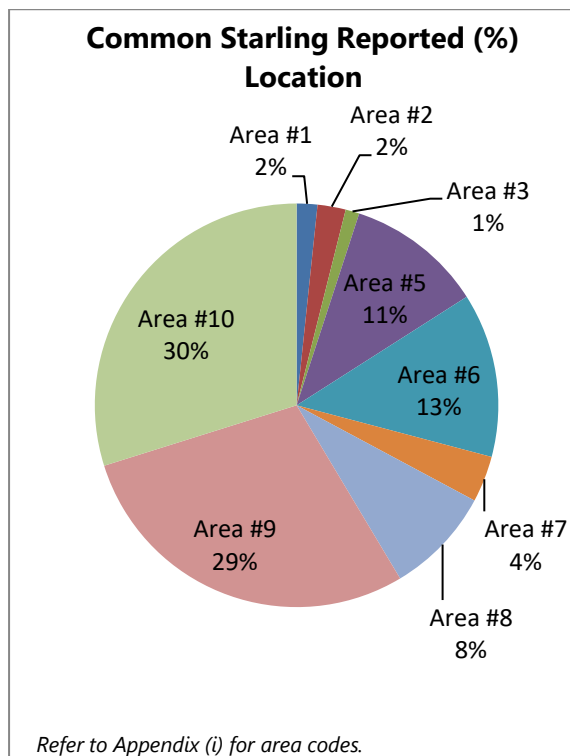
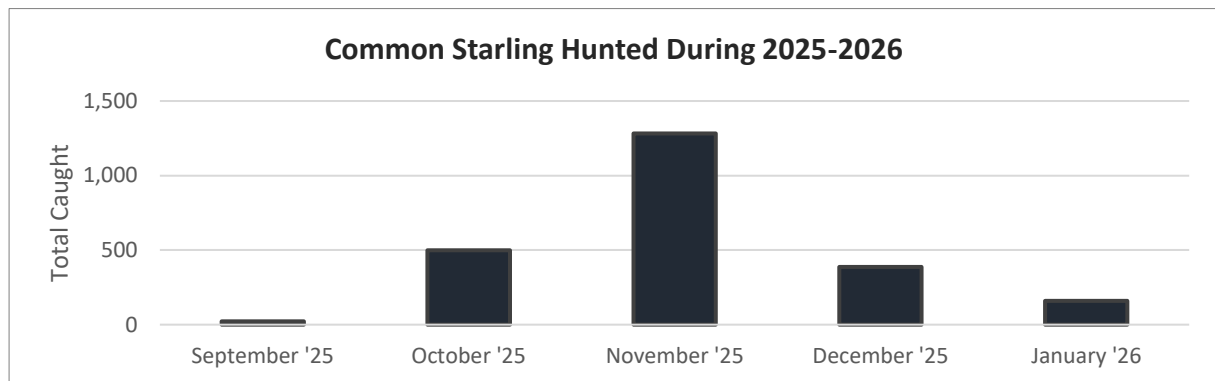


Sturnus vulgaris

Common Starling

Sturnell

September '25	22
October '25	499
November '25	1,282
December '25	387
January '26	160
Total	2,350

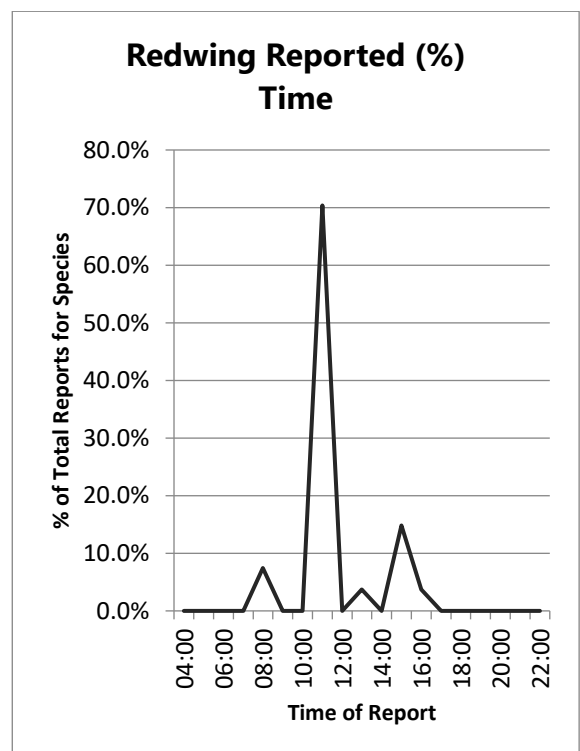
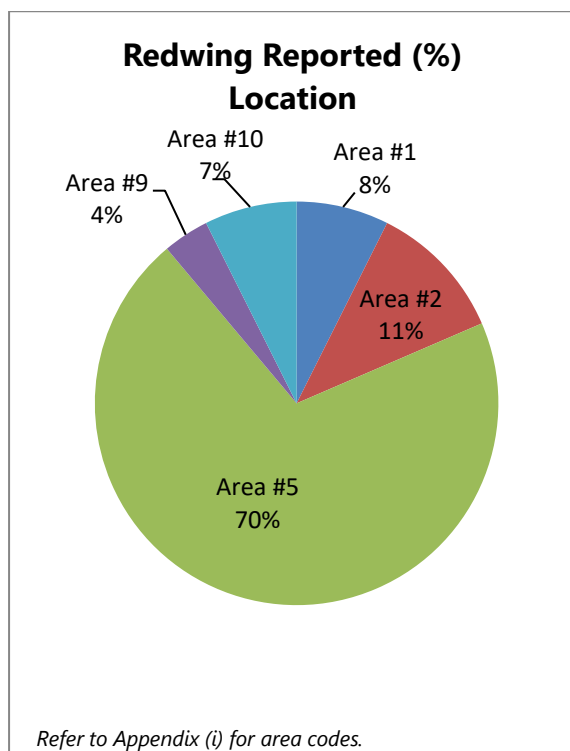
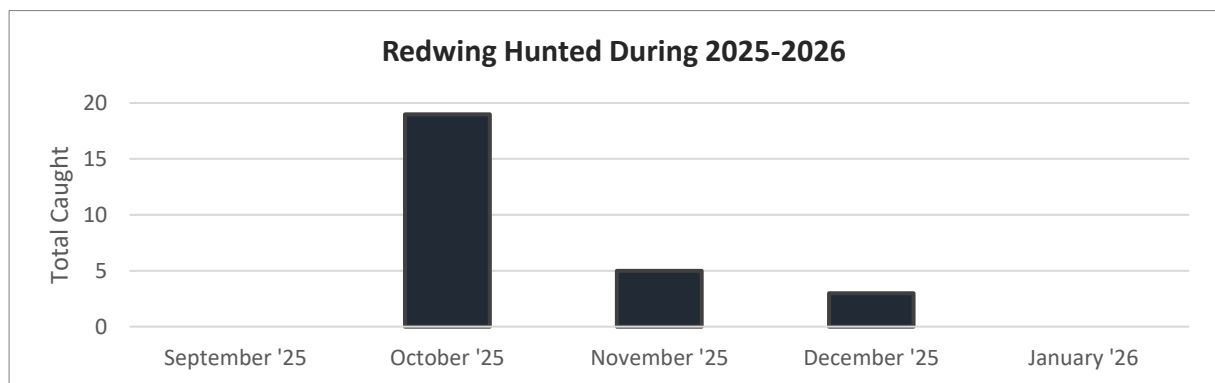


Turdus iliacus

Redwing

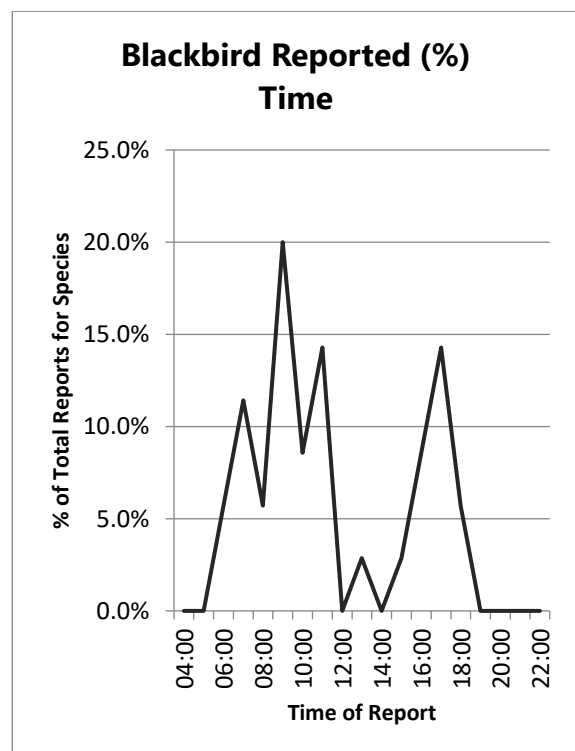
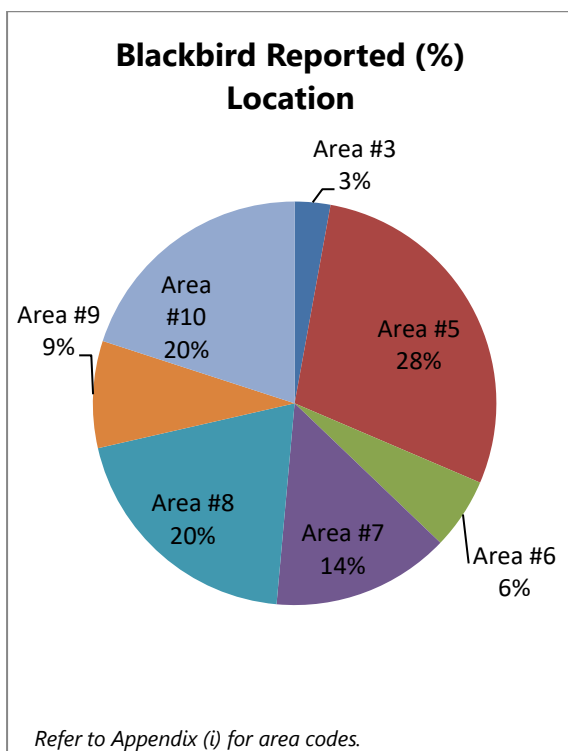
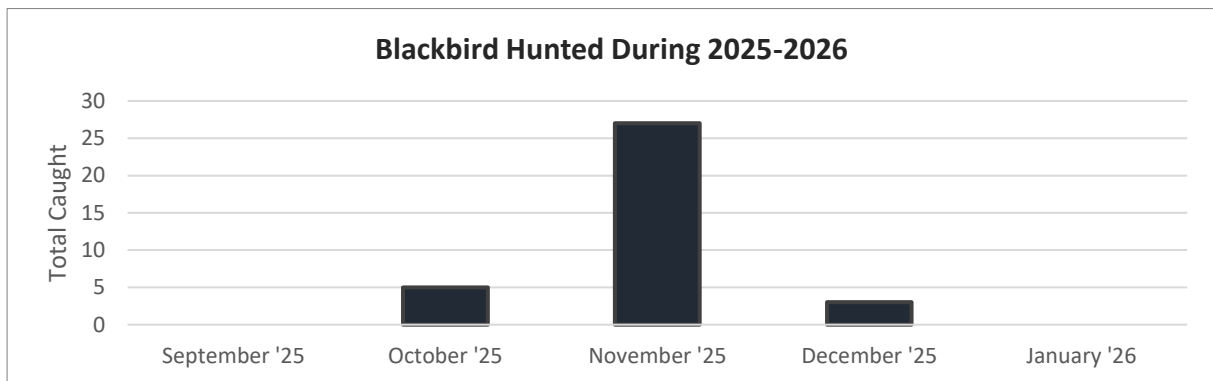
Malvizz Aħmar

September '25	0
October '25	19
November '25	5
December '25	3
January '26	0
Total	27



Passeriformes	- Turdidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Turdus merula</i>			
Blackbird			
Malvizz Iswed			

September '25	0
October '25	5
November '25	27
December '25	3
January '26	0
Total	35



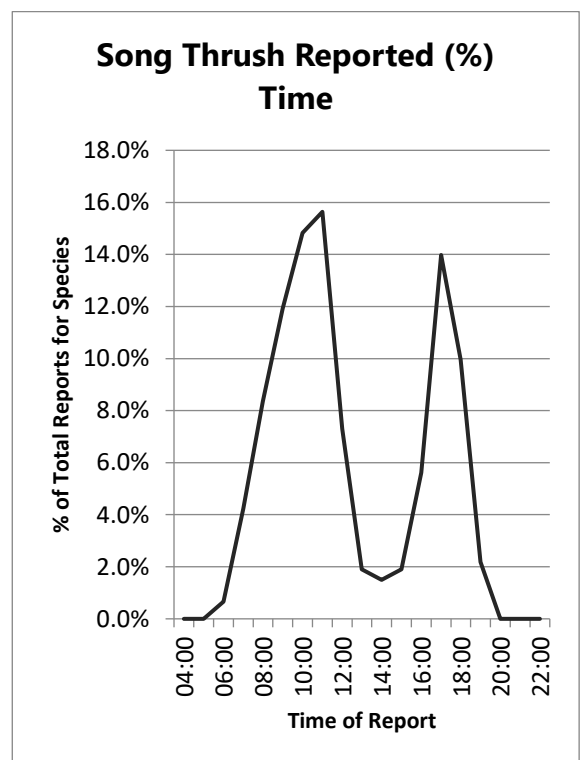
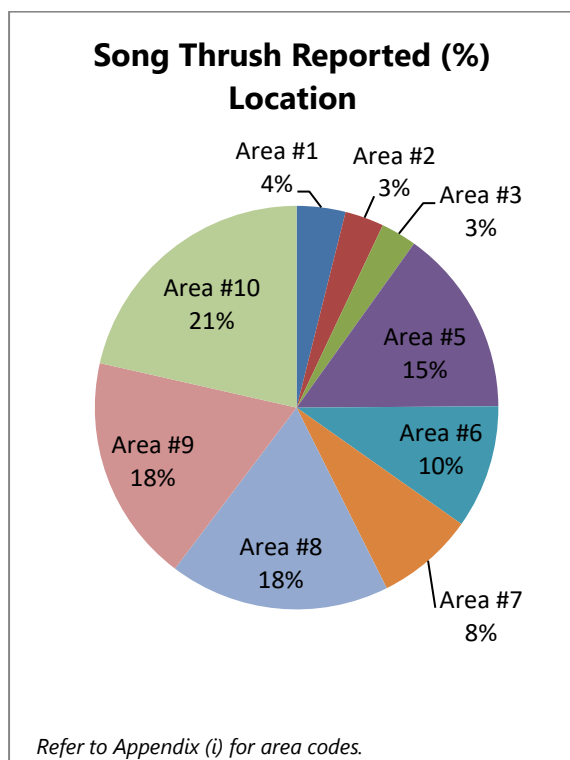
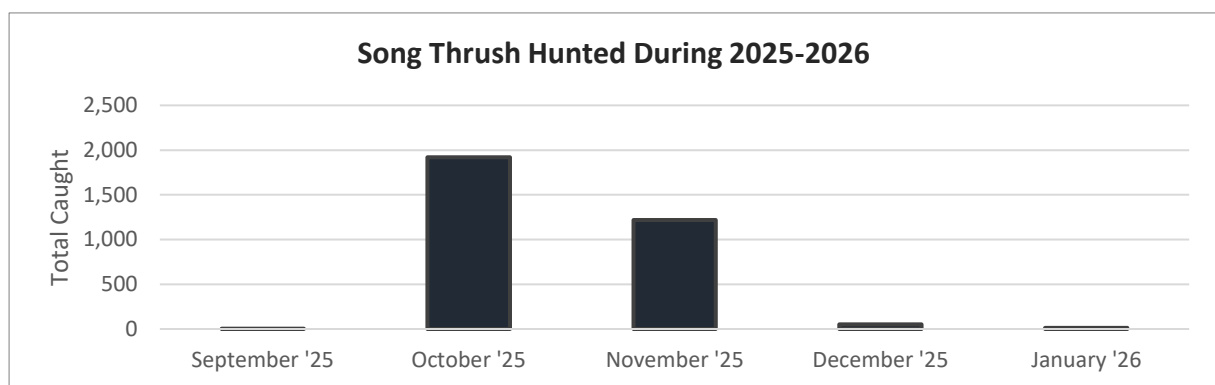
Turdus philomelos

Song Thrush

Malvizz

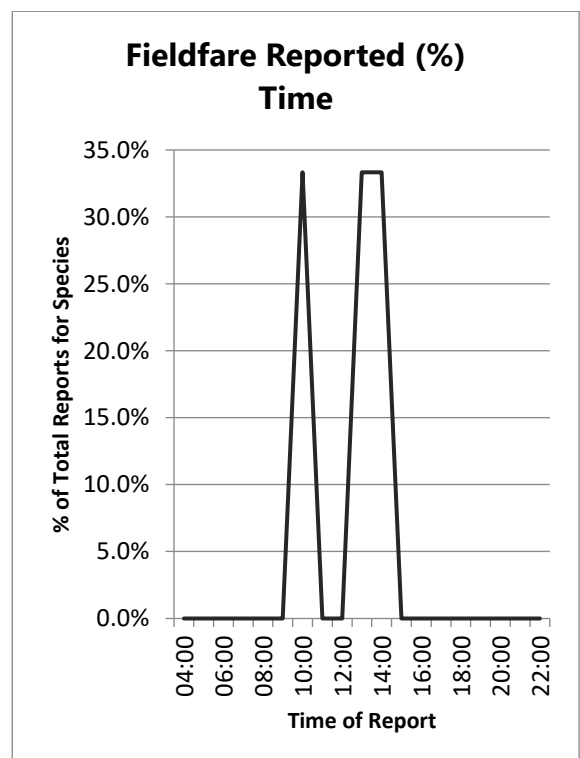
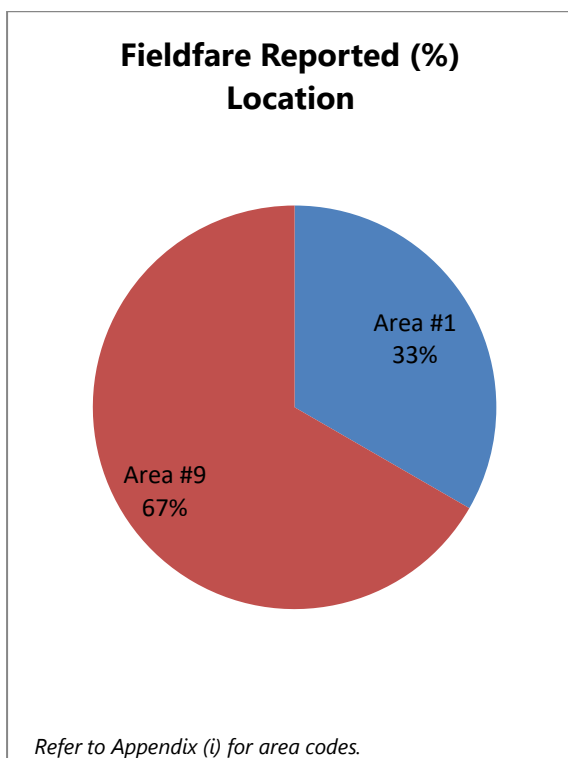
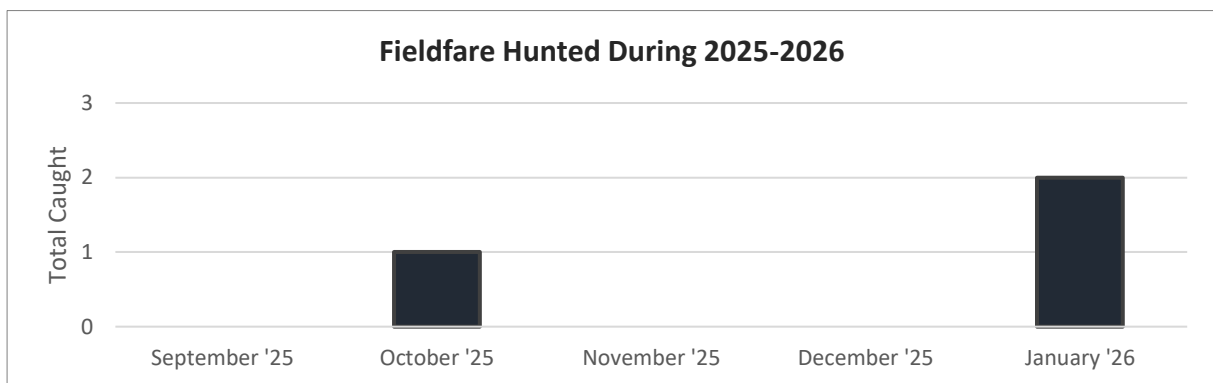
(Hunting Data)

September '25	1
October '25	1,919
November '25	1,219
December '25	53
January '26	12
Total	3,204



Passeriformes	- Turdidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>			
Fieldfare			
Malvizz tal-Qtajja'			

September '25	0
October '25	1
November '25	0
December '25	0
January '26	2
Total	3

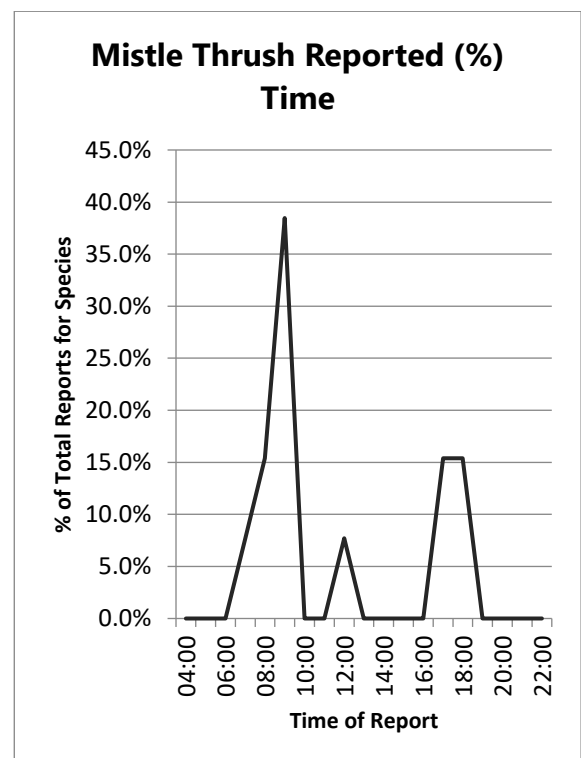
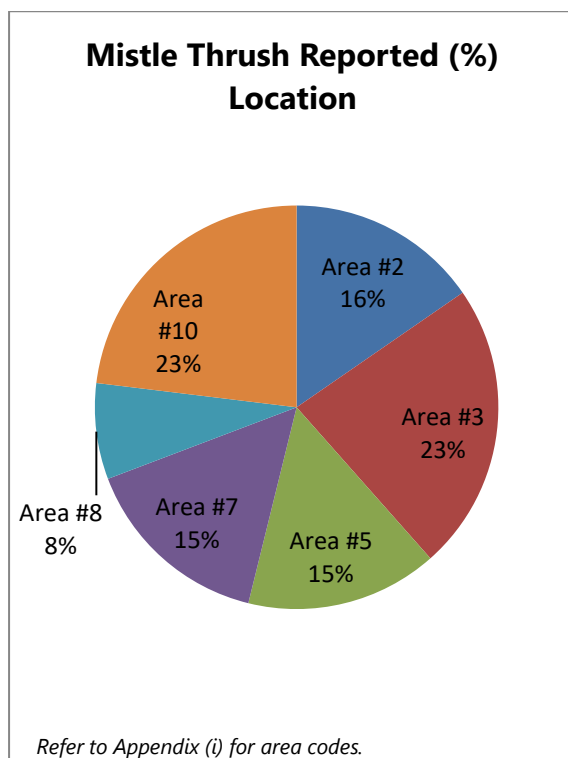
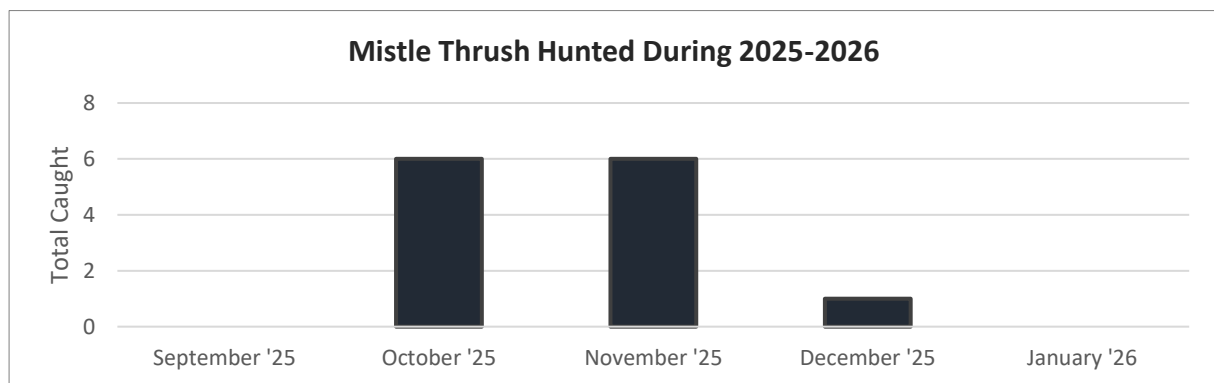


Turdus viscivorus

Mistle Thrush

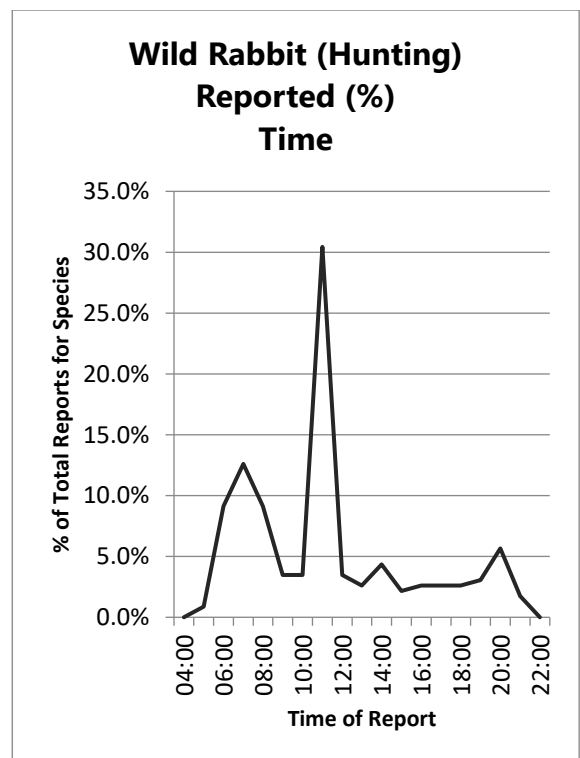
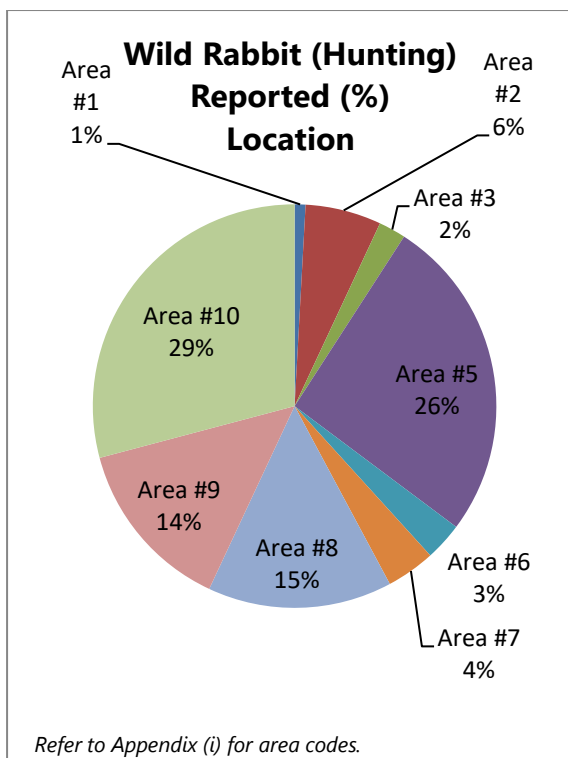
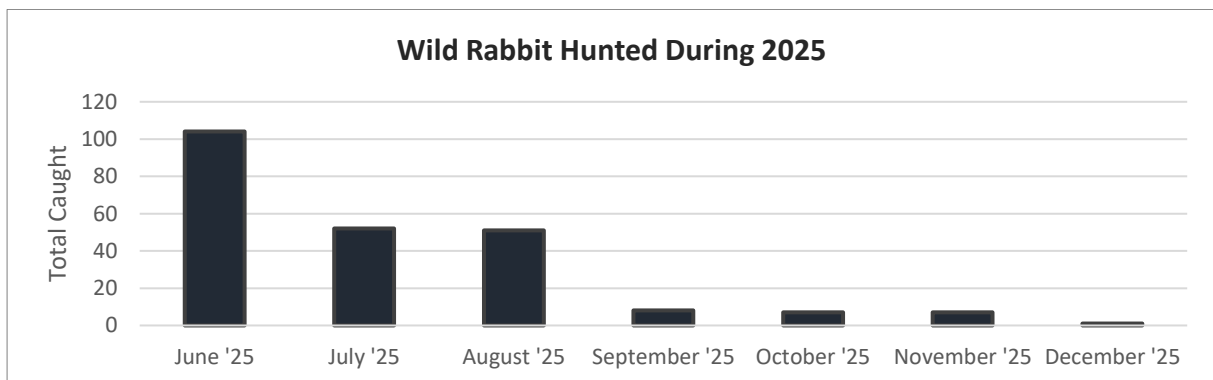
Malvizzun Prim

September '25	0
October '25	6
November '25	6
December '25	1
January '26	0
Total	13



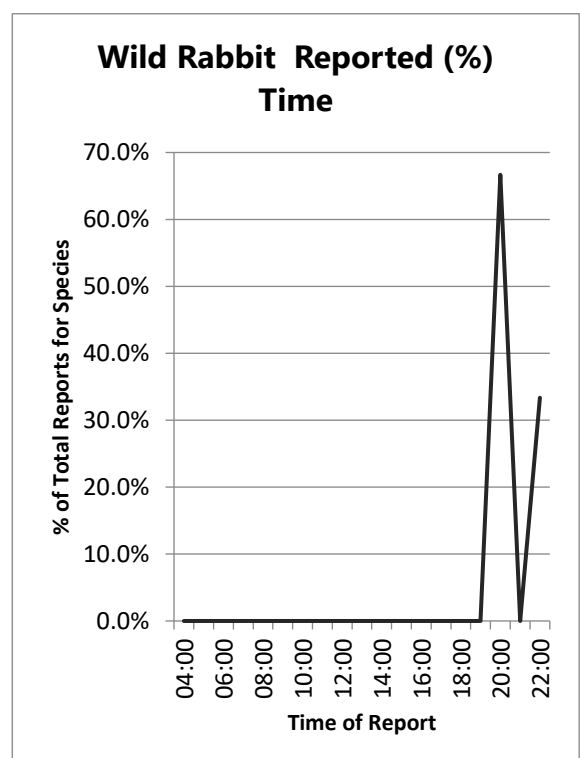
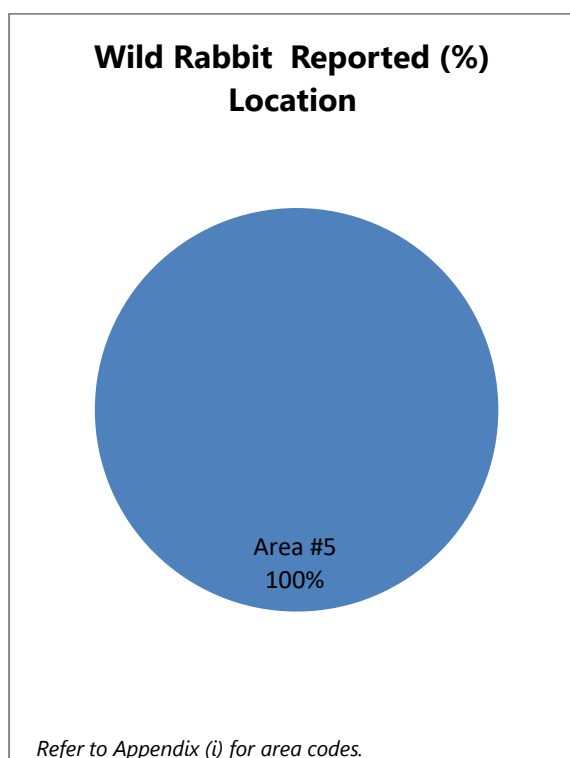
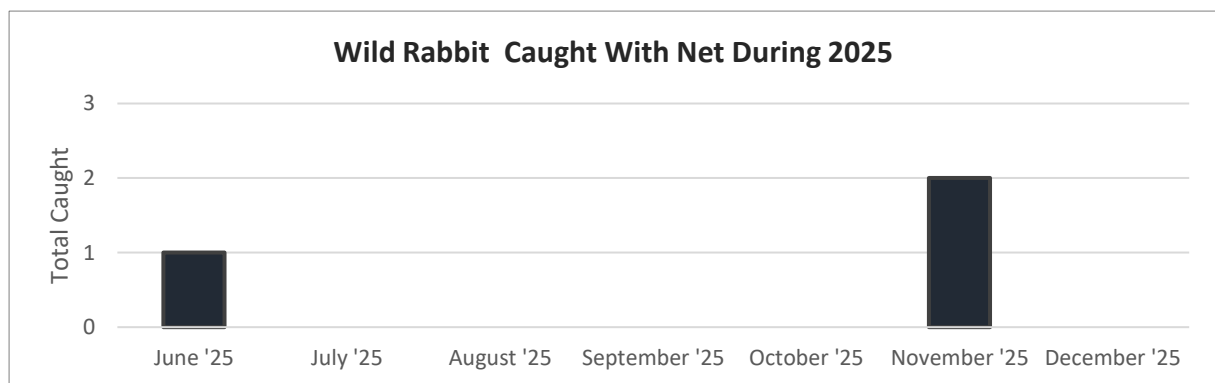
Lagomorpha	- Leporidae	Month	Specimens Hunted
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			
Wild Rabbit			
Fenek Selvağğ			
<i>(Hunting for Wild Rabbit)</i>			

June '25	104
July '25	52
August '25	51
September '25	8
October '25	7
November '25	7
December '25	1
Total	230



Lagomorpha	- Leporidae	Month	Specimens Caught
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			
Wild Rabbit			
Fenek Selvağğ			
<i>(Capture of Wild Rabbit with nets [ferreting])</i>			

June '25	1
July '25	0
August '25	0
September '25	0
October '25	0
November '25	2
December '25	0
Total	3



Live-Capturing Data

2025 Report

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

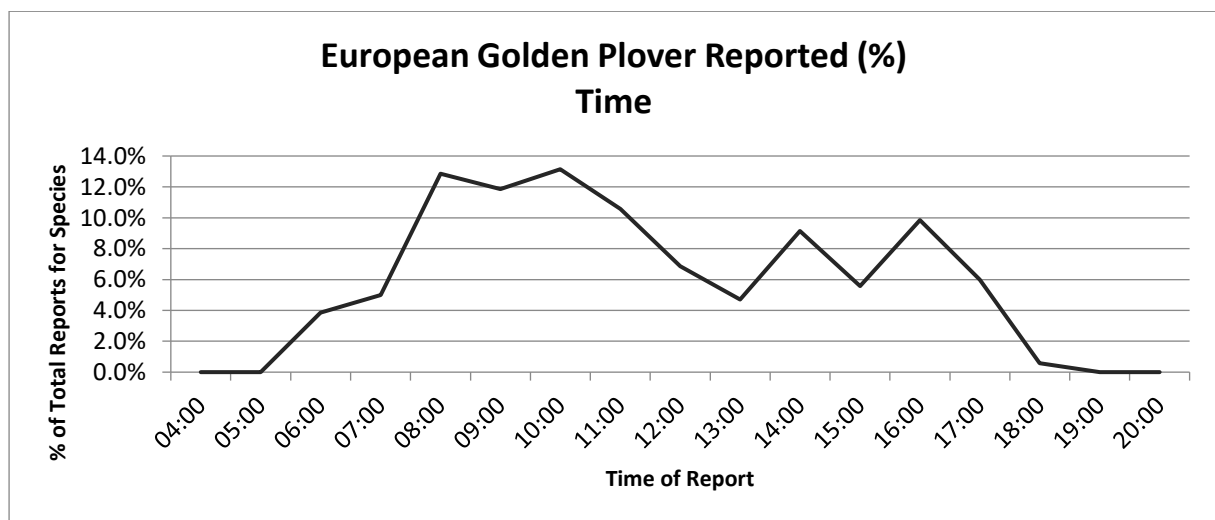
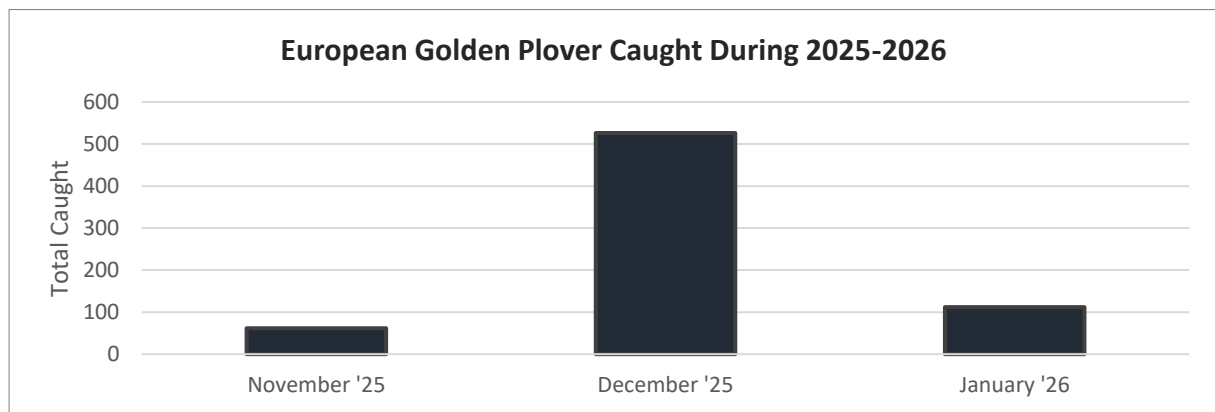
Pluvialis apricaria

European Golden Plover

Pluviera

(Live-Capturing Data)

November '25	62
December '25	526
January '26	112
Total	700



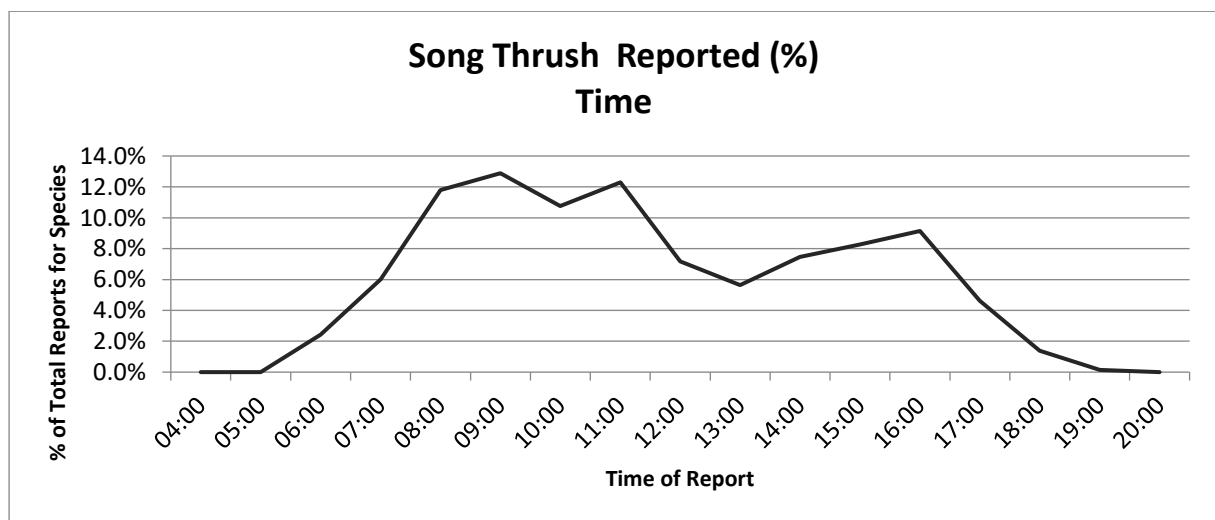
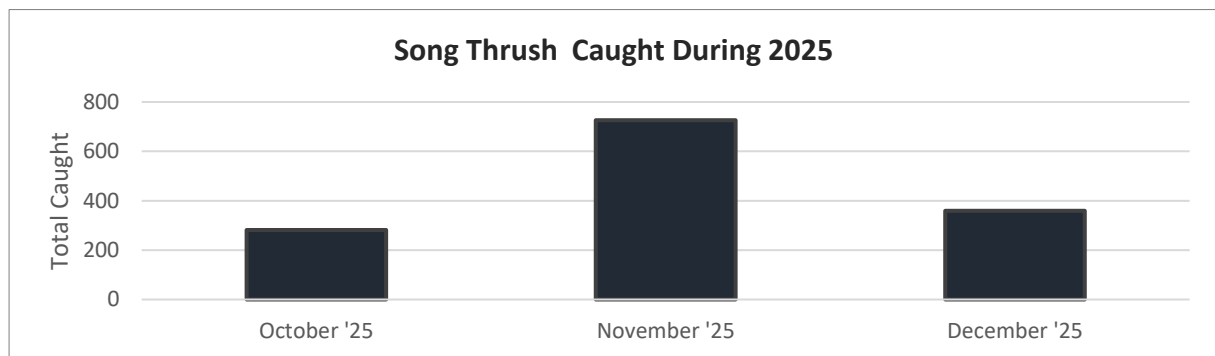
Turdus philomelos

Song Thrush

Malvizz

(Live-Capturing Data)

October '25	281
November '25	726
December '25	356
Total	1,366



Appendix (i): Area codes

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

