

# Southern Cyprus

24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019



**Summary:** This was the first time all 3 of us had been to Cyprus and I think I speak for everyone when I say what a superb place it is to witness bird migration. Our base at Mandria was nicely positioned in a quiet area and close to good birding habitat along the coastal fields which were alive with hundreds of Yellow Wagtails of various races. These superb birds must have been passing in the thousands as they made a dazzling back-drop to many locations throughout the week where they often carpeted the fields and any damp areas. There were certainly more water than normal as Cyprus had experienced a wet winter and the slightly unsettled nature of the weather continued into the early spring. It was pleasantly warm throughout the week but we did have one or two thunderstorms and breezy spells which undoubtedly worked in our favour as masses of warblers could be found. Lesser Whitethroats were all over the place and hordes of these dainty warblers were seen along the coast and especially at Paphos Headland. Amongst these were a nice variety of other species with Eastern Subapline providing a dash of colour and Ruppell's Warblers a touch of class. I was hoping we might see one or two Ruppell's Warblers but in fact we must have seen around 40 during the week and we came across them in many sites. Eastern Orphean Warblers started showing up towards the end of the week whilst the endemic Cyprus Warbler gave us the run-around for a while. It wasn't until our fourth day that we all got good views of a male at Mavroklympos Dam which performed well, singing at the track side. The same site also provided stunning views of Cyprus Scops Owl perched on overhead wires and completed our set of all three endemic species on the same day (including Cyprus Wheatear). Cyprus is also home to endemic sub-species of Crossbill, Jay, Coal Tit and Short-toed Treecreeper which were all found easily at Troodos which was perhaps a good thing as it was quite a shock to the system coming from 20 degrees on the coast to 6 degrees with snow lying on the ground in the mountains. These local species were great to see and add to the experience of birding in Cyprus but it was really the migrants which stole the show. Regulars such as Red-throated Pipit, Isabelline Wheatear, Eastern Black-eared Wheatear and Cretzchmar's Bunting all showed well and provided many a photographic opportunity whilst we also had good views of two Cyprus rarities; Caspian Stonechat and Hooded Wheatear. From the first morning at Mandria to packing our bags before our last visit to Paphos Headland, birds were constantly on the move and you never quite knew what you were going to bump into next. It was certainly an exciting week although it's hard to single out one event as the best moment with such stunning birds as Collared Flycatcher, Citrine Wagtail and Masked Shrike; although perhaps the ghostly figure of a male Pallid Harrier zipping low over the fields at Mandria on our 4<sup>th</sup> day was certainly up there as one of the most outstanding.

Leader: Steve Duffield

Participants: Eppie Sweeney and Bob McMillan

### **23<sup>rd</sup> March:**

Bob and I arrived around 17:30 and went to pick up our hire car during the last throws of daylight with House Sparrow and Hooded Crow being the first species seen whilst Cetti's Warbler could be heard calling from some nearby cover. Eppie arrived shortly afterwards and we made our way to the self-catering accommodation at Mandria.

### **24<sup>rd</sup> March:**

Weather – Light north-easterly winds and sunny although the wind began to pick up in the afternoon followed by thunder storms in the late afternoon.

We started the day with an exploration of the coastal fields at Mandria which were alive with birds including at least 8 Isabelline Wheatears amongst the Northernns; around 6 Black-eared Wheatears and at least 5 Tawny Pipits. 7 or 8 Short-toed Larks were also picked up along with hordes of Yellow Wagtails including masses of stunning Black-headed males. 8 Stone Curlews were noted in flight inland of our position whilst off-shore a couple of Mediterranean Shags were loafing on some rocks. A couple of Grey Herons were spotted out at sea along with several Yellow-legged Gulls. A couple of Tree Pipits were noted as was a fly-over Red-throated Pipit. Continuing the heard theme we also noted Black Francolin, Little Ringed Plover and Green Sandpiper calling although we didn't see any of them. A Kentish Plover was resting on the stony beach whilst good numbers of Kestrels were found along the field edges along with a male Redstart and Lesser Whitethroat. After a good thrash about here we headed for Paphos headland which was also alive with birds. Although it was after 10 am when we arrived and there were plenty of people wandering around the archaeological remains the birds didn't seem too bothered and many performed very well indeed. The first bird we had as we walked through the entrance was a lovely, showy male Redstart which was followed by a good few more as we wandered round the area. Yellow Wagtails were all over the place with Black-headed predominating but we also picked up Blue-headed and the *superciliaris* intergrade. At least 4 Nightingales were located during our walk along with a Wryneck, 5+ Black-eared Wheatears, a female Cyprus Wheatear, 2 Eastern Subalpine Warblers and no less than 5 Ruppell's Warblers. I was hoping we might see one or two during the week but 5 on the first day was just a foretaste of things to come. Lesser Whitethroats were all over the place whilst Hoopoes were also common with at least 6 seen. A party of hawking birds contained numerous House Martins and Swallows whilst 4 Red-rumped Swallows and 2 Swift were also amongst them. A Tree Pipit was also seen in flight whilst a flock of 8 Night Herons circled around the area apparently looking for somewhere to rest as we headed back out of the grounds.



Redstart

We had our lunch in Paphos before making our way to Agia Varvara. We never found the soak-away that we were looking for although we did find a couple of pools and picked up 8 Green Sandpipers, a Moorhen and masses of Black-headed and White Wagtails. We also spotted another Swift and a distant large raptor that was probably a Long-legged Buzzard but was just too far away. We then attempted to find Anarita Park but the tracks were looking pretty bad from all the rain over the winter so we made our way to Anarita village. We headed north towards Nata Ford but the ominous dark clouds and strengthening wind made us turn back south although not before we spotted a Little Owl that flew up from the side of the road. We decided to make our way towards Aspro dam and after a wrong turning and a fortuitous Cuckoo sighting we arrived at the dam. 5 Purple Herons were struggling against the head wind and dropped into some lake side vegetation. An Eastern Bonelli's Warbler was picked up in the conifers around the parking area although the windy conditions were now making birding in the trees difficult. We had a final look around the coast at Mandria although the only additional species added to the day list was a Cormorant flying past.



Black-headed Wagtail

### **25<sup>th</sup> March:**

Weather – A light northerly wind in the morning strengthened to a moderate westerly although it was sunny and warm throughout with a maximum temperature around 22 degrees.

Steve had an early morning stroll around the village in Mandria before breakfast which produced a Nightingale and 2 Stone Curlews before we all made a brief visit to the coastal fields here. Around 10 Short-toed Larks were seen in the fields whilst the coastal scrub (a couple of small bushes and reedy patch) produced 2 Ruppell's Warblers, a Reed Warbler and Nightingale! We didn't hang around long as we wanted to get to the Akrotiri area and headed off to Phassouri or Akrotiri Marsh as it seems to be known as now. As we turned off the motorway to head for the marsh we stopped to take a look at a bird sat up in a small area of vines. This proved to be our first Woodchat Shrike that showed well as it kept a look out from its prominent perch. Once at Phassouri we ventured to a hide overlooking the reed bed although this was pretty quiet apart from hordes of Reed Warblers singing and a couple of Penduline Tits; the latter only heard calling so we moved on to the second hide. This also produced few birds apart from a couple of Coots, Cattle Egrets and a fine, male Black-eared Wheatear perched on the fence. Although there was little activity from the hides the nearby flood was alive with Yellow Wagtails of various races along with a nice selection of waders and a flock of 13 Glossy Ibis. Waders included good numbers of Green and Wood Sandpipers as well as 2 Greenshank, a Snipe, Curlew and around a dozen Ruff. Little and Cattle Egrets were common in the area and as luck would have it a very nice Squacco Heron flew in as we were watching over the area. We also spotted our first Marsh Harrier, a Black Francolin

perched on top of a bank and masses of Swifts hawking low over the water. The low-flying Swifts allowed us to get some good views as they fed nearby and we managed to pick out a couple of Pallid Swift amongst them. Hoopoes also appeared to be all over the place and we couldn't help but see them. The nearby Rabbit Pools held a couple of Marsh Sandpipers, a Snipe and a Little Stint that dropped in briefly. We also spotted another Pallid Swift here amongst the flock of Common Swift. We stopped off for a coffee in Akrotiri looking over the salt lake and lines of Greater Flamingos including one group engaged in their comical courtship dance.



Hoopoe

Lady's Mile was quiet with only a couple of Kentish Plovers and a few gulls lingering which included a near adult Baltic Gull amongst the Yellow-legged Gulls. We also managed to locate 8 Short-toed Larks, 4 Tawny Pipits, Redstarts and Tree Pipits in the low-lying, coastal scrub. We started to make our way back towards Mandria but stopped off at Kensington Cliffs on route. This was a productive area with 2 Griffon Vultures seen well along with a Peregrine, 8 Alpine Swifts, Eastern Subalpine Warbler, 3 Red-rumped Swallows and a couple of Mediterranean Shags. As we continued to wind our way along the coastal road back to the motorway we also had a roadside female Black Francolin and a small covee of Chukars. The latter were only seen briefly as we joined the motorway but we needn't have worried as our next stop at Aspro Dam produced at least 4 Chukars that showed well. We also had our second Woodchat Shrike here along with 3 Ruppell's Warblers, Eastern Subalpine Warbler

and a couple of Stonechats. A couple of Isabelline Wheatears were seen at close range and a female Cyprus Wheatear flew along the dam wall. We also spotted our first Willow Warbler and another lovely Nightingale which we found to be common during the week. A large flock of Yellow-legged Gulls resting distantly on the water held a slightly darker adult gull which we assume was Heuglin's Gull. A last look at Mandria produced 2 Red-throated Pipits at the roadside, a Black Francolin crossing the road and around 40 Short-toed Larks.



Pallid Swift

### **26<sup>th</sup> March:**

Weather – Light winds, sunny and hot at the coast but cloudy and cool in the mountains with snow lying at higher levels.

We headed straight for Paphos this morning and took the path around the outer headland as the grounds didn't open until 08:30. 100's of Yellow Wagtails erupted from the grass whilst at least 12 Red-throated Pipits fed along the coastal strip with some showing exceptionally well. A couple of Black-eared Wheatears, Crested Larks and a Great Spotted Cuckoo were also seen well before we ventured inside the archaeological grounds. As before the area was alive with migrants with masses of Lesser Whitethroats along with a few Eastern Subalpine Warblers, at least 5 Ruppell's Warblers, Whitethroats and plenty of Nightingales. A couple of Little Egrets and a flock of Cormorants flew over whilst other aerial

sightings included 7+ Red-rumped Swallows and a Sand Martin. Hoopoes were again all over the place whilst other birds included Spanish Sparrow, Black-eared Wheatear and Tree Pipit. As we made our way back towards the gate we stopped to chat to a couple of birders and during our conversation was when we spotted a stunning male Caspian Stonechat. The distinctive wheatear-like tail pattern was obvious as the bird sallied after insects over the grassland nearby. This is a local rarity in Cyprus and turned out to be the second of the week after one being found at Phassouri the day before. We enjoyed a cup of coffee and set off for the Troodos Mountains as the forecast for the rest of the week was a bit mixed.



Caspian Stonechat

On route to Troodos we spotted good numbers of Cyprus Wheatears, including our first males in display and a brief raptor that was probably a Long-legged Buzzard. It didn't take us long from parking in the centre of Troodos to locate the Cypriot endemic races that occur here, even if the low cloud didn't allow much of a view of the scenery. The first endemic to be seen was the Coal Tit with its smoky plumage and large, black bib; quickly followed by Dorothy's Treecreeper, a sub-species of Short-toed Treecreeper. These were followed by glimpses of the local race of Jay which eventually showed well before the final one fell in the form of a male Crossbill that was singing from the top of one of the pines in the centre. We wandered around for a short while, noting masses of Siskin and our first Blackbirds before succumbing to the cold and making our way back down the hill. We stopped a couple of times as headed back down the mountains where we found a couple of super plants; the endemic Troodos Orchid and a stand of Purple Rockcress that carpeted a bare area of land slip. We stopped for a scan and look around a very attractive area known as the Stone of

Hasambules. This was a great spot and we soon noted 2 Bonelli's Eagles, a Sparrowhawk and another distant buteo species whilst amongst the cover we had Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, Wood Warbler and a showy Cetti's Warbler. Steve also spotted a skulking Cyprus Warbler which unfortunately slunk away into the undergrowth before anyone else saw it. There were lots of Serapia orchids in flower as well as some superb *Ophrys Umbilicata*. We continued back to the coast, picking up a Chukar by the road before exploring the area near Paphos sewage works which produced a Common Sandpiper and a Great Crested Grebe on the sea.



Red-throated Pipit

### **27<sup>th</sup> March:**

Weather – Light westerly winds with some thundery showers but mostly hot and sunny.

An early morning stroll at Mandria produced a couple of Stone Curlews near the apartments before breakfast. Once all together we slowly drove around the coastline near our apartments picking up a couple of Laughing Doves on the edge of the village. The usual array of Yellow Wagtail races and a flock of Short-toed Larks were seen along with Tawny Pipits and Isabelline Wheatears. A female Marsh Harrier flew through which was a good sign so we made our way towards Timi Beach along a coastal track. This turned out to be a bit too rough for the car but our luck was certainly in as Bob spotted a male Pallid Harrier

coming low over the fields. We turned the car round and gave chase although the harrier was motoring through. We got some brief but very good views of it as it headed low east. Delighted with this we continued on to Timi Beach where we found 3 Spotted Redshanks, a Black-tailed Godwit, 15 Black-winged Stilts and a few Little Ringed Plovers. 2 Alpine Swifts were also noted overhead. We began to make our way north toward Polis along an inland route that took us past Thalatra Gorge. The road to this site had seen some severe landslides and it was impassable further along although we did manage to get far enough down, to view a cliff face where we found a perched Long-legged Buzzard. This eventually took to the air and we got some flight views. During our wait we managed to pick up masses of Spanish Sparrows and an Eastern Bonelli's Warbler whilst the hillside held lots of Serapia orchids and Giant Orchid that had gone past their best but were never-the-less impressive. We continued on to Evretou Reservoir which appeared pretty devoid of life but a walk along a track leading along an adjacent hillside produced a nice variety of birds including a male - and female Orphean Warbler, 2 Great Spotted Cuckoos, a Long-legged Buzzard and 2 distant Bonelli's Eagles. We also had a ringtail Hen Harrier heading north as we waited for our lunch at a nearby restaurant.



Eastern Bonelli's Warbler

After lunch we continued on to Polis and the Baths of Aphrodite that were very busy with tourists although the nearby campsite which usually holds most of the migrants was quiet

for people and busy with birds with at least 10 Eastern Bonelli's Warblers and 4 or 5 Cyprus Wheatears. Time was now ticking on so we made our way down various small roads to Mavroklympos Dam where we arrived around an hour before sunset. This turned out to be a good move on our part as by the dam we found a Wood Warbler, Eastern Subalpine Warbler and a superb male Cyprus Warbler that we all got to see well. A Marsh Harrier was also seen moving through before we settled in for a wait a little below the dam for the owls. A couple of calls as the light was fading alerted us to their presence before it all went quiet for another 20 minutes. Then the action started as the calling became more persistent and before long we were getting some stunning views of 2 birds perched on wires over the road; absolutely brilliant and rounding the day off nicely with good views of all 3 endemics in the same day.



Isabelline Wheatear

### **28<sup>th</sup> March:**

Weather – A light westerly wind in the morning increased to a moderate wind in the afternoon with sun in the morning becoming cloudy in the afternoon; around 18 / 19 degrees.

We travelled across to the Larnaca area this morning and made our way to Spiros Pool which produced a nice array of birds including 40 – 50 Ruff, 4 Little Stints, 2 Greenshank, Kentish Plover, 2 Spur-winged Plovers and a Stone Curlew. Lots of Greater Flamingos were present along with 15 Slender-billed Gulls (some with a strong pink flush underneath) and 3 Little Gulls. A Little Tern was also present whilst both migrant Eastern Subalpine and

Ruppell's Warbler were found in the very limited scrub. A pair of Spectacled Warblers also performed well as they were busy feeding young. The Waterworks Pool was pretty quiet with just 3 Tufted Ducks, a Little Grebe and a Baltic Gull present although at least 8 Spur-winged Lapwings were around the banks. We also spotted a lone Lapwing which was the one and only of the trip. A Marsh Harrier was seen on the approach along with hordes of Yellow Wagtails, a Black Francolin and Spectacled Warbler. A small pool at Yialos Village held a nice flock of 10 Marsh Sandpipers, a Spotted Redshank and 3 Green Sandpipers whilst across the road we had 3 Garganey and a Shoveler in the distance.



Greater Flamingo

We decided to head back towards base but call in at Lady's Mile, Limassol which was more productive today with 2 Armenian Gulls, a couple of Caspian Gulls, an adult Baltic Gull, 2 Black-headed Gulls and of course plenty of Yellow-legged Gulls. 10 Black-winged Stilts were also present on the small roadside pool. After this nice haul of larids we made our way to Bishop's Pool where we soon located a couple of Ferruginous Ducks as well as a few Teal, Moorhen and Coot. A walk around the pool produced a skulking Water Rail in a reedy corner as well as a Kingfisher and Grey Wagtail making it feel more like Scotland than the Mediterranean. Migrants included Reed Warbler, Eastern Bonelli's Warbler and Redstarts whilst once again Hoopoes were a common sight. Along the access track we also had views of a Black Francolin re-affirming that we were in the Mediterranean after all. Our final stop on the way back to Mandria was at Kurium Stadium where we had some good views of 2 male and a female Cretzchmar's Buntings, 3 or 4 Serin and a male and female Ruppell's Warbler rounding off a diverse and interesting day.



Cretzchmar's Bunting

### **29<sup>th</sup> March:**

Weather – Moderate to strong easterly winds and cloud first thing turning to heavy rain for a couple of hours before drying up.

We headed straight for Timi Beach this morning where the roadside pool held 3 Marsh Sandpipers, 3 Spotted Redshanks, a Greenshank, Green Sandpipers and 6 Spur-winged Plovers. Parking near the flooded picnic area we took a walk along a soggy, sticky track running around the edge of the trees. This proved excellent for birds with Squacco Heron, 10 Little Egrets, 2 Grey Herons and a Glossy Ibis amongst the waterbirds whilst both an Osprey and a Marsh Harrier flew over as we made our way round. The undergrowth was alive with Yellow Wagtails and 2 stunning, male Citrine Wagtails put in a brief appearance before disappearing amongst a tangle of branches. On the way back though a Citrine Wagtail flew ahead of us and was relocated on the edge of the pools amongst lots of Yellow Wagtails by the car which was handy as it had started raining. Initially whilst searching amongst the wagtails we also spotted a stunning, male Collared Flycatcher that showed very well, feeding low down by the track. We also picked up a Kingfisher, 2 Snipe, Eastern Subalpine Warblers, Ruppell's Warbler and Song Thrush. After this exciting start we continued on to Paphos although the rain appeared to have set in and we retired to a harbour side café in anticipation that the rain would eventually stop.



Ruppell's Warbler

Around midday things did appear to brighten up a little and we made our way into the archaeological grounds to find a bit of shelter and watch the birds under cover. Nightingales and Redstarts were in evidence as we made our way for cover and once sheltering we soon picked our first Eastern Orphean Warbler of the day along with a couple of Cretzchmar's Buntings that were showing very well indeed. Masses of Lesser Whitethroats were still present along with good numbers of Hoopoes but these were mere fillers for a long list of mouth-watering birds that we picked up over the following couple of hours. These included 3 Masked Shrikes, a Woodchat Shrike, Caspian Stonechat along with Stonechat and Whinchat; Isabelline and Black-eared Wheatears, a female Blue Rock Thrush, Nightingales and a Wryneck. Warblers included around 7 Ruppell's, 3 Eastern Orphean, Eastern Subalpine Warbler and a Savi's Warbler just after Bob had located our first Masked Shrike. Other goodies included a Great Spotted Cuckoo and a female Pallid Harrier whilst 17 Gull-billed Terns flew past, heading east. Stone Curlew and 2 Common Sandpipers added a bit of variety whilst Red-throated Pipits, Tawny Pipit, Tree Pipit and 60 Short-toed Larks as well as hordes of Yellow Wagtails made for a very exciting bird-filled afternoon. We left Paphos in the late afternoon and drove around the coast at Mandria for the final half an hour where we managed to locate a couple of Water Pipits along with Tawny Pipits, lots of Wheatears, a male Masked Shrike and a Curlew – phew!



Masked Shrike

### **30<sup>th</sup> March:**

Weather – Light south-easterly winds, mostly cloudy with occasional light showers; warm.

As our flights were not until last afternoon it meant that we had most of the day to bird after packing. As Steve went out to pop a bag into the back of the car, an unusual call caught his attention as 2 Blue-cheeked Bea-eaters flew over heading east. A brilliant addition to the list but terrible views and single observer was somewhat disappointing. A quick spin around Mandria produced Tawny Pipits, Short-toed Larks and a couple of Shag. Paphos had been so good to us that it seemed the best way to finish the week, especially as the female Hooded Wheatear had been relocated. After spotting a Marsh Harrier on route we parked near the entrance gate and took the outer footpath around the outside of the archaeological grounds. A couple of Little Egrets were spotted way off-shore to the south whilst numerous Yellow Wagtails, Red-throated Pipits and a few Tawny Pipits were along the coast. Bob and Eppie opted for the offer of a lift around to the other side of the headland whilst Steve wandered round spotting a singing Great Reed Warbler on route whilst a Savi's Warbler was heard from the same location on the way back (along with the Great Reed that now remained hidden). On the edge of town along the shore the female Hooded Wheatear performed superbly as it sallied after insects in the manner of a Spotted Flycatcher and often landing within metres of any observers. We enjoyed this rarity for an hour or so before making our way back towards the entrance gate. 15 Glossy Ibis flew west past the headland whilst 2 male Pallid Harriers were seen with one heading over Paphos and the

other seen at close range hunting the grassland at the southern end. The grounds were alive with migrants once again with 2 Wood Warblers, Eastern Subalpine Warbler, Ruppell's Warbler and plenty of Nightingales soon located. 5 Purple Herons circled over and looked like they desperately wanted to stop but reluctantly carried on across the town. These were shortly followed by nice views of a male Collared Flycatcher which distracted us from the Cretzchmar's Bunting that was hopping along the path within a few feet! Other goodies included Great Spotted Cuckoo, 2 Masked Shrike, Woodchat Shrike; Isabelline, Cyprus and Eastern Black-eared Wheatear as well as the usual larks and pipits. The male Caspian Stonechat was still showing whilst 2 Whinchats were also picked up on our rounds. Finally 2 Spur-winged Plovers were seen in flight near the gate as we left to refuel before heading to our last stop in Cyprus at Timi Beach. We didn't venture along the muddy track this time but still spotted a Squacco Heron, 2 Wood Sandpipers, Spur-winged Plovers and Little Ringed Plover whilst 10 Curlews flew west as we packed our bags and headed for the airport after an excellent weeks birding.



Hooded Wheatear (female)

## Checklist

### Birds:

Great Crested Grebe:	One on the sea near Paphos sewage works on 26 <sup>th</sup>
Little Grebe:	Noted on the 28 <sup>th</sup> only
Shag ( <i>desmarestii</i> ):	Small numbers seen on 4 dates with regular sightings off Mandria
Cormorant:	Seen on 4 days during the week
Greater Flamingo:	Common at Limassol salt lake and at Akrotiri
Squacco Heron:	1 at Phassouri on 25 <sup>th</sup> and Timi Beach 29 <sup>th</sup> / 30 <sup>th</sup>
Cattle Egret:	Seen at Phassouri and also 2 over the apartments on the final morning
Little Egret:	Seen 5 out of the 7 days
Night Heron:	9 were seen at Paphos headland on 24 <sup>th</sup> and 12 heading west over Mandria on 27 <sup>th</sup>
Grey Heron:	Fairly common and seen almost every day
Purple Heron:	5 dropped in by Aspro Dam on 24 <sup>th</sup> and 5 circled Paphos headland on 30 <sup>th</sup>
Glossy Ibis:	15 at Phassouri on 25 <sup>th</sup> , 1 at Timi on 29 <sup>th</sup> and 15 heading west at Paphos headland on 30 <sup>th</sup>
Teal:	Small numbers seen on a couple of days
Garganey:	3 were seen at Akrotiri
Mallard:	Small numbers noted on 2 dates
Shoveler:	A drake was seen at Akrotiri
Ferruginous Duck:	2 were at Bishop'
Osprey:	1 heading north over Timi on 29 <sup>th</sup>
Marsh Harrier:	1 or 2 seen on 5 dates during the week
Hen Harrier:	A female was seen heading north over Evretou Reservoir on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Pallid Harrier:	4 birds were seen with a male at Mandria, 27 <sup>th</sup> followed by a female at Paphos headland, 29 <sup>th</sup> and 2 males there the following day

Sparrowhawk:	A single bird was seen at the Stone of Hasambules on 26 <sup>th</sup>
Long-legged Buzzard:	1 was seen at Thalatra Gorge and another near Evretou Reservoir, 28 <sup>th</sup>
Bonelli's Eagle:	2 were seen from the Stone of Hasambules and 2 by Evretou Reservoir
Kestrel:	Common and seen every day
Peregrine:	1 was seen at Kensington Cliffs on 25 <sup>th</sup>
Chukar:	Quite common and seen most days
Black Francolin:	Regularly heard but also seen on a few occasions around Mandria, Phassouri and Bishop's Pool
Quail:	Heard at Mandria on 24 <sup>th</sup>
Water Rail:	1 was seen at Bishop's Pool, 28 <sup>th</sup>
Moorhen:	Small numbers seen on 3 dates
Coot:	Noted on 2 days during the week
Stone Curlew:	Seen almost every day with the maximum being 8 at Mandria on 24 <sup>th</sup>
Black-winged Stilt:	Seen at Timi Beach and Lady's Mile
Little Ringed Plover:	Seen most days
Kentish Plover:	Small numbers were seen on 3 dates
Spur-winged Plover:	Seen at Akrotiri, Timi Beach and Paphos headland
Lapwing:	1 was at the Water Works Pool, Larnaca on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Little Stint:	1 at Rabbit Pools, 25 <sup>th</sup> and 4 at Spiros Pool on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Dunlin:	1 was on the shore at the north-west end of Paphos headland on 30 <sup>th</sup>
Turnstone:	1 was on the shore at the north-west end of Paphos headland on 30 <sup>th</sup> along with the Dunlin
Spotted Redshank:	3 were at Timi Beach, 27 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> and another was seen at Larnaca on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Greenshank:	Small numbers were seen on 3 dates
Common Sandpiper:	1 was near Paphos sewage works and 2 were on Paphos headland

Green Sandpiper:	Common and seen on 4 dates
Wood Sandpiper:	Fairly common and seen on 3 out of 7 days
Marsh Sandpiper:	2 were seen at the Rabbit Pools, 25 <sup>th</sup> whilst 10 were in the Larnaca area, 28 <sup>th</sup> and 3 were at Timi Beach on 29 <sup>th</sup>
Curlew:	1 was seen at Phassouri, 25 <sup>th</sup> whilst another was at Mandria, 29 <sup>th</sup> and 10 flew west at Timi Beach on 30 <sup>th</sup>
Black-tailed Godwit:	1 was at Timi Beach on 27 <sup>th</sup>
Snipe:	1 was seen at the Rabbit Pools, 25 <sup>th</sup> and 2 at Timi on 29 <sup>th</sup>
Ruff:	2 at Phassouri, 25 <sup>th</sup> and around 40 – 50 at Spiros Pool on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Yellow-legged Gull:	Common and seen every day
Armenian Gull:	A couple of adults / near adults were seen at Lady's Mile on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Caspian Gull:	A couple of birds were at Lady's Mile on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Baltic Gull:	1 was at Lady's Mile, 25 <sup>th</sup> followed by an adult in the Larnaca area and a second individual at Lady's Mile on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Heuglins Gull	A large, dark-backed gull amongst the Yellow-legged Gulls on Aspro Dam on 25 <sup>th</sup> may have been this species
Black-headed Gull:	Small numbers seen on a couple of dates
Slender-billed Gull:	15 were at Spiros Pool, Larnaca on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Little Gull:	3 were at Spiros Pool on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Gull-billed Tern:	17 flew east past Paphos headland on 29 <sup>th</sup>
Little Tern:	1 was at Spiros Pool on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon:	Common
Wood Pigeon:	Common
Collared Dove:	Common and seen daily
Laughing Dove:	A couple were seen in Mandria on 27 <sup>th</sup>
Great Spotted Cuckoo:	Seen at Paphos headland and near Evretou Reservoir
Cuckoo:	1 was seen at Anarita on 24 <sup>th</sup> whilst others were heard 26 <sup>th</sup> / 27 <sup>th</sup>

Little Owl:	1 was seen at the roadside between Anarita and Nata Ford on 24 <sup>th</sup>
Short-eared Owl:	1 was seen over Spiros Pool on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Cyprus Scops Owl:	2 were seen very well below Mavroklympos Dam, 27 <sup>th</sup>
Swift:	Common and seen every day
Pallid Swift:	3 were seen amongst masses of Common Swift at Phassouri on 25 <sup>th</sup>
Alpine Swift:	Seen at Kensington Cliffs, Mandria and Timi
Kingfisher:	1 was seen at Bishop's Pool on 28 <sup>th</sup> and another at Timi Beach on 29 <sup>th</sup>
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater:	2 flew over Mandria calling whilst heading east early morning of 30 <sup>th</sup>
Hoopoe:	Common and seen every day in good numbers
Wryneck:	Seen on Paphos headland on 3 dates
Crested Lark:	Common on open ground
Short-toed Lark:	Seen almost daily with the largest flock being 60+ on Paphos headland on 29 <sup>th</sup>
Sand Martin:	Small numbers seen on 3 dates
Swallow:	Common
Red-rumped Swallow:	Seen every day of the trip
House Martin:	Seen daily
Tawny Pipit:	Seen most days in small numbers
Tree Pipit:	Seen almost daily in small numbers
Meadow Pipit:	Common
Red-throated Pipit:	Noted on 5 days out of 7 with at least 12 at Paphos headland, 26 <sup>th</sup>
Water Pipit:	2 were seen at Mandria on 29 <sup>th</sup>
Yellow Wagtail:	Masses of Yellow Wagtails were seen throughout the week with the commonest subspecies being <i>feldegg</i> although we also noted <i>flava</i> , <i>thunbergi</i> and <i>dombroski</i> and <i>superciliaris</i> races (the latter 2 are thought to be intergrades).

Citrine Wagtail:	2 were at Timi Beach, 29 <sup>th</sup>
Grey Wagtail:	1 was at Bishop's Pool on 28 <sup>th</sup>
White Wagtail:	Common and seen every day
Nightingale:	Seen virtually every day and common
Redstart:	Seen most days and a common passage migrant
Stonechat:	Small numbers were seen on 4 dates
Caspian Stonechat:	A striking male was found at Paphos headland on 26 <sup>th</sup> and was still present on 30 <sup>th</sup>
Whinchat:	Small numbers were seen at Paphos headland
Isabelline Wheatear:	Common, especially at the beginning of the week and seen every day
Wheatear:	Common although was probably outnumbered by the above species at the beginning of the week
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear:	Common and seen every day
Cyprus Wheatear:	Seen on 5 out of 7 days; was commoner inland
Hooded Wheatear:	A female was seen on 30 <sup>th</sup> at Paphos, having been found a couple of days before
Blue Rock Thrush:	A female was seen on Paphos headland, 29 <sup>th</sup>
Blackbird:	Seen at Troodos on 27 <sup>th</sup>
Song Thrush:	A couple of shy individuals were at Timi Beach, 29 <sup>th</sup>
Blackcap:	Common and recorded daily
Eastern Orphean Warbler:	A couple were seen by Evretou Reservoir, 28 <sup>th</sup> and 3 were on Paphos headland on 29 <sup>th</sup>
Whitethroat:	Common and seen every day
Lesser Whitethroat:	Very common
Spectacled Warbler:	At least 3 were seen in the Larnaca area with 2 feeding young at a nest
Eastern Subalpine Warbler:	Common
Ruppell's Warbler:	Good numbers were seen with 5+ noted most days
Cyprus Warbler:	A male was seen briefly at Stone of Hasambules and another seen well at Mavroklympos Dam
Sardinian Warbler:	Very common

Zitting Cisticola:	Common and seen daily
Cetti's Warbler:	Common although much more often heard than seen
Reed Warbler:	Common at Phassouri reedbed with another seen at Mandria, 28 <sup>th</sup>
Great Reed Warbler:	1 was singing occasionally on Paphos headland on 30 <sup>th</sup>
Savi's Warbler:	A couple were on Paphos headland, 29 <sup>th</sup> / 30 <sup>th</sup> although they were typically elusive
Chiffchaff:	Very common
Willow Warbler:	Small numbers were seen on 3 days
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler:	Fairly common and seen on 4 dates with maximum site count being around 10 at the Baths of Aphrodite campsite
Wood Warbler:	Single birds were seen on 26 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> with 2 on 30 <sup>th</sup>
Collared Flycatcher:	Stunning males were seen at Timi, 29 <sup>th</sup> and Paphos headland on 30 <sup>th</sup>
Coal Tit (Cypristes):	The distinctive Cypriot subspecies was seen at Troodos
Great Tit:	Common
Penduline Tit:	Heard only at Phassouri
Short-toed Treecreeper (Dorothy's):	Seen at Troodos
Masked Shrike:	3 were on Paphos headland and 1 was at Mandria on 29 <sup>th</sup> with 2 seen at Paphos the following day
Woodchat Shrike:	Singles were seen near Limassol and at Paphos headland
Jay ( <i>glaszneri</i> ):	The Cypriot subspecies was seen at Troodos
Magpie:	Common
Hooded Crow:	Common
Starling:	2 of these winter visitors were on Paphos headland, on 30 <sup>th</sup>
House Sparrow:	Common
Spanish Sparrow:	Common although more localised than House Sparrow
Chaffinch:	Noted on 5 out of 7 days
Serin:	Small numbers were noted on 2 days

Siskin:	Very common at Troodos
Greenfinch:	Common
Goldfinch:	Common
Linnet:	Common and seen daily
Crossbill ( <i>guillemardii</i> ):	Noted at Troodos with good views of a singing male
Cretzchmar's Bunting:	Seen on the last 3 days with at least 6 on 29 <sup>th</sup>
Corn Bunting:	Common and seen daily

### **Butterflies and Moths:**

Eastern Festoon  
 Common Swallowtail  
 Large White  
 Small White  
 Orange Tip  
 Clouded Yellow  
 Paphos Blue  
 Painted Lady

### **Flowering Plants:**

Barbary Nut  
 White Asphodel  
 Purple Rockcress  
 Serapia  
 Ophrys umbilicata  
 Troodos Orchid  
 Giant Orchid  
 Naked Man Orchid  
 Three-horned Stock