

CYPRUS

27th March - 3rd April 2011



male Cyprus Wheatear

all photos: Keith Grant

Leaders / Guides:

Keith Grant (*Travelling Naturalist*)
Gary Elton (*Limosa Holidays*)

Group Members:

Michael Bowtell
Jean Cooke
Martyn & Avise Cooper
Malcolm Dixon
Raymond & Pamela Gooding
Alison Marriott
Christopher Mason
Stanley & June Perry
Jennifer Wootten

Driver:

Lenia (collection from the airport)
Demitri (rest of the week)

Daily Diary:

Sunday 27th March

Arrival

Warm & sunny

Lenia met us off the flight at Larnaca Airport, and we were soon on our way to Paphos, noting small numbers of Swallows, Swifts and Kestrels en route. We arrived at the hotel late afternoon, checking in and meeting again prior to dinner, for a brief overview and plans for the days ahead.

Monday 28th March

Paphos Headland

Warm & sunny

A leisurely start to the day, with the majority of the group taking a short walk before breakfast, which gave us the first sightings of one of the local Kingfishers, Corn Buntings, Crested Larks and White Wagtails.

After breakfast we reassembled again at around 8.30 for our walk around the headland. This has proved in the past to be both productive from a bird perspective, and nicely paced after the previous day's travelling. Isabelline and Northern Wheatears could be found together on the nearby field areas and shoreline rocks, and a single Tawny Pipit and several Cretzschmar's Buntings were also noted, with our first *feldegg* wagtails also seen well. A flock of seven Purple Herons flew over us heading north, followed several minutes later by a male Pallid Harrier. This bird had unfortunately arrived low over the sea and appeared in view for only a lucky few, as it rapidly flew over the headland and was lost to view. An equally brief Spur-winged Plover was seen in flight as it moved to a position on the headland fields out of sight for us, although we did very well for this species during the week so we needn't have worried. Several butterflies were also noted, including Swallowtail and Clouded Yellow. Our morning walk concluded at the harbour and Theo's restaurant, where we enjoyed as usual an excellent lunch.

After lunch we entered the nearby world heritage site, where we were able to view the amazing Roman Mosaics on show there, followed by a selection of good birds. With several tracks and paths leading away from the Mosaics into the nearby fields, several routes were taken by the group. Birds encountered during the afternoon included Black Redstart, Wryneck, Hoopoe, Ruppell's and Sardinian Warblers. A roosting flock of eleven Night Herons had been disturbed from their day time roost, circling over us several times as they attempted to resettle. The distinct call of bee-eaters, prompted us to search above us, which revealed a small flock of nine European Bee-eaters, which showed well for us for the next few minutes.

A Short-eared Owl was seen being mobbed by crows, this was followed as we returned back along the coast path by several lucky members of the group gaining envious views of a singing Quail perched in the open on a rock near the path. The walk back also gave us great views of our first Black-eared Wheatear, a male, perched on the perimeter fence alongside several Northern's, and a chance to admire the hundreds of Barbary-Nut iris's in flower.



One of the mosaics



Hoopoe



Tawny Pipit



Cyprus Gladiolus



Black-eared Wheatear



Savigny's Tree Frog



Kotschy's Bee-Orchid



Cyprus Starred Agama

**Tuesday 29th March
Warm and sunny**

Asprokremnos pools & along the south coast to Akrotiri

The optional pre breakfast walk this morning took the form it was going to take for most of the week, with a ridiculously near dark, early option, and a more sensibly timed one which started some ¾ of an hour later. Both groups enjoyed a nice selection of birds including Cretzschmar's Buntings, Red-rumped Swallow, Sand Martin and scope filling views of a singing Nightingale.

Departure after breakfast was shortly after 8.30 with a new coach driver, Demitri taking over the wheel as it turned out for the remainder of the trip. We took the road east along the coast to the nearby Asprokremnos Dam and pools. Parking up near the pools we disembarked from the bus and were met almost immediately by the scratchy song of a Cyprus Warbler, which was found perched in the top of a small dead tree. The familiar sound of a nearby Zitting Cisticolla was joined by the equally familiar sound of a Cetti's Warbler, two species we were to encounter regularly throughout the trip.

The pools or should I say pool (only one had any water) appeared empty until a Coot swam into view. Levant Water Frogs called noisily around us and after several minutes of searching the vegetation around the pool edge a small crane was found. After a short wait this appeared in full view to be identified as Little Crane. Chukar partridges could also be heard calling and several of these smart looking birds were found in amongst the screed on the reservoir wall.

With time ticking by we moved on along the coast, stopping briefly for coffee, and then onto our lunch stop at Phasouri reed bed. Whilst the lunch was being laid out we viewed the nearby pools and reed bed. Several Wood Sandpipers and Ruff were at the waters edge with Ferruginous Ducks and Shoveler on the water. A vocal but elusive Black Francolin called throughout lunch and several Marsh Harriers and Buzzards were seen. A walk along the road after lunch saw us adding Stonechat to our list, and a surprise in the form of a 1st year male Blue Rock Thrush perched in the open on a roadside building.

Our next stop was the Akrotiri Salt Lake where a distant flock of several hundred Greater Flamingos were seen. We stopped further along the road for orchids, enjoying species such as *Serapias bergonii*, *Orchis fragans*, and the Cyprus endemic *Ophrys kotschyi*.

We moved on, driving slowly along Lady's Mile checking the shallow roadside lagoons which we found surprisingly quiet with two Ringed Plovers and four Little Egret's the only birds seen. A brief stop at Zakaki Pool produced several Pochard and Ferruginous Duck, and larger numbers of Coots, though with the sun directly in our faces viewing conditions were far from ideal.

Wednesday 30th March **Warm and sunny**

Akamas & Baths of Aphrodite, Evretou Reservoir

The pre-breakfast walks produced nearly forty Night Herons in four groups moving along the coast, with Short-toed Larks and a female Blue Rock Thrush also noteworthy.

After breakfast we drove north to the Baths of Aphrodite, at the base of the Akamas Peninsula. On arrival we found several coach parties had already disembarked, so to avoid them we decided not to visit the grotto but instead to head straight along the path that runs along the top of the caravan park. Our first Cyprus Wheatears were soon encountered, perched in the open, giving their distinct buzzing song. Several frustratingly brief views were had of *Phylloscopus* warblers in the trees below us, before the first was seen well and positively identified as a Bonelli's Warbler, and as usual with these things, once one was seen several others followed. A Little Owl was found in amongst the rock on the face of the old quarry, with several others heard calling nearby.

We returned to the bus and drove up through the small village of Neo Chorio to Smiyes Chapel for lunch. A brief walk here produced very little bird wise, other than a confiding tailless Nightingale that showed well on several occasions on the track, though a good selection of orchids were found including *Orchis intacta & syriaca* and *Ophrys bornmuelleri, levantina, umbilicata, attica, funerea & sicula*.

After lunch we moved on to explore the upper reaches of the nearby Evretou Reservoir. As we walked along from the bus several distant raptors were noted, and closer inspection revealed them to be Long-legged Buzzards. The birds were very distant but the light was excellent and all the salient features could be clearly seen, with a Sparrowhawk joining them briefly to harass one of them. We walked along the track leading down by the side of the reservoir, noting a Grey Heron (the only one of the trip) and enjoying the array of flowers and orchids on the banks that included stands of both Naked Man and Giant Orchids. A large raptor appeared over the nearby ridge and flew towards us, identified immediately as an immature Bonelli's Eagle, flying over and landing on the top of a small tree. It stayed in view for several minutes, at one stage being mobbed by Magpies, which made us appreciate its size even more. We returned back to the bus, hearing several Black Francolins calling, but as the previous day they remained hidden from view.

Thursday 31st March **Warm and sunny**

Asprokremnos pools, Dhiarizos Valley, Troodos

Pre-breakfast this morning produced two Stone-Curlews on the rocks near the headland, obviously unsure of their surroundings, one bird flew inland whilst the other kept moving a hundred yards or so at a time along the coast.

After breakfast we made a return visit to the Asprokremnos pools, where once again the Little Crake was seen, along with Cyprus Warbler and Chukar Partridge. A ringtail Hen Harrier appeared over a distant ridge above us, two Alpine Swift and another calling Little Owl were also noteworthy. Butterflies included several Common and Paphos Blues. A coffee stop followed at Kidasi, where a calling Black Francolin by the road looked once again as if it would elude us, but as we entered the field where it was calling it took off giving those present a brief but good flight view. We enjoyed coffee and some excellent local cake (strongly recommended by the proprietor) during which Stan pointed out four distant large raptors that were heading towards us. They were Griffon Vultures which indeed came closer, in fact right over the top of us!

We moved on to Agios Nikalaos for lunch, enjoying a nice selection of orchids, plus our first Masked Shrike. Whilst I promised not to mention this, some say promises are made to be broken and the orchid admirers had returned to the bus to find the rest of the group had gone off in search of a

churring nightjar! Unfortunately churring nightjars in the middle of the day are very rare in Cyprus and to find it was a distant agricultural vehicle making the noise after their walk was of little consolation though some what unsurprising!

After lunch we made our way up into the Troodos to Mount Olympus, stopping to admire a pair of roadside Masked Shrikes and some flighty Serins, before arriving at our mountain top destination. Some traces of snow still remained around the car park and immediate areas, as we walked out admiring the carpet of Cyprus Crocus growing between the trees. Birds appeared as hoped, with the local races of Jay, Coal Tit and Short-toed Treecreeper all seen well, and a pair of the latter watched taking nest material into their nest behind the split bark of a tree. Returning to the bus we were treated to several pairs of the Cypriot race of Crossbills in the trees on the opposite side of the road, with at least two of them appearing to be nest building.



Cyprus Warbler



Ophrys levantina



Black-headed Wagtail



Spur-winged Plover

Friday 1st April Paphos Sewage Treatment Works, Anarita Park, Nata, Kidasi Warm and sunny, becoming increasingly hotter

The day started as usual with two pre-breakfast walks, one heading east to the headland the other going west past the Tombs of the Kings. Both had a selection of expected species, though the first group also added Stone Curlew and Ortolan Bunting to their list, the latter seen well in the headland field.

We left again after breakfast, as usual shortly after 8.30, with our first stop being the sewage farm near Paphos (it now really felt like a birding trip!) Our visit there last year had been curtailed due to the building work being carried out there, the results of which we could now see, with new more modern settling beds, largely deep and unfortunately relatively bird less, though we did see a Spur-winged Plover close by and several Hoopoes along the entrance track.

Our next stop was the quarry at Anarita Park, where two Great Spotted Cuckoos were the first birds seen flying noisily across in front of us as we disembarked from the bus. We walked along the track to look down on the quarry, with a pair of Red-rumped Swallows giving us great views as they flew in and out of their nesting tunnel. Several more Alpine Swifts, Sardinian and Cyprus Warblers, Ortolan and Cretzschmar's Buntings were also seen. A welcome coffee stop followed near Nata, after which we drove down to stop at the nearby ford across the Xeros Potamus. Scanning the river bed here revealed three Stone-Curlews and a Little Ringed Plover in amongst the large pebbles and several examples of Loose-flowered Orchid were also found nearby.

With today being the hottest day so far the exposed river bed was not really the place for lunch, but a short explorative drive up the other side of the valley revealed a suitably sheltered area nearby. Whilst lunch was being prepared we looked out over the valley picking out four distant kestrels hunting together over the hillside and some farm buildings. From their behaviour we thought these to be Lesser Kestrels, but they were unfortunately far too far away for a positive ID. After lunch we drove up into the higher mountain area again, hoping for roadside wheatears or shrikes, and to look and photograph the Cyprus Rockcress (*Arabis cypria*), which we had noted growing at the higher level the day before, after which we returned back to finish the day at the old quarry near Kidasi. This site was disappointingly quiet, though a distant raptor proved to be another Griffon Vulture.

We returned back to the hotel, and with several hours of daylight still remaining several of us went for a walk along the fence edge, which was productive adding Great Egret and Orphean Warbler to the trip list with other birds seen including four species of wheatear, Masked Shrike, Short-toed Lark and Hoopoe.

Saturday 2nd April

Cape Drepanum

Windy and cloudy with rain developing later, clearing to give a bright sunny finish to the day

We woke to a windy, cloudy start to the day which was to prove beneficial from the bird perspective, with several groups of Little Egrets noted moving along the coast, along with a flock of nine Spoonbills. Passerine movement was also evident with *flava* & *feldegg* wagtails, Short-toed Larks and buntings noted in larger numbers than on previous days.

After the heat of the day before, Demitri's prediction of rain unfortunately finally came true, though we were able to spend an hour or so exploring the headland at Cape Drepanum first. Large numbers of wagtails were immediately evident, with *feldegg*, *dombrowskii* and *flava* races specifically identified and several hybrid types and females left unassigned. Short toed Larks, Cretzschmar's and Ortolan Buntings were again noted. Other birds here included a Purple Heron and a northward bound group of four Glossy Ibis. We could see the rain approaching so we retired for coffee in a nearby taverna, whilst we looked out over Koppos Island and the small colony of Yellow-legged Gulls that breed there. A Peregrine appeared, flying out from the mainland to disappear out of view on to the island. The rain unfortunately was now showing no sign of easing, so we reluctantly decided to go back to the hotel to have our lunch, and wait for a break in the weather.

After lunch the weather started to improve, although with the cloud and rain heading north we decided we would be better staying around the headland area, rather than risking catching up with it again!

Several of the group went in search of flowers whilst the rest of us revisited the headland and the area around the Mosaic site. The sun was now out, encouraging the birds into the open and Orphean Warbler and Common Whitethroat were among the first birds seen. A passing birder informed us that a male Collared Flycatcher was on show a short distance away, and a brisk walk to the area ensured we were enjoying great views of it several minutes later. Pleased with our success we carried on round the site adding Sedge and Subalpine Warbler, Nightingale, Masked Shrike and Red-rumped Swallow to the afternoon's tally. With the day rapidly passing and people still needing to pack for our departure tomorrow, we reluctantly started to make our way back to the hotel. At this point a casual chat to a birding couple regarding the location of the Collared Flycatcher revealed they had seen two Greater Sandpipers on the point of the headland twenty minutes earlier, and a rapid walk there by half the group revealed that the birds were fortunately still there, and concluded a very successful afternoon.

The evening was spent in the company of George and Deborah, our ground agents in Cyprus, who took us to a local village taverna for a traditional meze meal.

Sunday 3rd April

Paphos Sewage Treatment Works, Larnaca Lagoons & departure

Grey and showery day, with some brighter periods

A shorter, more leisurely, walk this morning proved quiet bird-wise, with the light poor and the cloud cover seeming to quell bird activity, though a Tree and Tawny Pipit were noteworthy.

After breakfast we loaded the bus with our luggage for our journey onto Larnaca for our flight home. Demitri had decided not to bring the trailer for the luggage due to the threat of rain which it transpired was a good move for more than one reason. We had decided to revisit the sewage works, having learnt about an area at the rear of the works where sludge was being deposited. The track there looked muddy and as we were in our 'going home clothes' we were reluctant to walk along it, but as we had no trailer in tow we were able to drive along in the bus which proved an excellent hide. Birds immediately on view included five Spur-winged Plovers, Black-winged Stilt, Green Sandpiper, Ruff and Little Stint and an estimated hundred or so *flava*-type wagtails feeding on the spread slurry bed in front of us. Searching through these produced two Red-throated Pipits, both males, which was a

species we'd been hoping for all week. We then made the motorway journey to Larnaca, and the lagoons close to the airport near Meneou. We made several stops, the first a roadside stop overlooking the corner of one of the lagoons, where a selection of waders included twenty Marsh Sandpipers and eight Greenshank, which was a useful comparison, plus Black-winged Stilts and Ruff. Our next stop at the artificial tanks involved a walk out through the rain to the bird-watching hide overlooking them. Several Spur-winged Plovers greeted us, with a group of gulls on the bank in front of us including one Slender-billed Gull and two Baltic Gulls. Wildfowl here included three Garganey together with Shoveler, Teal and Ferruginous Ducks. Two summer-plumaged Black-necked Grebes were very much a bonus, found feeding at the back of one of the tanks.

We walked back to the bus, seeing several singing Spectacled Warblers on the salt marsh either side of us, with a pristine male Whinchat flying past and landing briefly on a nearby bush for us as well. We drove on and stopped for lunch at a picnic site near the old terminal buildings, though spending most of it trying to shelter from the rain again. After lunch the rain eased and we looked across the nearby lagoon, where several hundred Greater Flamingos were present along with more Slender-billed Gulls. We then made the short drive to the airport terminal, where we checked in for our flight home.



Troodos foothills above Agios Nikalaos

Species Lists:

The various species lists below use the following references:

Birds: We have used the worldwide English names and systematic order as recommended by the I.O.C., and published in *Birds of the World – Recommended English Names* (Gill, F. & Wright, M., 2006, updated 2008).

Also: *Collins Bird Guide* (Svensson, L., Grant, P.J., Mullarney, K. & Zetterström, D., 1999).

Mammals: We have used the suggested worldwide English names and systematic order as found in *Mammals of the World, A Checklist* (Duff, A. & Lawson, A., 2004).

Also: *Collins Field Guide: Mammals of Britain & Europe* (Macdonald, D. & Barrett, P., 1993).

Amphibians and Reptiles:

Collins Field Guide: Reptiles & Amphibians of Britain & Europe (2nd edn., Arnold, E.N. & Ovenden, D.W., 2002)

Also: *Amphibians & Reptiles of Northern Cyprus* (Atatür, M.K. & Göçmen, B., 2001, www.bornova.ege.edu.tr).

Snake Species in Cyprus (Antoniou, A.L., www.cosmosnet.net/cyprus/explore/3snake.htm).

Butterflies:

Butterflies of Europe, New Field Guide & Key (Lafranchis, T., 2004)

Also: *Eddie John's Butterflies of Cyprus* (John, E., www.grayling.dircon.co.uk/index.html)

Dragonflies:

Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Britain & Europe (Dijkstra, K-D.B., 2006)

Flowers: *Mediterranean Wild Flowers* (Blamey, M. & Grey-Wilson, C., 1993)

The Orchids of Cyprus (Christofides, Y., 2001)

Orchids of Europe, North Africa & the Middle East (3rd edn., Delforge, P., 2006)

Alternate names are separated by '/' and optional names are enclosed by '[.]'.

BIRDS - AVES**GROUSE, PHEASANTS & allies - Phasianidae**

Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar* : noted on 4 days with 3 Asprokremnos pools on 29th, 2 Neo Chorio (Smiyies Chapel) on 30th, 4 Asprokremnos pools on 31st, 2 Paphos Sewage Treatment Works 2 Nata Ford on 1st.

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* : noted on 5 days, heard Phasouri reedbed on 29th & Evretou Reservoir on 30th, 1 seen several heard near Kidasi on 31st, heard Nata Ford on 1st & Cape Drepanum on 2nd.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* : noted on 4 days with several heard & 1 seen close by Paphos Headland on 28th, heard Paphos Headland on 30th, 31st, & 2nd.

GEESE, SWANS & DUCKS - Anatidae

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* : noted on 3 days with 1 Zakaki Pool on 29th, a pair Evretou Reservoir on 30th, 10 Larnaca "hide pools" on 3rd.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* : noted on 2 days with 6 Phasouri reedbed on 29th, 8 Larnaca "hide pools" 30 Larnaca Saltlake on 3rd.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* : 3 Larnaca "hide pools" on 3rd is our only record.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* : 8 Larnaca "hide pools" on 3rd is our only record.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* : 3 Zakaki Pool on 29th is our only record.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* : noted on 2 days with 3 Phasouri reedbed 1 Zakaki Pool on 29th, 3 Larnaca "hide pools" on 3rd.

GREBES - Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* : noted on 2 days with 6 Phasouri reedbed 2 Zakaki Pool on 29th, 5 Larnaca “hide pools” on 3rd.

Black-necked/Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* : 2 Larnaca “hide pools” on 3rd is our only record.

FLAMINGOS - Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* : noted on 2 days with 370 Akrotiri Saltlake on 29th, c.200 Larnaca Saltlake on 3rd.

IBISES & SPOONBILLS - Threskiornithidae

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* : 4 flew North Cape Drepanum on 2nd.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* : 9 flew North along Kefalos beach on 2nd.

HERONS & BITTERNES - Ardeidae

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* : noted on 2 days with 11 Paphos Headland on 28th, 4 flocks of 7, 8, 11 & 12 in off the sea Paphos Headland on 30th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* : 1 Evretou Reservoir on 30th is our only record.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* : noted on 3 days with 7 + 1 Paphos Headland on 28th, 2 Phasouri reedbed on 29th, 2N Paphos Headland (early am) 1N Cape Drepanum & 2N Paphos Headland (pm) on 2nd.

Great [White] Egret *Ardea alba* : 1 Kefalos beach on 1st is our only record.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* : noted on 3 days with 3 Phasouri reedbed & 3 Lady’s Mile on 29th, 8N Paphos Headland (early am) 8N Cape Drepanum 3N Paphos Headland (pm) on 2nd, 5N Paphos Headland (early am) & 25 Larnaca “hide pools” on 3rd.

FALCONS & allies - Falconidae

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* : 4 at great distance seen from Nata Ford on 1st were behaving as this species but distance too great for a positive ID.

Common/Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* : noted each day.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* : 1 Cape Drepanum on 2nd is our only record.

HAWKS, EAGLES & allies - Accipitridae

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* : noted on 2 days with 4 near Kidasi on 31st, 1 near Kidasi on 1st.

[Western] Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* : noted most days with a dark female Paphos Headland on 28th, 3 Phasouri reedbed on 29th, 1 dark bird N Paphos Headland on 30th, 2 N Paphos Headland on 31st, a male near Kidasi on 1st, a male N Paphos Headland on 2nd.

Hen/Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus* : a female Asprokremnos pools on 31st is our only record.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* : noted on 2 days with a male in off the sea at Paphos Headland on 28th, a male possibly this species at great distance Paphos Headland on 1st.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* : noted on 2 days with 1 Evretou Reservoir on 30th, 1 near Kidasi on 31st.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* : noted on 2 days with 4 Phasouri reedbed on 29th, 1 Geroskipou on 31st.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* : noted on 3 days with a pair Evretou Reservoir on 30th, 3 Asprokremnos pools on 31st, 1 near Kidasi on 1st.

Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus* : a pair south of Polis plus an immature at Evretou Reservoir on 30th.

RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS - Rallidae

Little Crake *Porzana parva* : 1 at Asprokremnos pools on 29th & 31st.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* : noted on 3 days with 3 Zakaki Pool on 29th, 2 Evretou Reservoir on 30th, 1 Asprokremnos pools on 31st.

Eurasian/Common Coot *Fulica atra* : noted on 3 days with many Phasouri Reedbed & Zakaki Pool on 29th, 1 Asprokremnos pools on 31st, c.50 Larnaca “hide pools” on 3rd.

STONE-CURLEWS / THICK-KNEES - Burhinidae

Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* : noted on 2 days with 2 Paphos Headland on 31st, 1 Paphos Headland 3 Nata Ford on 1st.

STILTS & AVOCETS - Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* : noted on 3 days with 1 Paphos Headland on 31st, 10N Kefalos beach on 2nd, 1 Paphos Sewage Treatment Works 10 Meneou & 5 Larnaca Saltlake on 3rd.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS - Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing/Plover *Vanellus spinosus* : noted on 3 days with 1 Paphos Headland on 28th, 1 Paphos Sewage Treatment Works on 1st, 5 Paphos Sewage Treatment Works 7 Larnaca “hide pools” on 3rd.

Ringed Plover : noted on 2 days with 2 Lady’s Mile on 29th, 2 Lakki on 30th.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* : single birds noted on 5 days, Phasouri reedbed on 29th, Kefalos beach on 31st, Nata Ford on 1st, Kefalos beach on 2nd, Larnaca “hide pools” on 3rd.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* : 2 Paphos Headland on 2nd is our only record.

SANDPIPERS, SNIPES & allies - Scolopacidae

[Eurasian] Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* : noted on 2 days, heard Kefalos beach on 28th, 1 Paphos Headland on 3rd.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* : 1N Kefalos beach on 2nd (with Black-winged Stilts).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* : 20 Meneou on 3rd is our only record.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* : noted on 2 days with 2 Kefalos beach on 1st, 8 Meneou on 3rd.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* : noted on 3 days with 1 Phasouri reedbed on 29th, 1 Anarita Park quarry 2 Kefalos beach on 1st, 1 Paphos Sewage Treatment Works on 3rd.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* : 3 Phasouri reedbed on 29th is our only record.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* : noted on 5 days with 2 Kefalos beach & Paphos Headland on 28th, then a single bird Kefalos beach on 29th, 31st - 2nd.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* : a single bird noted Kefalos beach on 30th - 31st.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* : 1 Paphos Sewage Treatment Works on 3rd is our only record.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* : noted on 3 days with 3 Phasouri reedbed on 29th, 1 Kefalos beach on 31st, 1 Paphos Sewage Treatment Works & 20 Meneou on 3rd.

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS - Laridae

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* : noted each day.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* : noted on 2 days with 6N Paphos Headland on 2nd, 2 Larnaca “hide pools” & 2 Larnaca Saltlake on 3rd.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* : 1 Larnaca “hide pools” & 6 Larnaca Saltlake on 3rd.

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* : 1 Larnaca “hide pools” & 6 Larnaca Saltlake on 3rd.

PIGEONS & DOVES - Columbidae

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* : noted each day.

[Common] Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* : noted each day.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* : noted each day.

CUCKOOS - Cuculidae

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* : 2 Anarita Park quarry on 1st is our only record.

OWLS - Strigidae

Little Owl *Athene noctua* : noted on 2 days with 1 seen plus others heard Akamas (Baths of Aphrodite) & also heard Neo Chorio (Smiyies Chapel) on 30th, heard Asprokremnos pools & Agios Nikalaos on 31st.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* : 1 Paphos Headland on 28th is our only record.

SWIFTS - Apodidae

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* : noted on 5 days with at least 4 over Paphos town on 27th, 1 Paphos Headland on 28th, 2 Asprokremnos pools on 29th & 31st, 2 Anarita Park quarry on 1st.

Common Swift *Apus apus* : noted each day.

KINGFISHERS - Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* : noted each day with 1 or 2 Kefalos beach - Paphos Headland.

BEE-EATERS - Meropidae

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* : 9 Paphos Headland on 28th is our only record.

HOOPOES - Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* : noted each day with at least 6 Paphos Headland on 28th, 2 Paphos Headland 8 Phasouri reedbed & 2 Zakaki Pool on 29th, at least 10 Paphos Headland on 30th, 2 Paphos Headland on 31st, 2 Paphos Sewage Treatment Works & 2 Kefalos beach on 1st, at least 6 Paphos Headland Kefalos beach & Cape Drepanum on 2nd, 2 Paphos Headland & 2 Paphos Sewage Treatment Works on 3rd.

WOODPECKERS - Picidae

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* : 1 Paphos Headland on 28th is our only record.

SHRIKES - Laniidae

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus* : noted on 3 days with singles en route & at Agios Nikalaos & a pair near Mandria on 31st, singles Paphos Headland & Kefalos beach on 1st, 1 Paphos Headland on 2nd.

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES - Corvidae

Eurasian Jay (endemic ssp) *Garrulus glandarius glaszneri* : several Mount Olympos on 31st.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* : noted each day.

Western Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula* : noted each day.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* : noted each day.

TITS & CHICKADEES - Paridae

Coal Tit (endemic ssp) *Periparus ater cypriotes* : several at Agios Nikalaos & Mount Olympos on 31st.

Great Tit *Parus major* : noted each day.

SWALLOWS & MARTINS - Hirundinidae

Sand Martin / Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* : noted on 2 days with 1N Kefalos beach & 2 Zakaki Pool on 29th, 1N (with other hirundines) Cape Drepanum on 2nd.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* : noted each day.

[Common] House Martin *Delichon urbicum* : noted each day.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* : noted on 5 days with 2 Paphos Headland on 28th, 3 Kefalos beach & 2 Asprokremnos pools on 29th, 1 Mandria on 31st, 2 Paphos Headland & a pair prospecting nest site Anarita Park quarry on 1st, at least 40N Cape Drepanum on 2nd.

LARKS - Alaudidae

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* : noted on 6 days with 2 Paphos Headland on 28th, 1 Kefalos beach on 30th, 7 Paphos Headland on 31st, at least 30N Paphos Headland - Kefalos beach on 1st, at least 50 Paphos Headland - Kefalos beach & Cape Drepanum on 2nd, 4 Paphos Headland on 3rd.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* : noted each day.

CISTICOLAS & allies - Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* : noted each day.

OLD WORLD WARBLERS - Sylviidae

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* : noted each day.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* : noted on 2 days with 3 Paphos Headland on 2nd, 1 singing Paphos Sewage Treatment Works on 3rd.

[Eurasian] Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* : several Asprokremnos pools & Zakaki Pool on 29th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* : noted on 2 days with 1 Phasouri reedbed on 29th, 1 Akamas (Baths of Aphrodite) on 30th.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* : noted most days.

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis* : at least 4 Akamas (Baths of Aphrodite) on 30th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* : noted in small numbers each day.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* : noted in small numbers most days, apparent influx on 1st.

Eastern Orphean Warbler *Sylvia crassirostris* : noted on 2 days with a male Kefalos beach on 1st & 2nd, a female Paphos Headland on 2nd.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* : 2 Paphos Headland on 2nd is our only record.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* : at least 4 in the saltmarsh scrub near Larnaca "hide pools" on 3rd.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* : noted on 3 days with 6 Paphos Headland on 28th, 1 Kefalos beach on 30th, a female Paphos Headland on 2nd.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* : noted most days.

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppelli* : noted on 2 days with at least 6 Paphos Headland on 28th, 1 Paphos Headland on 29th.

Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax* : noted on 3 days with 5 Asprokremnos pools on 29th, 2 there on 31st, at least 3 males Anarita Park quarry on 1st.

WRENS - Troglodytidae

[Winter] Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* : heard on 2 days near Agios Nikalaos on 31st & 1st.

TREECREEPERS - Certhiidae

Short-toed Treecreeper (endemic ssp) *Certhia brachydactyla dorothea* : excellent views of 3 on territory plus a pair nest building Mount Olympos on 31st.

THRUSHES - Turdidae

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* : noted on 5 days with 3 Paphos Headland on 28th, otherwise single birds Paphos Headland on 29th, Paphos Headland, Akamas (Baths of Aphrodite) & Neo Chorio (Smiyies Chapel) on 30th, en route on 31st, Paphos Headland on 1st.

OLD WORLD CHATS & FLYCATCHERS - Muscicapidae

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* : noted on 5 days with 1 Paphos Headland on 28th & 29th, 2 Paphos Headland on 30th, 2 Paphos Headland & 1 Kefalos beach on 1st & 2nd.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* : noted on 2 days with 1 Paphos Headland on 27th, 4 Paphos Headland on 28th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* : a male Larnaca "hide pools" on 3rd is our only record.

European/Common Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* : noted on 5 days with 6 Paphos Headland on 28th; 2 Asprokremnos pools & 2 Phasouri reedbed on 29th; singles Paphos Headland, Kefalos beach & Neo Chorio (Smiyies Chapel) on 30th; 1 near Kidasi 2 Kefalos beach on 1st; 1 Paphos Headland on 2nd.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* : noted each day with 2 Kefalos beach on 27th, at least 8 Paphos Headland on 28th, 1 Kefalos beach on 29th, at least 3 Kefalos beach on 30th, at least 10 Paphos Headland & Kefalos beach on 31st, 2 Paphos Headland & 2 Kefalos beach on 1st, 1 Kefalos beach on 2nd, 2 Kefalos beach on 3rd.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* : noted each day with at least 15 Paphos Headland on 28th, 4

Kefalos beach on 29th, at least 4 Paphos Headland & Kefalos beach on 30th, at least 8 Paphos Headland & Kefalos beach on 31st, 4 Paphos Headland 1 Anarita Park quarry & 6 Kefalos beach on 1st, 6 Paphos Headland & 1 Kefalos beach on 2nd, 2 Kefalos beach & 3 Larnaca “hide pools” on 3rd.

Cyprus Wheatear *Oenanthe cypriaca* : noted on 3 days with at least 6 Akamas (Baths of Aphrodite) & Neo Chorio (Smiyies Chapel) on 30th, at least 12 on territory plus migrants on 31st, several on territory throughout the day on 1st.

Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca* : noted on 6 days with 1 Paphos Headland on 28th, 1 Kefalos beach on 30th, at least 4 Kefalos beach on 31st, 2 Paphos Headland 1 Anarita Park quarry & 3 Kefalos beach on 1st, 1 Paphos Headland on 2nd, 1 Larnaca “hide pools” on 3rd.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* : noted on 3 days with a female in the quarry & another (possibly the same) at the castle Paphos Headland on 28th, a first year male around an animal shed at Phasouri reedbed on 29th, a female Paphos Headland on 30th.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* : a stunning male Paphos Headland on 2nd.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS & allies - Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* : noted each day.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* : noted each day.

WAGTAILS & PIPITS - Motacillidae

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava* : noted on 5 days with a male Paphos Headland on 28th, heard Phasouri reedbed on 29th, 1 overhead Paphos Headland on 1st, then increasing numbers with the influx of *feldegg* on 2nd & 3rd.

Dombrowski's Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava “dombrowskii”* : small numbers of this form noted.

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla [flava] feldegg* : noted each day with ca.30 Paphos Headland on 28th, several Paphos Headland Phasouri reedbed & Zakaki Pool on 29th, 4 Paphos Headland - Kefalos beach on 30th, 1 Kefalos beach on 31st, 2 over Paphos Headland on 1st. Then a large influx on 2nd with at least 200 Paphos Headland early morning, at least 100 Cape Drepanum mid-morning and 100 Paphos Headland late afternoon, and on the 3rd still at least 30 Paphos Headland early morning and 100 Paphos Sewage Treatment Works.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* : 1 overhead Paphos Headland on 1st.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* : noted each day.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* : noted on 4 days with 1 Paphos Headland on 28th, 1 Kefalos beach on 31st, 2nd & 3rd.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* : noted on 6 days with at least 3 Paphos Headland on 28th, at least 15 Kefalos beach on 29th, at least 10 Kefalos beach on 31st, several Paphos Headland & Kefalos beach & 3 Anarita Park quarry on 1st, several Paphos Headland on 2nd, 3 Kefalos beach on 3rd.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* : noted on 3 days with 1 heard Asprokremnos pools on 31st, 1 Paphos Headland on 2nd & 3rd.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* : noted on 2 days with at least 1 heard with Meadow Pipits Kefalos beach on 31st, 2 in breeding plumage Paphos Sewage Treatment Works on 3rd.

FINCHES & allies - Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* : noted on 2 days with several Neo Chorio (Smiyies Chapel) on 30th, Mount Olympos on 31st.

European Serin *Serinus serinus* : noted on 4 days with heard singing Phasouri reedbed on 29th, heard Kefalos beach & Neo Chorio (Smiyies Chapel) on 30th, several Mandria on 31st, Paphos Sewage Treatment Works & Kefalos beach on 1st.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* : noted each day.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* : noted each day.

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* : noted each day.

Common Crossbill (endemic ssp) *Loxia curvirostra guillemardi* : 4 Mount Olympos on 31st.

BUNTINGS, NEW WORLD SPARROWS & allies - Emberizidae

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* : noted each day.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* : noted on 2 days with 2 Paphos Headland & 4 Anarita Park quarry on 1st, 1 Paphos Headland & 6 Cape Drepanum on 2nd.

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia* : noted each day with at least 8 Paphos Headland on 28th, 2 Paphos Headland & 1 Asprokremnos pools on 29th, 2 Paphos Headland & 1 Akamas (Baths of Aphrodite) on 30th, 2 Paphos Headland 2 Asprokremnos pools & 1 en route on 31st, dozens Paphos Headland & Anarita Park quarry on 1st, 6 Paphos Headland & 1 Kefalos beach on 2nd, 8 Kefalos beach on 3rd.

MAMMALS - MAMMALIA

Eastern Hedgehog *Erinaceus concolor* : a road kill Akamas (Baths of Aphrodite) on 30th.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS - REPTILIA & AMPHIBIA

Starred Agama (endemic ssp) *Laudakia stellio cypriaca* : noted most days.

Snake-eyed Lizard *Ophisops elegans* : noted most days.

Savigny's/Green Tree Frog *Hyla savignyi* : 4 Asprokremnos pools on 29th.

Levant Water Frog *Rana bedriagae* : Many at Asprokremnos pools, & Anarita Park quarry on 1st.

BUTTERFLIES - LEPIDOPTERA

SWALLOWTAILS & allies - Papilionidae

[Common] Swallowtail *Papilio machaon* : noted on 5 days, 28th - 31st, & 2nd.

WHITES, YELLOWS & SULPHURS - Pieridae

Large White *Pieris brassicae* : noted each day.

Small White *Pieris rapae* : noted on 5 days, 29th - 2nd.

Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines* : noted on 3 days, 30th - 1st.

Eastern Dappled White *Euchloe ausonia* : noted on 31st & 1st.

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea* : noted most days.

Cleopatra *Gonepteryx cleopatra* : noted on 3 days, 30th - 1st.

HAIRSTREAKS, COPPERS & BLUES - Lycaenidae

Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus* : Larnaca "hide pools" on 3rd is our only record.

Paphos Blue *Glaucopsyche paphos* : noted on 30th & 31st.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* : noted on 29th, 31st & 1st.

BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES - Nymphalidae

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* : noted on 30th is our only record.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* : noted most days.

MOTHS - LEPIDOPTERA

Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* : 'nests' noted on 2 days.

DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES - ODONATA

Green-eyed/Norfolk Hawker *Aeshna isoceles* : noted on 31st is our only record.

OTHER SELECTED INSECTS - INSECTA

Egyptian Grasshopper *Anacridium aegyptium* : noted on 29th & 31st.

OTHER SELECTED TAXA - .

Yellow Crab Spider *Misumena sp.* : noted at various places on 2 days.

Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa sp.* : noted at various places on 2 days.

Bee Fly *Bombylius sp.* : noted at various places on 3 days.

SELECTED PLANT LIST

(just the orchids!!)

Key: Nos. in 3rd column refer to Mediterranean Wild Flowers, (Grey-Wilson & Blamey, 1993)

*** = endemic to Cyprus

Orchidaceae	Orchids		
<i>Orchis intacta</i> (syn. <i>Neotinea maculata</i>)	Dense-flowered Orchid	2393	
<i>Orchis [morio] syriaca</i>	Syrian Orchid	2403c	
<i>Orchis [coriophora] fragrans</i>	Fragrant Bug Orchid	2405a	
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Naked Man Orchid	2409	
<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered Orchid	2420	
<i>Ophrys sicula</i> (syn. <i>O. lutea</i> subsp. <i>galilaea</i>)	[Small] Yellow Bee-orchid	2423a	
<i>Ophrys [fusca] funerea</i>	Funereal Bee-orchid	2424	
- note that Delforge (3rd edn 2006) now limits <i>O. funerea</i> to Corsica & Sardinia which begs the question what are these plants on Cyprus.			
<i>Ophrys [omegafifera] israelitica</i> (syn. <i>Ophrys [fusca] fleischmannii</i>)	Omega Bee-orchid	2424b	
<i>Ophrys iricolor</i>	Rainbow Orchid	2425	
<i>Ophrys bornmuelleri</i>	Bornmueller's Orchid	2427	
<i>Ophrys levantina</i>	'Levantine' Spider Orchid	2427a	
<i>Ophrys alasiatica</i> (syn. <i>O. sintenisii</i>)	Alasian Orchid	2428g	***
<i>Ophrys umbilicata</i>	Umbilicate Woodcock Orchid	2435	
<i>Ophrys attica</i>	[Mount] Carmel Bee-orchid	2435a	
<i>Ophrys lapethica</i>	Cyprus Woodcock Orchid	2436d	
<i>Ophrys kotschyi</i>	Cyprus/Kotschy's Bee-orchid	2438	***
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Common Bee-orchid	2443	
<i>Barlia robertiana</i>	Giant Orchid	2446	
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	2447	
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Long-lipped/Ploughshare Tongue-Orchid	2450	
<i>Serapias bergonii</i> (syn. <i>S. vomeracea</i> subsp. <i>laxiflora</i>)	Lax-flowered Tongue-orchid	2450b	

Our thanks to everyone for helping to make this such a successful and enjoyable trip. Your good humour, enthusiasm and, at times, patience was very much appreciated. Hopefully, our paths will cross again in the not too distant future and we look forward to hopefully seeing you all again then.

Keith Grant & Gary Elton, April 2011

