

## BIRDLIFE CYPRUS AUTUMN 2019 RAPTOR MIGRATION COUNT

Count period: **August 26<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup> 2019, with possibility of extension up to 20 October**

Observation Schedule: **08.00 to 13:00** (extended till 15:00 when raptor passage is on-going at 13:00)

### **Observation sites and posts:**

1. **Akrotiri** – Akrotiri Environmental & Education Centre balcony observation point (observers may move to other sites on peninsula if the centre is proving ‘un-productive’ on a given day).
2. **Paphos Plain** – ‘Lark’s corner’ area
3. **Cape Greco** – kiosk on top of Cape Greco rock or hill above Sewage Works

The aim for autumn 2019 is to cover all three sites as often as possible over the six-week period, depending on the number of recorders available. The minimum targets are 3-4 counts a week at Akrotiri and 2 counts a week at Paphos Plain and Cape Greco.

BirdLife Cyprus Research Coordinator Christina Ieronymidou (Tel 22-455072, email: [christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy](mailto:christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy)) and BirdLife Cyprus Research Assistant Markos Charalambides (Tel 22-455072, email: [assistant@birdlifecyprus.org.cy](mailto:assistant@birdlifecyprus.org.cy)) will coordinate with volunteer recorders to produce weekly plans for site coverage, to help ensure optimum coverage, with a good spread of recording dates.

### **Completing the Count Data Sheet (on pages 2 and 3):**

**Date, Location and Observer(s)** are self-explanatory.

**Time:** Please record the total duration of time spent observing from your post, noting the start and end time, ***even if no birds were seen.***

**Weather:** Please use the table provided to record conditions at the beginning, approximate mid-point and end of your observation stint, using the simple 1-2-3 coding system for temperature, wind, etc.

### **What to record regarding birds:**

- Please record all birds of prey, plus Demoiselle Cranes, Common Cranes, Storks, Bee-eaters, and any other migrating birds (chiefly waterbirds) identified to the species level as far as possible. If a bird is difficult to identify then record in as much detail as you can (e.g. if not sure what species a kestrel is, just write “**kestrel sp.**”; for harriers with white rumps just record “**ring-tail harrier**” etc). Please also record sex, age and colour morph of birds when possible.
- Record **number** of individuals for each species observed and the **time** the bird(s) is first observed. If there is a steady stream of birds passing, please record the time you see the first birds, then break the count at each hour on the hour (see example 2 below).
- In the **observations / comments** section of the form, record as many as possible of the following details:
  - direction (compass) or point from which the bird(s) comes;
  - direction or point the bird(s) departs towards;
  - approximate height at which the bird was flying;
  - any behaviour of interest (e.g. “perched briefly”, “hunted over marsh”, “soared”, etc).

**Examples:** **Example 1, well-defined group of birds:** “9.15 am Red-footed Falcon, 2 male, 1 juvenile. Flew in from NE, soared over salt lake for 6 minutes and headed S. Height: c. 200m.”

**Example 2, continuous stream of birds:** “9.15 am Lesser Kestrel. First birds appeared from NW, passing slowly down W coast parallel to shore, height c. 50 m. By 10.00 75 birds had passed, passage continues. By 10.35 150 more birds had passed, when passage ceased.”

**Above all please avoid sunstroke (hats, shade and plenty of liquids), enjoy...and THANK YOU!**





