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EDITORIAL

This is the forty-seventh *Annual Report* of the Cyprus Ornithological Society (1957), covering the year 2000. It has been prepared using the records sent by members of the Society to the Recorder and has been augmented by contributions from visiting birdwatchers. The Editor is pleased to acknowledge the help given by all the observers who willingly supply trip reports, which greatly increase the coverage, particularly during the busy spring migration period. He is especially grateful to those who have provided detailed descriptions and photographs of the more unusual species and to those who have patiently answered his many queries. All records received of birds seen in the government controlled area of Cyprus have been used in the preparation of this *Report*.

The number of species recorded during the year, excluding escapes from captivity, was 281. No new birds were added to the Cyprus list, but there were second records of Long-billed Pipit at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 10th and Pied Wheatear at Cape Greco on Apr 7th. Details of these, and all other birds recorded, will be found in the Systematic List, starting on page 18. The order of species follows that suggested by K.H. Voous (1977) in his *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* and the nomenclature is broadly similar, with a few amendments where recent research has indicated reasons for change.

Early in 1999 an on-island Records Sub-committee was set up in order to review all records prior to their inclusion in the Society's *Annual Reports* and, in particular, those of lesser rarities. Pam Scraton resigned in April 2000 and we thank her for the assistance she gave to the Sub-committee during its formative year. The other members continued in office, David Whaley (chairman), John Sanders (secretary), Lucas Christophorou and Jeff Gordon. In total about fifty records were reviewed during the year.

As in previous years, all detailed descriptions and photographs of major rarities were sent to Peter Flint and Peter Stewart for their consideration. The Editor gratefully acknowledges the help and advice they have readily given. Requests for information and decisions on difficult species have always received their prompt attention, which has greatly eased the workload when processing the records. In addition, Peter Clement has kindly reviewed the record of Pied Wheatear.

The format of this *Report* follows that of last year. The maximum monthly counts of some commonly occurring species are given in table form. For many migrants the total numbers of records received and the numbers of birds seen are included. Observers' initials are entered only for rarities, for which detailed descriptions have been supplied. All records included in the Systematic List have been accepted by the Records Sub-committee and Messrs. Flint and Stewart, where appropriate. Those not accepted are noted separately.

Two articles are included. The first by Ash Warne reports on the Eleonora's Falcon breeding survey that was conducted by members of the Society on Sept 8th. The second by Judy Dawes and David Whaley describes the apparent increase in numbers of Woodchat Shrikes that are breeding in the west of the Island.

A REVIEW OF THE YEAR

There has now been below average rainfall for five years or more, so that all natural wetlands, apart from the Salt Lakes, have dried out and many of the dams and reservoirs are well below their usual levels. Akrotiri Salt Lake did not hold water until late in 1999 and then reached only about half its normal size, drying out again rapidly at the end of March. This serious state of affairs was compounded by extensive fires in the Larnaca to Limassol area in mid-June that devastated a wide area. In addition many thousands of citrus fruit trees have been grubbed up and burned during the year, with olive trees being planted in their place. The scarcity of water and relatively poor market prices have meant that grapefruits and oranges are now no longer economic to cultivate. The situation was partly relieved with heavy rainfalls at the end of the year, which filled some of the wetlands again.

January: the first day of the year was warm and sunny, but showers developed on 2nd and continued until 5th. The last three weeks of the month were relatively cold, with snowfalls on the mountains and overnight frosts, even in lowland areas. Much damage was done to early potato crops and other plants. Heavy rain fell on 18th and there were cold northerly winds at times throughout the month, which increased to gale force on 19th and 20th, causing some structural damage in Nicosia.

A little water was let into Phasouri reed beds by the Cyprus Water Development Department in an attempt to put out the fire which had started on Dec 6th 1999, but it was not until about Jan 10th that the last smouldering areas were extinguished. The water level at Akhna Dam was allowed to drop and the seasonal lake at Paralimni remained dry. Larnaca Salt Lake was only about three-quarters full, while the one at Akrotiri was even less so.

Cold weather on the Continent had the effect of bringing some unusual birds to the Island, particularly to the Larnaca area. At the sewage works two Red-breasted Geese joined the regular White-front flock on 11th, while two White-headed Ducks arrived on 13th. Ruddy Shelducks increased to three at the end of the month and Black-necked Grebes were seen in higher than the usual numbers of recent years. Ferruginous Ducks and Red-crested Pochard remained for a long spell. At Akrotiri relatively high counts of Greater Flamingos were made and large numbers of Shelducks frequented both the Salt Lakes, while Shoveler at Larnaca sewage works exceeded 600 at times. A Spotted Redshank at Larnaca was an unusual winter visitor, as were Little Ringed Plovers and a Temminck's Stint at Akhna Dam, together with three Spur-winged Plovers at Parthenitis Dam. Starlings were seen more frequently and in larger flocks than in the previous winter and Fieldfares were found at Anarita late in the month, where they were to stay for the next few weeks. More unexpected was the discovery of up to ten Tree Sparrows at Mandria (Paphos). These are less than annual winter visitors to the Island and are easily missed amongst the flocks of Spanish Sparrows. Two Cory's Shearwaters flew past Paphos headland in the teeth of one of the more severe gales, while the Pied Kingfisher continued its long stay on the rocky shore, being reported four times during the month and from then on into April. Four Cattle Egrets returned on 2nd, initially being seen at roost at Yeroskipos, before taking up residence in their more usual site, at what was left of Phasouri reed beds. Highlights of the month were two Black-bellied Sandgrouse at Mandria (Paphos) and a Wallcreeper at Tunnel Beach, but sadly none stayed for the many people who subsequently went to look for them. Perhaps one of the biggest surprises was the appearance of a Great Spotted Cuckoo at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on 9th, at least a month earlier than is usual. It came as quite a shock to the observer too, who took full field notes to make sure that the Records Sub-committee would believe him!

February: the first four days were mild and sunny. There were showers of rain on 5th and then it became very windy on 6th, followed by colder weather. Milder conditions returned from 10th to 12th, before a wet spell developed, with thunder and lightning, on 13th and 14th. The second half of the month was cold, with strong northerly winds and bouts of heavy rain. Night-time frosts occurred over the mountains and at many inland areas. After shrinking early in the month the Salt Lakes filled a little by the end. Water levels at Akhna Dam, however, continued to drop throughout the period and Paralimni Lake stayed dry.

A second fire started at Phasouri reed beds on 8th, which burnt much of the grazing area in the fields between the road and the already blackened reed bed.

Despite the cold weather, a second Great Spotted Cuckoo was found at Anarita on 13th and a Swift at Akhna Dam on 15th. Large numbers of Swallows, with a few House Martins, arrived on 16th. Many of the unusual winter visitors at Larnaca remained for much of the month, but Black-necked Grebes had increased to 14 by the end and Little Gulls to nine on 22nd. The only other new arrivals here were five Lesser Short-toed Larks on 2nd, which had dwindled to two by Mar 14th, an Isabelline Wheatear on 22nd and a Black-tailed Godwit on 28th. Elsewhere, a Tawny Pipit on the still dry Paralimni Lake was an unexpected sighting, as was a White Stork at Phasouri reed beds on 8th. A winter plumage Knot, with Dunlins on Akrotiri Salt Lake on 26th, was only the fourteenth for the Island. Merlins had been scarce over the winter as a whole, but one was seen at Asprokremnos Dam on 23rd. A Saker took up residence in the Akrotiri gravel pits area and, what was presumably the same bird, was seen on and off until April. One or two Redwings joined the Fieldfare flock at Anarita from 9th to 13th. Apart from Swallows, summer visitors were slow to arrive, but Quail were at Cape Greco and Akhna Dam on 17th and 18th respectively, an Isabelline Wheatear at Paphos Lighthouse on 20th, Alpine Swifts and a Hoopoe at Asprokremnos Dam on 21st and a Cyprus Wheatear at Episkopi on 24th.

March: this was a month of sunshine and showers, with continuing cold northerly winds at times. There was a widespread slight frost on 9th, but it became noticeably warmer on 12th. The northerly winds returned on 15th, however, and rain fell early in the morning on 18th, bringing the first fall of Chiffchaffs and a few other warblers to Cape Greco. Strong winds and heavy showers continued from 19th to 24th, but then the weather settled and it was relatively warm and sunny until the end of the month.

The main talking point amongst the local birdwatchers at this time was the clearing of the vast amounts of illegally dumped rubbish from around the main pool at Akrotiri gravel pits. This difficult task was undertaken by volunteers from RAF Akrotiri and members of the Akrotiri Village Environmental Club, following an initiative by Shaun Woodcock. They are all to be congratulated on a job well done. The cleaning up operation was a great success and immediately appreciated by good numbers of waders. Little Ringed Plovers increased to 12 on 13th and Black-winged Stilts to an impressive 53 on 25th, while 20 Avocets took up residence in the area from 28th to 30th.

The spring passage of large numbers of dabbling ducks, and their habit of resting on the sea in Episkopi Bay, has been documented over the years, but it is one of those cases where seeing is believing. The sight of over 15,000 on 17th, stretching as far as the eye could see, must have been awesome, particularly as they included over 4,000 Garganey, the great majority of which were males. As is usual, very few were to be seen on the reservoirs, most flew over or around the Island on their journey northwards.

A Saker passed through Kiti Dam briefly on 27th. Marsh Harriers started to appear in ones and twos from 19th, but it was not until 29th that Pallids were seen, when three males

flew through the Mandria and Paphos Airport area. Two Lesser Kestrels at Akrotiri began what was to be a strong passage, although most sightings subsequently were at sites further to the east. The first Little Crake was at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 11th and from then on there was a long series of records in several areas. The first 27 Common Cranes flew noisily over Cape Greco on 16th and for the next two weeks small groups were seen and heard. The biggest flock was 100 circling at Akrounda on 31st, but it seems that the largest numbers flew over at night, since many were heard over the Kornos Forest on 28th, for instance.

Wader passage increased in momentum at the Salt Lakes and Greater Sand Plovers were seen in several places around the coast, the peak count being 12 at Spiro's Beach on 17th. Cream-coloured Coursers returned after a blank year in 1999, the first two being at Mandria (Paphos) on 10th, closely followed by another obliging bird that remained on the lower meadow at Paphos Lighthouse from 14th to 19th. A fine male Caspian Plover dropped into exactly the same spot on 31st. It stayed just long enough to be photographed, before being flushed by a Kestrel in the early evening and flying off.

Fewer Mediterranean Gulls were at Larnaca than in 1999, the peak count being only 16 in the middle of the month, and Slender-billed were very scarce at Akrotiri Salt Lake. Good numbers of the latter, however, were at their favoured site at Larnaca Airport pools north, where the highest count was 130 on 19th. Up to six Little Gulls remained at Larnaca sewage works all month and 21 Gull-billed Terns rested briefly on the Salt Lake on the evening of 16th, but were gone the following morning.

Single Short-eared Owls were at Macronissos (Ayia Napa) on 17th and the Paphos Lighthouse area on 22nd, while the first Nightjar of the year was attracted to moths around hotel lights at Kato Paphos on 24th. Hoopoes started to arrive from 12th and were to be found in largest numbers at Paphos, up to 25 at a time being on the bank between the harbour and the mosaics at the end of the month. The first Wryneck was found dead on a limestick at Cape Greco on 18th. Sadly, the species is very susceptible to being trapped in this way.

Of the passerines, two presumed nesting pairs of Calandra Larks were discovered at Paphos Plain on 30th, but there were no further reports at this site to confirm breeding. Bimaculated Larks arrived in larger than usual numbers, starting with four at Akrotiri on 23rd and then one at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 29th. Red-throated Pipits were scarce, just the odd one or two being reported from 10th, but a major sighting was that of a Long-billed Pipit by the Mosaics at Paphos Lighthouse, also on 10th. It was only the second for the Island and like so many rarities on Cyprus it stayed just long enough to be identified, before promptly disappearing. Flocks of Yellow Wagtails in their brilliant summer plumages brightened up the scene from 19th onwards. Most occurred in the west, with relatively few records at eastern sites. A fine male Citrine Wagtail by Paphos Lighthouse on 29th was an early record. Numbers have tended to increase in recent years, but this spring there were fewer than in 1999. There were only three March records of Nightingales, again in contrast to the larger numbers seen last year, but there was a small movement of Bluethroats at the end of the month, including single males of the race *magna* at Cape Greco on 30th and Akhna Dam on 31st. Passage of wheatear species was impressive, with major falls occurring along the coast from the Akrotiri peninsula to Paphos and up the Xeros Potamos valley. About 100 Isabelline and a similar number of Black-eared were around the deserted village of Phinikas on 24th and 40 Northern on the following day. The last two Finsch's Wheatears were in this same area on 25th, while single Desert Wheatears were here and at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 30th. Small numbers of Lesser Whitethroats and Blackcaps were seen all month and there were falls of about 100 Chiffchaffs at Cape Greco on 18th and 30th. However, counts of some other migrant warbler species were very low, there being only one March record of Eastern Bonelli's, for instance. Presumably many birds simply overflew the Island in the prevailing clear weather conditions. It was a surprise, therefore, to find a

Yellow-browed Warbler feeding actively in a large deciduous tree at Ayios Andronikos church, below Evretou Dam, on 25th. It was only the eighth for the Island and the second in spring. A Wallcreeper was located by a visiting group at Kensington Cliffs on 30th. They had stopped to look at the vultures when they came across this very welcome bonus. Woodchat Shrikes started a strong passage on 21st and the first two Masked Shrikes were at Paramali on 22nd. The only Hawfinch this spring was one at Kissonerga on 2nd and 5th. It was a complete contrast from last year, when they were seen in a wide area over the west of the Island. The first male Cretzschmar's Bunting was at Paramali on 4th. It took a while for passage to build up, but then there was a big fall on 29th, with 30 at Paramali and 200 in the Peyia district.

April: the first week of April had misty mornings, clearing to give sunny days. Spiro's Pool dried out and Kiti Pool (Meneou) held little water. The winds were light south-westerly, with occasional brief spells from the east. A strong west wind developed on 7th, with heavy isolated showers on 8th and 9th, turning to a very strong easterly from 11th to 13th, with much dust and sand in the atmosphere. This brought several unusual birds to the Island, particularly in the north-west. Variable light winds continued until 19th, but then they became very strong from the south-west and there were heavy showers of rain over the next two days, which grounded falls of migrants on 21st and 22nd over a wide area. More rain fell on 23rd and 24th, flooding Spiro's Pool again, and then the winds died down, with sunshine and light showers until the end of the month. A very heavy isolated rainstorm occurred in Larnaca on 29th, which raised the level of the Salt Lake.

A fine new elevated hide at Larnaca sewage works was completed on 3rd and quickly became a very popular venue for resident and visiting birdwatchers alike, once they had discovered it. Arguably this is now the best site for water birds in the Republic, with many of the natural wetlands having dried out. Previously viewing had been difficult, due to the high surrounding embankment, but all this has now changed, as the hide gives a commanding outlook over the two settling lagoons. It was built by the Forest Department to a design provided by Louis Kourtellarides and his associates.

Bitterns have become scarce in recent times, no doubt due in some measure to the loss of suitable habitat. There were just two records this year, singles at Akhelia Dam on 5th and in the Xeros Potamos valley at Panayia tou Sindi on 6th. The gales of 9th brought shearwaters close inshore on the west coast, 15 Cory's and seven Yelkouan being counted at Kissonerga on that day. Six Common Terns were caught up in the same storms, as well as a Little Tern at Mandria (Paphos). It is possible that the five Black Storks over Dherinia (Famagusta) had also been diverted by this unsettled weather. Dabbling ducks continued to stream through Episkopi Bay until the middle of the month. Two thousand were estimated on 7th, 800 Garganey on 12th and 250 Wigeon and 500 Shoveler on 13th. Eight White Pelicans flew north past Paphos Headland on 16th and there was a good passage of herons and egrets for most of the month. Glossy Ibises peaked in this area at 142 on 13th and Purple Herons at 80 on 19th. Great White Egrets were to be seen in the first half of the month, a high count of nine being made at Kissonerga on 13th, while up to five Spoonbills appeared in the second half, in the Zakaki Marsh and Lady's Mile area.

Harriers passed through in small numbers, but there were only single records of Osprey and Black Kite. A group of Lesser Kestrels were discovered at Tersephanou, near Larnaca tip, on 10th, by a visiting birder who was attempting to find Kiti Dam, and then more were seen at nearby Kivisil. By the middle of the month a combined total of about 100 birds were at these two sites and a further 20 gathered near Vrysoulles (Famagusta) on 23rd. There were memories from the past when an adult pair of Imperial Eagles drifted over the Dhiarizos

River valley on 16th, but sadly they were not seen again. A Saker was at Evretou Dam on 17th, while the last sighting at Akrotiri Salt Lake was on 19th, so it is certain that two birds were involved. Eleonora's Falcons started to return to their breeding cliffs from 18th, but the only notable flock of Red-footed Falcons was one of 60 at Neo-Kholetria on 21st. The strong dust storms that started on 11th brought about a huge fall of Quail on the morning of 13th. It is impossible to guess at the numbers involved, but there were reports of large concentrations in coastal areas from Akrotiri to Cape Drepanum. Most of the wader passage occurred in the east, as the Salt Lake at Akrotiri had already become very dry, so the largest numbers of Ruffs and Little Stints were seen at Larnaca. Marsh Sandpipers peaked at 41 on 9th and there were single Whimbrels at Spiro's Beach on 6th and 12th, with a further two by Cape Kiti on 15th. Four Dotterels were on the dried up lake at Paralimni on 7th and three remained the next day. There were exceptions, however. Twenty-five Avocets were still in the Akrotiri Salt Lake area on 3rd, while a Red-necked Phalarope, on the last remaining pool below the Sylvana restaurant, provided the only record for the spring. The largest count of Collared Pratincoles was 30 at Zakaki Marsh on 13th, presumably a flock that had also been grounded by the sandstorms. Four White-tailed Plovers, resting on rocks just offshore at Yeroskipos on 3rd, started what was to become a good series of records. More were seen this spring than in any previously, no doubt reflecting the increasing numbers and extension of breeding range that is occurring on the Continent.

An early Roller was found on 6th and from 14th onwards they arrived in good numbers. Bee-eaters noisily announced their presence on 12th and there was a good scattering of Blue-cheeked records, starting with one that flew over Larnaca sewage works, also on 12th. Much to the appreciation of many visiting birders, the Pied Kingfisher stayed on the Paphos shore all month. There were others at Zakaki Marsh from 7th to 12th and at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on 28th, all female birds. The rainstorms of 21st grounded large numbers of Turtle Doves, counts of 60 in the Dhiarizos River valley and 90 at Coral Bay being the most notable. Few breeding records of Calandra Larks are received, so it was interesting to know of two singing males in the wide expanse of agricultural land in the Kiti and Perivolia area, west of Larnaca. A family party was subsequently seen, to provide a confirmed breeding record. Meanwhile, Bimaculated Larks continued their strong showing. Three were at the Paphos Lighthouse area from 5th, two by Akrotiri Salt Lake from 12th to 14th and up to six at Mandria (Paphos) from 19th. The peak passage of Short-toed Larks occurred on 3rd, when 720 were counted flying north during an early morning coastal watch. Swallows were surprisingly scarce, just 120 at Cape Drepanum, during the rainstorms of 22nd, being the biggest flock. Sand Martins were much more numerous, 500 at Larnaca sewage works and 400 at Bishop's Pool were all caught up in the same unsettled weather. Pipits were hard to find. Fifteen Tree Pipits were at Evretou Dam on 15th, then 12 were grounded at Paphos on 21st and up to 10 at Cape Greco on 25th and 26th. Twenty Red-throated Pipits were at Yermasoyia Dam during the second week of the month, but the only other flock was 15 at Paralimni Lake on 13th. Yellow Wagtails were much more numerous, especially following the most unfavourable weather, so that 350 Black-headed Wagtails were at Mandria (Paphos) after the gales of 9th and many hundreds in the Paphos, Coral Bay and Evretou Dam areas during and after the sand storms of 11th to 13th. Rufous Bush Chats have rarely been seen in recent years, so it was good to get reports of singles at Bishop's Pool on 5th and the Paphos Lighthouse area on 10th.

It is likely that Thrush Nightingales pass through the Island in reasonable numbers, but because of their skulking habit they are seldom identified. Singles were at Smyies (Akamas) on 11th and the Paphos Lighthouse area on 27th and 30th. Sadly, most were to be found on the Cape Greco limesticks, four on 25th and singles on 26th and 28th. Wheatears suffered a similar fate at Paralimni, but even greater numbers were illegally shot from vehicles cruising

around the dried up seasonal lake. Of the more unusual wheatears, there was a male Desert at Phasouri reed beds on 3rd, plus single females at Cape Drepanum from 4th to 6th and Cape Greco on 24th. The sandstorms brought in two more rarities. A first-summer male White-crowned Black Wheatear took up residence between the Baths of Aphrodite and Fontana Amorosa from 12th to 23rd, an extended stay that allowed everyone one plenty of time to see it, provided they could face the long walk along the coastal path. On 13th another first-summer male was found, but this time a Hooded Wheatear at Cape Drepanum. It was photographed and was still present the following morning, but had left by the afternoon. Up to three Rock Thrushes were around the picnic area at Cape Greco from 5th to 14th and there were single males at Paralimni, Phasouri reed beds and Limassol.

A detailed study and sound recordings of the Moustached Warblers at Asprokremnos Dam pools and Bishop's Pool in the first week of the month suggested that they might be of the race *mimica*, a sub-species that has never before been recorded on the Island. Whether they were late winter visitors or passage migrants is not known. An early Marsh Warbler was identified by the Apollo Hotel at Kato Paphos on 5th and a Barred Warbler near Akrotiri gravel pits on 6th. There were relatively small numbers of Subalpine, Ruppell's, Orphean and Eastern Bonelli's Warblers this spring, but of the commoner migrants there were falls of 30 Lesser Whitethroats and 100 Blackcaps at the Baths of Aphrodite on 11th and 12 Whitethroats at Cape Greco on 24th. The first Wood Warbler was seen on 3rd, but the rain later in the month brought the greatest numbers, 25 at Bishop's Pool on 21st, eight at Cape Greco on 24th and 30 on the Akamas on 26th. A Siberian Chiffchaff *P.c.tristis* betrayed its presence by its distinctive call at Akrotiri gravel pits on 6th and an obliging Icterine Warbler was well viewed and photographed at Cape Greco on 28th and 29th.

It was a relatively good spring for flycatchers, there being about a dozen records of Semi-collared, while both Pied and Collared showed well during the wet weather from 21st to 26th and a Red-breasted was grounded at Coral Bay on 23rd. The main passage of Penduline Tits was missed by most birders, but one visiting group found 60 in the Akrotiri gravel pits and reed beds area on 4th. It appears that most of the Golden Orioles were missed too, since hundreds were reliably reported by a hunter at Lara after the rain on 22nd. They must have made a spectacular sight. The 28th was Pale Rock Sparrow day. Up to 15 were seen in the Khlorakas and Paphos Lighthouse area and a further 13 were well photographed at Cape Greco, all on the same morning. They were only the fifth and sixth records for this species. A male Trumpeter Finch on the coastal strip at Mandria (Paphos) on 18th and 19th, followed by at least five at Cape Greco from 26th, provided more photographic opportunities. A female Cinereous Bunting by the car park at Asprokremnos Dam on 13th was the only record of the year, but there were several flocks of Ortolans early in the month and Black-headed Buntings quickly spread across lowland areas from 17th.

May: the month started relatively calm and sunny, but there was an unsettled spell from 4th to 7th, with strong winds and rain. The temperature began to rise rapidly on 11th and then there were more showers with lightning on 17th and 18th. It became warmer as the month progressed, with just the odd spots of rain from 24th to 26th and on 30th. Although Larnaca Salt Lake retained some water early in the month, the one at Akrotiri had been dry for some time, with just Zakaki Marsh and the pool below the Sylvana restaurant remaining wet.

It was a great disappointment to find on 2nd that the new hide at Larnaca had been vandalised by a small explosion in one corner. A hole was blasted through the floor and wall panelling blown out, but fortunately the steps remained undamaged and it was still usable with care.

Breeding was now in full swing and six pairs of Black-winged Stilts at Larnaca sewage works reared a total of fourteen young this year. Most nested on top of the embankment that divides the two settling lagoons, so the incubating birds could be seen easily from the damaged hide. Few records were received to suggest the breeding of Stone Curlews, but two pairs were around Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) late in the month, while a flock of 40 in the buffer zone at Pyla in August presumably indicated that birds had bred in the general area. Three pairs of Spur-winged Plovers nested at Parthenitis Dam and four young were reared. Second nests seem to have been unsuccessful and a nest at Akhna Dam is known to have failed. Woodchat Shrikes had the best year ever recorded, with at least twenty pairs in the Akamas and a further two near Peyia (see the article by Judy Dawes and David Whaley on page 115 of this *Report*).

Meanwhile many migrants were still heading north, with a good showing of herons and egrets during the first week. Cattle Egrets rarely occur in large numbers, so eight at Zakaki Marsh on 2nd, six off Pomos on 4th and 15 on a breakwater at Dhekalia were notable. Spoonbills were to be seen all month, nine in the Zakaki area from 2nd, with five remaining until 24th, five at Evretou Dam on 17th and then one or two at Akhna Dam from 22nd until mid-June. Migrant birds of prey were scarce, but there were Honey Buzzards at Phasouri reed beds on 4th and Evretou Dam on 10th, a Saker at Evretou Dam on 10th and two very late Lesser Kestrels around the Cytanet tower in the Makheras Forest on 24th. The only Baillon's Crake of the year stayed for three days by a small pool at the river mouth of Xeros Potamos in the middle of the month. More unusual waders were another Cream Coloured Courser by Akrotiri gravel pits from 5th to 7th, a White-tailed Plover on Sotira Pools on 10th and 11th, a Terek Sandpiper at Spiro's Pool and Larnaca sewage works on the same two days and a Great Snipe by Larnaca airport pools south on 11th. A Black-tailed Godwit looked very out of place in the unusual setting of the pig slurry pits at Kivisil (Larnaca) on 12th. The commoner Arctic breeding species were still passing through, so it came as a surprise to see a Greater Sand Plover, already in its winter plumage, back at the traditional site at Ayia Thekla on 31st. The marsh terns were a big disappointment. The first Whiskered was at Asprokremnos Dam on 2nd and a Black Tern at Paphos Harbour on 6th, but there were no more than single figure numbers anywhere all spring.

Most of the more unusual passerines appeared during the first week. Single late Richard's Pipits were at RAF Akrotiri on 1st and Cape Greco on 7th. An Olive-tree Warbler was well watched at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 2nd and a Marsh Warbler at Sotira Pools on 3rd. Single Icterine Warblers were at Polis reed beds and Kato Paphos on 5th and Kamares (Paphos) on 6th. Three splendid summer plumaged Rose-coloured Starlings, sitting on wires in the village of Ayios Yeoryios, were a chance sighting by two members, as they drove up the Dhiarizos River valley on their way to the Troodos field meeting on 27th.

June: apart from a strong cool wind on 3rd, with isolated showers over the mountains, the weather became very hot, with temperatures of up to 36°C from 9th to 15th. On 13th 45 fires broke out within the space of four hours, mainly in the area between Limassol and Larnaca and extending inland. Two planes from Greece, two helicopters from Israel and Wessex helicopters from RAF Akrotiri assisted in the strenuous efforts to control the infernos. However, some 52 square kilometres were burned in the Vavatsinia and Valva area alone.

A feature of recent years has been the appearance of Shags on the mooring buoys off Dhekalia Power Station at the end of the breeding season. This is surprising, since none are known to nest anywhere near this area. Up to 18 were seen during the month and numbers increased to an impressive 45 in July. Arctic breeding waders continued to pass through northwards until the middle of the month and numbers actually increased in the Akrotiri area

during the first two days. Forty-four Little Stints and 23 Ruffs were counted at Bishop's Pool, plus 32 and 64 respectively at Zakaki Marsh on 1st, and there were still 40 Little Stints at Larnaca sewage works on 5th. Yet already the autumn birds had started to appear on their way south, there is just no gap between the two migrations through Cyprus. The first Green Sandpiper was seen on 5th and Common Sandpiper on 6th. Before the end of the month there had also been records of Redshanks, Marsh Sandpipers, Greenshanks and Wood Sandpipers. A notable feature was the arrival of good numbers of White Pelicans. Seven settled at Bishop's Pool on 4th, increasing to 12 on 14th, and then 13 remained on the almost dry Akhna Dam from 28th until mid-July. These last birds were attracted by large numbers of stocked Carp that were trapped in the receding water. The high temperatures meant that the oxygen level in the shallow water was depleted, so that the fish were distressed and dying in large numbers, making them easy to catch. A Gull-billed Tern returned to Larnaca sewage works on 14th and then there were several records, mainly of singles, until early October.

Nightjars must nest in substantial numbers, but few records are received, so it was interesting to hear of one feeding around an illuminated hot-dog stand at a rugby tournament at RAF Akrotiri on 1st and another at Beating the Retreat at Dhekelia Garrison on 2nd.

July: a heat wave started in the first week of the month, with temperatures over 40°C in some inland areas and 44°C in Nicosia. It was the hottest weather since August 1998. The air was relatively humid and, with little breeze, conditions became very uncomfortable. It was caused by a high-pressure system that trapped air coming up from the Sahara. It covered most of the Eastern Mediterranean and was the hottest in living memory in many places. The situation began to ease, with the development of a slight breeze, on 10th. By the 16th the winds had increased and the heat wave was said to be over. However, at the end of the month yet another arrived, with high humidity, little wind and temperatures over 40°C again. A total of 517 fires had been reported up until the middle of the month. More habitat came under threat when it was announced that developers had purchased the land between Petra tou Romiou and Kouklia with plans for a large-scale tourist development. Water levels at the Larnaca sewage works began to drop and rafts of waterweed appeared. However, this was beneficial for the waders, which were seen in relatively high numbers at this site during the autumn, since just about everywhere else was dry.

Little birdwatching was done in the extreme heat, but an immature Night Heron was at Athalassa Forest on 5th and an adult male Little Bittern at Akhna Dam at the end of the month. A Spoonbill arrived at Asprokremnos Dam on 24th and from then on, until early October, there was a good run of records, particularly at Larnaca sewage works and around Akrotiri. Until recently summer records of Greater Flamingos were greeted with some incredulity, but it is now an established fact that small numbers return to Larnaca sewage works at a very early date. The first this year appeared on 24th. Numbers slowly increased and when the juveniles arrived it soon became clear that they were having difficulty feeding. At least two became moribund, apparently simply starving to death. Their preferred habitat is the Salt Lake and they quickly moved over, once that became flooded.

A drake Teal arrived at Larnaca sewage works on 6th, but it did not stay, and no more were seen until late August. The first 13 Garganey were at Akrotiri gravel pits on 13th, but numbers were reduced this year, far fewer were at Larnaca sewage works, for instance, compared with last autumn. A very early Honey Buzzard drifted southwards over Bishop's Pool on 6th. There was a Collared Pratincole at Larnaca sewage works on 22nd, but this was another species for which autumn records were few, five at Mandria (Paphos) in mid-September being the highest count. A Curlew Sandpiper at Larnaca sewage works from 6th to 12th caused a little confusion at first and it was some time before it was identified. It was

in complete winter plumage and looked totally different from the expected summer plumaged birds that arrived from 17th. Little Stints returned on 8th and Dunlins on 17th, so that the autumn wader passage was soon in full swing. Although Akhna Dam held little water there were wide muddy margins and this attracted a surprising number of birds, when one takes into account the considerable disturbance caused by anglers at this site. A superb adult Broad-billed Sandpiper, in full summer plumage, was present on 21st and being so dark was easily identified amongst the other small waders. A second bird arrived at Larnaca sewage works at the end of the month. A Little Tern was at the same site on 8th and then one or two were present on and off until early September. Marsh terns started to appear in increasing numbers, so that far more were seen on autumn passage compared with the spring, quite the opposite from records in previous years.

One's calendar can almost be set by the Kingfishers, as they invariably start their autumn passage during the last two or three days of the month. True to form one arrived at Evretou Dam on 28th and before long they were seen all around the rocky shores and by the last remaining fresh water pools.

August: the second heat wave ended on 1st, with the arrival of northerly winds. It became hot and humid during the middle of the month, but had cooled considerably towards the end. Passerine migration started on 6th, when two juvenile Barred Warblers and a Willow Warbler appeared at Cape Greco tip. The first limesticks were set on the very next day. One of the Barred Warblers was found trapped and it is likely that the second suffered the same fate. The seasonal slaughter had started all over again.

There was much of interest to be seen during the month. An unprecedented White Stork passage started on 19th, concentrated mainly in the area to the north and east of Limassol. Over the next few days they spread out along the south coast from Paphos Plain to the Akrotiri peninsula and many were subsequently seen to leave the Island, as they thermalled over the RAF Station. A second wave was in the Paralimni area, and they caused much interest, with wide coverage on television and in the press. Sadly many were killed as they collided with electricity power lines and were electrocuted, causing blackouts in some areas.

There was good coverage of the Demoiselle Crane passage, with a series of counts that included most days. The first 16 were seen at roost on Akrotiri Salt Lake early on the morning of 24th, but the main flock of up to 300 occurred on 28th. These last birds had been seen flying over Nicosia during the evening of 27th.

An important harrier roost was discovered at Akrotiri reed beds late in the month. Three Montagu's were there on 26th, increasing to seven or eight on 31st and then up to ten by late September. The first Pallid Harrier of the autumn was in this area on Aug 31st. Honey Buzzard passage at Akrotiri was poor this autumn. It started on 22nd, but the peak count was only 100 in the second week of September. Yet Black Kites were seen in relatively large numbers. Twenty-one were over Bishop's Pool and one at Akhna Dam on 26th, and the passage continued throughout September.

The first of the wintering ducks arrived in the middle of the month. Three Pochard were at Evretou Dam on 13th and three Shoveler at Larnaca sewage works on 17th. The latter site attracted the first Black-necked Grebe on 30th, and this started one of the best winters for the species for many years. Wader passage increased and juveniles began to be seen at the end of the month, Little Stints on 25th, Curlew Sandpipers on 27th and Dunlins on 30th, for instance. More unusual sightings were a juvenile Red-necked Phalarope at Larnaca sewage works from 28th and two more Broad-billed Sandpipers at Akhna Dam from 29th. It proved to be the best autumn ever for Knot. It started with an adult at Zakaki Marsh on 31st and then four more were seen until early October. It was a very good autumn for Citrine Wagtails too,

and it is clear that observers are now more practised at identifying them in their post-breeding and juvenile plumages. The first was a juvenile at Cape Greco tip on 8th and from then ones and twos were seen at five other sites. Both Savi's and Icterine Warblers were at Bishop's Pool on 30th. The shrike passage started with two Lesser Greys at Cape Greco on 12th, but most were seen in the Akrotiri area, where numbers had built up to 40 by the end of the month. The earliest Red-backed Shrikes were also at Cape Greco, on 20th. They did not form such large groups, however, and the highest count was only ten after rain on Sept 27th.

September: the temperature was in the low thirties at the beginning of the month, with a cooling north-westerly breeze. It became humid and a few spots of rain fell at Larnaca on 6th. The air cleared on 7th, with a strong wind all day. Thankfully it moderated for the Eleonora's Falcon breeding survey on 8th, the flat sea and bright sunshine made conditions ideal. The daytime temperature dropped below 30°C on 13th, for the first time since the beginning of summer, and there was a strong westerly wind with a lot of cloud, having the effect of diverting the raptor passage to the east. A mini heat wave from 21st to 24th pushed the temperatures back up to 33°C, but they dropped sharply again on 26th. There was torrential rain in Nicosia on 27th and a thunderstorm in the east in the early hours of 28th, which grounded a large number of migrants. A huge downpour at Larnaca later in the day flooded all the fields, breaching the embankments of the slurry pits at the pig farms at Aradhippou and sending a torrent of sludge down the valley. Parthenitis Dam rose from almost empty to half full in one day. There were isolated showers elsewhere, but it was bright and sunny again at the end of the month, albeit with a stiff breeze.

There was a second wave of Demoiselle Cranes early in the month. One hundred and fifty cranes, seen in thick mist on Akrotiri Salt Lake on the morning of 6th, must have been Demoiselles, although they could not be positively identified. There were smaller numbers until 13th, with the odd single until 22nd. Twenty over Larnaca Salt Lake on 7th was an interesting record, as the species rarely reaches the east of the country.

Water was let in to Zakaki Marsh, which made the site excellent for waders, crakes and other birds over the next few weeks. A Red-necked Phalarope was seen from 11th to 14th and a Broad-billed Sandpiper from 13th to 16th, but most important of all was a juvenile Bartailed Godwit that remained from 25th to 29th. It was the fourteenth for the Island. Being a confiding bird it was much photographed and its occurrence was well recorded. A female Little Crake was seen on 26th. With so many interesting species the area inevitably attracted a lot of visiting birdwatchers, so it was disturbing to see bee-hives being brought into the nearby reed beds to attract Bee-eaters. They were shot in great numbers, much to the anguish of the tourists. A little water was found to let into the M1 pools, again for the purpose of attracting birds for hunters to shoot. In the east, in the middle of the month, mist nets, limesticks and tape lures seemed to be in just about every orange grove and clump of bushes, many clearly visible from the roads. Bird trapping reached a much greater intensity this autumn compared with that seen in more recent years.

For two lucky observers, staying at Protaras, the highlight of the month was a spectacular passage of about 1,000 raptors during the very strong westerly winds on 13th. The birds were obviously diverted from their usual route over the centre of the Island and had apparently followed the coast from the Karpas peninsula before arriving at Protaras low over the sea from the north. There were so many birds that identification and counting were difficult in the strong winds, but the final tally was 310 Honey Buzzards, 20 Black Kites, a Short-toed Eagle, 173 Marsh Harriers (mainly juveniles), 13 Pallid and nine Montagu's Harriers, ten Common Buzzards, two or three Steppe Buzzards, three Long-legged Buzzards, two Booted Eagles, seven Ospreys, three Lesser Kestrels, 15 Kestrels, five

Hobbies and a Saker. In addition there were over 200 buzzards, *Buteo* and *Pernis*, 65 harriers, which did not come close enough to allow identification and other birds seen in the far distance. The movement was remarkable, not only for the sheer numbers involved, but particularly for the variety of species. Rarely are Kestrels and Long-legged Buzzards seen in a situation where it can be confirmed that they are passage birds. Also caught up in the same movement were 70 White Pelicans, 1,500 Swallows and 500 Sand Martins. It was surely a day to remember and more details are given in an article by Terje Axelsen in the COS(57) *Newsletter* for October 2000.

It was certainly a good autumn for Marsh Harriers, for in addition to those mentioned previously there were 30 at Spiro's Beach on 11th and a similar number between Episkopi and Mandria (Paphos) on 26th. 20 or more joined the harrier roost at Akrotiri in the middle of the month and sightings continued until early October.

The first three Red-footed Falcons were over Bishop's Pool on 2nd, but it was not until the end of the month that the large flocks arrived, with counts of 135 at Zakaki and 400 at Mandria (Paphos). The Common Buzzard passage at Akrotiri started on 12th and from then on there were almost daily sightings, peaking at about 300 on 23rd and 24th. There was a series of Saker records at the Akrotiri Salt Lake from 1st to 22nd, plus one at Mandria (Paphos) on 23rd. More unusual raptor records were a Lesser Spotted Eagle at Mavrokolymbos Dam on 21st and a Short-toed Eagle over Akrotiri Salt Lake on 27th. The first male Hen Harrier was at Akrotiri on 24th and soon ones and twos were being seen over a wide area in the lowlands. A Little Crake was at Asprokemnos Dam pools on 7th and then began a series of records until mid-November. A Little Bittern was in the same area from 28th to Oct 8th. A Spotted Crake stayed at Cape Greco tip from 16th to 29th, but the only record for the year for Corncrake was one at Paralimni on 16th. A Terek Sandpiper was at Larnaca sewage works on 5th, a single Dotterel on Akrotiri Salt Lake on 9th, another juvenile Red-necked Phalarope at Akhna Dam on 14th and 15th, a Black-winged Pratincole at the same site on 16th and a Black Stork in a field at Eptagonia on 30th. The first Golden Plover was at Mandria (Paphos) on 12th, but the only flock to be reported this year was the usual one in the Paphos Lighthouse area from mid-November. Forty-six Stone Curlews were in the post-breeding flock at Mandria on 26th.

Unusual passerines included a male Siberian Stonechat at Cape Greco tip on 3rd and 4th and an Olive-backed Pipit at the same site from 19th to 22nd. Both were only the third records for Cyprus. A Rufous Bush Chat was at Episkopi on 7th and a Thrush Nightingale was released from a mist net at Cape Pyla on 10th. Two Icterine Warblers were at Asprokemnos Dam, also on 10th. The first two Penduline Tits of the winter were at Phasouri reed beds on 28th, but the species was scarce this year, only one to three being seen until the end of November.

The rain and storms at the end of the month caused a big fall of migrants at Cape Greco. Yellow Wagtails, Northern Wheatears and Whinchats, in particular, were seen in large numbers. Also at this time a notable passage of Tawny Pipits began in the west of the Island. Seven or eight were at the Paphos Lighthouse area, increasing to 12 on Oct 4th and still seven on 15th, while ten were at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 28th, rising to 30 in early October. The weather also grounded the first flock of Red-throated Pipits, 60 being counted at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on 29th.

October: the first few days were sunny, with temperatures in the upper twenties, rising to 32°C on 5th. It then became cooler, with isolated showers from 8th to 10th. There were easterly winds from 13th to 15th, returning to the west with clear skies from 16th to 19th. More showers fell from 20th to 29th, with heavy rain at Larnaca on 22nd and 23rd, partly filling the Salt Lake, and the weather became much cooler. There was even an unseasonal dusting of

snow on Troodos on 25th, but it did not settle. The hide at Larnaca sewage works was repaired on 2nd. A few small 'shrapnel' holes remain in the roof and walls, but otherwise it is now in good repair.

The Common Crane passage started with three at Kissonerga on 3rd. A flock were heard over Nicosia after dark on 12th, but the main movement was on 15th when 200 were seen at Akrotiri Salt Lake early in the morning, followed by two waves totalling 600 birds over Athalassa Forest in the early evening. Up to 800 were over RAF Akrotiri and several hundreds over nearby Paramali later the same day. Forty landed at Meneou on 17th and 110 passed over Pyla on 30th, with just the odd one or two remaining until the end of November.

As the last of the autumn migrants passed through more winter visitors began to arrive. The first Cormorant was at Larnaca sewage works on 1st and by the end of the month the count was rapidly increasing. They were seen feeding on the large numbers of Carp in the settling lagoons. There were a series of Black Stork records, with one at Bishop's Pool on 15th, three over Vrysoulles (Famagusta) on 17th, one at Yermasoyia Dam from 19th to 21st and one over Larnaca sewage works on 24th. Ferruginous Ducks appeared at the beginning of the month and then were seen in ones and twos at Larnaca sewage works, Asprokremnos Dam pool and Evretou Dam.

A Booted Eagle was over Akrotiri Salt Lake on 2nd and single Lesser Spotted Eagles were there on 8th, at Evretou Dam on 16th and Petra tou Romiou on 17th. The first Merlin of the winter was a female at Larnaca sewage works on 30th and there followed five more records before the end of the year. A male Little Crake was at Zakaki Marsh on Oct 3rd while one Spotted Crake early in the month had increased to three on 26th. A Mediterranean Gull was at Larnaca sewage works on 4th and Sandwich Tern at Paphos Lighthouse on 23rd, but they must have been migrants, as it was not until December that the main wintering groups arrived. Two juvenile Spotted Redshanks appeared at Akhna Dam on 1st and began an unusually long stay, being last seen on Dec 18th. A Black-winged Pratincole flew over the fields at Kiti on 7th and two Bimaculated Larks (a species for which there are few autumn records) were there on 18th. Three hundred Red-throated Pipits were at Mandria (Paphos) on Oct 6th, 100 at Kiti on Oct 7th and up to 55 at the Ayia Napa football fields during the month. More unusual passerines were a Richard's Pipit at Mandria on 1st and 6th, a juvenile Desert Wheatear at Cape Greco on 8th, a Savi's Warbler at Cape Greco tip on 11th and a juvenile Red-breasted Flycatcher at the same place on 13th. Northern Wheatears were still passing through and there was a fall of 40 at Cape Greco on 12th, but migrants became scarce after this. Swallow numbers noticeably reduced and just a few lingered until mid-November.

The first Bluethroat was at Evretou Dam on 6th and Finsch's Wheatears at Asprokremnos Dam on 14th. Moustached Warblers returned to Asprokremnos Dam pools, Akhelia Dam and Zakaki Marsh during the last few days of the month. A Hawfinch was at Neokhorio on 26th. Small numbers were subsequently seen, but nowhere as many as two winters ago. Winter visiting Chiffchaffs arrived in strength at the end of the month.

November: the first fortnight was warm and sunny and Larnaca Salt Lake began to dry out. The weather became cooler in the middle of the month, with an easterly wind. It turned back to the south-west on 19th and there were electrical storms over the mountains on 21st and 22nd. Heavy rain at Larnaca on 22nd and 23rd filled the Salt Lake again. The weather was dry from 24th to 26th, but more heavy rain at the end of the month put water in the seasonal lake at Paralimni, Voroklini Marsh, Kiti Dam and Akrotiri Salt Lake. This was due to a low pressure system that remained over the Island for several days. There were violent storms over Paphos on 27th, causing structural damage, and strong easterly winds on 30th.

This was a relatively quiet month, but Water Pipits had a brief, late passage. They had started to arrive at the end of October and increased during the first week of the month, with 15 at Kiti on 2nd and 17 at Zakaki Marsh from 5th to 8th, yet there were no December records. The eight Bluethroats at Zakaki, early in the month, must have been migrants too, since few were seen subsequently. It had been a relatively good year for Great White Egrets, but even so the arrival of 15 at Larnaca sewage works on 13th was unexpected. A Black Stork at Bishop's Pool on 30th was a surprise too, on such a late date. Winter visitors increased in numbers. A single White Pelican at Larnaca sewage works at the end of October was joined by three others on 1st, then two more on 19th and all were to be seen until Dec 24th. A Greylag Goose arrived on 13th and stayed until the end of the year, while two Tufted Ducks were at the sewage works on 27th and two or three remained until late December.

December: there was a return to warm sunny weather with light easterly winds during the first week. Cloud and showers moved in on 8th and there was very heavy and continuous rain at Larnaca on 9th, which washed out the COS(57) field meeting. More rain fell on 12th, with an electrical storm, and there were further showers until 24th. The Christmas period was relatively warm and sunny, but there were more downpours on 30th. The natural wetlands in the east held water at the end of the year, but Akhna Dam remained at a low level, as did many of the large reservoirs in the centre and west of the Island. Phasouri reed beds stayed dry too, and although there was some regrowth, following the fire a year earlier, the reeds were not yet as tall or luxuriant as in years gone by.

The Apollo Hotel at Paphos, home to the COS(57) Information Centre, closed down on Nov 11th. Everything seemed to conspire against the birdwatcher when it was learned that the whole of the adjacent Paphos Lighthouse area had been fenced and a one pound fifty cents admission charge imposed. This is the most popular birding venue for the tourists who come each year to witness the spring and autumn migrations, yet access will be made very difficult for them. In addition, the flock of sheep has been removed, which inevitably will allow the vegetation to grow and make the habitat unsuitable for a host of migrant ground feeding species, the larks, pipits, wagtails and so on.

The fully flooded Salt Lake at Larnaca proved popular with Black-necked Grebes. They moved out of the sewage works at the beginning of the month, into the cleaner water, and then their numbers increased to around 34 on 27th, a total not seen for several years.

One or two Cattle Egrets had been around Larnaca early in the month and then a group of five were seen by the Salt Lake on 20th. It is possible that these were the same birds that had been at Lady's Mile three days earlier. Greater Flamingos returned to Paralimni Lake for the first time in several years and 13 on 13th had increased to 92 on 28th. A party of 11 White-fronted Geese arrived back on 13th in the usual site, the cereal fields around Larnaca sewage works. Presumably they find safety here, in the game reserve area next to the airport perimeter fence. There were fewer this year and the flock had risen to only 25 by the end of the month. Numbers of Shelducks were down too, when compared with last winter, presumably due to the relatively mild winter on the Continent. Yet the numbers of Shoveler and Teal on Larnaca sewage works have risen dramatically. A count on 20th revealed 1,175 of the former and 410 of the latter. This may in part be due to better views from the new hide, so that fewer birds are missed, but it is believed that the increases are real. Red-breasted Mergansers made a welcome return on 5th. Three were found on the sea off precisely the same stretch of shore, east of Potamos Liopetri, where the species was last seen almost five years previously. Then another was seen at Larnaca sewage works on 17th, before it settled down on the sea at the airport end of Spiro's Beach until 22nd. A juvenile Saker was at sewage works on 17th and 22nd, panicking all the waterfowl and putting

everything to flight. A surprise wader was a Black-winged Stilt at the sewage works on 8th. It stayed only one day and then an Avocet visited from 14th to 17th, followed by three on 24th. Golden Plovers are now established winter visitors at the Paphos Lighthouse area and the flock rose to a peak of 51 on 20th. Turnstones, too, have become regular on the rocky shore at this site and up to five were seen during the month. Eight Spur-winged Plovers made a welcome return to the slurry pits at Parthenitis Dam on 21st. They had been absent since the disturbance caused at the start of the hunting season. There were more Lapwings this winter, no doubt due to the increased flooding following the heavy rain, and small flocks were seen in many areas. Conversely, compared with last year, the high water levels at Larnaca Salt Lake resulted in fewer waders. There were no muddy fringes on which the birds could feed, so that counts of Little Stints, Dunlins and Redshanks, in particular, were well down. A Spotted Redshank was seen from 23rd, a very scarce winter visitor, and three Temminck's Stints remained at Akhna Dam.

During the second week of the month there was an influx of Yellow-legged Gulls, mainly of the race *L.c.cachinnans*, into the Larnaca area. In the loafing flock at the airport pools south on 12th was a superb adult Great Black-headed Gull, with an almost completely dark head. It remained in the area and was joined by others, so that from 21st to 23rd there were four adults and a first-winter. This was a unique occurrence. Never before on Cyprus had such a group remained for so long. Just when hopes were beginning to rise that they might stay for the winter they started to disperse and the last was seen on 30th. It is not certain what attracted them for their extended visit, but it might have been the plentiful supply of fish in the sewage works lagoons. The species is a regular winter visitor to the fish farms in Israel, for instance. Mediterranean Gulls increased to 12, ten adults and two first-winters. At first they were found, with the Black-headed Gulls, in the early mornings on Larnaca Salt Lake, but then they too dispersed, and later were seen at Kiti Dam and on a waterlogged field by Dhekelia Garrison. Sandwich Terns returned to the seas around Cape Greco and there was a single sighting at Paphos. The last Whiskered Tern eventually left the sewage works on 4th, after a lengthy stay throughout the autumn.

A Short-eared Owl at Nata was an unexpected bonus for the observers who ventured out on Christmas Day. Eight Stock Doves joined the many hundreds of Woodpigeons by Paphos airport on 28th, to supply the only record for the year. A special effort was made this winter to find Finsch's Wheatears at sites in the west of the Island, with some considerable success. About ten were discovered in a new site in the upper valley of Xeros Potamos and a surprising 23 in the nearby Ayia Varvara area. A Wallcreeper at the traditional site at Kensington Cliffs proved to be a very popular bird, for those who could find it. It was elusive at times and difficult to pinpoint in the vast expanse of cliff, but generally returned to the area below the vulture feeding station. A second bird was present, but they were seldom seen together. A superb adult Steppe Grey Shrike, on the bank below Paphos Lighthouse from 7th, would have been popular too, had it not suffered the indignity of being misidentified as a Lesser Grey. Fortunately it stayed around until the New Year so that it could be properly recorded and photographed by the Island's birdwatchers.

The tip at Cape Greco may have been an unsavoury place, with the discharge of septic tank sludge into the pools there, but the vegetation was permanently green and it was always very popular with migrant birds. Many unusual species have been recorded, as can be seen from the reports this year, so it was disappointing to learn that the site is to be filled in. The waste water will now be taken to a new sewage works between Ayia Napa and Protaras. It may be progress, but another small habitat has been lost forever. The year ended on a sad note when two Common Buzzards were found dying on 29th, in the Western Sovereign Base Area at Phasouri reed beds, poisoned from eating a dead pigeon baited with Lanate.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A passage migrant and winter visitor from October to February. Breeding has become regular in recent years.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhelia Dam	11	11		12	10	8		30	20	40	12	6
Akhna Dam	1			1			1		1	1	7	4
Akrotiri gravel pits	1		1	1				1	5	6	6	8
Aspro Dam and pools	4	2	4	2	4	2	2	2	2	18	5	3
Bishop's Pool	20	30	27	25	20	33	47	96	80	24	24	27
Larnaca sewage works	12	10	15	12	1	1	4	3	11	23	60	52
Ora Dam	9				7	3					10	
Sotira Pools				3	2	6	5					

Smaller numbers at Cape Greco tip, Parthenitis Dam, Kiti Dam, Lymbia Dam, Athalassa Forest, Kalavassos Dam, Arakapas Dam, Pharmakas reservoir, Saittas Dam, Yermasoyia Dam, Polemidhia Dam, Zakaki Marsh, Symvoulos Dam (Episkopi Garrison), Evretou Dam, Pyrgos Dam (Paphos Forest). One on the sea at Potamos Liopetri on Jan 10th, two on 31st.

Breeding records: at Bishop's Pool, three nests seen on Apr 19th were subsequently washed out by high water levels. There were seven new nests on May 16th, three small young on May 24th, 12 juveniles in three broods on June 12th, 16 on June 17th and 31 juveniles on July 23rd. Second broods appeared in August, three small young from two nests being seen at the end of the month. There were two broods at Akhelia Dam (four juveniles on May 21st and four small juveniles on Aug 1st). Single pairs bred at Ora Dam (three juveniles in May) and Sotira Pools (Paralimni) (five juveniles in June).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

A scarce winter visitor to coastal waters and reservoirs, chiefly from December to March.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Asprokremnos Dam	8	8	6									4
Evretou Dam	1		2									
Larnaca sewage works	1		1									3

One was in Paphos Harbour on Jan 13th and six on the sea off Kensington Cliffs on Apr 4th. One on the sea at Potamos Liopetri from Dec 6th to 21st. One on Larnaca Salt Lake from Dec 11th to 29th, but two on 23rd. Wintering birds were first reported at Larnaca sewage works on Dec 11th and Asprokremnos Dam on Dec 14th. One at Kiti Dam on Dec 22nd.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

This species has been recorded in most months, but is more numerous on coastal waters, salt lakes and reservoirs from December to March, though there has been a decline in numbers in recent times. A few pairs have bred in the past, most recently in 1991.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Larnaca sewage works	6	14	15					1	2	7	11	11

One at Asprokremnos Dam pools from Jan 28th to Feb 1st. Numbers decreased at Larnaca sewage works in March from 15 on 9th to two on 31st.

The first bird in autumn arrived at Larnaca sewage works on Aug 30th and one or two were seen during September, rising to four on Oct 13th and 11 from Nov 16th to Dec 3rd. Most birds then transferred to the Salt Lake when it became fully flooded, three were seen on Dec 13th, rising to 12 on 16th, 15 on 22nd, 34 on 27th and then dropping again to 16 on 29th. One at Akrotiri gravel pits from Oct 31st to Nov 22nd. One at Parthenitis Dam on Nov 11th.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*

A scarce offshore visitor, mainly from March to May and July to October.

Two flew close inshore off Paphos Headland on Jan 4th, a day of strong winds, rain and hail, 'good numbers' were reported on Apr 9th and one or two flew past on May 5th. 15 were off Kissonerga in a gale on Apr 9th.

YELKOUAN SHEARWATER *Puffinus yelkouan*

There have been records of small numbers for all months, but peak counts have been made in August and September.

One off the Paphos Headland on Feb 24th, two on Apr 14th and two on May 5th. Seven flew north off Kissonerga in a gale on Apr 9th.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Mainly a winter visitor from October to May, whose numbers have increased over the past twenty years. Coastal migration has been recorded since 1985, being far more prevalent in spring, rather than autumn. There has been a tendency recently for a few to over-summer.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Asprokremnos Dam	120	120	1				2	90	124
Larnaca sewage works	235	230	12				38	280	480
Ormidhia shore	50	100	4						125

93 flew over Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on Jan 9th. Eight flew past Paphos Headland on Feb 10th and 32 on 25th. Winter visitors started to leave Larnaca sewage works in mid-February and most had gone by the end of the month. This was about two weeks earlier than in the previous year. 24 migrants flew east at Spiro's Beach on Mar 26th. One was at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 15th and 23rd.

In the autumn one returned to Larnaca sewage works on Oct 1st and one or two were seen until 19th, increasing to six on 23rd. From then on numbers steadily rose to 38 on Oct 29th, 280 by the end of November, 450 in early December, to reach a peak of 480 on Dec 14th, all of which remained until the end of the year.

One at Mandria (Paphos) on Oct 14th, two on 15th, one on Nov 4th. Two at Asprokremnos Dam on Oct 21st, 24 on Nov 2nd, 90 on Nov 23rd and 124 on Dec 31st. Four at Lady's Mile on Oct 31st. 17 flew south over Cape Greco on Nov 10th. 16 at Khlorakas on Dec 18th.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Small numbers breed locally around the coast from Akrotiri to Khrysokhou Bay. The species becomes more widespread in winter. A feature of the late summer and autumn are the relatively large numbers that loaf on the mooring buoys between the fishing shelter at Ormidhia and Dhekelia power station, a considerable distance from any known breeding site.

The maximum monthly counts in this and other areas are given overleaf.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cape Aspro					2	5			6	3		
Kensington Cliffs			6	12		12			6	8	15	8
Mandria (Paphos)		3	1						2	2		
Ormidhia shore	1					18	45	21	20	12	30	4
RAF Akrotiri				13							3	

A juvenile was at Konnos Bay (Cape Greco) on June 29th and one on Sept 12th. Two at Lachi on Sept 8th. One at Paramali Long Beach on Oct 15th, three on 16th, 15 on 21st. One at Happy Valley Beach on Oct 18th. One at Paphos Airport on Nov 7th. One juvenile at Potamos Liopetri on Nov 27th.

WHITE PELICAN *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Mainly a passage migrant in variable numbers, with peak counts in double figure numbers occurring in October and November.

One at Larnaca Salt Lake on Mar 23rd. Eight flew north at Paphos Headland on Apr 16th. Seven were seen circling the Akrotiri peninsula from the RAF Station on June 4th. They settled at Bishop's Pool and remained until 12th. The number increased to 12 on June 14th and then dropped to 6 on 16th. 13 at Akhna Dam from June 28th to July 13th, two on 14th and one injured bird remained until July 28th. One at Larnaca sewage works from Aug 29th to Sept 13th, two on 14th and 15th, three on 16th, four from Sept 17th to 25th, one first-winter from Oct 25th to 30th, four first-winters from Nov 1st to 3rd, five from 5th to 16th, six from Nov 19th to Dec 24th. 70 flew south-west over Fig Tree Bay (Protaras) on Sept 12th. One first-winter on Dhekelia breakwater on Nov 15th.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

A scarce passage migrant from March to May, less frequent from late August to December.

Singles at Akhelia Dam on Apr 5th and Panayia tou Sindi (Xeros Potamos) on Apr 6th.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus*

Chiefly a passage migrant in small numbers in April/May. It is uncommon at other times and breeding has possibly occurred, juveniles having been seen in July 1982 and 1995.

Ones and twos at Asprokremnos Dam pools from Apr 3rd and Bishop's Pool from 4th. Singles at Akhelia Dam on Apr 21st and Evretou Dam on 25th. Numbers increased in May, with sightings extending from Sotira Pools (Paralimni) in the east to Evretou Dam in the north-west. Highest counts were three at Bishop's Pool on May 6th and five at Evretou Dam on 13th. About 50 individuals were recorded on spring passage. A female was at Bishop's Pool on June 1st, a male at Khlorkakas on 13th, a first-summer at Pyrgos Dam (Paphos Forest)

on 24th and a male at Akhna Dam on June 30th and July 24th and 25th, but there was nothing in the records to suggest that breeding might have been attempted. One female was at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Sept 28th and singles until Oct 8th. One first-winter at Akhelia Dam on Oct 24th and two on 28th.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

A fairly common passage migrant from March to May and late August to early October. A few occasionally summer and breeding has occurred, the last occasion being in 1993 at Paralimni Lake.

Three were at Mazotos on Mar 17th and ten came in off the sea at Cape Greco on 18th. Passage continued all April, higher counts being 16 at Akrotiri gravel pits on 3rd, 21 at Bishop's Pool on 6th and 13 on 11th, 20 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 10th, followed by 15 on 13th, 12 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 13th and 12 at Mandria (Paphos) on 24th. In May there were 42 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 1st and 10 at Bishop's Pool on 4th, but then numbers dropped and only single figure numbers were seen to the end of the month. June records were singles at Bishop's Pool on 1st, Sotira Pools (Paralimni) and Parthenitis Dam on 2nd, Ayia Varvara Pools (Paphos) on 11th and Pyrgos Dam (Paphos Forest) on 24th, but none indicated breeding. One immature at Athalassa Forest on July 5th.

In the autumn a first-winter bird was at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Aug 20th, one on Oct 5th and a first-winter on Oct 26th. Three flew past Cape Arnaouti (Akamas) on Aug 30th and seven flew east at Paphos on Oct 7th.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides*

A common passage migrant, with most records from March to May and August/September. The largest counts have been made off the north coast in autumn, involving coastal passage birds.

The only March records were singles at Mandria (Paphos) on 19th and Lady's Mile on 29th. Passage increased in April, with high counts of 12 flying north-east over Armou on 4th, 17 flying north at Kissonerga on 13th, 13 at Kato Paphos on 18th, 49 in two groups offshore at Coral Bay on 14th, 14 at Mandria (Paphos) on 14th and ten at Bishop's Pool on 17th. Migrants continued to be seen throughout May and until mid-June, but the only double figure counts were 20 at Zakaki Marsh on May 4th and 18 at Cape Greco on May 13th. There were many other reports of smaller numbers from rocky coasts and by fresh water.

Singles at Larnaca sewage works on July 4th and Sept 13th, Akhna Dam from July 4th to 23rd and at Evretou Dam on July 28th and Sept 27th. Singles at Bishop's Pool on Aug 26th and many dates from Sept 5th to Oct 15th, with two on Sept 14th and 18th. Singles at Ayia Trias (Protaras) on Sept 7th, Ayia Napa football pitches pool on Sept 9th and 17th, Cape Greco tip on Sept 12th and Zakaki Marsh on Sept 28th. Singles at Asprokremnos Dam pools on many dates from Sept 17th to Oct 8th.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. There have been records for all months, but most have been seen from March to May. All sightings are included.

Four flew in to roost in Cypress trees at Yeroskipos on Jan 2nd. Two at Phasouri reed beds on Jan 19th, four from Jan 21st to 25th, three on Feb 6th, five on 13th, four on Feb 14th and one on May 4th. One at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 4th and two flew in from the sea on 19th. Four on rocks offshore at Paphos on Apr 13th. One at Kourion on Apr 19th. Four at Evretou Dam

on Apr 25th. One at Zakaki Marsh on May 1st, eight on 2nd and two on 6th. One at Bishop's Pool from May 18th to 24th. Six on a small islet offshore at Pomos Beach on May 4th. Singles at Asprokremnos Dam and pools on May 4th and 9th. 15 on a breakwater at Dhekelia Garrison on May 5th. Two at Akhna Dam on June 30th.

In the autumn one was in a field at Vrysoulles (Famagusta) on Sept 26th. One at Zakaki Marsh on Oct 7th and five at Lady's Mile on Dec 17th. Two at Larnaca sewage works on Dec 7th, one on 17th and five at the Salt Lake on 20th. Three at Paralimni Lake on Dec 22nd.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

A common passage migrant, sometimes in three figure numbers. Peak counts are made from March to May and August to November and often refer to coasting birds. Breeding is rarely recorded, the last attempt being at Paralimni Lake in 1992, and a few remain in winter, mainly in the east of the recording area.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam	1			8	1	1		1	2	4	1	1
Akrotiri gravel pits				9	1			1	2			
Aspro Dam and pools				16	8	1	1		1	1		
Bishop's Pool				2	9	2		1	4			
Larnaca area			1	60	10	1	3	16	46	8	4	3
Paphos Lighthouse area				20	19				29	12		2
Zakaki / Lady's Mile			12	64	24	4		2	4	8	4	1

In the first winter period singles were at Akrotiri Salt Lake from Jan 13th to 15th and around the Cape Greco peninsula from Potamos Liopetri to Ayia Trias (Protaras) from Jan 31st to Mar 2nd. The first spring migrant appeared at Larnaca Salt Lake on Mar 17th. Up to 23 were in the Salt Lake and sewage works area from Apr 5th to 26th and 60 flew east offshore on 26th. One was at Kermia Beach (Cape Greco) on Mar 18th, 70 on Apr 6th, eight on 12th and 18 on Apr 30th. Six flew over the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 23rd, up to eight were seen from Apr 5th to 17th, 20 rested on rocks offshore on Apr 13th and 20 flew north on 23rd. Four at Coral Bay on Mar 26th and up to 16 from Apr 6th to 29th. 12 in the Zakaki Marsh and Lady's Mile area on Mar 27th, smaller numbers from Apr 7th, increasing to 20 on 20th, 26 on 21st, 64 on 22nd, then 27 on 25th and 17 on Apr 30th. Small numbers at Asprokremnos Dam and pools from Apr 8th to 29th, with a maximum of 16 on 14th and then eight on Apr 21st. 29 flew north at Kissonerga on April 13th. Single figures only at Mandria (Paphos) from Apr 15th to 22nd, but 16 flew west on 21st. Seven flew south at Kourion on May 1st and from one to six were at other sites until May 18th, apart from three that lingered at Evretou Dam until May 25th. Singles at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on June 1st, 5th and 13th, Evretou Dam on 11th and Ayia Varvara pools (Paphos) also on 11th, but there were no reports of breeding.

One returned to Larnaca sewage works on July 17th and numbers increased to 16 on Aug 29th, but it was during September that the main passage occurred here, with 18 on 4th, 31 on 7th, 42 on 11th and a peak of 46 on 14th and 16th. Numbers then dropped away to nine in late September and two to four until the end of the year. Few observations of passage off the north-west coast were made this year, but seven were at Lachi on Sept 8th and 41 rested on rocks offshore at Polis on Sept 27th. 29 flew over the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 12th and 12 on Oct 1st. From September to November from one to four were also seen at Cape Greco, Cape Pyla, Moni quarry, Athalassa Forest, Yermasoyia Dam, Petra tou Romiou, Mandria (Paphos), Akhelia Dam, the Dhiarizos River valley and Evretou Dam. Up to three wintering birds were on the shore between Potamos Liopetri and Ayia Thekla in December and one at Ayia Trias (Protaras) on Dec 28th.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba*

A passage migrant in single figure numbers in March/April, which is usually less frequent in the autumn and winter. All records are given.

Singles at Potamos Liopetri on Mar 14th and Larnaca sewage works on Mar 17th. Three at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 18th. Two at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Mar 23rd. Two at Evdhimou Beach on Mar 25th. Two flew north over the Akamas on Mar 26th. One flew south at Kourion on Apr 3rd. One at Zakaki Marsh on Apr 8th. Two flew north at Cape Drepanum on Apr 9th and nine at Kissonerga on Apr 13th. Four at Asprokremnos Dam and three at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 13th. Singles at Khlorakas on May 3rd and Quarry Beach on May 6th. Two at Larnaca sewage works on Sept 19th, 24th, 30th and Oct 23rd, one on Oct 30th, 15 on Nov 13th, seven on 14th.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Predominantly a common passage migrant. Relatively large numbers pass to the east along the south coast in spring and west off the north coast in autumn. A few over-summer and some remain all winter. There have been two records of breeding attempts, at Athalassa in 1980 and Xiliatos Dam in 1994.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	3	1	1	1
Akrotiri peninsula			14	32	3		2	4	7	1	1	
Aspro Dam and pools	1		2	55	5	1		1	4	1	1	3
Evretou Dam	1	2	1	4	2	1			2	1	1	2
Larnaca area	4	5	21	6			2	34	35	10	8	7
Paphos area			7	9	7				10	1		

The first spring migrants were four at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Mar 7th, five at Larnaca Salt Lake and five at Potamos Liopetri on Mar 14th. Numbers increased during the second half of March and 29 flew past Cape Drepanum on 31st. Larger movements in April were 20 at Cape Drepanum on 10th, 16 at Mandria (Paphos) on 17th, 55 at Asprokremnos Dam on 20th, 32 flying north at Phasouri reed beds on 21st, 25 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on 23rd, 13 at Potamos Liopetri and 25 flying north at Cape Greco on 27th. The only flock in May was one of 28 flying north at Paphos Airport Beach on 17th. One or two at Arminou Dam in the Dhiarizos River valley, Ayia Varvara Pools (Paphos) and Sotira Pools (Paralimni) until the end of June. Singles at Athalassa Forest on July 5th and 9th and two at Bishop's Pool on July 7th. Autumn passage started in August. 20 were at Larnaca sewage works on Aug 8th and 34 on 19th. Numbers here varied each day, but migrants were seen right through to the end of September, with peak counts of 32 on Sept 8th, 35 on 14th and 34 on 27th. Ten were seen on Oct 6th and then numbers stabilised at about six or seven during the early winter. Coastal movements were 131 flying past Cape Arnaouti (Akamas) in four flocks on Aug 30th, 12 flying south at Lara Beach on Sept 1st, 56 at Lachi on Sept 8th and ten on Oct 4th, 30 flying south at Cape Greco on Sept 11th, 18 flying south at Protaras on Sept 18th and 49 in one flock over Fig Tree Bay on 24th, 16 at Polis on Sept 27th, ten at Mandria (Paphos) and ten at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 28th. 16 at Yermasoyia Dam on Dec 22nd.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*

A common migrant from March to May and August/September. Coastal passage is regular and larger numbers are recorded in the autumn. Occasionally a few over-summer and remain into the early winter.

The only March record was one at the Tombs of the Kings on 26th. The main passage started on Apr 10th, with three at Kourion Beach and three at Cape Drepanum. Larger numbers were nine at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 11th, followed by 80 in two flocks on 19th and 15 on 23rd, ten flying north at Cape Greco on 12th, 13 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 13th, 11 at Coral Bay on 14th and 12 at Bishop's Pool on Apr 16th. 17 were at Asprokremnos Dam on May 3rd, but there were only one to three at other sites until May 12th, apart from one bird that stayed at Evretou Dam until June 11th.

The only coastal passage seen in the autumn was 22 flying past Cape Arnaouti (Akamas) on Aug 30th. One or two were at Larnaca sewage works on three dates from Sept 4th to 17th. Singles at Bishop's Pool from Sept 1st to 25th, Asprokremnos Dam pools on Sept 12th and 23rd and from Oct 1st to 9th, and Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 23rd. One flew south over Kato Dheftera (Nicosia) on Oct 4th.

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra*

An uncommon passage migrant. Generally single figure numbers are seen in late April/early May and from September to November.

Five flew over Dherinia (Famagusta) on Apr 9th.

One at Eptagonia (Limassol) on Sept 30th. One at Bishop's Pool on Oct 15th, a first-winter on Nov 30th. Three flew over Vrysoulles (Famagusta) on Oct 17th. One at Yermasoyia Dam on Oct 19th and 21st. One flew to the east over Larnaca sewage works on Oct 24th.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

Recorded in all months, but it is mainly a passage migrant from March to May and August to October. Numbers are very variable and counts of 1,000 or more have rarely been made.

One at Phasouri reed beds on Feb 8th. Four flew over Akrotiri gravel pits on Mar 4th. One at Pissouri on Apr 11th. One at Phinikas (Asprokremnos Dam) from Apr 16th to 29th. Three flew north-west at Protaras on Apr 20th.

There was an unprecedented passage in late August. An estimated two to three thousand arrived in the Amathus/Pyrgos/Moni area to the east of Limassol on Aug 19th and remained to 21st at least. Many collided with overhead power lines and were electrocuted, causing short circuits and blackouts. Some apparently moved eastwards, there being 5/600 at Bishop's Pool on 20th and 21st and 250 flew east over Paramali during the afternoon of 21st. 1,700 had gathered in the Akrotiri Salt Lake and Bishop's Pool area on 22nd and 1,800 (in flocks of 950, 600 and 250) were seen thermalling over RAF Akrotiri during the morning of 23rd. 39 remained on the Salt Lake on 24th and there were a further 269 (plus one dead) on 31st. Others moved to the west. At least 600 were in the Paphos Airport and Mandria area on 22nd and 23rd, reducing to 200 on 28th and 29th and about 30 on 30th and 31st. 'Large numbers' reported at Paralimni on 23rd were presumably different birds. These too collided with power lines causing blackouts and at least 200 were roosting in trees on the evening of 24th. Other records in late August were seven flying east at Khlorkakas on 26th and 80 at Asprokremnos Dam, plus two at Akhelia Dam, on 29th. Smaller numbers lingered on into September. 50 were in the Mandria/Paphos Airport/Akhelia/Asprokremnos Dam area on Sept 1st, reducing to 30 on 6th, then up to 15 until the end of the month, but rising again to 25

on Oct 1st, 27 on 4th, 32 on 5th and 40 on 6th, then three on 7th and no more records here until one on Oct 21st. Ten were in the Paphos area on Sept 2nd and 15 on 8th, while up to 20 remained on Paphos Plain until 26th at least. 60 were still in the Zakaki Marsh area on Sept 2nd, but only singles were seen until Sept 5th, then one on Sept 23rd and one from Nov 3rd to 10th. Two at Mavrokolymbos Dam on Sept 6th. Three in an irrigated field at Kiti from Oct 9th to 13th. Three at Paphos Plain on Oct 15th. One at Larnaca sewage works on several dates from Nov 1st to 20th.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

A common passage migrant from March to May and August/September, sometimes in flocks of over a hundred. Coastal migration is frequent. There are a small number of early spring and late autumn records and occasionally a few have over-summered.

In March one flew north over the Paphos Lighthouse area on 23rd and two were at Akhna Dam on 30th and 31st. The main passage occurred in April, with peak counts of 19 at Zakaki Marsh on 12th, 142 over the Paphos Lighthouse area, 19 flying north at Kissonerga and 24 at Cape Drepanum, all on 13th, 23 at Coral Bay on 21st and 21 at the Ezousas River on 29th. From one to five were seen at several sites in May until 20th, apart from singles that stayed at Kivisil pig slurry pits (Larnaca) until June 2nd and Bishop's Pool until June 17th. An apparently injured bird was at Happy Valley on June 6th.

The only autumn passage recorded this year was 83 off Cape Arnaouti (Akamas) on Aug 30th. Singles returned to Larnaca sewage works on July 26th, Aug 5th and Sept 5th, then 16 on Sept 7th and one on 17th. Singles at Akhna Dam on July 27th and Aug 5th and Asprokremnos Dam on Aug 1st. Singles at Bishop's Pool from Aug 22nd to Sept 9th, but two on Aug 28th. One at Zakaki Marsh from Sept 11th to 23rd, but two on 13th.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

A passage migrant from March to May and less frequently from August to mid-October. It rarely occurs at other times and there is just one over-wintering record.

In the Zakaki Marsh and Lady's Mile area four arrived on Apr 25th, increasing to five on 27th and nine on May 2nd. Up to five were then seen until May 24th. Five at Evretou Dam on May 17th. One at Akhna Dam from May 22nd to 25th had a metal ring on the right leg, but the inscription could not be read. Another individual was at this site on June 5th, an adult and first-summer from 6th to 8th, the first-summer remaining until June 13th. One at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on June 29th.

One at Asprokremnos Dam on July 24th and Aug 1st, two on Sept 21st, one at the pools on Oct 3rd. One at Larnaca sewage works on several dates from Aug 4th to 19th, eight from Sept 5th to 8th, ten on 9th and 10th, 14 from 11th to 16th, up to eight from 17th to 26th, 15 on 27th and 28th, four on Sept 29th and 30th, six on Oct 1st, four from 2nd to 6th, 14 on 7th, one or two from Oct 8th to 25th, then two or three from Oct 29th to Nov 11th. One at Akrotiri gravel pits from Sept 11th to 18th, three on 22nd, one from Sept 25th to Oct 1st. One at Bishop's Pool on Sept 8th, two on 23rd, one on Oct 8th. One at Mandria (Paphos) from Oct 4th to 6th.

GREATER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus ruber*

A common winter visitor to Larnaca sewage works and both the Salt Lakes when water levels are suitable. It also frequents other seasonal lakes when conditions permit. Counts of 10,000 or more were occasionally made in former years.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akrotiri	5000	7400	800	290	1		6		3	400	1200
Larnaca	556	400	520	240	50	5	367	190	325	425	1100

First winter period and spring: at Akrotiri relatively high numbers were seen early in the year, but these rapidly left as the Salt Lake began to dry out in late February and early March, so that just 290 remained on Apr 3rd, reducing to three on 11th and 13th, two immatures on Apr 14th and one to May 6th. Two adults flew over the gravel pits on Apr 28th. At Larnaca counts fluctuated on the Salt Lake and at the sewage works, but were generally lower than usual. 300 were seen on Mar 27th, yet there were only about 60 from Mar 29th to Apr 4th. 240 migrants dropped in briefly on Apr 6th, but then numbers fell from 34 on Apr 11th to the last two on Apr 20th. 50 flew in off the sea at Spiro's Beach and inland over the airport on May 10th, but did not settle. Singles at Akhna Dam on Jan 14th and 19th. 18 flew west at Cape Drepanum on Apr 1st. 41 flew over the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 3rd.

Autumn and second winter period: one adult at Larnaca sewage works on July 24th, four on 30th and five on 31st. Numbers increased steadily to 115 on Aug 10th and then shot up to 367 on 17th. These birds did not stay however, many were obviously on passage, and the count was down to 172 on Aug 31st. Numbers fluctuated between 110 and 190 during September. The maximum counts of juveniles were 16 on Sept 1st and 23 on 18th. It soon became clear that these young birds were having difficulty feeding in the settling lagoons and two dead birds were seen on Sept 13th and 14th, apparently having starved. The flock numbered no more than 96 in early October, but there were 325 by the end of the month and 400 on Nov 20th. Many of these moved on to Larnaca Salt Lake when it became flooded and then most left the area, apparently moving over to Akrotiri when that too held water, so that only 85 remained on Nov 30th. Counts increased again in December to reach 710 on 3rd, 870 on 6th and 1,100 on 11th, but then dropped a little so that there were 995 at the end of the year.

At Akrotiri, six flew over the gravel pits to the east on Aug 28th. Three at Zakaki Marsh on Oct 1st and 2nd and one juvenile from Nov 3rd to 10th. 40 on Akrotiri Salt Lake on Nov 28th, once it had flooded, increasing to 400 on Nov 30th and 1,200 on Dec 1st. Numbers then dropped to 500 on Dec 17th and 380 on 30th. 15 flew past Ayia Napa on Dec 6th. With the relatively heavy rainfalls in the east Paralimni Lake flooded. 12 flamingos were attracted to the area on Dec 13th, increasing to 92 by the end of the year.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

A regular winter visitor, mainly from December to February, that is more numerous when there are cold winters on the Continent.

25 at Larnaca sewage works on Jan 1st, increasing to 54 on 10th, 60 on 16th and 85 on 17th. 70 remained from Jan 31st until Feb 29th. Three juveniles at Mandria (Paphos) on Jan 8th and 9th. One juvenile at Asprokremnos Dam on Feb 8th and 9th.

11 at Larnaca sewage works on Dec 13th increasing to 25 from 28th to 31st.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

A scarce and less than annual winter visitor, with the majority of records from December to February. Most individuals show characters of the eastern race A.a.rubirostris.

Two remained with the White-fronted Goose flock at Larnaca sewage works all January and February. A juvenile at Mandria (Paphos) on Jan 8th and 9th. One at Akhna Dam on Jan 16th. One at Larnaca sewage works from Nov 13th to Dec 31st.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE* *Branta ruficollis*
This is the fourth record for Cyprus and the first since 1994.

An adult and juvenile were at Larnaca sewage works from Jan 11th to Feb 18th (JDS ME JGG *et al.*).

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*
Almost annual in late winter to the seasonal and Salt Lakes in single figure numbers.

One female at Larnaca sewage works from Jan 1st to 17th at least, three (two males, one female) from Jan 26th to Mar 19th and two remained until Apr 12th.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*
Formerly a very common winter visitor, but numbers have tended to decrease. Larger counts are made on the Salt Lakes in January and February and there is evidence in some years of a spring passage from mid-February to early March.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akrotiri Salt Lake	174	340	300									37
Larnaca area	548	445	320	98	3	1	1	1		2	21	18

Numbers increased at Akrotiri Salt Lake throughout January to reach a total of 340 on Feb 14th, possibly indicating an early spring passage. They fell again rapidly as the Salt Lake dried out in early March and none remained into April. Three at Akrotiri gravel pits and five at Bishop's Pool on Jan 15th. One at Akhna Dam from Feb 8th to 15th was found shot dead on 16th. The winter peak count on Larnaca Salt Lake and at the sewage works was on Jan 14th. Numbers then gradually dropped, some being shot in the Kiti Pool (Meneou) area. There was no real evidence of a spring passage, 98 remained on Apr 4th, reducing to six at the end of the month, three on May 2nd and two until May 22nd. One shot bird, with an injured wing, stayed at the sewage works until Aug 19th, at least.

Two at Larnaca sewage works on Oct 16th and 17th, 14 on Nov 11th, 21 on 13th, one on Nov 16th, six on Dec 9th and one on 21st. One at Larnaca Salt Lake on Dec 16th, increasing to 18 at the end of the year. 31 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Dec 17th, 26 on 23rd, 37 on 30th.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*
A common autumn passage migrant and winter visitor from late August to March. Three figure counts are generally made and the species has tended to decline in numbers in recent years.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Asprokremnos Dam	19	30	21						2		1	5
Bishop's Pool	30	14	7	4						1	7	11
Evretou Dam	59	60	58									36
Larnaca sewage works	110	120	30	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	30	90

Five at Akhna Dam on Jan 7th, two on 10th, one on 12th. One at Akhelia Dam on Jan 16th. Nine flew east at Cape Greco on Apr 7th. 30 rested on the sea at Episkopi Bay on Apr 12th and 250 on 13th. One shot bird, with an injured wing, remained at Larnaca sewage works throughout the summer.

Two at Asprokremnos Dam on Sept 22nd, but very few were seen until the end of the year.

Three at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 22nd, one on 28th, 20 on Akrotiri Salt Lake on Nov 30th, ten on Dec 1st. Three at Larnaca sewage works from Oct 17th, increasing to ten on 25th, up to 30 in mid-November, and a maximum of 90 on Dec 20th. Two at Larnaca Salt Lake on Dec 20th. One at Bishop's Pool from Oct 27th to Nov 7th, increasing to seven on 19th, and a maximum of 11 on Dec 17th. Two at Kiti Dam on Nov 2nd, six on 8th.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

A relatively scarce passage migrant and winter visitor from November to April.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bishop's Pool	28	15	12	1						10
Larnaca sewage works	10	10	4					5	2	2

Two at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Jan 19th. Three at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Mar 9th. Five at Larnaca sewage works from Oct 18th to 25th, three on 29th, one or two during November and two all December. One at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Nov 16th and 22nd, a female on Dec 24th. Singles at Zakaki Marsh on Nov 16th and Kiti Dam on Dec 4th.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

A common winter visitor from October to April, with peak counts in former times of up to 5,000 in January and February. Coastal migration is sometimes seen in spring, but is more frequent in the autumn.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhelia Dam	20	9	1				18	20		
Akhna Dam	6	5	1					3	6	4
Akrotiri Salt Lake	100		5				7	8	6	40
Aspro Dam and pools	40	17	20	1		1	2	5	10	73
Bishop's Pool	145	490	80	6		3	5	30	100	130
Evretou Dam	26		2				2	1		2
Larnaca area	185	25	30	42	1	30	26	65	85	410

26 at Lefkara Dam and 20 at Dhyptomamos Dam on Jan 15th. Four at Polemidhia Dam on Mar 30th and Apr 1st. Five at Yermasoyia Dam from Apr 3rd to 8th.

At Larnaca one male was at the sewage works on July 6th, but no more were seen until a flock of 30 arrived on Aug 29th. Numbers varied throughout September and October, as migrants passed through, and then increased to 80 or 85 in late November. A few birds moved on to the Salt Lake in late November. There were big increases in December, from 145 on 4th, to 285 on 11th, 360 on 14th and 410 on 20th, and about 400 remained until the end of the year. Singles at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Aug 4th and 18th; most arrived on the reservoir in December, with 65 on 12th and 73 on 26th. Two or three at Bishop's Pool from Aug 23rd to 31st. Numbers increased slowly until the second week of November, when 24 on 8th rose to 100 on 10th. During December many of the birds moved on to Akrotiri Salt Lake, where 20 were counted on 23rd and 40 on 30th. Two at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 22nd, seven on 30th. Six at Kalavassos Dam on Sept 26th, five on Oct 2nd, 120 on Dec 22nd. 30 at Moni Quarry on Oct 22nd. 15 at Kiti Dam on Nov 8th, eight on Dec 22nd. 20 at Ora Dam on Nov 9th. 18 at Paralimni Lake on Dec 13th. 14 at Voroklini Marsh on Dec 22nd. Single figure numbers were seen in November and December at Cape Greco tip, Ayia Napa, Dhekelia, Parthenitis Dam, Arakapas Dam, Kouris Dam and Akrotiri gravel pits.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Coastal passage migrants are seen in the north and west from August onwards and winter visitors have numbered up to 1,000 from December to March. Breeding regularly occurs.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhelia Dam					1	2		2	4	6		
Akhna Dam	60	21									1	1
Akrotiri Salt Lake	30		2						1		7	144
Aspro Dam and pools	96	84	30	1					1	7	4	91
Bishop's Pool		21	18	14	2		2	3	2	9	48	
Evretou Dam	33	27	8	10	13	13	1	12	10	25		148
Larnaca sewage works	320	155	22	22	25	25	28	30	32	36	230	265

17 at Parthenitis Dam on Jan 14th. Two at Yermasoyia Dam from Mar 31st to Apr 12th. One at Kalavassos Dam on May 24th. Two on the Ezousas River at Pitargou on July 5th.

Breeding records: at Larnaca sewage works, nine ducklings, first seen on May 16th, were all reared to the flying stage. Seven ducklings at Evretou Dam on May 6th, five on May 10th.

15 at Yermasoyia Dam on Sept 24th. Winter visitors started to arrive at Larnaca sewage works during the second week of November and reached a maximum of 265 on Dec 4th. Numbers rose at Asprokremnos Dam in December to 91 on 22nd. 23 at Yermasoyia Dam on Dec 20th. 68 at Kalavassos Dam on Dec 22nd.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

A common migrant in spring, when large numbers have been seen off the south coast. In winter the highest counts of several thousands have been made at the Salt Lakes from December to March. As can be seen from the table, these are now much reduced.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akrotiri Salt Lake	20	40		2			2	2		16
Bishop's Pool	7	3	1	2			2	6	16	3
Larnaca Salt Lake	8	7								8
Larnaca sewage works	12	8	5	1			5	11	10	21

One or two at Akhna Dam from Jan 7th to 15th. One at Evretou Dam on Mar 14th. One at Akhelia Dam on Mar 23rd. Spring passage migrants were 100 flying east off Cape Greco in two flocks on Mar 15th and at least 800 in Episkopi Bay off Kourion on Mar 17th, plus one on Apr 12th.

In the autumn five returned to Larnaca sewage works on Sept 5th, one to Zakaki Marsh and two to Bishop's Pool on Sept 12th. Two at Asprokremnos Dam and pools on Sept 15th, one on Oct 1st, two from 2nd to 7th and 21st, singles on Oct 28th and Dec 26th, two on 27th. Singles at Akhna Dam from Oct 17th to Nov 2nd, Nov 24th and Dec 8th. Three at Moni Quarry on Oct 22nd. One at Akhelia Dam on Oct 28th. Two at Kiti Dam on Oct 31st, four on Nov 8th. 60 rested on the sea at Lachi on Nov 13th and later flew off to the west. Four at Akrotiri gravel pits on Dec 17th. One at Kalavassos Dam on Dec 23rd.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

A common passage migrant, mainly from late February to May and August to October. Large flocks are seen off the coasts in spring and autumn. There are two old probable breeding records.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam				5			1	8	2	2	2	
Aspro Dam and pools			1	2				9	7	2		
Bishop's Pool				8	2			19	15	11	8	
Evretou Dam				5	3							
Larnaca sewage works			17	12	3		5	25	26	4	1	
Sotira Pools				1				2				
Zakaki Marsh			1	6					12	12		

The first spring migrants were two with Pintail off Cape Greco on Mar 15th. There was then a spectacular movement over the sea in Episkopi Bay off Kourion, with counts of 4,000 on Mar 17th, 480 on Apr 3rd, 800 in two rafts on Apr 12th, 200 on 13th and 40 on Apr 14th. 170 were offshore at Kouklia (Paphos) on Apr 12th. 90 flew north at Kissonerga and 20 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 13th. Relatively few were seen inland, 19 being the maximum count at Akrotiri gravel pits on Apr 12th. The last were singles at Larnaca sewage works and Evretou Dam on May 19th and a male at Akhelia Dam on May 21st.

In the autumn passage 13 were at Akrotiri gravel pits on July 7th, five on Aug 24th and one on 26th. One at Larnaca sewage works on July 12th, increasing to five on July 30th, 17 on Aug 7th and up to 26 until Sept 13th, decreasing to four from the end of September to Oct 11th, two until Oct 29th and one to Nov 7th. One at Akhna Dam on July 14th. One at Bishop's Pool on Aug 5th, rising to 19 on 23rd, then up to 15 until Sept 9th, dropping to four at the end of September, 11 on Oct 19th, four on 31st, eight on Nov 3rd, seven on 8th and four on Nov 10th. Seven at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 14th, when it flooded, then up to 12 until Oct 3rd, dropping to one on Oct 27th.

Four at Symvoulos Dam (Episkopi Garrison) on Aug 15th. One on the sea at Ayia Thekla on Aug 29th. Three at Akhelia Dam on Aug 29th, seven on Sept 5th, 11 on 14th, six on Sept 30th. Two at Mavrokolymbos Dam on Aug 30th. The only coastal passage seen was 200 off Lachi on Sept 8th. Two at Parthenitis Dam on Oct 4th, three on 30th, two on Nov 3rd.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

A common migrant in spring, when thousands gather off the south coast. It is less numerous in autumn and winter visitors remain from December to early April. There is one old breeding record.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akrotiri Salt Lake		1			3			3		30
Aspro Dam and pools						2	3	1	2	2
Bishop's Pool		1	15	22	4	1	2	1	2	3
Larnaca sewage works	610	675	490	20	2	20	65	280	595	1175

The relatively new sewage works at Larnaca have proved to be a very popular wintering site for this species, comparatively few are seen in other places. One male was at Akhna Dam on Jan 5th, a female on Apr 17th.

On spring passage at least 250 were with the Garganey in Episkopi Bay off Kourion on Mar 17th, 50 on Apr 12th and 500 on 13th. 60 were off Akrotiri gravel pits on Apr 14th. 40 were offshore at Kouklia (Paphos) on Apr 12th and 20 flew north at Kissonerga on 13th. The last were two at Larnaca sewage works on May 8th and a male that remained at Bishop's Pool until May 18th.

Three returned to Larnaca sewage works on Aug 17th. Numbers steadily increased to 65 on Sept 12th, but dropped to 30 at the end of the month. In October there was a constant rise from 41 on 2nd to 280 on 25th, and then a sharp surge in mid-November to over 500, with another in mid-December to 900 on 14th and 1,175 on 20th. Over 1,100 remained to the end of the year, yet only a maximum of 15 were on Larnaca Salt Lake in mid-December. Two at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Aug 18th, three on Sept 23rd, one or two to the end of December. Two at Bishop's Pool on Aug 23rd, one on 31st, one or two in November and up to three in December. 30 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Dec 1st. Four at Zakaki Marsh on Dec 17th. Ten at Paralimni Lake on Dec 13th.

DUCK *Anas*

In Episkopi Bay on Mar 17th, in addition to the species mentioned above, there were at least 5,000 other dabbling ducks that were too far out to identify. 2,000 more were seen on Apr 7th, again at a great distance.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

A scarce winter visitor that has occurred in previous years in double figure numbers from mid-November to March.

One female at Larnaca sewage works from Jan 1st to 31st, two females from Feb 2nd to 15th. One female at Evretou Dam from Jan 12th to 15th and Feb 24th.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

A fairly common winter visitor to salt lakes and reservoirs from October to April.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bishop's Pool	68	41	4					11	66	64
Evretou Dam	14	1				3		2	14	22
Larnaca sewage works	25	25						3	22	10

One female at Akhna Dam on Jan 3rd. One at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Jan 16th. One female on the sea at Kensington Cliffs on Apr 4th.

Three were at Evretou Dam on Aug 13th, but no more were seen until two on Oct 2nd and then 14 on Nov 7th. One male at Bishop's Pool on Oct 4th, rising to ten on 18th, 11 on Oct 31st and 66 on Nov 23rd. One at Akrotiri gravel pits on Oct 17th. Two at Larnaca sewage works on Oct 16th, three on 17th and 18th and one or two to 30th. Numbers then fluctuated daily during November and December, presumably as birds moved between other dams and pools. One on Larnaca Salt Lake on Dec 20th. Two at Kiti Dam on Dec 19th and 20th. Eleven at Yermasoyia Dam, two at Voroklini Marsh and one at Kalavassos Dam, all on Dec 22nd.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca*

An uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor that has been recorded in all months. It is most frequent from November to May. Generally single figure counts are made, but up to 50 have been reported.

A male and female on many dates at Larnaca sewage works from Jan 1st to Feb 16th, one male on Feb 29th. A male at Asprokremnos Dam pools for most of January, plus a female on 25th, a female on Feb 18th, a male on Feb 21st, singles on Feb 28th and Mar 12th. One at Larnaca sewage works on Oct 17th, one or two from Nov 7th to 27th and a male on several dates from Dec 3rd to 24th. A male and female at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Nov 9th and 10th and Dec 26th, one female on 27th. Two at Evretou Dam on Dec 27th.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

A winter visitor from November to March, when counts of up to twenty have been usual.

Two females at Larnaca sewage works from Jan 1st to Feb 2nd, a male on Feb 28th and 29th. One at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Jan 16th.

Two females at Larnaca sewage works from Nov 27th to 30th, three (one male, two females) from Dec 3rd to 14th, and a male and female until 31st. One female at Akrotiri gravel pits on Dec 1st.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

An uncommon and less than annual winter visitor that is generally seen in small groups on the sea in the east. There have been records in ten winters since 1956, but the ones below are the first since January 1995.

Three at Potamos Liopetri from Dec 5th to 31st. One, first seen at Larnaca sewage works on Dec 17th, was on the sea at the airport end of Spiro's Beach from Dec 20th to 22nd. All were females or immatures.

WHITE-HEADED DUCK* *Oxyura leucocephala*

An increasingly scarce winter visitor. The records below are the first for three years.

A first-winter male and female were at Larnaca sewage works from Jan 13th to 17th at least, the male remained until Feb 29th (JDS *et al.*).

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

A scarce spring passage migrant from mid-April to May, but much more common in the autumn from August to October. The largest numbers generally occur over the Akrotiri peninsula in late August and September.

The only spring records were one at Phasouri reed beds on May 4th and two at Evretou Dam on May 10th. In June, one male, with damaged primaries in the right wing, was at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on 5th, and what was probably the same bird was in the Letimbou/Khoulou valley on 6th. Two were at Roudhias Bridge (Xeros Potamos) on June 8th and one at Phasouri plantation on 29th, but there was no indication of attempted breeding.

One, over Bishop's Pool on July 23rd, rose on thermals and drifted southwards. Autumn passage started with one at Phasouri reed beds and three at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Aug 22nd and the first flock was 30 over Bishop's Pool on Aug 26th. Movements continued over the Akrotiri peninsula all September and into early October, but there were no large flocks, peak counts being 100 over Akrotiri on Sept 11th, 30 at Bishop's Pool on Sept 23rd and 40 over the Salt Lake on Oct 2nd. This year the largest numbers were seen coming in off the sea and flying over Protaras during very strong westerly winds on Sept 13th. 30 were counted at Ayia Trias (Protaras) on that day and 280 over Fig Tree Bay. The only other double figure counts elsewhere were 22 at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 21st and 15 flying out to sea at Petra

tou Romiou on 30th. Smaller numbers were seen at many southern and western coastal locations and migration came to a halt at the end of the first week of October. Singles were at Zakaki Marsh on Oct 3rd and 4th, Cape Greco and Asprokremnos Dam pools on 5th, while the last three were over Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 8th.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

A passage migrant, usually in single figure numbers, from late March to May and August to October.

Two at Paphos Airport on Apr 20th was the only spring sighting.

Autumn passage birds were seen in far greater numbers than is usual and all records are summarised. Singles at Akhna Dam on Aug 26th and Sept 14th. At the Akrotiri peninsula, 21 at Bishop's Pool and six (probably some of the same birds) at the Salt Lake on Aug 26th, 11 at Bishop's Pool on Sept 23rd, one at Akrotiri on Sept 10th, singles at the Salt Lake on Sept 16th, 23rd, 27th and 28th, but a flock of 25 on 24th, singles at Akrotiri reed beds on Sept 22nd and Phasouri reed beds on 23rd, singles over the Salt Lake on Oct 2nd, 7th and 15th and at the gravel pits on Oct 6th. Singles at Asprokremnos Dam and pools on Aug 29th, Sept 9th, 16th and 22nd, Oct 1st and 6th. Three at Ayia Trias (Protaras) on Sept 7th and 20, with the heavy raptor movement during strong winds, on Sept 13th. Two at Cape Greco on Sept 13th, eight on 17th. Three thermalling at Paphos on Sept 8th and two at Paphos Airport on 21st. One at Yermasoyia Dam on Sept 26th.

GRIFFON VULTURE *Gyps fulvus*

A resident breeding species that has declined in numbers, although there are signs of a recovery since 1996. Nesting now only occurs regularly at cliff sites in the Western Sovereign Base Area at Episkopi and occasionally at other locations inland. In some years there is evidence of a winter influx from October to January.

Breeding records: in the Western Sovereign Base Area one young was reared at Tunnel Beach, a second nest was deserted. At Quarry Beach five breeding attempts were made in April, but only three were successful. At the end of the breeding season the total adult population was believed to be 42 birds, plus the four birds hatched this year (Ian Williamson, *Cyprus Lion*, 14th July 2000).

Two adults were seen at an inland nest site in April, but there were no follow up records to determine whether breeding had been attempted. There were many sightings of between one and five at Xeros Potamos and in the Dhiarizos River valley, with just one over Troodos on Mar 27th.

SHORT-TOED EAGLE *Circaetus gallicus*

A scarce passage migrant, usually in ones and twos, in April/May and September/October. Winter records have become more frequent in recent years.

One was with a movement of raptors over Fig Tree Bay (Protaras) on Sept 13th and one flew west over Akrotiri Salt Lake on Sept 27th.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

A passage migrant, sometimes in double figure numbers, from March to May and August to October. It is uncommon as a winter visitor.

In the first winter period one juvenile was in the Phasouri reed beds and Salt Lake areas of the Akrotiri peninsula from Jan 2nd to Feb 6th, one male on Jan 26th, an adult female on Feb 14th and two females at Zakaki Marsh on Feb 26th. Singles were at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Jan 13th, Evretou Dam on 15th and a female at Larnaca sewage works on Feb 29th.

27 migrants in ones and twos were recorded in March from 7th onwards. 56 in April included three at Mandria (Paphos) on 13th, four on 19th and three at Evretou Dam on 15th. In May there were 18 migrants from 1st to 10th, including three females at Asprokremnos Dam on 10th and three between Goudhi and Kritou Terra on the same day.

In August, one was at Akrotiri Salt Lake and in the surrounding area on 26th, increasing to seven on 31st and a female was at Akhna Dam on 29th and 31st. There was an exceptional passage during September. Highlights were 30 flying south at Spiro's Beach on 11th, at least 173 (mostly juveniles) over the Ayia Trias and Fig Tree Bay areas of Protaras during strong westerly winds on Sept 13th and 30 along the coastal strip from Episkopi to Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 26th. A roost of 20 birds in Akrotiri reed beds was first noticed on Sept 13th. They were present each evening to the end of the month, peaking at 24 on Sept 18th. Most sightings were in southern near-coastal areas, but two were at Troodos on Sept 3rd. At the very least, 315 individual birds were seen during September. Up to five birds remained in the Akrotiri area until Oct 10th and singles were at Mandria (Paphos) on Oct 2nd, Paphos Plain on Oct 3rd, Pano Akourdhalia on 7th and Asprokremnos Dam and pools from Oct 2nd to 11th.

Presumed winter visitors were one male at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Nov 3rd and one or two first-winter birds at sites around the Akrotiri peninsula from Nov 11th to 30th, three on Dec 20th and singles until 31st. Singles at Akhna Dam on Nov 11th and Armou on Dec 16th.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, generally in ones and twos, from mid-August to early May.

One adult male at Akhna Dam on Jan 3rd and Feb 9th, a female on Feb 7th and 9th. In the Phasouri reed beds to Zakaki Marsh area there were one or two females from Jan 13th to 23rd, one at Lady's Mile on Feb 6th, a female on Mar 30th and a female that flew east at Zakaki Marsh on Apr 1st. One at Asprokremnos Dam on Jan 16th. One female at the golf course at Tsadha on Jan 19th. One at Mandria (Paphos) on Feb 27th. One female on the Akamas on Mar 2nd. One at Arkhimandrita on Mar 22nd. One male at Evretou Dam on Mar 25th. One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 4th, single females on 11th and 21st. A male at Kiti Dam on Apr 8th and female at Coral Bay on Apr 14th.

At the Akrotiri peninsula, one adult male at Phasouri reed beds on Sept 24th, single females or juveniles at Zakaki Marsh, the Salt Lake and Phasouri reed beds on several dates from Oct 2nd to 31st, up to one male and four females or juveniles in November and four females or juveniles in December. Single females or juveniles at Vrysoulles (Famagusta) on Oct 28th and Larnaca sewage works on 29th. An adult male at Pano Akourdhalia on Oct 29th. Single females or juveniles at Anadhiou on Nov 1st and Kiti on Nov 2nd. At Xeros Potamos, one juvenile at Asprokremnos Dam on Nov 2nd, a female or juvenile at the pools on 9th, a female at Panayia tou Sindi on Dec 19th and a female or juvenile at Nata on 25th. One female at Mandria (Paphos) on Nov 4th. An adult female and juvenile at Akhna Dam on several dates from Nov 9th to Dec 24th. One female or juvenile at Cape Pyla on Nov 12th. Three in the buffer zone at Pyla on Nov 17th. One female or juvenile at Potamos Liopetri on Nov 27th. On the Akamas, one on Dec 8th, a female or juvenile at Lara on 16th and a female at Cape Arnaouti on 17th. In the Dhiarizos River valley, one at Arminou Dam on Dec 18th and a female or juvenile at Nikoklia on 26th. A female at Episkopi (Paphos) on Dec 18th. A female

or juvenile at Ayios Therapon on Dec 24th.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*

A regular passage migrant in small numbers in March/April and September/October. Numbers have apparently declined in recent years and it is a rare winter visitor.

On spring passage, three males flew separately to the north-west at Mandria (Paphos) on Mar 29th. One male at Cape Greco on Mar 30th, a male and female on Apr 1st, a male on Apr 3rd and female on 12th. A male at Larnaca sewage works on Apr 1st, a female on 14th. A male at Zakaki Marsh on Apr 3rd, a male and female on 4th and female on 5th. A male at Vrysoulles (Famagusta) on Apr 5th. A male and female at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Apr 9th. A male at the Baths of Aphrodite on Apr 13th. A female at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on Apr 14th. A female or immature at Evretou Dam on Apr 15th. A male at Coral Bay on Apr 16th and female or immature at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 19th.

At Akrotiri Salt Lake, one juvenile on Aug 31st, a juvenile and first-summer male on Sept 16th, three males on Sept 26th, a juvenile on 27th, a male and two juveniles from Sept 28th to Oct 1st, a male and juvenile from Oct 2nd to 5th, then one juvenile until Oct 10th. One adult male over Fig Tree Bay (Protaras) on Sept 12th and seven adult males, two females and five juveniles in strong westerly winds on 13th. Two juveniles at Cape Greco on Sept 12th, one on 26th and 27th. One juvenile at Larnaca sewage works from Sept 16th to 24th.

One juvenile at Asprokremnos Dam on Sept 30th. One female at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Oct 27th. One juvenile at Pyla on Oct 27th.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

A spring passage migrant in small numbers from March to early May. It is more common in the autumn from August to October at wetland and reed bed sites.

The first migrants were a male at Asprokremnos Dam from Apr 10th to 14th and singles at Tersephanou (Larnaca) and Cape Greco, also on Apr 10th. A total of 46 were recorded until the end of April, including five at Kivisil (Larnaca) on Apr 15th, three females at Anarita and two males and two females at Phasouri reed beds on Apr 22nd and five females or immatures at Tersephanou on Apr 23rd. The only May records were singles at Zakaki Marsh on 4th and Smyies on 7th.

At Akrotiri Salt Lake, two females or juveniles came into roost on Aug 26th, one on 28th and seven or eight (one adult male) on 31st. On the peninsula as a whole there were a minimum of one adult male, a female and nine juveniles by the end of September. Five juveniles remained on Oct 1st and the last two were seen at the gravel pits on 3rd.

At least nine (four adult males) were caught up with the raptor passage over Protaras and Cape Greco on Sept 13th. Relatively few were seen at other sites, four juveniles at Akhna Dam, also on Sept 13th, being the highest other count, and altogether about 60 birds were recorded during September. The last was a juvenile that remained in the Asprokremnos Dam area until Oct 7th.

HARRIER *Circus*

65 female or juvenile harriers, involved in the heavy raptor passage over Protaras on Sept 13th, were too far off to be identified. Three more were seen over Ayia Trias (Protaras) on 14th and four on 15th. Singles were at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 14th, Paramali on 16th, Yermasoyia Dam on 24th and 26th, Alaminos and Kalavassos Dam also on 26th. One in the buffer zone at Pyla on Nov 30th was probably a Hen Harrier.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

A scarce resident breeding species in woods on the Troodos range.

One at Stavros tis Psokas on Mar 6th, a male on Apr 3rd and one on July 24th. One male on the Akamas on Apr 2nd. One at Pomos Dam on May 8th. Single juveniles were calling at Potamos tou Limniti (Paphos Forest) on June 24th and Xerouvounos Forest on 25th. Two at Troodos on Sept 3rd. One female at Mandria (Paphos) on Nov 4th. One juvenile female at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Nov 7th.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Present from late August to May. Double figure numbers are sometimes seen on passage, but it is uncommon in the winter in wooded areas. There is one breeding record, in Paphos Forest in 1996.

In the first winter period singles were at Phini on Jan 1st, Asprokremnos Dam on Jan 25th and the old airport at Nicosia on Jan 26th. Single migrants were at the Akrotiri peninsula on Mar 4th, Asprokremnos Dam on Mar 23rd and Apr 6th, Coral Bay on Apr 5th, Smyies on Apr 6th, Cape Greco on Apr 7th, the Dhiarizos River valley on Apr 9th, Lady's Mile on Apr 10th and Akrotiri gravel pits on Apr 24th.

In the autumn three were at Akhna Dam on Sept 23rd and one female on Nov 3rd. On the Akrotiri peninsula, singles at Phasouri reed beds on Sept 23rd, Bishop's Pool and the Salt Lake area on fifteen dates from Sept 27th to Nov 25th, Bishop's Pool on Dec 23rd and Phasouri reed beds on Dec 30th. Singles at Evretou Dam on Sept 23rd, Nov 1st and Dec 17th. Singles at Xeros Potamos and Asprokremnos Dam pools on seven dates from Sept 30th to Nov 22nd. Singles at Mandria (Paphos) on Oct 28th, Nov 4th and Dec 28th. One female in the Akhelia Dam valley on Nov 5th. Singles at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on Nov 7th and Cape Arnaouti (Akamas) on Nov 13th.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

A common passage migrant in April and early May and September/October. The largest numbers occur in the autumn when hundreds at a time may be seen over the Akrotiri peninsula.

Most winter records came from the Akrotiri area, where one or two were seen regularly from early January to the end of March, but six were between Zakaki and Phasouri on Feb 26th and four over the Salt Lake on Mar 9th. Singles were at Paphos Airport on Jan 21st, Petra tou Romiou on Feb 12th, Akhelia Dam on Mar 7th and Polis reed beds on Mar 26th.

Presumed spring migrants included singles at Phasouri reed beds on Apr 4th, Akrotiri reed beds on Apr 12th and 14th, Cape Greco on Apr 13th and 28th, Smyies on 17th, Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 19th, Khlorakas and Kritou Terra on May 10th. Three were at Kivisil (Larnaca) on Apr 25th.

At the Akrotiri peninsula autumn movements started with eight on Sept 12th. Few were seen until the fourth week of the month when 300 were counted over Bishop's Pool and 30 over Zakaki Marsh on 23rd, 250 over the Salt Lake on 24th and 40 over Zakaki Marsh on 26th. Relatively few were identified with the raptor passage over Protaras on Sept 13th, just ten being noted, but a further 38 flew south-west over Fig Tree Bay on 21st.

The only other double figure counts in September were 37 at Paphos Airport on 21st and 50 between Larnaca and Paphos, plus a further 18 at Asprokremnos Dam, on 22nd. Passage continued throughout October, 19 being in the Phasouri reed beds and Akrotiri gravel pits

area on 3rd and 17 on 5th, but by far the highest number was 140 over the Salt Lake in the early morning of 8th, whereas just ones and twos were at other sites.

In November singles were seen in the Western Sovereign Base Area on eleven dates throughout the month, plus two on 19th, one at Akhna Dam on 2nd, and one at Mandria (Paphos) on 4th. December records were singles at Bishop's Pool on 1st, Polis on 17th, Happy Valley on 20th, the Dhiarizos River estuary on Dec 21st and 26th, Phasouri reed beds on 22nd and Zakaki Marsh on 23rd.

Two were found poisoned after eating a dead pigeon baited with Lanate at Phasouri reed beds (Western Sovereign Base Area) on Dec 29th.

'STEPPE' BUZZARD *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

This highly migratory race is a fairly common passage migrant.

Spring records were singles at Zakaki Marsh on Apr 6th and Cape Greco on May 8th.

In the autumn, one was thermalling over Paphos on Sept 8th, two or three flew over Protaras on Sept 13th, two at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 8th and five on 14th.

LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus*

A very scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor in single figure numbers. Up to seven pairs are believed to have bred or made breeding attempts in recent years.

Ones and twos were seen throughout the year in western regions of the Island.

Breeding records: one pair nested and the family party of four was seen at the end of May. Breeding was suspected at a second site.

Three migrants were with the large movement of raptors over Fig Tree Bay (Protaras) on Sept 13th and another flew south-west in the same area on 21st.

BUZZARD *Pernis* or *Buteo*

200 passage birds were seen at too great a distance to be identified over Fig Tree Bay (Protaras) on Sept 13th, six flew south at Kissonerga on Sept 20th, followed by 23 on 27th, and 15 at Coral Bay, also on 27th.

LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila pomarina*

An uncommon passage migrant in ones and twos from March to early May and September to early November.

One juvenile at Mavrokolymbos Dam on Sept 21st. Single adults at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 8th, Evretou Dam on Oct 16th and Petra tou Romiou on 17th.

IMPERIAL EAGLE *Aquila heliaca*

Formerly a breeding resident, but now only a rare migrant, the last record being in 1995.

Two adults drifted north over Salamiou (Dhiarizos River valley) on Apr 16th (ASP).

BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraaetus pennatus*

A scarce passage migrant from mid-March to early May and September/October.

A pale phase bird flew over Fig Tree Bay (Protaras) on Sept 12th and two were part of the raptor passage on 13th. One at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 2nd.

BONELLI'S EAGLE *Hieraetus fasciatus*

Formerly a relatively common breeding resident, but now less frequent. It is thought that a few individuals may occur on spring and autumn passage.

There were sightings of ones and twos all through the year in western areas and as far east as the Makheras Forest. One disturbed from a dead tree at Akrotiri reed beds on Apr 13th may have been a migrant. One juvenile was in the Paphos area in late June, but no other reports to suggest breeding were received. A first-winter bird was in the buffer zone at Pyla on Nov 17th.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

A scarce passage migrant from March to May, but more common in the autumn from late August to November.

The only spring record was one at Evretou Dam on Apr 11th.

Six flew over Ayia Trias (Protaras) in the raptor passage on Sept 13th and another over Fig Tree Bay on the same day. Singles were at Evretou Dam on Sept 19th, Akrotiri Salt Lake on Sept 26th, Paphos Airport on Oct 12th and Asprokremnos Dam on Oct 21st.

LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni*

A passage migrant in variable numbers from March to May and September to early November. It is more common in the spring, but sightings have decreased in recent years.

In the Western Sovereign Base Area, two at Akrotiri on Mar 23rd, 27th and 28th, one on Apr 12th, one male at Zakaki Marsh on Apr 7th, eight flew in off the sea at Phasouri on Apr 12th, three females at the reed beds on Apr 19th, one male on May 1st, and 11 (four males) at Paramali on Apr 21st. Four at Paralimni Lake on Apr 6th, two on May 3rd, one first-summer male on 7th and 10th. One male came in low over the sea at Cape Greco on Apr 7th. 26 were by the rubbish tip at Tersephanou (Larnaca) on Apr 10th, increasing to 30 on 12th and 60 on 18th, falling again to 40 on 20th and ten on 23rd. One male at Asprokremnos Dam on Apr 11th, 22nd and 29th, four on May 2nd, one first-summer male on 4th. One male came in off the sea at Kissonerga on Apr 13th. 34 at Kivisil (Larnaca) on Apr 14th, 40 on 16th, ten on 18th, one on Apr 28th and then one or two until May 9th. One male at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 15th. Ten at Vrysoulles (Famagusta) on Apr 17th, eight (three males) on 22nd, 20 on 23rd. Six at Neo-Kholetria on Apr 21st. Two with Eleonora's Falcons around the Cytanet tower at Kionia (Makheras Forest) on May 24th.

Two flew over Ayia Trias (Protaras) in the raptor movement on Sept 13th and a male at Fig Tree Bay on the same day. One male at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Sept 28th.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

A common breeding resident away from the forested areas. It is also a common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Fledged juveniles were seen from early May. The highest count was 30 in the buffer zone in the Pyla area during July and up to 14 were at Phasouri reed beds in October. Fifteen migrants were caught up in the raptor passage over Fig Tree Bay (Protaras) on Sept 13th. Ten were seen between Troodos and Kykko Monastery on Nov 6th, 20 in the Dhiarizos River valley near Arminou on 7th and 12 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Dec 25th.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

A common passage migrant in large flocks, particularly in late May/early June and late September/early October. In the autumn highest numbers are seen over the Akrotiri peninsula and in the Mandria (Paphos) area.

In the Western Sovereign Base Area one adult male was at Akrotiri on Apr 14th, six at Paramali on Apr 21st and one male at M1 pools on Apr 25th and 26th.

Three at Khlorakas on Apr 19th and 20th. A male and two females at Mandria (Paphos) from Apr 20th to 24th. Two at Kouklia Plain on Apr 21st. 60 at Neo-Kholetria on Apr 21st. One female at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 22nd, two on 23rd. One male at Coral Bay on Apr 22nd. One at Akrounda on Apr 25th. Ten at Kivisil (Larnaca) on Apr 25th, four on 28th, 33 on May 3rd, eight on 5th, ten on 8th, six on 9th and four on May 12th. Four at Polis on Apr 28th. Ten at Asprokremnos Dam on Apr 29th, four on May 2nd and one female on 4th. One female at Paralimni Lake on May 3rd. Single males were at Arminou on May 6th and Pomos on 8th.

On the Akrotiri peninsula three were over Bishop's Pool on Sept 2nd and one at Zakaki Marsh on 4th, but it was not until the fourth week of the month that the main movements started here. About 30 were in the Zakaki Marsh and Salt Lake area on Sept 23rd, 75 on 24th, 135 on 26th, then 100 on 28th, numbers dropping to 50 on Oct 2nd and 15 on 14th. There were 30 to 40 in the Phasouri reed beds area on Oct 15th, but from then on numbers fell away, although there were still two at M1 pools on Oct 25th and four at Bishop's Pool on 27th, one juvenile remaining until Nov 5th.

Three were at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 18th, 16 on 25th, 100 on 26th and then 400 (mostly juveniles) from Sept 28th to 30th, 200 on Oct 6th, after which there was a rapid decline to eight on 9th and one on Oct 21st. 100 were at nearby Paphos Airport on Oct 5th.

Far fewer were seen in other areas, double figure counts being 26 at Kiti Pool (Meneou) on Sept 26th and 14 on 27th, 25 at Parthenitis Dam on Sept 28th and 15 on Oct 4th, 33 at Paphos Plain on Sept 28th, 55 at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on Sept 29th, reducing to ten on Oct 1st, 20 at Akhelia on Oct 4th and 5th and 24 below the Dhiarizos River valley at Arkhimandrita on Oct 19th.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor at lowland sites from September to April.

One male at Asprokremnos Dam on Feb 23rd.

One female was over Larnaca sewage works on Oct 30th and at the Larnaca airport pools south on Dec 23rd. One adult male at Akhna Dam on Nov 14th. One at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Nov 23rd and a female at Bishop's Pool on Dec 23rd. One, possibly a first-winter, at Neo-Kholetria on Dec 25th.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

There are records from March to December and breeding is rarely attempted. The species is most common as a passage migrant in lowland areas.

Singles at Paralimni Lake on Apr 7th and May 3rd. One at Yermasoyia Dam on Apr 10th. Two at Asprokremnos Dam on Apr 18th. Singles at Akrotiri Salt Lake on May 1st and the gravel pits on 6th. Singles at Smyies and Kathikas on May 5th, the Paphos Lighthouse area on 6th, Cape Greco on 8th and 18th, Pomos on 8th, Kritou Terra on 10th and Troulli on May 18th.

One was at Cape Drepanum on June 9th and one chased Swallows at Kato Dheftera (Nicosia) on July 8th, but there were no breeding records.

Singles at Evretou Dam on Aug 13th and Sept 27th. On the Akrotiri peninsula, singles at Bishop's Pool from Aug 23rd to 28th, on five dates from Sept 4th to 23rd and on Nov 5th, one at the Salt Lake and Zakaki Marsh area on Aug 31st, two on Sept 3rd and 23rd, singles from Sept 28th to Oct 5th, four at Phasouri reed beds on Sept 16th and then singles on four dates until Oct 3rd. Singles at Cape Greco on four dates from Sept 3rd to 27th. Four at Mavrokolymbos Dam on Sept 6th. Seven were in the raptor passage over Protaras on Sept 13th. Singles at Yeroskipos and Asprokremnos Dam on Sept 16th. Singles at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 23rd and Oct 12th. Singles at Akhna Dam on Oct 7th, Kensington Cliffs on Oct 23rd and Kouklia (Paphos) on Nov 1st.

ELEONORA'S FALCON *Falco eleonora*

A locally common summer visitor and breeding species from mid-April to mid-November. Breeding colonies are located on sea cliffs from Cape Gata at Akrotiri to Petra tou Romiou, west of Cape Aspro.

The first in spring were three at Petra tou Romiou on Apr 18th. Three at RAF Akrotiri on 19th, increased to 12 on 30th. Migrants were singles at Cape Greco on Apr 28th and 30th, May 3rd and 10th, at Kato Paphos and Cape Drepanum on May 5th and Voroklini (Larnaca) on May 30th. Two were at Ayia (Paphos Forest) on May 8th, one between Axylou and Amargeti on May 19th and 15 around the Cytanet tower at Kionia (Makheras Forest) on May 24th. There were many sightings of up to 20 birds close to the breeding cliffs, around the Akrotiri peninsula and at Asprokremnos Dam. A survey of the breeding sites was carried out from a boat on Sept 8th. For a full account see the article by A.P. Warne on page 114 of this *Report*. Autumn migrants were singles at Cape Greco on Sept 12th, Yeroskipos on Sept 14th, Protaras on Sept 23rd and Larnaca sewage works on Sept 29th. Up to 25 were seen around the breeding cliffs until the third week of October. 18 were at Kensington Cliffs on Oct 23rd and the last was one at Kourion on Oct 29th.

SAKER *Falco cherrug*

Formerly described as a scarce spring passage migrant, but more common in the autumn, with almost daily sightings, and scarce in the winter. Records have declined in recent years.

One took a Teal from the water at Akrotiri gravel pits on Feb 22nd. It was seen again on Mar 4th, when it took a Chukar to the top of an aerial to devour it. What was presumably the same bird was reported on Apr 7th and 19th. One flew low to the north at Kiti Dam on Mar 27th. One at Evretou Dam on Apr 17th, was seen to kill a Moorhen, and one there on May 10th. An adult was at Akrotiri Salt Lake from Sept 1st to 4th, singles on Sept 16th, 18th and 22nd and a first-winter at the gravel pits on Nov 22nd. An adult flew over Fig Tree Bay (Protaras) on Sept 12th and a first-winter on 13th. One at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 23rd. A first-winter at Larnaca sewage works on Dec 17th and 22nd.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

There is a small resident breeding population of the race F.p.brookei. Single figure numbers are recorded on passage in April/May and September/October. A few birds of the race F.p.calidus from north-east Europe have been identified as winter visitors.

There were many records of ones and twos in lowland and coastal areas from Cape Greco to Inia (Akamas). A pair were in display flight over Cape Greco in early April, but there was no evidence of breeding in this area.

Breeding records: an adult was feeding three young in a nest near Limassol on Apr 17th. One pair nested at Tunnel Beach and three fledged young were seen on June 4th. Breeding was suspected at three other sites.

CHUKAR *Alectoris chukar*

This is still a common and widespread resident breeding species, despite much shooting pressure during the hunting season. Captive bred birds are reared and released.

40 were on the Akamas on Feb 15th. The first young birds were at Cape Greco on Apr 24th. Larger coveys and counts were 22 at Pano Akhourdhalia and 27 at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on May 12th, 23 at Bishop's Pool on June 20th, up to 30 on the Akamas in late June, 54 at Tillyria (Paphos Forest) on June 24th, 32 at Evretou Dam on July 28th and 30 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Nov 9th.

The population in the buffer zone at Pyla in July was estimated to be 500 birds.

BLACK FRANCOLIN *Francolinus francolinus*

Formerly a common and widespread species. Following a decline in numbers there have been signs of a recovery since the early 1970's.

The species is now relatively common in the coastal fringe from the Mandria (Paphos) area north to Lara and also around Neokhorio, Polis, Lysos, in the Xeros Potamos valley as far as Nata and in the Dhiarizos River valley to beyond Ayios Nikolaos. However, there were no records from the Akamas peninsula, north of Lara. On the south coast a few are now found as far east as Zakaki Marsh and Bishop's Pool. There is a small population around Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) and there have been recent sightings at Paralimni Lake and at Ayia Trias (Protaras). One female at Cape Greco on Sept 20th suggests an extension of range in this eastern region. One at Athalassa Forest on May 14th is apparently the first record of a wild bird at this site.

Larger counts in the Xeros Potamos were six at Asprokremnos Dam on Apr 5th, 12 males calling in the Nata area on Apr 6th and ten at Ayia Marina on Oct 11th. Eight (seven males) at Arminou on Apr 27th, six at Konia (Paphos) on June 11th, a covey of 12 (no adult male) at Lysos on Aug 10th and another of 15 on Sept 1st.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

There are records for all months and breeding is rarely recorded. It is common in spring from March to early May and less frequent in autumn from late August to October.

Singles at Cape Greco on Feb 17th, Mar 15th and 30th. Three at Akhna Dam on Feb 18th. Other March records were singles by the Laura Hotel at Paphos on 19th, at the Tombs of the Kings on 26th and 28th, Khlorakas on 27th, the Paphos Lighthouse area on 28th, Xeros Potamos and Cape Drepanum on 26th. The main passage occurred in April. Hundreds came in off the sea along the stretch of coast from Paphos to Kissonerga on 13th, perhaps as many as a thousand. There were said to be 'spectacular numbers' at Ayios Yeoryios (Cape Drepanum), Mandria (Paphos) and Akrotiri Salt Lake on the same day. Apart from these, there were records of 82 migrants during April from coastal and near-coastal areas. Few were seen in May, just singles at Tsadha and along the coast from Kato Paphos to the Tombs of the Kings from 1st to 6th and two at Khlorakas on 7th.

Breeding records: five juveniles were reported on the Akamas on May 20th and one male was calling near Kionia (Makheras Forest) on June 2nd.

One at Akhna Dam on Aug 5th, two on Nov 1st, one on three dates from Nov 3rd to 14th. Singles at Cape Greco on eight dates from Sept 10th to Nov 10th. One at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Sept 13th, three on 30th, one on Oct 1st. Singles at Phasouri reed beds on Sept 16th and Oct 5th. Two at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 28th. One at Aradhippou on Sept 18th. One in a mist net at Cape Pyla (Eastern Sovereign Base Area) on Oct 1st and one seen on Nov 12th. Singles at Paramali on Oct 4th, Kiti on Oct 8th and Mazotos on Nov 20th. Two at Arminou Dam on Dec 18th. One at Larnaca Salt Lake on Dec 20th, four on 22nd.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

A passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers from September to April. Breeding is rarely attempted, the last record being in 1985.

Singles at Zakaki Marsh on Jan 2nd and Bishop's Pool on Mar 24th. One or two at Cape Greco tip on several dates from Jan 10th to Mar 18th. Singles at Asprokremnos Dam pools on many dates from Jan 16th to Apr 22nd. Singles at Ayia Napa football pitches pool from Jan 31st to Apr 12th, but two on Apr 7th. One at Yermasoyia Dam on Mar 31st and Apr 1st.

One at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Sept 6th and 9th, one or two from Oct 21st to 31st, singles from Nov 4th to 14th and on Dec 25th. One at Cape Greco tip on Sept 6th and 9th, one or two in late September and early October, three or four from Oct 24th to Dec 28th. Singles at Bishop's Pool on Sept 11th, Oct 10th and 26th and Nov 5th. One at Zakaki Marsh on Oct 7th, increasing to three on Oct 31st and four on Nov 3rd, then up to three until Nov 25th. One was found dead at Mavrokolymbos Dam on Oct 12th. One at Akhna Dam from Oct 28th to Nov 2nd. One at Akhelia Dam on Oct 24th and 30th, three on Nov 16th, decreasing to one on Nov 30th.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*

A scarce passage migrant from March to mid-May and September to November.

Two at Ayia Napa football pitches pool on Apr 1st, one on 5th. Singles at Yermasoyia Dam from Apr 1st to 5th and 12th, Sotira Pools (Paralimni) from Apr 1st to 9th and 13th, Asprokremnos Dam pools from Apr 2nd to 10th and May 9th and 10th, a puddle by the M1 road at Episkopi on Apr 7th, Zakaki Marsh on Apr 9th and 10th, Bishop's Pool on Apr 14th and Nata ford on Apr 29th.

One at Cape Greco tip from Sept 16th to 29th. One at Zakaki Marsh on Oct 4th, two on 5th, up to three from Oct 26th to Nov 3rd, then one first-winter until Nov 16th. One at Akhna Dam on Oct 28th and Nov 2nd. One at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Nov 2nd.

LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva*

A relatively common spring migrant from late March to April. Fewer are seen in the autumn from mid-August and it is a rare winter visitor.

One female at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Mar 11th and from Mar 25th to 30th, up to two males and two females during April and three (two males) from May 1st to 20th. One male at Bishop's Pool on Mar 30th, up to one male and four females from Apr 10th to 25th, a male and female on May 2nd. Up to three males and three females at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) from Apr 3rd to May 25th. Up to one male and two females at Akhelia Dam from Apr 5th to 29th, two females on May 1st, one on 9th. Singles at Yermasoyia Dam and Akrotiri gravel pits on Apr 5th. Up to two males and two females at Ayia Napa football pitches pool from Apr 7th to

May 31st. One male at the Nata ford on Apr 16th. One at Larnaca Salt Lake on Apr 19th and 20th. A male and female at Evretou Dam on May 1st, one male on May 2nd and 4th. One female by the Ezousas River estuary on May 11th. One female by the drainage channel from Zakaki Marsh on Sept 26th and a male on Oct 3rd. One at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Oct 7th and 8th, a female on Oct 12th and 29th, a juvenile or female from Nov 7th to 14th, plus a male on Nov 9th. Two at Akhelia Dam on Oct 28th.

BAILLON'S CRAKE* *Porzana pusilla*

Breeding is rarely attempted, the last record being in 1985. A few individuals are recorded on spring and autumn passage.

One male was by a small pool at Xeros Potamos, just inland from the seashore, from May 18th to 20th (DW APW).

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*

A scarce spring migrant from March to early May and even less frequent in the autumn from August to mid-November.

One at Paralimni on Sept 16th was the only record.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

A few pairs breed when conditions are suitable. It is more common as a passage migrant and winter visitor, often favouring the smaller pools, although numbers are very variable.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhelia Dam	6			12	4	8		5	6	50	12	6
Aspro Dam pools	11	8	5	5	6	2	2	5	19	19	8	4
Athalassa Forest	2	2		2	3	2	4	5	6	9	3	4
Bishop's Pool	39	25	53	75	15	2	2	5	26	30	38	26
Evretou Dam	2	6	2	12	8			1		3		3
Ora Dam	1				8	3					2	
Sotira Pools				2	5	1						

Larger numbers elsewhere were up to five at Yermasoyia Dam during April, five at Paphos tip on Apr 3rd and up to seven at Ayia Napa football pitches pool from Apr 4th to May 25th. Ones and twos were recorded at most freshwater sites visited during the year.

Breeding records: eight at Ora Dam on May 5th, included five juveniles. Young were seen at Evretou Dam in early May. An adult and three large juveniles at Athalassa Forest on July 30th. A nest at Asprokremnos Dam pools on July 24th and an adult accompanied by a juvenile on Aug 1st and 22nd. One juvenile at Bishop's Pool on Aug 9th, two juveniles on Aug 22nd and 24th.

COOT *Fulica atra*

Breeding occurs when water levels permit. The species is a common passage migrant and winter visitor, frequenting most of the seasonal lakes, reservoirs and pools, but numbers vary from year to year.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhelia Dam	13	19		15	1	1				8	7	12

Akhna Dam	54	54	26	7	3	2	2	2	1	3	6	14
Aspro Dam and pools	27	13	8	7	5	2	2	2	5	13	12	21
Bishop's Pool	320	367	80	30	15	17	17	29	57	173	245	371
Evretou Dam	55	112	100	18	4						15	83
Larnaca sewage works	40	40	75	26	7	5	5	6	17	145	215	275

Breeding records: one was incubating at Bishop's Pool on Apr 19th and there were four nests by May 24th, but only one juvenile was seen in early June and three on July 23rd. A family party of four were at Arakapas Dam on May 24th.

Winter visitors started to arrive in October and numbers rose steadily to reach peaks of 275 at Larnaca sewage works on Dec 14th and 371 at Bishop's Pool on Dec 30th. 21 were at Voroklini Marsh, 41 at Kiti Dam, nine at Yermasoyia Dam and nine at Polemidhia Dam, all on Dec 22nd. Up to five at Zakaki Marsh in December.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

A common passage migrant in March/April and October/early November. It is more numerous in the autumn and flocks of thousands have been regularly recorded.

Two first-winters were at Larnaca sewage works from Jan 1st to 17th and one remained until Feb 9th. One first-winter at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Feb 14th and 23rd and one on Apr 14th. 27 flew north at Cape Greco on Mar 16th and one came in off the sea on Apr 1st. 37 at Larnaca Salt Lake on Mar 18th, 70 flew north-west on Mar 24th and 70 circled overhead on Apr 3rd. Loud calling was heard overhead at Kornos Forest from 0320 to 0330 hours on Mar 28th. 12 to 15 flew over the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 30th. 100 circled and then flew east at Akrounda on Mar 31st. Nine flew north at Kissonerga on Apr 12th.

Three flew south at Kissonerga on Oct 3rd and ten were at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 4th and 5th. Peak movements occurred on Oct 15th, with 200 on the Salt Lake in the early morning, up to 800 flying over RAF Akrotiri at 1800 hours, hundreds heard over Paramali later in the evening and 600 in two waves over Athalassa Forest at 1700 and 1730 hours. Three at Bishop's Pool on Oct 5th, two on 27th. Ten at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 18th. One adult at Larnaca sewage works on Oct 6th, 24 on 7th and 40 at Kiti Pool (Meneou) on 17th. A flock was heard over Dasoupolis (Nicosia) at 1830 hours on Oct 12th. 110 flew over Pyla on Oct 30th. Two at Phasouri reed beds on Oct 31st. In November, 12 were at Cape Zevgari (RAF Akrotiri) on 2nd, one at Larnaca sewage works from 5th to 13th, two from 14th to 30th.

DEMOISELLE CRANE *Anthropoides virgo*

A large proportion of the western breeding population passes through Cyprus in spring and autumn, but numbers have tended to decline. The main spring passage is in late March and early April, while in the autumn there is a brief, concentrated passage in late August and early September. In the autumn flocks are most easily observed in the early mornings on Akrotiri Salt Lake, where they roost overnight.

There were no spring records this year.

At Akrotiri Salt Lake, August records were 16 on 24th (early a.m.), 27 on 25th (late p.m.), 32 on 26th (early a.m., no juveniles) and 290-300 (15 juveniles) on 28th (early a.m.), all of which were later disturbed by an aircraft. In September there were 30 on 8th (early a.m.), six adults and three juveniles on 9th (early a.m.), singles on 10th and 11th (early a.m.), 34 (three juveniles) on 12th, 12 on 13th (early a.m.) and 17 (four juveniles) on the evening of 13th. One was at Bishop's Pool on Sept 22nd and one at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 18th and 20th. 300 flew to the south over Nicosia at 1900 hours on Aug 27th (undoubtedly the same flock that

was seen at Akrotiri Salt Lake on the following morning). At Larnaca, 20 flew over the Salt Lake on Sept 7th and five adults and a juvenile rested on the dry Kiti Pool (Meneou) early in the morning on the same day.

CRANE *Grus grus* or *Anthropoides virgo*

Four flying overhead at Akrotiri gravel pits on Mar 17th were not identified.

150 cranes resting on Akrotiri Salt Lake in thick mist early on Sept 6th were not seen clearly enough to identify, but were undoubtedly Demoiselles.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

There are records for all months, but the species is most common as a spring migrant from March to May. Small numbers breed when conditions are suitable.

The first three in spring were at Larnaca Airport pools north on Mar 9th and 10th and the first in the Akrotiri area were two at Bishop's Pool on Mar 24th. Numbers rose rapidly at Akrotiri and there was a heavy passage in the last week of March. Other high counts of migrants were 16 at Evdhimou Beach on Mar 25th, ten at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 31st, 18 off Yeroskipos Beach on Mar 31st and 15 at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on Apr 6th. Relatively few were seen elsewhere in April. One was at Evretou Dam from May 25th to 29th. Non-breeding birds in June were two at Akhna Dam on 1st, one at Bishop's Pool and two at Akrotiri gravel pits on 9th and one at Parthenitis Dam on 14th.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam				5	3	2	1	1				
Akrotiri peninsula			53	18	5	3		5	5			
Aspro Dam and pools			1	18								
Larnaca area			7	20	10	23	29	22	19			1
Sotira Pools				15	1		1					

Breeding records: at Larnaca sewage works six pairs nested and reared a total of fourteen young to the flying stage. The first two pairs started incubation in mid-May, but the other four pairs did not have nests until early June. The first juvenile was seen on June 8th.

There were single adults at Akhna Dam from July 14th to Aug 10th and Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on July 18th. A family party stayed in the Akrotiri gravel pits and Bishop's Pool area from Aug 24th to Sept 9th, but there was no indication as to where they nested. One at Paramali Long Beach on Oct 16th. One appeared briefly at Larnaca sewage works on Dec 8th

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Numbers vary widely from year to year and three figure counts have occasionally been made. It has been recorded in all months, but is predominantly a passage migrant from March to May and August to October.

At Larnaca, three at the Salt Lake on Jan 31st, one of which remained until Feb 18th, two on the airport pools north on Feb 22nd, five at the Salt Lake on Mar 9th and 10th, three on 14th, one on 23rd, nine at the sewage works on Mar 31st, one on May 11th, three at Kiti Pool (Meneou) on Apr 25th and May 17th.

At Akrotiri, one at the Salt Lake on Mar 23rd, 25 on Apr 3rd, 20 at the gravel pits on Mar 28th and 17 on rocks offshore on Mar 30th, five on Apr 5th and one at Lady's Mile on Apr 4th. Six at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 13th and eight at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 15th.

In the autumn, singles at Larnaca sewage works on Aug 30th and 31st, from Sept 13th to 20th, on Nov 15th and from Dec 14th to 17th; three on Dec 24th. One at Zakaki Marsh on Nov 15th and 16th and Bishop's Pool on 19th.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus*

There is a small resident breeding population. The species is more numerous as a passage migrant from late March to early May and in September/October. Roosts occur from August to February and these are thought to include winter visitors.

15 were at the winter roost at Larnaca Airport pools north on Jan 11th, 24 on 14th, ten on Mar 31st and up to three in April. Two at Kiti Pool (Meneou) on Feb 18th, nine at Spiro's Beach on Feb 27th, one on Apr 3rd. Up to 72 were in a roost at Mandria (Paphos) in early March, decreasing to 30 on 25th and then one or two until mid-May. Eight at Asprokremnos Dam on Mar 26th, but only one to three were recorded at other sites from late March to July. The only record to suggest breeding was two pairs at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) in late May. Three were in this area all August/September and five in early October.

Four were in the buffer zone at Pyla in July and about 40 in August. One at Phasouri reed beds on Sept 18th. Six were at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Sept 28th and one on Oct 15th. One at Akrotiri gravel pits on Sept 29th, two on Oct 5th. 46 at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 26th, 11 on Oct 1st, 15 on 21st, four on Oct 31st. Ten at Larnaca Airport pools north on Oct 13th, increasing to 80 on Oct 30th and 95 on Nov 13th, then 60 at the airport pools south on Dec 23rd. 13 at Cape Pyla on Nov 12th. 41 at Kato Paphos on Dec 6th.

CREAM-COLOURED COURSER *Cursorius cursor*

A scarce and less than annual migrant that is more frequent in spring from March to May.

Two were at Mandria (Paphos) on Mar 10th, singles at the Paphos Lighthouse area from Mar 14th to 19th and at Akrotiri gravel pits from May 5th to 7th.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola*

A passage migrant from late March to May and late July to mid-October. Rarely three figure counts have been made and the species is most numerous in the spring at wetland sites.

One at Lady's Mile on Apr 4th. Four at Zakaki Marsh on Apr 12th, 30 circled the area on 13th, but did not land, and three on 28th. One at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Apr 14th. Two at Larnaca sewage works on Apr 11th, one on 12th, singles on June 2nd and 12th. 11 at Spiro's Pool on May 11th. One came in off the sea at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 19th, three on 22nd, two on Apr 23rd.

One at Larnaca sewage works on July 22nd. One adult at Akhna Dam on Aug 4th. One at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 7th and at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Sept 9th. Five at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 18th.

BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE *Glareola nordmanni*

An uncommon passage migrant, mainly from April to mid-June and late August to mid-October.

Three at the Tombs of the Kings on May 3rd.

One at Akhna Dam on Sept 16th. One flew over Kiti on Oct 7th.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

Although there are records for all months this is chiefly a passage migrant in numbers up to a hundred from March to May and July to October. Breeding is rarely attempted, the last occasion being in 1996.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam	5	5	5	4	2		32	50	20	10	6	3
Akrotiri gravel pits			12	1								
Larnaca sewage works				4	1		15	6				
Parthenitis Dam				6	1		25	7	3	1		
Sotira Pools			3	3			2	3				
Zakaki / Lady's Mile			16	10	2				2			

Singles at Asprokremnos Dam and pools on Feb 29th and Mar 25th, three on Apr 16th. Four at Mandria (Paphos) on Mar 23rd. Singles at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 8th, 27th and 30th, two on Apr 6th, three on Apr 7th. Two at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Apr 6th. Two at Bishop's Pool on Apr 7th, one on 16th. Two at Phasouri reed beds on Apr 8th. Singles by the Nata ford on Apr 13th and 16th. Four at Evretou Dam on Apr 14th. One by the River Tremithos (Perivolia) on Apr 15th. One at Kiti Pool (Meneou) on Apr 26th and 27th. One at Akhelia Dam on Apr 29th.

There were no breeding records. Autumn migrants returned to Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on July 5th, Akhna Dam on 6th, Larnaca sewage works and Bishop's Pool on July 7th. Numbers quickly increased, so that there were 32 at Akhna Dam on July 14th and 25 at Parthenitis Dam on 25th. One was at Asprokremnos Dam on July 24th and three at Kivisil slurry pits (Larnaca) on July 31st. Numbers rose to a peak of 50 at Akhna Dam on Aug 7th and then dropped over the next three months to four on Nov 22nd and three on Dec 30th (including one dead in a mist net). Singles at Bishop's Pool on Oct 7th and Larnaca Salt Lake on Dec 1st.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

A spring passage migrant in double figure numbers from late March to May. It is commoner in the autumn from mid-August to October and a few remain during the winter months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam	3	6	7	4	4			5	15	8		
Akrotiri peninsula				2	5			2	11	8		
Larnaca area	1	2	4	3	5		1	5	23	5	2	

30 to 40 were reported at Asprokremnos Dam on Mar 20th and three on 25th. Three were at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 23rd, singles on May 4th and June 5th. One at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on Apr 5th and 6th, five on 17th. One at Zakaki Marsh from Apr 6th to 12th, but two on 8th. One at Parthenitis Dam on Apr 14th. One by Nata ford on Apr 16th. One at Mandria (Paphos) on May 7th. A small dark bird, typical of the Arctic form, *C.h.tundrae*, was at Larnaca Salt Lake on Apr 9th.

The first in autumn was at Larnaca sewage works on July 30th and small numbers started to pass through from mid-August. Movements increased in September and peak counts were 15 at Akhna Dam on 12th and 23 at Larnaca sewage works on 16th. Fewer were seen on the Akrotiri peninsula, the highest daily count being ten at Zakaki Marsh and one at Bishop's Pool on Sept 19th. Two at Asprokremnos Dam on Aug 29th. Three at Parthenitis Dam on

Sept 7th, four on 15th, two or three until Sept 24th, eight on Oct 4th, reducing to one from Oct 30th to Nov 8th. One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 30th. The last in the Larnaca area were one at the sewage works on Nov 1st and two at the airport pools north on 5th.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus*

There is a small breeding population, which has declined over the years. Numbers are boosted from September to April by passage migrants and winter visitors and three figure counts are made at this time.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akrotiri peninsula	24	185	22	50	20	39	156	11	85	105	60	
Ay.Thekla/Pot.Liopetri	6	8	5	3	2	2	7	3	7	20	31	30
Larnaca area	86	70	135	30	50	75	100	75	160	115	100	120

At Larnaca there was a notable increase to 135 on Mar 17th, as migrants passed through. *Breeding records:* about 15 pairs remained to breed around Larnaca Salt Lake and pools and the first chicks were seen on Apr 26th. Several pairs had second broods, some remaining on the dried out Salt Lake, others moving into the sewage works to nest, and young birds were still hatching out until the middle of July. At Akrotiri the first young were seen at the Salt Lake on Apr 20th, but no estimate of breeding numbers was made.

The post-breeding flock at Larnaca fed in a dry ploughed field by the sewage works at the end of July. At Akrotiri, after a high count of 156 on July 7th, most seem to have left the peninsula during August, just a few being at the gravel pits and in the Zakaki Marsh and Lady's Mile area. Ones and twos appeared at Akhna Dam from July 27th until the end of September, one staying to Oct 24th and singles on Nov 9th and 20th. There was a short but notable passage at Larnaca sewage works on Sept 19th, when 160 were seen, while at Akrotiri the highest September count was 85 in the Zakaki Marsh and Lady's Mile area on 23rd, followed by 105 on Oct 2nd.

GREATER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius leschenaultii*

A passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, that is faithful to its regular loafing sites on the shore at the Paphos Lighthouse area and around Cape Greco at Ayia Thekla, Kermia Beach (Ayia Napa) and Ayia Trias (Protaras). It is absent from the Island for only a short period in May. The usual sub-species is C.l.columbinus, but a few individuals of the larger billed race, C.l.crassirostris, have been identified.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ayia Thekla	3	2	9	1	1	3	4	3	4	2	1	2
Ayia Trias	1	2	3							1	1	1
Kermia Beach	1									3	2	1
Paphos Lighthouse	7	8	7				2	5	11	7	7	7

At the Paphos Lighthouse area most of the wintering birds left in early March and only singles were seen on Mar 15th and 19th. Elsewhere there was a notable passage in mid-March, with five at Ormidhia shore on 14th, eight at Mandria (Paphos) on 15th, nine at Ayia Thekla and 12 at Spiro's Beach on 17th. Other records were one at Akrotiri gravel pits from Mar 1st to 7th, two at Mandria on Apr 12th, one on the shore to the west of Cape Kiti on Apr 15th and one at Lady's Mile on May 14th. The first bird returned to Ayia Thekla on May 31st, an adult in non-breeding plumage, increasing to three on June 7th. One at the Paphos

Lighthouse area on July 3rd, two on 21st. One at Mandria (Paphos) on Aug 27th, Sept 26th and Nov 6th. Three on the shore by the wreck at Akrotiri gravel pits on Sept 18th.

CASPIAN PLOVER* *Charadrius asiaticus*

A rare spring passage migrant from late March to early June. The first sighting was in 1984 and the record below is the tenth for Cyprus.

One male was photographed on the lower meadow at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 31st. It was flushed by a Kestrel at 1800 hours and not seen again (JJG AMC).

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

A scarce and less than annual passage migrant and winter visitor.

Four at Paralimni Lake on Apr 7th, three on 8th. One female at Kourion Beach on Apr 10th. One on Akrotiri Salt Lake on Sept 9th.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

A fairly common winter visitor from November to early April, often in three figure numbers

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Paphos Lighthouse	80	69	34						1	1	14	51

The wintering flock remained at the Paphos Lighthouse area from early January to mid-March and the last two were seen on Mar 26th. Ten were at nearby Khlorakas on Mar 13th and 14th. Up to eleven were in a field above the shore at Coral Bay all January, eight on Feb 8th, six on Feb 20th. 15 at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on Jan 3rd, eight on Jan 9th. On the Akrotiri peninsula, three at Lady's Mile on Jan 15th, seven at the gravel pits on Jan 20th and 41 at Phasouri reed beds on Mar 7th. Two at Mandria (Paphos) on Feb 27th and Mar 2nd, up to eight from Mar 8th to 12th, one from Apr 2nd to 5th. Four on the Akamas on Mar 2nd. Singles at Asprokremnos Dam on Mar 10th and 12th, Paralimni Lake on Mar 16th and Paphos Plain on Mar 30th.

One at Mandria on Sept 12th, two on 30th, one on Oct 12th. One at Lady's Mile on Sept 29th. Singles at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 29th, Oct 10th and Nov 12th, seven on 14th, 14 on Nov 27th, increasing to 51 on Dec 20th. Nine at Khlorakas on Dec 15th, three on 17th.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

A scarce and irregular passage migrant and winter visitor from late August to May. It usually occurs in single figure numbers, but counts of up to 30 have been recorded.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Paphos Lighthouse area	3	3	3									2
Ay.Thekla/Pot.Liopetri									1		1	2
Spiro's Beach	5	5	4		1				1	1	2	4

Two at Lady's Mile on Apr 21st. One at Akrotiri gravel pits from Apr 26th to May 2nd. Singles returned to Spiro's Beach on Sept 20th, Ayia Thekla and Zakaki Marsh, both on Sept 24th. Two arrived back at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Dec 7th.

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER *Vanellus spinosus*

There are records for all months, but it is mainly a passage migrant from mid-March to mid-May and late July to October. A few pairs have bred or made breeding attempts annually since 1991. However, the drying out of the natural wetlands is posing a threat to the continued survival of this small population.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam			2	2	2	3	1	2	2			
Parthenitis Dam	3	3	11	6	9	10	7	16	18	7	7	8

One at Potamos Liopetri on Mar 14th. Singles by the Laura Hotel, Paphos on Mar 19th and at the lighthouse area on Mar 27th, Apr 18th and 19th. Singles at Mandria on Mar 30th and from Apr 18th to 23rd. Two at Evdhimou Beach on Mar 31st. Singles at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) from Apr 6th to 19th and May 12th. Singles at Cape Drepanum on Apr 6th, Kissonerga on Apr 13th, near the Paphian Bay Hotel, Yeroskipos on Apr 14th and Paphos tip on Apr 3rd. Two at Kiti Pool (Meneou) on May 11th, one on 13th. One at Zakaki Marsh on May 24th.

Breeding records: at Akhna Dam a pair were seen from Mar 17th to Apr 3rd, but they made no attempt to nest. One remained from Apr 6th to 14th and one on May 4th. A pair were seen again from May 8th, eggs were laid and incubation started on May 20th. Three adults were seen on June 7th and the pair were still sitting, but on 8th the nest was abandoned and the birds had disappeared. At Parthenitis Dam three pairs were on territory on Apr 12th. One pair were incubating on Apr 26th and three young had hatched by May 5th. A second pair had three young by May 30th. A total of four young were reared to the flying stage by these two pairs, but they quickly left the area in early July. The first pair had a second nest on June 7th and incubated until early July, but no young were seen. The third pair had at least one tiny young on Aug 7th, but none was seen to survive from this brood.

Singles at Larnaca sewage works on four dates from July 21st to 31st, on Aug 19th and Sept 22nd. Two adults at Akhna Dam from Aug 4th to 8th, and from Sept 3rd to 15th, one from Sept 16th to 19th. One at Bishop's Pool from Aug 5th to 9th and one at Zakaki Marsh on Aug 26th, increasing to four on Sept 13th, eight on 14th and then two on Sept 17th. Two at Paphos Plain from Sept 17th to 24th, three on 25th and 26th. One at Mandria (Paphos) from Oct 5th to 9th and one at Moni pig farms on Oct 22nd. A few passage birds, in addition to the breeding individuals, were at Parthenitis Dam during the last few days of August and the peak count was 18 on Sept 15th. There were still seven in the area on Nov 11th, but these left at the start of the hunting season. Eight returned on Dec 21st.

WHITE-TAILED PLOVER *Vanellus leucurus*

First recorded in 1970, this is a rare passage migrant from mid-March to June and in October. This year proved to be the best ever for the species.

Four rested on rocks just offshore by the Ledra Beach Hotel at Yeroskipos on Apr 3rd. One at Yermasoyia Dam on Apr 5th. One on the pool below the Sylvana restaurant at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Apr 5th. One at Bishop's Pool on Apr 13th. One at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 16th and two feeding in a potato field on 19th. One at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on May 10th and 11th.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

This is mainly a winter visitor from October to early March, when flocks of several thousands have sometimes been reported. A few have been seen in the summer months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam	7	3							7	3	6	15
Akrotiri peninsula	20	40	5						2	8	9	30
Asprokremnos Dam	28	11	7							4	1	90
Larnaca area	100		5						3	2	26	55
Mandria (Paphos)	10	11							6	12	9	
Parthenitis Dam	12	3	1						1	1	60	1

Three at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on Jan 3rd, four on Jan 9th. 40 at Paramali on Jan 8th, 60 on Feb 18th. 15 at Evretou Dam on Jan 15th. Five at Mazotos on Jan 17th. Singles at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 8th and 9th and Akrotiri Salt Lake on Apr 5th.

Three at Larnaca sewage works on Sept 13th, singles at Parthenitis Dam on Sept 15th and 20th. Small numbers were seen widely from the fourth week of September. 30 were at Voroklini Marsh on Dec 22nd, 28 at Mazotos on Dec 23rd and 25 on a waterlogged field at Dhekalia on Dec 31st.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

A rare and irregular migrant and winter visitor. There have been thirteen previous records.

One in winter plumage was with Dunlins at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Feb 26th (SML).

One moulting adult at Zakaki Marsh on Aug 31st (APW) and an adult in winter plumage from Oct 3rd to 6th (WAS LC FJT RM). Two juveniles at Larnaca sewage works from Sept 5th to 7th (JDS APW) and a different juvenile on 16th (JDS).

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Mainly a passage migrant from late March to early June and August to November, when counts of up to 53 have been made. It is rarely recorded during the winter months.

One with an injured leg remained at Larnaca sewage works all February and until Mar 17th, one on May 8th. Six at Zakaki Marsh on Apr 13th, four at Lady's Mile and Akrotiri Salt Lake on May 6th. One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 22nd.

In the Larnaca Airport Beach and sewage works area two were seen on Aug 31st; there were almost daily records during September, peak numbers being eight on 20th and six on 25th, decreasing to two on 27th and then one or two until Oct 11th. One juvenile at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 23rd. One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 29th.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

A common passage migrant from April to early June and mid-July to October. Smaller numbers are seen in the winter months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam	3	4	23	30	140	75	110	66	53	10	3	
Akrotiri peninsula	15		58	83	85	77		7	40	50	15	
Larnaca Salt Lake	62	70	120	365	430						35	40
Larnaca sewage works						40	78	70	102	30	5	10
Parthenitis Dam				35	21	1	4	20	52	19	5	
Sotira Pools			1	17	15	1	2	5				

Spring passage started in mid-March at the Salt Lakes. 365 were at Larnaca on Apr 12th, increasing to a peak of 430 on May 12th. Migrants transferred to the Larnaca sewage works as the Salt Lake dried. There were still 40 on June 5th, dropping to the last eight on 14th.

At Akrotiri peninsula, 83 at Lady's Mile on Apr 3rd and 80 to 85 on the pool below the Sylvana restaurant and at Zakaki Marsh from May 12th to 18th, after the main Salt Lake had completely dried out. Passage continued into June, 44 were at Bishop's Pool and 32 at Zakaki Marsh on 1st. The last spring bird was at Bishop's Pool on June 17th.

At Akhna Dam there was a big fall on May 19th, when 140 dropped in, and another on June 1st, when 75 were counted. Numbers rapidly fell to two on June 7th.

In the autumn one was at Larnaca sewage works on July 8th, four on 17th, four at Akhna Dam on 18th and one at Evretou Dam on July 28th. Numbers steadily increased at the main sites until the end of the month and there was a notable fall of 110 at Akhna Dam on the morning of July 30th. The first juvenile was identified there on Aug 25th and by 30th most of the flock of 30 were young birds. A great majority were seen in the east, relatively few occurred on the Akrotiri peninsula and at sites in the west until later in the season. In September numbers fell at Akhna Dam as the water level dropped, but increased at Larnaca sewage works to 102 on 14th and at Parthenitis Dam to 52 on 20th. In the Zakaki Marsh and Lady's Mile area there were fewer migrants in early autumn, but numbers rose to 40 during the fourth week of September and 50 on Oct 14th. At Larnaca, during November, birds transferred from the sewage works to the Salt Lake as it flooded.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

A passage migrant, in numbers up to 50, from March to May and mid-July to September. Occasionally one or two remain during the winter months at Akhna Dam.

Two at Larnaca sewage works on Apr 6th and 7th, one on 11th, three on May 4th, two on May 10th and 12th. 13 were reported in the Lady's Mile/Zakaki Marsh area on Apr 10th, four on Apr 12th, one on May 7th and 8th. Singles at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on Apr 11th and 13th, May 2nd and 12th. One at Evretou Dam on May 1st, three on 5th. Two at Parthenitis Dam on May 5th, one on 10th. Two at Akhelia Dam on May 14th.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam	2	1	1	1	3		2	3	6	1	3	3

Singles at Larnaca sewage works on four dates from July 17th to 29th and one or two on three dates from Aug 7th to 19th. One at Akhna Dam on July 21st, increasing to two on 30th, up to three on most days during August and September, but six on Sept 11th, singles during October and from Nov 14th to 17th, rising to two on Nov 20th and three from Nov 22nd to Dec 18th, as the winter visitors arrived. Singles at Parthenitis Dam on July 25th, Aug 10th and 29th, two on Aug 31st, one on Sept 4th, two on Oct 9th, one on 24th and 30th. Singles at Zakaki Marsh on many dates from Sept 5th to Oct 2nd, except for two on Sept 12th.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

A spring passage migrant, mainly in April/May, in numbers up to 225. It is less frequent in autumn from August to October and occasional birds linger on into December.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam				1	5	2	3	8	15	1		
Akrotiri peninsula				1	14		1	3	4	2		
Larnaca Salt Lake				15	28							

Larnaca sewage works				1	1	2	6	8	15			
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The first two spring migrants were at Larnaca Salt Lake on Apr 2nd, then singles were at the sewage works on 11th and Zakaki Marsh on 14th. At Larnaca 15 were at the airport pools north on Apr 25th, but peak passage was in the second week of May, with 28 in the Spiro's Pool area on 8th and 10th and 20 still there on May 16th. Numbers then dropped and the last two were at the sewage works on June 12th. At Akrotiri the highest count was 14 on May 12th, with small groups occurring at Zakaki Marsh and on the pool below the Sylvana restaurant. One was at Akhna Dam on June 1st and two on 5th.

One adult that remained at Larnaca sewage works from July 6th to 14th was in complete winter plumage, with no trace of red at all. Normal plumaged birds appeared here from July 17th and at Akhna Dam from 19th. One was at Bishop's Pool on July 23rd. Most of the adults had passed through by the end of the second week of August and juveniles started to arrive from Aug 27th onwards. Movements ceased at Larnaca sewage works on Sept 7th, at Akhna Dam on Oct 5th, and at Zakaki Marsh on Oct 6th. 11 juveniles were at Parthenitis Dam on Aug 31st, rising to 14 on Sept 4th, then dropping to one that lingered on until Oct 9th.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

A few hundreds are recorded on passage and as winter visitors from August to May.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam	1	3	1	1			1	1	5	2	2	
Akrotiri peninsula	11		60	5				4	15	7	15	
Larnaca Salt Lake	70	70	70	12	6						10	15
Larnaca sewage works					1		3	11	30	16	2	1

One at Cape Greco tip on Jan 10th and two on the shore at Ayia Thekla on Feb 28th. At Larnaca Salt Lake the winter visitors left abruptly during the third week in March and few spring passage birds were seen.

In the autumn one returned to Larnaca sewage works on July 17th and there were three by the end of the month. Small numbers were present throughout August, peaking at 11 on 7th, and juveniles started to appear from Aug 30th. Up to 30 were seen from the middle of September, dropping to 16 on Oct 6th. There were up to ten on Larnaca Salt Lake during November and just 15 in December. Only singles were at Akhna Dam from July 25th, but up to five in late September and one or two until Oct 5th.

Very few were seen at Akrotiri from Aug 22nd onwards. To begin with most were at Akrotiri gravel pits, but as Zakaki Marsh and Lady's Mile flooded more were seen there, up to 15 being counted in late September, up to seven in the first half of October and 15 on Nov 5th. One at Parthenitis Dam on Sept 20th and 24th, nine on Oct 4th, five from Oct 30th to Nov 3rd, one on Nov 15th. One on the shore at Ayia Thekla on Nov 12th, rising to six on Dec 19th. Two at Kato Paphos, at the mouth of a storm drain, on Nov 26th.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus*

A scarce passage migrant from mid-April to early June and mid-July to October. It is more common in the spring and single figure numbers are usual.

Two were in the sewage works and airport pools south area of Larnaca from May 3rd to 5th, one from 8th to 12th and two on 14th. At the Akrotiri peninsula, two were on the pool below the Sylvana restaurant on May 12th and one on Zakaki Marsh from May 17th to 20th.

One adult in almost full breeding plumage was at Akhna Dam on July 21st, a juvenile on Aug 29th, 30th and Sept 2nd, and a different adult from Aug 30th to Sept 11th. One adult,

moulting from breeding plumage, at Larnaca sewage works from July 30th to Aug 1st. One at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 13th and 16th.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Although there are records for all months, the species is most common as a spring migrant, in flocks of up to 2,000, from late February to early June. Up to a hundred have been seen in autumn from August to September and double figure counts are rarely made in the winter.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam		1	12	17	170	24	19	21	11	3		
Aspro Dam and pools				12	16	4						
Akrotiri peninsula			31	40	61	64		1	8	4	3	
Bishop's Pool				44	44	23			1			
Larnaca Salt Lake		2	220	400	145							
Larnaca sewage works				12	105	30	7	10	12	2		
Sotira Pools			1	14	24	7						
Parthenitis Dam			17	95	130	6		2	2	6	1	

At Larnaca the first spring migrants were at the Salt Lake on Feb 22nd and Akhna Dam on Feb 27th. Passage increased markedly in mid-March and peaked at 400 at the Larnaca Salt Lake and pools on Apr 11th and 95 at Parthenitis Dam on Apr 12th. Several large flocks fed in the dry stubble of recently cut cereal crops, particularly in fields around the sewage works and as far to the west as the Perivolia and Kiti area. Good numbers were still going though at the end of May and there were notable falls of 170 at Akhna Dam on 20th and 130 at Parthenitis Dam on 22nd. 94 remained around the sewage works area on May 24th and 30 on June 1st. It was not until after mid-June that single figure numbers were recorded and a few stayed through to the end of the month. At Akrotiri the peak numbers in April were 44 at Bishop's Pool on 16th and 40 at Zakaki Marsh on 30th. The falls in late May were also evident in this area, with counts of 44 at Bishop's Pool on 23rd and 61 at Zakaki Marsh on 24th. Remarkably, the highest count of the spring was made on June 1st, when 64 were in the Zakaki Marsh and Lady's Mile area, plus a further 23 at Bishop's Pool. Numbers then dropped rapidly, but there was still one at Bishop's Pool on June 20th. At the Paphos Lighthouse area from one to three occurred from Mar 7th to 25th and up to nine in April, apart from a fall of 40, seen briefly on Apr 16th. Other high counts were 20 at Phasouri reed beds on Mar 11th, 60 flying east at Cape Greco on Apr 7th, 20 at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 19th and 22 at Evretou Dam on May 4th.

Only small numbers were at Larnaca sewage works from July 6th onwards and the highest count was 12 on Sept 4th. From then on few were seen and the last was one on Oct 29th.

One or two were at Akhna Dam from July 21st and the first autumn flock was 19 on July 31st (including the first three juveniles). 21 were seen on Aug 1st and up to eight until the middle of the month, but then numbers fell, rising again to 10 or 11 in mid-September, but only one to three in late September and until Oct 6th.

Eight at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 9th, but there were only one to three in the second half of the month, two of which were shot on the morning of Sept 30th. One or two from Oct 1st to 5th, then up to four from Oct 26th to 31st, three on Nov 3rd and one on 6th.

Two at Parthenitis Dam on Aug 4th, one on 5th, then one or two from Sept 15th to 20th, six on Oct 4th, two on Oct 9th and one on Nov 3rd. Even fewer were at other sites, just one at Akrotiri gravel pits on Aug 2nd and one at Kiti Dam on Oct 31st.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

A passage migrant and winter visitor in single figure numbers from August to early May.

One or two at Akhna Dam from Jan 7th to Mar 17th. One at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Jan 27th, two on Feb 29th. Singles at Cape Greco tip on Feb 3rd and Parthenitis Dam on Feb 16th. Singles at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Sept 30th, Oct 26th and Nov 6th, Kiti Dam on Nov 2nd. One at Parthenitis Dam on Nov 3rd, two on Dec 4th. Singles at Cape Greco tip on Nov 21st and Dec 28th, Akhna Dam on Nov 22nd and Dec 8th and Akrotiri Salt Lake on Dec 31st.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

A passage migrant and winter visitor from August to mid-May, formerly more common than at the present time.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam	11	5	1	5		1			7	7	3	9
Aspro Dam pools	1	3	2	6				1	2	2		1
Bishop's Pool				1	1				1	1	2	1
Cape Greco tip	3	4	2						3	4	4	6
Evretou Dam	2	1	1	2					1	1		
Kivisil slurry pits				1	1	1		2				7
Larnaca area								3	4		3	4
Parthenitis Dam	3	7		1				1	5	14	20	7
Zakaki Marsh		1		2					2	2	9	

Singles at Phasouri reed beds on Mar 11th and Ayia Napa football pitches pool on Mar 16th. Five at Xeros Potamos on Apr 8th and one at Yermasoyia Dam on Apr 11th. A shot bird with a broken wing was at Akhna Dam on June 5th.

One at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on Aug 4th, but it was not until late August that passage started, with two at Kivisil slurry pits (Larnaca), one at Parthenitis Dam and one at Asprokremnos Dam pools, all on 29th. Three at Larnaca sewage works on 30th. Small numbers were at the main sites. In addition one at Ayia Napa football pitches pool on Sept 17th, one at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 28th and eight at Kiti Dam on Nov 2nd, four on Dec 4th.

GREAT SNIPE *Gallinago media*

Most records occur in the spring from mid-March to May and involve single birds. It has been very rarely reported in September/October and December.

Singles at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on Apr 6th and May 8th, Akhna Dam on Apr 6th, Zakaki Marsh on Apr 8th, 9th and 14th, Bishop's Pool on Apr 10th, Asprokremnos Dam pools on Apr 9th, 11th and 16th and Larnaca Airport pools south on May 11th.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Although mainly a spring passage migrant in flocks of up to 20 from February to May, there are records of small numbers in all other months.

Singles at Larnaca Salt Lake on Feb 28th and the airport pools north on Mar 9th. Singles at Lady's Mile on Mar 9th and 11th, Zakaki Marsh from Apr 8th to 11th and from May 12th to 18th. One at Evretou Dam from Apr 15th to 17th. Two flew past Kato Paphos on May 8th. One at Kivisil slurry pits on May 12th. Singles at Larnaca sewage works on Sept 4th and 12th.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT* *Limosa lapponica*

A scarce and less than annual passage migrant and rare winter visitor. There have been thirteen previous records for Cyprus.

One juvenile was at Zakaki Marsh from Sept 25th to 29th (DLC CM LC WAS *et al.*).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

A scarce and irregular passage migrant, usually in single figure numbers, in April/May and August/September.

Singles at Spiro's Beach on Apr 6th and 12th. Two to the west of Cape Kiti on Apr 15th.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

A scarce visitor from August to May that has previously been seen most regularly on passage from mid-March to mid-April.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Phasouri reed beds	11	3										7
Spiro's Pool area	1	2								1	4	11

One at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Jan 13th. Eight at Akrotiri gravel pits on Jan 20th, two on Mar 30th. One at Lady's Mile on Mar 28th. One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 19th, one heard on Apr 18th and two on May 4th. One at Asprokremnos Dam on Apr 21st.

Singles flew over Ayia Trias (Protaras) on Sept 15th and the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 29th. One returned to the Spiro's Pool and Larnaca sewage works area on Oct 24th, increasing to four on Nov 11th, and 11 at the end of December. Four were at Episkopi Bay on Dec 2nd and three returned to Phasouri reed beds on Dec 30th, increasing to seven on 31st.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

A spring passage migrant in flocks of up to 45 from mid-March to mid-May. It is occasional from late May to October, generally in single figure numbers. Winter records were formerly exceptional, but recently have become more regular.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam		1		1					4	2	2	2
Larnaca area	1	1	5	1	1		2		8	4	2	1

One at Larnaca Salt Lake from Jan 26th to Feb 16th, three at the airport pools north on Mar 19th, five on Mar 31st, singles on several dates between Apr 4th and 26th and one on the airport pools south on May 14th. Singles at Akhna Dam on Feb 7th and Apr 18th. One at Parthenitis Dam on Apr 26th.

One adult at Larnaca sewage works from July 12th to 19th, two from 20th to 23rd, one from July 24th to 28th, none in August, but singles from Sept 5th to 9th, five on 10th, eight on 12th, dropping to three on Sept 29th, four on Oct 4th and then two or three until Oct 23rd, two on Nov 1st and one with Redshanks on the airport pools south on Dec 23rd and 29th. One at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Aug 13th. Three juveniles at Akhna Dam from Sept 5th to 12th, four from 13th to 15th, then singles until Sept 23rd and two juveniles from Oct 1st to Dec 18th. Singles at Bishop's Pool on Sept 11th and Lady's Mile on 18th. One at Zakaki Marsh on Oct 1st and 2nd, two from 3rd to 5th, four on 6th, two on Oct 7th.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

Recorded in all months, but most common as a winter visitor to the Salt Lakes in flocks of a hundred or more from December to March. Double figure counts are made on spring and autumn passage.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam	1	2					2	16	1	1	1	
Akrotiri peninsula			15	2				2	2	3	3	1
Ay.Thekla/Pot.Liopetri			1				1	2	1		1	1
Cape Greco tip	5	8	5							3	2	1
Larnaca Salt Lake	90	110	110	6							8	40
Larnaca sewage works						3	4	11	5	12	10	
Parthenitis Dam	3	8	1						6	17	30	

Winter visitors started to leave the Larnaca area after mid-March, but there were still 38 on 26th, after which numbers dropped rapidly. There was a small passage at Akrotiri, with five at the gravel pits and ten at the Salt Lake on Mar 7th, then singles in the Zakaki Marsh and Lady's Mile area on Mar 30th, Apr 9th and 12th, with two on Apr 20th. One at Ayia Thekla on Mar 13th. Six at Asprokremnos Dam on Mar 23rd, two on Apr 14th.

Three returned to Larnaca sewage works on June 28th and up to four were present throughout July and August (except for 11 on Aug 6th), five in September and 12 in October, as the winter visitors started to arrive. Birds moved from the sewage works to the Salt Lake to feed in late November and the flock increased to 40 in the second half of December. Two at Akhna Dam on July 19th, one juvenile from July 20th to 31st, then 16 dropped in briefly during the early evening of Aug 1st, but otherwise only the occasional single was at this site from Aug 5th to Nov 1st. Two at Akrotiri gravel pits on Aug 9th and 11th. One at Bishop's Pool on Aug 31st and during September/early October. One or two at Zakaki Marsh during September, once it flooded, and up to three in early October. One returned to Parthenitis Dam on Sept 7th, increasing to six on Sept 20th, 17 on Oct 18th and 30 on Nov 3rd. It seems that winter visitors use this site when they first arrive and move on to Larnaca Salt Lake once it floods. 22 were still present on Nov 15th, but all had left after this date, following disturbance at the start of the hunting season. One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Oct 15th. Three at Paralimni Lake on Dec 5th.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis*

Mainly a spring passage migrant. Counts of up to a hundred or more have been recorded from late February to May. Fewer are seen in the autumn from late June to October.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam			1	3			3	1	1			
Larnaca Salt Lake			3	41								
Larnaca sewage works				2	1	1	2	11	6			

At Larnaca spring passage started at the Salt Lake with three on Mar 10th. Numbers peaked at 40 on Apr 6th and 41 on 9th. There were still 30 on Apr 12th, but only ten on 16th, dropping to one on 23rd and then one at the sewage works on May 2nd. At Akrotiri two were in the Zakaki Marsh and Lady's Mile area on Mar 28th and Apr 1st, one from Apr 4th to 8th, four on

Apr 21st and then singles until May 4th. One to three at Bishop's Pool from Apr 7th to 20th, one on May 4th. Two at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Apr 10th and two at the gravel pits on Apr 12th. One at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on Apr 5th, increasing to ten on 8th, then one to three until Apr 28th and a shot and injured bird from May 2nd to 5th. Three at Parthenitis Dam on Apr 12th. Singles at Evretou Dam on Apr 14th and 15th, Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 16th and 17th and Nata ford on Apr 16th. Four at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Apr 20th.

The first autumn migrant returned to Larnaca sewage works on June 28th. Only the odd one or two were at this site in July, but there were almost daily sightings during August, peaking at 11 on 30th, and passage continued until mid-September. Three were at Akhna Dam on July 30th, but only singles were seen on three dates during August and on Sept 7th. The only other records were late birds at Akrotiri gravel pits on Sept 27th and Zakaki Marsh on Oct 4th

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

There have been sightings in all months, but it is chiefly a spring migrant in flocks of up to 100. No more than 20 have been recorded in the autumn and it is rare in the winter months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam			1	2	1	1	3	1	1			
Aspro Dam and pools			1	1								
Larnaca Salt Lake			2	32	8							
Larnaca sewage works							1		4	2		

At Larnaca the first was at the Salt Lake on Mar 10th. Numbers at first were slow to build, but then rose from eight on Apr 7th to 32 on 9th. There were still 20 on Apr 16th, dropping to four on Apr 28th, then eight on May 5th, seven on 8th and one on May 10th. At Akrotiri up to five were in the Zakaki Marsh and Lady's Mile area from Mar 24th to 31st and four during April, singles from May 1st to 4th, then four on 13th. Singles were at the gravel pits on four dates from Apr 3rd to 28th and on May 6th. Three at Bishop's Pool on Apr 11th, one on 14th. Singles at Parthenitis Dam on Mar 31st, Apr 18th and May 9th, Evretou Dam on Apr 2nd and 15th, the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 6th, Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on four dates from Apr 13th to 27th and Nata ford on Apr 13th and 16th. Two at Kivisil slurry pits (Larnaca) on Apr 15th and 18th and May 12th. Two at the Paphos Lighthouse area on May 4th.

One at Akhna Dam on June 15th, one or two from July 10th to 16th, three on July 30th, singles from Aug 11th to 29th and on Sept 7th and 9th. Singles at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on July 5th and 27th. Singles at Larnaca sewage works on July 8th and 24th, but none in August, then one to three from Sept 4th to 16th, four on 18th and 22nd, decreasing to one from 25th to 29th and one or two until Oct 13th. Singles at Parthenitis Dam on Aug 31st, Sept 7th and Nov 11th.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

A common spring passage migrant from mid-March to mid-May. It is then scarce until mid-June when autumn passage begins. Small flocks are regular until October and a few are seen during the winter months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam	1	2	2	2		7	9	14	3	5	4	2
Aspro Dam and pools	1		2	1	1		14	4	1			
Bishop's Pool		1		1				6	2	1		
Evretou Dam		1		3	1		12	6	3			
Larnaca area	1	1	1	1		4	2	4	4			

Parthenitis Dam	1	1	3	3		2	8	15	10	5	5	
Sotira Pools			2	2		1	3	2				
Zakaki / Lady's Mile		1		2				1	1	1		

Two at Akhelia Dam on Feb 7th, one on May 9th. Two at Mavrokolymbos Dam on Mar 18th. Singles at Kiti Dam on Mar 27th and Yermasoyia Dam from Mar 31st to Apr 12th. One at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Apr 10th, four on Apr 12th. Three at Xeros Potamos on Apr 8th, one on May 3rd. Five at Akrounda Dam on Apr 11th. Two at Kouris Dam on Apr 12th. Two at Kivisil slurry pits (Larnaca) from Apr 14th to 18th and on May 12th.

The first autumn migrants returned to Akhna Dam on June 5th, Parthenitis Dam and Kivisil slurry pits on 6th. Three at Akhelia Dam on June 18th, singles at Pyrgos Dam (Paphos Forest) on 24th and Ayia Napa football pitches pool on 29th. High counts in July were nine at Akhna Dam on 5th, 14 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 24th and 12 at Evretou Dam on 28th. In August there were up to eight at Akrotiri gravel pits on four dates from 1st to 23rd and five at Kivisil slurry pits on 29th. Numbers dropped in September, but there were still ten at Parthenitis Dam on 7th. One at Paphos tip on Sept 6th, one at Ayia Trias (Protaras) on 7th and three at Ayia Napa pool on Sept 17th. In October singles were around the Zakaki Marsh, Akrotiri gravel pits and Bishop's Pool areas until 5th and at the mouth of the River Tremithos (Perivolia) on 11th. Two were at Akhelia Dam on Nov 17th. Up to four remained at Akhna Dam during November, two in December. One at Kivisil slurry pits on Dec 22nd.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

A common spring passage migrant, mainly from late March to May, when hundreds have been reported. Double figure numbers occur in the autumn from late June to October and it is rare in the winter until early December.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam			3	6	44	4	50	20	5	1		
Aspro Dam and pools			1	12	4			5	1			
Bishop's Pool				10	12	2	2	2	4	1		
Evretou Dam				6	12				1			
Larnaca Salt Lakes				8	11							
Larnaca sewage works				2	3		16	20	33	1		
Parthenitis Dam				12	20	1	5	10	9			
Sotira Pools				5	6	1	5	4				
Zakaki / Lady's Mile			1	10	7				4	1		

March records were singles at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 25th, Lady's Mile on 28th and Yermasoyia Dam on 31st, plus three at Akhna Dam, also on 31st. Small numbers were spread over most of the wet habitats during April and May, higher counts being 15 at Kivisil slurry pits (Larnaca) on Apr 15th, May 3rd and 22nd, eight at Larnaca Airport pools north on Apr 25th and 12 at Parthenitis Dam on Apr 26th, increasing to 20 on May 22nd. The only notable fall was on May 10th, when 44 briefly dropped into Akhna Dam. Up to 12 were seen at this site over the rest of the month. Migrants lingered on into June, with four at Akhna Dam on 1st, then one or two until 6th, one or two at Bishop's Pool until 8th, and singles at Ayia Varvara pools (Paphos) on 5th and Parthenitis Dam on 14th.

What were presumed to be returning autumn migrants were singles at Bishop's Pool on June 20th, Akhna Dam on 28th and Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on 29th. Numbers slowly increased in July and then there was a notable fall of 50 during the morning of July 30th at Akhna Dam.

The first juveniles appeared at this site on Aug 5th, but there were no high counts anywhere during August. In September 33 were at Larnaca sewage works on 7th, but numbers fell to single figures after the middle of the month and just one bird was seen in October until 11th. Two at Ayia Napa football pitches pool on Sept 7th and three at Kivisil slurry pits (Larnaca) on 20th. Singles at Bishop's Pool until Oct 2nd, Akhna Dam until Oct 5th and Zakaki Marsh until Oct 7th.

TEREK SANDPIPER* *Xenus cinereus*

There have been ten previous records of passage birds from March to May and July to September.

One on Spiro's Pool on May 10th (JDS) and at Larnaca sewage works on 11th (RJS).

One adult at Larnaca sewage works on Sept 5th (JDS).

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

There are records for all months, but this is predominantly a passage migrant in tens from March to May and July to September. Single figure numbers occur in the winter.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam	2	2	4	8	3		10	6	4	2	1	1
Aspro Dam and pools				10	2			1				
Ay.Thekla/Pot.Liopetri		1	1	1		1	6	9	1	1	1	2
Bishop's Pool				2	1			5	2			
Evretou Dam				3	11			4	1			1
Larnaca area				6	5	2	10	6	3			
Paphos shore	3	1	3	3	2			2		1	1	

One to three spring passage migrants were seen at many freshwater and coastal sites from late March to May 26th, the only notable count, apart from the ones above, being seven at Akhelia Dam on Apr 23rd.

June records were singles at Parthenitis Dam on 6th, Larnaca sewage works on 6th and 12th and Potamos Liopetri on 13th, plus two at Spiro's Beach on 30th.

In July one was at Akhna Dam from 4th and return migration rapidly got under way in the east during the second week of the month, numbers increasing to ten at Akhna Dam on July 25th and ten at Larnaca sewage works on 28th. Small numbers were seen at many other localities.

Most movements had ceased by mid-September, but there were singles at Kalavassos Dam on Oct 2nd, Yermasoyia Dam on Oct 6th, 22nd and 24th and Parthenitis Dam on Oct 30th.

Winter visitors settled at the usual sites at Akhna Dam, Potamos Liopetri and the Paphos Lighthouse area during October and November. Singles at Evretou Dam on Dec 17th and Yermasoyia Dam on 23rd.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

A scarce passage migrant from mid-March to mid-June and August to October in groups of less than ten. In the last ten years or so wintering at the Paphos Lighthouse area has become regular.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Paphos Lighthouse	7	6	6	3				3	3	2	2	5

Three at Khlorakas on Apr 11th, one on June 13th. One at Mandria (Paphos) on May 7th.

One adult in breeding plumage at Larnaca sewage works from Aug 1st to 8th and one from Aug 29th to Sept 1st, then one or two from Sept 4th to 15th and one until Sept 24th. Three returned to the Paphos Lighthouse area on Aug 21st. Singles at Akrotiri gravel pits on Aug 26th and 31st and Sept 11th. Two at Potamos Liopetri on Sept 28th.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

A scarce migrant to reservoirs and salt lakes, mainly from late March to mid-May.

One on the pool below the Sylvana restaurant at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Apr 5th.

Single juveniles at Larnaca sewage works from Aug 28th to Sept 7th, Zakaki Marsh from Sept 11th to 14th and Akhna Dam on Sept 14th and 15th.

SKUA *Stercorarius*

One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 13th was probably an Arctic Skua *S. parasiticus*.

GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL* *Larus ichthyæetus*

A scarce and less than annual winter visitor and spring passage migrant that was first recorded in 1958.

A small group arrived with the main influx of winter-visiting Yellow-legged Gulls at the end of the second week of December. They loafed with the gull flock by Larnaca Airport pools south during the day and made occasional visits to the sewage works. One adult was seen on Dec 12th, two adults and one first-winter from 13th to 15th, the first adult on 16th and 17th, four (three adults) on 19th and 20th, five (four adults) on 21st and 22nd, four adults on 24th, one adult on 28th, a first-winter with pale head markings on 29th and a different first-winter on Dec 30th (JDS *et al.*).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Apparently very common in the past as a spring passage migrant and winter visitor. It is now less frequent and recorded in relatively small numbers from November to May.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Larnaca area	8	6	16							2	3	12

One badly oiled bird was in Paphos Harbour on Jan 14th. There was a small passage through Larnaca Salt Lake during early March, ending with 15 on Mar 17th. Three obvious migrants were with Black-headed Gulls on the shore at Ormidhia on Mar 19th.

One first-winter was at Larnaca sewage works on Oct 4th and one or two from Oct 23rd to Nov 2nd. An adult was at the sewage works on Nov 16th and 27th and on the Salt Lake on Nov 30th. Numbers increased as the Salt Lake flooded, so that at least ten adults and two first-winters were present during December. One adult was on a waterlogged field at Dhekalia on Dec 31st.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

There are records for all months, but larger numbers have been seen on passage in March, when up to 300 have been counted. Flocks of tens are more usual at other times.

Three, moving between Larnaca sewage works and the airport pools north, on Jan 31st, increasing to nine on Feb 22nd, then up to six in March and two adults and two first-winters until Apr 20th. One oiled adult and one recently shot first-winter at Akhna Dam on Feb 15th. Two first-winters at Kiti Dam on Dec 19th and one at Larnaca sewage works on Dec 21st.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

A very common winter visitor from November to April, scarce at other times.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akrotiri Salt Lake				1						1	52	60
Larnaca area	3000	4000	2000	18	2	2	3	2	1	85	1000	3000
Ormidhia shore	200	360	200									80
Paphos Lighthouse	17	9	60	1	4							220

Most of the winter visitors had left the Larnaca area by mid-March. 50 flew north at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 23rd and 80 coasted east at Amathus on Mar 30th. One shot first-summer bird, with an injured wing, remained at Larnaca sewage works until mid-July at least.

The first juvenile was at Larnaca from July 26th to Aug 13th and then two on Aug 17th. Flocks of winter visitors started to arrive during the last week of October. Numbers increased rapidly at Larnaca during the second half of November and again from Dec 3rd, to reach 3,000 on 11th. Most were on the Salt Lake in the early mornings and late afternoons. Large numbers fed on the tip at Tersephanou and rested on nearby Kiti Dam during the day. 600 were on the sea at Lachi on Nov 13th, before flying off to the west. 1,200 were at Paphos tip on Dec 26th.

SLENDER-BILLED GULL *Larus genei*

A common passage migrant, mainly in March/April and July to October. Very few are seen during the winter months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Larnaca Salt Lake		22	130	75								2
Larnaca sewage works			12	17			19	18	15	2	9	2
Paphos Lighthouse			1	20								

One adult at Ayia Trias (Protaras) on Jan 4th and Feb 4th. Singles at Potamos Liopetri on Mar 14th and 17th. One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 15th. Two at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Mar 28th was the only spring record from this area. There was a notable passage at Larnaca during mid-March, with a maximum of 130 on 19th. A smaller second wave of birds peaked at 75 on Apr 6th, but then numbers dropped rapidly and the last three were seen on Apr 18th. 60 rested on rocks at Kermia Beach (Cape Greco) on Apr 5th. Two adults flew north at Kissonerga on Apr 11th. 15 in Episkopi Bay on Apr 12th. 20 flew offshore at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 13th and three were at Coral Bay on the same day.

Autumn passage was almost totally confined to Larnaca sewage works. 19 (including one juvenile) arrived on July 17th and from then on varying numbers were present daily, notably 11 on July 21st, 18 on 25th, up to 11 from Aug 5th to 10th and 18 on 13th, 12 on Sept 1st and 15 on Sept 10th. Just the odd one or two were seen until Nov 2nd, then nine arrived with an influx of Black-headed Gulls on Nov 15th. One stayed until Nov 20th, two adults on Dec 3rd, one on 4th and a first-winter remained on Larnaca Salt Lake from Dec 5th to 22nd.

One at Akrotiri gravel pits on Aug 5th. One on the shore between Potamos Liopetri and Nissi Beach (Ayia Napa) from Nov 27th to Dec 30th.

AUDOUIN'S GULL *Larus audouinii*

Generally seen in single figure numbers throughout the year, although the species can be hard to find in the autumn and early winter. Breeding does not occur in the recording area. Sightings are most frequent at Ayia Trias, to the north-west of Protaras, and around Cape Greco to Potamos Liopetri.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ayia Trias (Protaras)	5	8	1									1
Cape Greco	1	4	7	4	3	5	4			2		3
Potamos Liopetri	1	1		2	8	5	1	4	2		3	

One adult at Kiti Pool (Meneou) on Jan 17th and Feb 5th. One adult at the fishing shelter at Pomos on Feb 25th. Two on the shore opposite Ayios Yeoryios Island (Akamas) on Mar 5th, 17th and 27th. Three adults flew north at Cape Drepanum on Apr 4th. One first-summer flew north at Kissonerga on Apr 7th. Three at Larnaca sewage works on May 10th, one on 30th. One at Mazotos Beach on June 7th.

The species became scarce from September to November. One adult was at Fig Tree Bay (Protaras) on Sept 18th. One first-winter at Larnaca sewage works on Oct 24th and a second-winter on Nov 27th. One adult was on a waterlogged field, with other gulls, at Dhekelia on Dec 30th.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

An uncommon winter visitor in single figure numbers, mainly from December to March.

Up to one adult and two first-winters were at Larnaca sewage works from Jan 13th to 31st and an adult and three first-winters in February. Two first-winters at Ormidhia shore on Feb 4th, one on 14th.

Up to three first-winters were at Larnaca Salt Lake and sewage works from Dec 4th to 31st. Two on a waterlogged field at Dhekelia on Dec 27th, six on 28th, then one or two until 31st. One second-winter was reported at Zakaki Marsh on Dec 23rd.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

The race *L.f.fuscus* is mainly a coasting passage migrant, in flocks of hundreds, from March to May and August to October. It is infrequent during the winter months around the coasts and coastal wetlands. Small numbers of 'Siberian' Gulls *L.f.heuglini* were first identified as winter visitors from mid-November 1998.

Five at Coral Bay on Apr 13th. 26 adults flew north at Kissonerga on Apr 13th. Six at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 19th, four on Apr 23rd. Singles at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 19th and Paphos tip on May 18th.

Singles at Cape Arnaouti (Akamas) on Aug 30th, Bishop's Pool on Sept 11th, Paramali on Oct 16th and Larnaca sewage works from Nov 11th to 27th. Up to three at Asprokremnos Dam in December.

L.f.fuscus: up to two adults and two first-winters at Larnaca Salt Lake in January, two adults and one first-winter in February, five adults in March, six adults and a second-winter in April and one adult at the sewage works on May 2nd. Higher counts of migrants were 11 past Cape Greco on Apr 3rd, 13 on 7th, ten at Cape Drepanum on Apr 10th and seven at the

Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 13th. Just the odd one or two were seen in May, while in June there were singles at Asprokremnos Dam on 3rd and 4th, and in the Spiro's Beach and Larnaca sewage works area on 28th and 29th.

Single adults at Larnaca sewage works on Sept 1st, 11th and 28th, a first-winter at Spiro's Beach on Oct 4th and adult on Oct 29th and Nov 3rd, a first-winter at the sewage works on Nov 15th, up to two adults and two first-winters in December. One at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 12th. Seven at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Dec 17th, 23 on 28th.

*L.f.heuglini**: up to five adults at Larnaca Salt Lakes and sewage works all January and until mid-March, dropping to one on Mar 31st. Singles at Ormidhia shore on Feb 14th and Lady's Mile on Apr 5th. One adult at Spiro's Beach on Sept 28th and Oct 4th, then one or two in the Larnaca sewage works, Salt Lakes, Kiti Dam and Tersephanou tip area during the second half of October, up to two adults and one first-winter in November, and six adults and a first-winter in December.

One large pale bird at Larnaca sewage works on Mar 2nd showed some characters of the race *L.f.taimyrensis* (SC).

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans*

The race L.c.michahellis occurs as a breeding resident on cliffs and small offshore islands from Akrotiri to the Akamas peninsula. Numbers decline from early September and build up again from mid-November. Recent studies confirm that the flocks of Yellow-legged Gulls in the Larnaca area during the winter months are chiefly of the race L.c.cachinnans, and peak counts are made in January/February.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akrotiri Salt Lake	300	300	150	4	11	3				17	60	200
Asprokremnos Dam	115	55	60	21		126					5	1000
Yeronisos Island		121	108									160
Larnaca area	1400	1500	300	30	20	43	130	115	85	75	60	1000
Paphos area	3	2	15	5	2							1

60 at Paphos tip on Apr 3rd, 70 on May 18th. 17 at Mavrokolymbos Dam on Apr 17th. One at Bishop's Pool on Apr 7th was attempting to eat a dead Moorhen and what was presumably the same bird on Apr 8th was seen to kill and eat a Moorhen. 19 adults at Dreamers Bay (RAF Akrotiri) on June 20th, 70 on Sept 8th. 34 at Marathounda on June 18th.

The post-breeding flock in the Spiro's Pool and Larnaca Airport Beach area built up to a maximum of 130 on July 18th and then dropped as the autumn progressed. Winter visitors arrived during early December, numbers rising from 50 on 1st and 130 on 4th to 1,000 on 16th. 91 flew east over the sea at Paramali on Sept 25th. Numbers at Mandria (Paphos) increased from three on Oct 12th to 16 on 31st, 38 on Nov 4th and 170 on Nov 19th. 30 at Lachi on Nov 10th and 40 at the Baths of Aphrodite on 12th. Just one large count was made at Asprokremnos Dam, 1,000 on Dec 12th.

Three Caspian Gulls *L.c.cachinnans* were identified at Larnaca from mid-November and the vast majority of birds that arrived in early December were of this race.

ARMENIAN GULL *Larus armenicus*

First identified in 1988, this species is now recognised as a regular winter visitor in small numbers from mid-November to mid-March.

Up to eight in the Larnaca sewage works and Salt Lake area during January and February, one adult on Mar 10th. Five at Asprokremnos Dam on Jan 2nd, four on Feb 21st, one adult on Apr 10th. Two at Ormidhia shore on Feb 14th. One at Mandria (Paphos) on Feb 15th.

In the Larnaca Salt Lake, sewage works, Kiti Dam and Tersephanou tip area, three on Oct 11th, at least four in November, increasing to about ten during December.

GULL-BILLED TERN *Sterna nilotica*

Mainly a spring passage migrant from March to May, sometimes in double figure numbers. It is seen less often in the autumn from July to September and is rare in winter.

A flock of 21 were roosting at Larnaca Salt Lake on the evening of Mar 16th and 25 flew east along Spiro's Beach on May 10th. Singles at Paphos Harbour on Mar 30th and Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 14th.

One adult at Larnaca sewage works on June 14th, two on July 17th, singles on July 19th and 22nd, one juvenile on Aug 6th and 7th, singles on Aug 17th, Sept 29th and Oct 2nd. Two in Episkopi Bay at Kourion on July 16th.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

A scarce winter visitor and spring passage migrant from November to April. Records have increased since 1981. The species is mostly seen fishing around Cape Greco and a favoured loafing site is the rocky shore to the west of the fishing shelter at Ormidhia.

Two on several dates in the Khlorkas and Paphos Lighthouse area in January and on Feb 2nd, Mar 12th and 22nd. Ten at Ayia Trias (Protaras) on Jan 4th, one on Feb 8th. One at Potamos Liopetri on Jan 10th, four on Mar 17th. Up to four at Ormidhia shore from Jan 10th to Feb 4th, one on Feb 16th and up to four in March. Four at Kermia Beach (Cape Greco) on Jan 31st, one on Mar 15th.

Singles at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Oct 23rd and Dec 7th. Two offshore between Potamos Liopetri and Ayia Thekla on Dec 5th, singles on 9th and 31st. Two at Ormidhia shore on Dec 9th, one on 18th.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

There are records for all months, but it is primarily a spring passage migrant in April and May. Single figure numbers are occasionally seen in autumn and winter.

Five at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 9th. One flew north in a gale at Kissonerga on Apr 9th. One at Larnaca sewage works from May 20th to 22nd and two at Spiro's Beach on May 23rd.

One adult at Larnaca sewage works on July 21st and a juvenile from Aug 2nd to 10th.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

A regular but infrequent spring passage migrant from March to May. Generally no more than four are seen at any one time. It is rare and less than annual in mid-summer and autumn when just the odd one or two occur.

One at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 9th was the only spring record.

One at Larnaca sewage works on July 8th, two on 11th, singles on July 13th and from 18th to 24th, one on Aug 17th, two on 29th, a juvenile from Aug 30th to Sept 4th.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybridus*

A regular passage migrant in small numbers with records from April to early November.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Akhna Dam						1	1	1	1			
Larnaca sewage works					2	4	4	15	18	4	4	1

One at Asprokremnos Dam on May 2nd and 4th. Three at Bishop's Pool on May 4th, one from 16th to 20th. One at Zakaki Marsh on May 17th. One at Evretou Dam on May 5th and 6th.

One at Larnaca sewage works from May 20th to 22nd, two on 30th, three adults on June 1st and 2nd, four on 5th, one from 6th to 8th and on 30th, three from July 12th to 22nd, two on 23rd, one on 25th, a juvenile from Aug 6th to 10th, two on 13th and 19th, 12 on 29th and 30th, 15 on Aug 31st, ten on Sept 1st, 18 on 7th, then ten to twelve from 9th to 14th. Numbers dropped from mid-September onwards, but there were still four juveniles at the end of October and until Nov 3rd, three on Nov 7th, then two until Nov 27th and one until Dec 4th.

Single adults at Asprokremnos Dam on June 4th and Coral Bay on June 19th. At Akhna Dam, an adult on June 5th and Aug 1st, a juvenile from Aug 4th to 10th, an adult on Sept 7th and juvenile from Sept 24th to 27th. At Akrotiri peninsula, one juvenile at the gravel pits on Aug 11th and 22nd, one at Bishop's Pool on Aug 31st and Sept 30th, one at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 14th and one or two from Sept 26th to 30th, single juveniles from Oct 1st to 3rd and Oct 27th.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

An uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant. It is seen occasionally in the summer and there are records from March to early November.

One at Paphos Harbour on May 6th was the only spring record.

One adult at Larnaca sewage works from July 17th to 19th, two from 20th to 23rd, one on July 24th, a juvenile on Aug 29th, one or two juveniles from Sept 1st to 12th and Sept 24th to 29th, one from Oct 4th to 7th and two on 9th. One at Akhna Dam on Aug 17th and a juvenile from Sept 14th to 19th.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

A spring and autumn passage migrant and generally the most common marsh tern in the spring. It occurs from mid-February to early November. Up to 300 have been seen in late April/May and 50 in August, but numbers were much reduced again this year. This is undoubtedly due to the disappearance of the Island's natural wetlands.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Akhna Dam					2		2	1	1			
Bishop's Pool					1	1			1			
Larnaca sewage works				3	2		6	10	12	3		
Zakaki Marsh				2	2				2	1		

At the Akrotiri peninsula, two at Zakaki Marsh on Apr 22nd, then one or two until May 17th, one at the gravel pits on Apr 30th; singles at Bishop's Pool from May 1st to 9th and from June 14th to 20th. Three at Larnaca sewage works on Apr 24th, then one or two until May 20th. Singles at Coral Bay on Apr 25th, Mavrokolymbos Dam on 26th, Akhelia Dam on 29th and Evdhimou Bay on May 11th. Two at Evretou Dam on May 14th and one at Ayia Varvara pools (Paphos) on May 26th.

The first adult returned to Larnaca sewage works on July 7th. There were then almost daily sightings, increasing to six on July 22nd. The first juvenile appeared on July 26th. Passage increased in mid-August, when the peak count was ten on 19th, and again in September with 12 juveniles on 4th and 12th. There were still ten on Sept 27th, three on Oct 4th and then one or two until Oct 13th. One adult at Akhna Dam on July 11th, two from 12th to 14th, one on

15th, a juvenile on July 31st, an adult from Aug 6th to 10th and juvenile on Sept 24th. At the Akrotiri peninsula, one juvenile was at the gravel pits on Aug 2nd and one on Oct 6th, singles at Zakaki Marsh from Sept 16th to Oct 3rd, except for two on Sept 28th, and one at Bishop's Pool on Sept 17th. Two at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 23rd.

BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE* *Pterocles orientalis*

This was formerly a resident in small numbers up until the early 1970s, but there have been few records subsequently. The one below is the first since 1992.

Two males were at Mandria (Paphos) on Jan 30th (JJG).

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*

A common resident that nests in colonies on rock faces in the hills and mountains, on sea cliffs and offshore islands. Feral pigeons occur in great numbers in all lowland areas.

Larger counts of assumed wild birds were 20 at Asprokremnos Dam and pools on Mar 12th and Sept 26th, 30 on Dec 23rd, ten at Kensington Cliffs on Apr 4th, 13 at Bishop's Pool on Apr 12th and 20 on Aug 1st, 30 at Tunnel Beach on Nov 12th and 20 on Dec 3rd. 20 flew west in three flocks past Cape Arnaouti (Akamas) on Nov 13th.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

A winter visitor, sometimes in large flocks, from mid-August to early May.

Eight at Paphos Airport on Dec 28th was the only record

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

A common breeding resident and winter visitor in lowland areas. Flocks can number several hundreds in the winter months and counts have increased in recent years.

Relatively large numbers were at Mandria (Paphos) during the winter months, presumably because this is an agricultural area where shooting is restricted. Up to 600 were seen in January, reducing to 90 on Mar 12th and 50 on Apr 19th, 30 on Sept 4th, 20 on Oct 1st, and a massive flock of 1,350 by Paphos Airport on Dec 28th. Larger counts elsewhere were 70 at Mamonía on June 22nd, 300 roosting in alders at Pitargou on July 28th, 80 at Androlikou on Oct 26th, 300 flying west in two flocks at Paramali on Nov 4th, 200 on 5th, 100 on Dec 17th and 150 at Evretou Dam on Nov 13th.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

A locally common breeding resident that has increased since the 1970's. The population is still increasing in numbers and range over the recording area.

The largest concentration was at Limassol new port, where 143 were counted on Mar 28th, up to 30 from Apr 1st to 12th and up to 25 from Sept 30th to Oct 6th. Other high counts were 50 at Mandria (Paphos) on Mar 10th, 17 on Apr 17th, 50 at the Mesoyi Industrial Estate (Paphos) on Apr 21st and 17 at Paramali on Nov 2nd.

Eight with Turtle Doves at Coral Bay on Apr 21st appeared to be migrants. The first small flock ever to be recorded at Armou was seven on Dec 14th.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

A common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor with records from March to early November. It is most numerous in spring in April/May, when counts of thousands have been made. In recent years, and since the ending of the late spring shooting, there have been indications that the breeding population is increasing from a previously low level.

Three at Arakapas on Apr 2nd, one at Xeros Potamos and three at Bishop's Pool on Apr 8th. The first 'purring' bird was at Bishop's Pool on Apr 16th. In April the main passage was through the Dhiarizos River valley, where 60 were counted on telephone wires on 21st, and at Coral Bay, where 90 were seen on the same day. 20 at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 19th and 21st, 24 on Apr 24th. A total of 382 migrants were noted during the month. A further 126 were recorded in May, flocks being 16 at Cape Greco on 2nd, 20 at Paphos Plain on 11th and 30 at the Ezousas River on 12th. 21 at Mamonía on June 22nd were a large count for the time of year. Only twos and threes were seen in July and there were no records to confirm breeding.

Return passage continued throughout August and September. Higher counts were up to 20 at Asprokremnos Dam pools between Aug 20th and 27th, 14 on Sept 15th, 30 at Bishop's Pool on Aug 23rd, 14 on Sept 2nd, and nine at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 26th. The last were four at Bishop's Pool on Oct 2nd and one at Zakaki Marsh on 5th. Altogether there were 39 autumn records with details of 201 birds.

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO *Clamator glandarius*

A spring passage migrant in single figure numbers from February to early May and breeding summer visitor. The species is parasitic and the main host species is the Magpie. Few are seen in the autumn and the last juveniles have left by early September.

One at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on Jan 9th was the first January record for Cyprus. Singles at Anarita on Feb 13th, the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 2nd and 5th and Episkopi on Mar 3rd, but numbers were slow to build, so that it was not until the last week of March that the species became widespread, and even then only in the west of the Island. During April there were records of from one to four in lower lying areas from Vrysoulles (Famagusta) in the east to the Akamas in the north-west. The highest count was seven in the Dhiarizos River valley on Apr 27th and there were further records in this valley, as far up as Arminou, on Apr 29th. The first juveniles appeared in late May, with two in the Stavrovouni Forest on 26th, one by the Armou to Tsadha track on 27th, one at Skoulli on 28th, two at Mamonía and one at Neo-Kholetria on 29th. A great majority of the birds seen in June and July were juveniles and there were no records from August onwards.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

A common spring passage migrant from early March to late May. It is scarce and irregular in the autumn from late July to mid-October. Breeding has occasionally been suspected.

March records were singles at Lythrodondas from 25th, three at Smyies on 27th, and singles at Kornos Forest and Stavrovouni, also on 27th. About 41 migrants were recorded in lowland areas in April, the largest group being four, all brown phase birds, at Akrotiri Salt Lake on 25th. A further 13 in ones and twos were heard and seen until May 14th. Late May and June records were three in three locations near Kelephos Bridge (Dhiarizos River valley) on May 22nd, one at Stavrovouni Forest on May 26th (both areas where the species had been recorded in 1999) and one heard at Vrecha (Pano Panayia) on June 8th, but there was nothing to suggest that breeding occurred.

The only autumn record was one at Cape Greco on Aug 31st.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

A fairly common resident. It appears to be most numerous around towns and villages and nests in old buildings, quarries and cliff faces, but relatively few records were received.

One at Kato Paphos on Jan 5th. One at Makarios Avenue, in the centre of Nicosia, on Feb 20th. One heard at Kathikas on Mar 25th. Singles at Steni and Yiolou on May 7th and singles dead on the road at Cape Greco on May 25th and Mandria (Paphos) on May 29th.

Breeding records: in the Larnaca area three pairs nested in boxes that had been erected by wardens of the Game Fund and 13 young birds were ringed in mid-May (MC). One juvenile was in a nest hole in a cliff in the Letimbou to Khoulou valley on June 8th.

One was seen dead by the Larnaca by-pass at Aradhippon on Aug 29th. A sick bird was found at Athalassa Forest on Sept 10th and one was seen south-east of Polis on the same day. One was found dead at Evretou Dam on Sept 27th. Singles at Cape Greco on Oct 1st, Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on 5th and Larnaca Salt Lake on Oct 18th and 20th. One dead on the road at Xylophagou on Oct 31st and another at Polis on Dec 17th. Singles at Kissonerga on Dec 25th and Armou on 26th.

SCOPS OWL *Otus scops*

The endemic race O.s.cyprius is a common breeding resident in lightly wooded areas, often around towns and villages. The nominate race is a common passage migrant from March to early May and September/October.

Four at Armou on Feb 1st, two on the Akamas on Feb 15th and one heard at Tsadha on Feb 28th. Records increased in March as the species became more vocal, larger numbers being nine at Kathikas on Mar 25th, three at Paramali and up to five at Armou from April to June, three or four at Smyies calling during the day on Apr 6th, four at Coral Bay from Apr 13th to 15th, four at Kamares (Paphos) on May 6th, four at Steni on May 7th and five at Stavros tis Psokas on July 24th. One was seen hunting insects around an illuminated sign at Kato Paphos on Mar 28th.

One was heard at Nikoklia on Sept 27th and 28th, one released from a mist net at Cape Pyla (Eastern Sovereign Base Area) on Oct 1st and one found at roost on the ground under a rock at Cape Greco on Oct 3rd. Birds were heard at Pano Akourdhalia from Oct 7th to 17th and two at Armou on Oct 31st, with singles during late December.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

A common breeding resident in more open wooded country and rocky areas, mainly at lower altitudes.

Ones and twos were seen in many areas early in the year. Two breeding pairs were located at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on May 23rd; about five were here in September and up to eight in October. The first juveniles appeared at Konia on June 11th and Marathounda on 18th. About 20 were estimated in the buffer zone at Pyla in July.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

A scarce and local breeding resident. Communal roosts are formed during the winter months, but it is uncertain whether these include winter visitors from the Continent. Numbers at Athalassa Forest have decreased since the destruction of the main roost tree in December 1999. The monthly maximum counts are given below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Athalassa Forest	3	5	1	1		10	7	5	1	1	5	7

Breeding records: a pair bred in an old Hooded Crow's nest at Amathus and were seen with two juveniles on Apr 8th. One juvenile was heard between Polis and Steni on May 7th. One juvenile with nine adults was in the summer roost at Athalassa Forest on June 18th and up to three juveniles in July.

One was found dead on the road near Emba school (Paphos) on Apr 15th. One at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) from May 21st to June 5th, and one dead on the road at Vryssoulles (Famagusta) on Aug 2nd, but there was no evidence of breeding in this area this year. One flew over the motorway at Ypsonas on Sept 8th.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Rarely recorded in winter from mid-September onwards. It is most frequent on passage from mid-March to mid-April.

Singles at Macronissos (Ayia Napa) on Mar 17th and the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 22nd and Apr 2nd.

Singles at Cape Greco on Sept 17th and Oct 3rd and Nata on Dec 25th.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

A common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor, yet relatively few sightings were received. There are records from March to December, but the main movements occur in April/May and August to early November.

One was hunting insects by the Melina Hotel at Kato Paphos on Mar 24th. There were no more records until May, when one was at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 4th and a male at Troulli (Larnaca) on 24th. A female was found dead at Antalia on May 13th and a male at Cape Greco on 20th. More unusual reports were a male circling the illuminated hot-dog stand at the RAF Akrotiri Rugby Tens Tournament on June 1st and one at Dhekelia Garrison, during Beating the Retreat, on June 2nd.

Breeding record: one or two were heard 'churring' and seen in display flight at Paramali from May 30th to June 18th, but breeding was not proved.

Two at Stavros tis Psokas on July 24th, singles at Asprokremnos Dam on Aug 30th, Konia (Paphos) on Sept 7th and Erimi on Sept 8th.

SWIFT *Apus apus*

A common summer visitor and breeding species. Spring passage can start in late January and earlier sightings are generally in the east. Many thousands pass through daily in March/April, but fewer are seen in the autumn.

One at Akhna Dam on Feb 15th, four on 18th, two at Aradhippou on Feb 15th. There were no more records until early March and ones or twos started to arrive at the Paphos Lighthouse area from 3rd and at Nicosia from 5th. No flocks were seen until the middle of March and the largest was 80 at Episkopi (Western Sovereign Base Area) on 28th. Breeding birds returned to the Police Station colony at Paphos on Apr 4th. Relatively few were in Nicosia, compared with former years, and the maximum count in the Strovolos area was only 16 in May. 50 were at Asprokremnos Dam on May 8th and hundreds over Troodos on 27th. Flocks of mainly juveniles gathered from early June, up to 100 were at Akhna Dam each evening

and 60 at Episkopi Garrison on June 4th, plus 40 on July 1st. Most of the breeding birds had dispersed from the Episkopi area by mid-June.

100 passage birds gathered over Larnaca sewage works on July 29th and 20 on Aug 17th, but only very small numbers were seen at other sites. The last of the year were two at Protaras on Sept 19th and one at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 24th.

PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus*

Fairly common as a breeding summer visitor and less so as a passage migrant. Nesting colonies are found on cliffs and buildings and there are records from March to mid-October

One was over Troodos village on Mar 27th; seven were in this area and over Mount Olympus on Apr 7th and six on 18th. The highest count here was 30 on May 8th and ten were at Kykko Monastery on the same day. Migrants were four flying north at Kissonerga on Apr 10th, four at Coral Bay on Apr 21st, one at the Baths of Aphrodite on May 5th and one at Larnaca sewage works on May 12th.

Breeding record: a small colony of about 12 birds were nesting in sea caves at Lara Beach on June 4th (a previously recorded site).

The only autumn migrants were one at Larnaca sewage works on Aug 19th, one at the Baths of Aphrodite on Aug 23rd, four at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 9th, one on 14th, one at Yeroskipos on Sept 15th and one at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 26th.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*

There have been records for all months. The species breeds on cliffs in the Troodos range and on sea cliffs at Episkopi and Cape Aspro. Thousands have been seen on spring passage from mid-February to May, but fewer in the autumn from September to early December.

Most records came from the Asprokremnos Dam and pools area. There were three on Feb 21st, two on 23rd, then up to 20 in March, 25 in April, 11 in May and the last five on June 4th. Relatively few migrants were seen in March/April, two at Kato Paphos on Mar 15th, ten at the lighthouse area on Mar 21st, eight at Mandria (Paphos) on Mar 25th, five at Cape Drepanum on Mar 26th, four at the Baths of Aphrodite on Apr 21st, two at Coral Bay on Apr 24th, two at Eledhiou (Paphos) on Apr 29th and one at Armou on Apr 30th.

Around the breeding colonies at Episkopi there were seven at Paramali on Mar 26th, up to three in April, eight in May and 11 on June 7th. There were greater numbers at Kensington Cliffs, where the peak count was 30 on Apr 4th. Near Cape Aspro five were seen at Petra tou Romiou on Apr 12th and up to eight in early May. Small numbers were in the Dhiarizos River valley during May, particularly in the Mamonnia district, where six were seen on 9th and 29th. Three at Yioulou on May 7th and six at Armou on June 15th.

Autumn migrants were few, just singles at Stavros tis Psokas on July 24th and Aug 4th, one at the Baths of Aphrodite on Aug 23rd, two at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 5th and 17th, one at Kensington Cliffs on Sept 7th and two at Yeroskipos on Sept 14th.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

A fairly common passage migrant in numbers up to 20 in March/April and late July to October. It is less frequent in the winter from November to February.

During the first winter period one to three were along the shore from Kato Paphos to Coral Bay, one at Evretou Dam on Jan 15th, two at Mavrokolymbos Dam on Jan 29th and one at Bishop's Pool on Feb 8th. Migrants started to arrive in late March, with one or two at Asprokremnos Dam and pools from 26th to 31st, two at Timi Beach and eight on the beach at

Yeroskipos on 31st. At least 31 migrants were reported in April, mainly in ones and twos, but four were along the shore between Potamos Liopetri and Ayia Thekla early in the month and eight at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 4th. There was just a single May record, one at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 10th.

July records were one at Evretou Dam on 28th and two at Potamos Liopetri on 31st. At least 40 individuals were on autumn passage from August to October, including three at Bishop's Pool on Aug 11th, five on the shore between Potamos Liopetri and Ayia Thekla on Aug 20th and Sept 15th, three at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Sept 17th and three at Evretou Dam on Sept 19th and 30th. One at Roudhias Bridge (Xeros Potamos) on Sept 2nd was a first record for the site. At the end of the year winter visitors were on rocky shores at Cape Greco, Potamos Liopetri, Ormidhia, Kensington Cliffs, the Paphos Lighthouse area and Khlorakas and by inland waters at Zakaki Marsh, Bishop's Pool, Asprokremnos Dam pools, Akhelia Dam and Evretou Dam.

PIED KINGFISHER *Ceryle rudis*

Mainly a scarce and irregular winter visitor to coasts and wetlands from October to May. One pair made a breeding attempt in 1996.

One female remained on the shore between the Paphos Lighthouse area and the Tombs of the Kings from Jan 4th to the end of April. One female at Zakaki Marsh from Apr 7th to 12th. One female at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on Apr 28th.

BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER *Merops persicus*

A spring passage migrant, usually in single figure numbers, from late March to May. The species is occasionally seen in September/October.

One flew to the east over Larnaca sewage works on Apr 12th. At the Akrotiri peninsula, seven at Bishop's Pool on Apr 14th, one on 25th, one at Zakaki Marsh on Apr 20th, and presumably the same bird by the Salt Lake on 20th and 21st. Five at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 16th. Five by the Kissos Hotel at Kato Paphos on May 5th.

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*

A very common passage migrant that occurs in greater numbers in the autumn. Spring movements start in late March and peak in late April and May. Return passage begins in mid-July, but the largest flocks are seen in September and early October. Breeding occurs infrequently.

Spring migration started a little late, with singles at Konia (Paphos) and Akrotiri Salt Lake on Apr 12th. It was not until a week later that the flocks arrived, 52 being at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Apr 19th, 70 at Bishop's Pool on Apr 20th, 126 at Mandria (Paphos) on 21st, 300 at Coral Bay, also on 21st and 100 at Paramali on 24th. Small groups, totalling about 192 birds, flew north over Coral Bay on Apr 25th and similarly 200 flew over Armou during the day on Apr 27th. There were more large movements at the end of the first week of May, 48 at Cape Drepanum on 5th, 150 at Paramali, 80 at Kamares (Paphos), 50 at Akhelia Dam, 95 at Nikoklia and 60 at Asprokremnos Dam pools, all on 6th, plus 55 between Lara and Smyies on 7th. There were still 45 at Tsadha on May 16th, 20 on the Akamas on May 20th and 30 at Armou on 25th, but then numbers fell rapidly at the end of the month. By far the largest flocks were seen in the west of the Island.

Single pairs were at two sites where breeding has occurred in previous years and there were records of small numbers of birds at about six other localities during June, yet there were no reports of breeding this year.

One at Monagroulli (Limassol) on July 1st. The first autumn flock was one of 20 at Athalassa Forest on July 5th and others were heard and seen at the same site from July 23rd to Aug 13th, increasing to 30 on Aug 20th. Ten were over Larnaca Salt Lake on Aug 11th. The main autumn movements started in early September with 50 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on 2nd, 40 at Phasouri reed beds and 60 at Bishop's Pool on 4th, and up to 40 daily at Lysos from 6th. By far the greatest numbers were at sites around the Akrotiri peninsula. There were many sightings of flocks of hundreds and the highest estimate was 2,000 in the Phasouri reed beds area on Sept 18th, many of which were shot by a team of eight 'hunters'. Higher counts elsewhere were 100 in the Dhiarizos River valley on Sept 16th, 100 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Sept 17th, 60 at Cape Greco on Sept 19th, 100 at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 21st and 50 at Larnaca Salt Lake on Sept 23rd and 24th. There were still 300 at Akrotiri reed beds on Oct 1st and 100 at Phasouri reed beds on 5th, but then numbers began to drop quickly. 24 remained at Cape Greco on Oct 11th and 14 on 12th. The last were five at Anavargos on Oct 13th.

ROLLER *Coracias garrulus*

A breeding summer visitor and common passage migrant, sometimes in three figure numbers. It is most numerous in the spring from mid-April to May and less frequent in autumn from late August to mid-October. There are a few records of over-wintering birds.

One was in the Dhiarizos River valley, between Nikoklia and Souskiou, on the early date of Apr 6th, then one at Nata on 11th and Evretou Dam on Apr 14th. After this the species was seen over a wide area, larger numbers being six at Evretou Dam on Apr 15th, seven at Kamares (Paphos) on Apr 20th, six in the Dhiarizos River valley on Apr 27th and nine at Asprokremnos Dam and pools on Apr 29th. By far the largest group was 17 in the Skoulli area on May 28th.

Breeding records: single pairs were at nest holes in cliffs at Parthenitis Dam and Akhna Dam on May 8th and two at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on May 23rd. An adult carried food for young at Droushia on June 25th.

20 were estimated in the buffer zone at Pyla during July. 15 (mainly juveniles) were on wires between Kathikas and Stroumbi on July 11th. Few were seen in August, but four were at Droushia on 9th and three at Kiti Pool (Meneou) on 31st. Migrants in ones and twos were more in evidence during September along southern coastal regions, but the only October records were two at Phasouri reed beds on 1st and one that lingered there until 15th.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

A common spring migrant from February to May and breeding summer visitor, mainly in wooded areas. There are fewer sightings in the autumn from August to November.

One was at Asprokremnos Dam on Feb 21st, but the next two were not seen until Mar 12th at Mandria (Paphos). Most records came from the west of the Island and the largest numbers were at the Paphos Lighthouse area. The first here was on Mar 15th, but by 22nd up to 25 were being seen daily, favouring the mound between the harbour and the Mosaics enclosure. Nine were still present on Apr 2nd, decreasing to one on 16th. Elsewhere in March 11 were at Phasouri reed beds on 28th, but only one to three were seen in other places. During the month there were some 40 records involving the sightings of 152 birds. In April six were at

Cape Greco on 12th and six at Asprokremnos Dam on the same day, but most reports were of ones and twos, so that there were 51 records of 103 birds throughout the month.

A majority of the records from May to July probably referred to breeding birds. Up to five were in the Ayia district of the Paphos Forest in mid-May and in addition one to three were seen on the Akamas, Peyia, Khlorakas, Pano Panayia, the Letimbou to Khoulou valley, Kykko Monastery, Troodos, Mount Olympus, Mandria (Platres), Arakapas, Vavatsinia, Makheras Forest, Pakhna and Stavrovouni Forest.

Breeding records: adults with food for young were at the Dhiarizos River valley on June 3rd and Pissouri on June 16th.

Presumed autumn migrants were singles at Vrysoulles (Famagusta) on July 26th and Cape Greco on 31st. During August singles were at Asprokremnos Dam and pools on 1st and 30th, Akhna Dam on 4th and 6th, Cape Greco on five dates from 9th to 29th and Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on 28th. Four at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Aug 26th and three on Sept 18th. Three at Evretou Dam on Sept 8th. Ones or twos were at other sites until late September and the last were singles at Yermasoyia Dam on Oct 2nd, Zakaki Marsh on 7th and Cape Greco on Oct 2nd and 12th. In total there were 47 records that included details of 58 autumn migrants.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

This species is most common as a passage migrant from March to early May. Fewer are seen in the autumn from August to October and in some years it can be very scarce. There are a few winter records.

The first of the spring was one found dead on a limestick at Cape Greco on Mar 18th. Another was released from a limestick on 19th and two were seen on 30th. One or two were seen on several days at this site until Apr 27th, including two more on limesticks. Migrants were a little later at the Paphos Lighthouse area, the first being one on Mar 28th and then two on 29th; singles were seen here almost daily from Apr 11th to 21st. Other March records were singles at the Dhiarizos River valley on 25th, Armou on 29th, Yeroskipos on 30th and Coral Bay on 31st. Mainly singles were seen in April, additional sites being Polemi (Paphos), Asprokremnos Dam pools, Kiti Dam and Kivisil (Larnaca). In total there were 21 records with details of 24 birds. The only multiple sighting was three at Zakaki Marsh on Apr 8th. In the autumn singles were at Cape Greco tip from Sept 10th to 25th, apart from two on 17th. Singles at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 14th and Paramali on 17th. One was released from a limestick at Mazotos on Oct 13th.

CALANDRA LARK *Melanocorypha calandra*

A local breeding species in small numbers. A few are seen occasionally on passage from late February to April and in September. Flocks seen during the winter are thought to comprise mainly of visitors from the Continent.

Ten in fields by Larnaca sewage works on Jan 26th, two on Feb 29th. One at Mandria (Paphos) on Feb 27th, three on Apr 23rd. Singles at Cape Greco on Apr 1st, Athalassa Forest on 2nd and Cape Drepanum on Apr 10th.

Breeding records: two pairs were at Paphos Plain on Mar 30th, but there were no further records to confirm breeding. Two or three pairs were in the Perivolia and Kiti area west of Larnaca from May to early June; an adult was carrying food for young on May 10th and a family party of six birds seen on June 2nd. One or two pairs were in fields by Larnaca sewage works from May 11th to June 2nd, at least; a pair were seen in display on May 19th, but breeding was not proved.

40 were in fields by Akhna Dam from Sept 7th to 11th. Up to five in fields by Larnaca

sewage works from Sept 26th to 29th, three on Oct 2nd, 15 on 24th, 50 on Nov 15th and 20 on Nov 27th. One at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Dec 31st.

BIMACULATED LARK *Melanocorypha bimaculata*

A regular spring migrant to coastal areas, usually in single figure numbers, from mid-March to early May. It is rare in the autumn from July to November.

Four at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Mar 23rd, two from Apr 12th to 14th. One on the lower meadow at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 29th, three on Apr 6th, one on 17th. One at the Tombs of the Kings on Apr 5th. One at Yermasoyia Dam on Apr 9th. Six at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 19th and 21st, three on 22nd, one on 23rd. Two in a ploughed field at Kiti on Oct 18th.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla*

A very common spring passage migrant in flocks of hundreds from March to May. Fewer occur in the autumn from August to November and there are a small number of winter records. Breeding has not been reported in the recording area since 1990, at least.

At the Paphos Lighthouse area spring passage began with eight on Mar 3rd and reached a peak on 18th, when 'hundreds' were reported. There were up to 20 for the rest of the month, then 50 or 60 during the first week of April, 70 on 10th, 300 on 13th, 100 on 15th, dwindling rapidly to four on 26th, nine on May 3rd and one on 4th. Larger movements at other sites in April were 720 flying north in small flocks at Kissonerga on 3rd, 50 at Phasouri reed beds on 4th, 70 at Larnaca sewage works and 100 at Tersephanou (Larnaca) on 10th, 50 at Paralimni Lake on 13th, 50 at Zakaki Marsh on 14th and 50 at Mandria (Paphos) on 20th. Numbers dropped markedly during the last week of April and the only other records in May were three at Kato Paphos and three at Akrotiri gravel pits on 6th, and six at Khlorakas on 7th. The first five autumn migrants were in the Dhiarizos River valley on Sept 4th. By far the greatest numbers were at Mandria (Paphos), where 80 remained from Sept 5th to 14th, dropping to 50 on Sept 23rd, 20 on Oct 5th, 15 on 12th and six on Oct 15th. 30 were at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Sept 23rd, 30 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Oct 15th and 24 at Lady's Mile on Oct 31st. Very few were seen elsewhere and the only records in the east were three at Cape Greco on Sept 10th, three at Larnaca sewage works on Sept 26th and 30 at Kiti on Oct 9th.

LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella rufescens*

The status of this species is difficult to determine owing to identification problems, but it appears to be a passage migrant and winter visitor in very small numbers.

Five by the perimeter fence at Larnaca sewage works on Feb 2nd, four on 9th, two from Feb 29th to Mar 14th. Two were reported at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 27th and singles on Mar 28th, Apr 12th and 27th.

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata*

A common resident breeding species in open areas at lower altitudes.

Larger counts early in the year were 30 on the Akrotiri peninsula on Jan 2nd and Feb 6th, 40 on Mar 7th and 50 at Mandria (Paphos) on Jan 16th.

At Cape Greco the first flying young were seen on Apr 25th and there were many family parties by May 7th. Two pairs were seen at an altitude of 800 metres at Perapedhi Forest on May 23rd.

Post-breeding flocks were 25 at Bishop's Pool on Aug 2nd, 20 on Sept 2nd, 25 in the Phasoula/Ayios Yeoryios area of the Dhiarizos River valley on Sept 4th, 60 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Sept 22nd, 30 on Oct 1st and Nov 3rd, 20 at Cape Zevgari (RAF Akrotiri) on Nov 2nd.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

A poorly recorded, resident breeding species in lightly wooded areas of the higher Troodos range. It is more widespread from mid-October to mid-March, when small flocks are commonly seen on lower ground and around wetlands.

During the first winter period larger flocks were up to 26 by the car park at Asprokremnos Dam from Jan 16th to Feb 23rd, 20 on the Akamas on Feb 10th, 15 at Arminou on Feb 23rd, ten at Akrotiri on Feb 26th and ten by the Salt Lake on Mar 12th.

Single males were singing on Mount Olympus on Apr 7th and 29th, by the Jubilee Hotel at Troodos on May 8th and at the Skordokephalos picnic site (Makheras Forest) on May 24th.

Four at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 30th. One at Cape Zevgari (RAF Akrotiri) on Nov 2nd, 15 on 15th. One at Bishop's Pool on Nov 3rd, 19 on 8th. Five at Kiti Dam on Nov 3rd, two on 8th, four on Dec 20th. Two at Khlorakas on Nov 6th, 14 on 29th. One at Evretou Dam on Nov 7th. 14 at Athalassa Forest on Nov 12th. Seven at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Nov 15th, two on 22nd, 24 on Dec 31st. Five on the Akamas on Dec 1st. Seven at Armou on Dec 17th, one on 25th. 20 at Galataria (Pano Panayia) on Dec 25th. Seven at Konia (Paphos) on Dec 26th.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

A very common passage migrant and winter visitor from September to April, with peak numbers occurring from November to February.

At the Paphos Lighthouse area there were 100 all January, up to 180 in February and 100 in early March. Most had departed by the end of March, but there were still eight on Apr 13th (one of which was singing and in display flight) and the last five were seen on Apr 19th. Up to 100 remained in fields around the Larnaca sewage works during January and February, reducing to 50 on Mar 9th and 14th. At Mandria (Paphos) there were up to 120 all January, 180 in February and 230 on Mar 3rd, dropping to 80 on Mar 12th. Other high counts were 150 at Athalassa Forest on Jan 23rd and 60 at Kiti Dam on Feb 22nd. In April one was at Phasouri reed beds on 1st, three at Cape Greco on 3rd and one at Evretou Dam on 15th.

Ten at Kiti on Oct 17th, increased to 20 on 18th and 50 on Nov 7th. 50 at Kiti Dam on Nov 8th. 40 at Mandria (Paphos) on Oct 20th, rising to 200 from Oct 28th to Nov 4th, but only 40 on Nov 6th and 30 on 8th, then 180 on Dec 28th. 30 in fields around Larnaca sewage works on Oct 24th, 50 on Oct 29th, up to 300 during November and early December, dropping to 100 at the end of the year. 120 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Oct 27th and 29th. 30 at Cape Zevgari (RAF Akrotiri) on Nov 2nd and 30 on the RAF sports pitches on Nov 25th. 60 at Phasouri reed beds on Nov 19th, 80 on Nov 30th and Dec 30th. 40 in the Akhelia Dam valley on Nov 5th. 40 at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on Nov 7th. 60 at Akhna Dam on Nov 11th. 150 at Ayios Yeoryios (Cape Drepanum) on Dec 2nd. 50 at Mazotos on Dec 23rd. 40 at Anarita on Dec 25th. 40 at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on Dec 26th. There were many records of smaller numbers at other sites.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

A very common spring passage migrant and even more abundant in the autumn. The first are seen from February and many hundreds pass through daily from late March to mid-May. Thousands are seen in the autumn from late July to early October. There are a few summer and winter records.

March records were five at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 20th, then one to three until 26th, one at Akrotiri gravel pits and two in the Dhiarizos River valley on 23rd and eight at Paramali on 26th. Passage increased notably from the second week of April, with up to 60 at Mandria (Paphos) on 9th, 40 at Bishop's Pool on Apr 10th, rising to 400 on 21st, 200 at Larnaca sewage works also on 10th, increasing to 500 on 20th, 20 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 13th and 20 at Zakaki Marsh on 17th. Smaller numbers were seen in late April and early May, but there were still 50 at Larnaca sewage works on May 17th. The last spring birds were singles at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) and Cape Greco on May 18th.

One at Larnaca sewage works on July 13th, two on 14th. Only single figure numbers were seen in August, but passage increased during September, high counts being 500 in strong westerly winds over Fig Tree Bay (Protaras) on 13th, 50 at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 16th, increasing to 800 over the Akrotiri peninsula on 22nd, 'hundreds' at Cape Greco on 17th and 50 at Kiti on Sept 20th. In October, three at Cape Greco on 11th and one on 14th. Only small numbers were seen in the Larnaca and Kiti area until Oct 8th; five late birds were at Kiti on Oct 13th and two at the sewage works on Oct 25th. The last was one at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Nov 4th.

A leucistic bird was at Fig Tree Bay (Protaras) on Sept 16th.

CRAG MARTIN *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Breeding occurs locally under the eaves of buildings, on cliffs and under bridges in the Troodos range. Birds descend to more sheltered valleys and cliff faces during the colder winter weather. Some passage occurs from February to April and in the late autumn.

30 at Evretou Dam on Jan 15th, 12 on Feb 24th. Two at Asprokremnos Dam and pools on Mar 25th, one on May 4th. At Paphos Forest, two at Stavros tis Psokas on Apr 3rd, 12 on Apr 14th, nine at Ayia and two by the road to Kykko Monastery on May 8th, two at Potamos tou Limniti on June 25th. One by the Troodos road at Platres on Apr 7th. Four at Smyies on May 7th. One at Moutoullas (Troodos) on June 9th.

There were no breeding records. Two or three at Troodos on Sept 8th and 16 on 12th. 15 between Troodos and Kykko Monastery on Nov 6th. Three at Yermasoyia Dam on Dec 23rd. One at Evretou Dam on Dec 27th.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

A very common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Passage in spring extends from mid-February to May and in the autumn from August to October, when thousands of birds may be seen. There are a few winter records.

January records were singles at Larnaca sewage works on 10th and 31st and Parthenitis Dam on 14th. There was an influx in the east in mid-February, starting with 50 at Larnaca sewage works and 12 at Akhna Dam on 16th. Birds arrived later in the west, the first being singles at Evretou Dam and Lymbia Dam on Feb 10th and eight at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 21st. Flocks became more widespread by the end of February and there were 100 at the Paphos Lighthouse area in late March. No large flocks were reported in April, 40 flying north at

Kissonerga on Apr 4th, 60 at Bishop's Pool on 20th, a similar number at Smyies on 21st and 120 at Cape Drepanum on 22nd, being the largest counts.

With the relatively cold winter and early spring weather breeding was delayed this year. A pair returned to a nest at Larnaca on Mar 16th, a month later than in 1999. Breeding birds were first seen at Nicosia on Mar 17th, Lysos on 19th, Strovolos on 24th and the Dhiarizos River valley on 30th. The first fledged young were on the wing at Larnaca Salt Lake and the Dhiarizos River valley on May 22nd and by June the juveniles were flocking together, hundreds being seen each evening over the Salt Lake and sewage works at Larnaca and at Akhna Dam. Many left during late June and early July. Most second broods were completed by mid-July and only relatively small numbers were seen during August, 60 at Larnaca sewage works on 17th being the largest count. Many more were on migration during September, 1,500 passed over Fig Tree Bay (Protaras) in strong westerly winds on 13th and 800 roosted in Phasouri reed beds on 18th and 19th. Movements continued during the first half of October, but were much reduced by the end of the month, although there were still 20 at Cape Greco tip on Oct 29th and 13 at Zakaki Marsh on Nov 1st. Singles were at Bishop's Pool on Nov 3rd, Cape Greco tip on 10th and Phasouri reed beds on Nov 19th.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*

A common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. The first return from mid-February and nests are built under culverts and bridges, on buildings and cliffs. Peak passage is from March to May and in August/September. Highest numbers are seen in the autumn, when hundreds are often counted.

Spring migration was relatively late, the only March records being one at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 16th, followed by eight on 27th, singles at the Baths of Aphrodite on 24th and Lysos on 26th, 30 at Cape Drepanum on 27th and five at Akrotiri Salt Lake on 28th. Passage increased in April, but there were few large flocks, 30 at Cape Greco on 1st, 100 at the Baths of Aphrodite on 6th, 21 flying north at Kissonerga on 10th and 20 on the Akamas on 26th being the most reported.

Breeding records: a pair were already nesting at Ayios Nikolaos (above the Dhiarizos River valley) on Apr 4th. Three were collecting mud near Ayia Napa police station on May 2nd and two at Ayia Thekla on June 2nd, both areas where breeding is rarely recorded.

Only small numbers were reported during May and June, 18 in the Dhiarizos River valley on May 6th being the largest group. The first two juveniles were at Xiliatos Dam on June 2nd and four were in the Letimbou/Khoulou valley on 8th.

Few were seen in July, but migration got under way during August, larger flocks being 20 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Aug 13th, 50 at Kato Dheftera (Nicosia) on Aug 26th and 27th, 30 at Zakaki Marsh on Aug 27th, 40 at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on Sept 1st, 50 at Protaras on Sept 5th and 40 between Phasouri reed beds and M1 pools on Sept 9th. There were still 20 at Protaras on Sept 19th. Four or five lingered on at Zakaki Marsh until Sept 25th and the last two were seen there on Oct 5th.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

A locally common breeding summer visitor and common passage migrant. An increase in the breeding population was noticed in the 1970s and '80s. Birds return from mid-February and peak passage is from April to mid-May. It is less obvious in the autumn from late July to mid-October.

February records were two at Larnaca sewage works and eight at Akhna Dam on 16th, and two at Asprokremnos Dam on 23rd, increasing to 20 on 26th. From then on small numbers

were widely reported. 60 flew in off the sea at Paramali on Mar 18th and many birds returned to breeding colonies during the second half of the month. Few obvious passage birds were reported, but 50 at Larnaca sewage works on Apr 20th, 30 at Coral Bay on 21st and 100 at Ayios Yeoryios (Cape Drepanum) were likely to have been migrants.

Breeding records: single pairs were at nests at Pissouri Beach on Mar 12th and Ayios Antonios (Nicosia) on 22nd. At least 100 were collecting mud at Troodos on Mar 27th, ten nest building at Platres on 29th, four at Amathus on 30th and two at Strovolos on 31st. During April the largest numbers were around the breeding colonies on the Troodos range, 200 at Troodos village on 18th and 120 at Kykko Monastery on 27th. 50 birds were around the breeding colony on Kathikas church and a similar number about the market at Polis on May 7th. 50 nests and 200 birds were counted at the new ski club at Mount Olympus on May 23rd and 400 nests on the Makris Hotel at Kakopetria on July 16th. At Strovolos two nests with young were seen on May 12th and one pair had a second brood on June 30th.

Large flocks of mainly juveniles were in the Paramali valley on June 20th and 500 at Apliki (Makheras Forest) on July 14th. There were no records in August and during September most migrants were seen over the Akrotiri peninsula, with 200 at the Salt Lake on 2nd and 40 at Zakaki Marsh on 17th. Only singles were seen at the end of September. One was still at Zakaki Marsh on Oct 2nd and one with Swallows at Cape Greco tip on Oct 29th.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

A scarce passage migrant in small numbers from late March to April and mid-October to November, rarely into December. Most are seen at sites along the south coast.

Singles at RAF Akrotiri on May 1st and Cape Greco on May 7th.

One at Mandria (Paphos) on Oct 1st and 6th.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*

A spring passage migrant in small flocks that usually number less than ten. The first appear in February, but the main passage is from mid-March to April. It is occasional in the autumn from August to November and rarely seen in December and January.

One at Paralimni Lake on Feb 3rd. One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 3rd and ones and twos from 16th. Four at Asprokremnos Dam on Mar 20th, three on 30th. Singles at Mandria (Paphos), Yermasoyia Dam and Cape Greco in the last week of March and then passage increased in April. Most were in coastal sites from Cape Greco to the Baths of Aphrodite and a majority of the records came from the Paphos Lighthouse area, where peak counts were ten on Apr 5th and seven on 16th. Other notable sightings were 15 at Akrotiri gravel pits and eight at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on Apr 11th, six at Episkopi Bay on 12th and five at Kiti on Apr 15th. Altogether there were 82 spring records with details of 200 birds. The last were one at Larnaca sewage works on May 11th and two at Cape Greco on 18th.

In the autumn one was at Akhna Dam on Sept 5th and three at Mandria (Paphos) on 10th. There was a conspicuous passage at the end of September and in early October in the west of the Island, seven or eight being counted at the Paphos Lighthouse area from Sept 26th to 29th, rising to 12 on Oct 4th, then seven on 15th, and ten at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 28th, increasing to 30 on Oct 6th, but only two on 7th. There were 45 autumn records and 140 migrants were noted. Singles were at Mandria on Oct 21st and Asprokremnos Dam on Nov 23rd. At least four, possibly as many as eight, were at Anarita on Dec 5th (DW AMC).

LONG-BILLED PIPIT* *Anthus similis*

This is only the second record for Cyprus, the first was in April 1972.

One was at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 10th (JJG).

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT* *Anthus hodgsoni*

There have been two previous records, in February 1989 and March 1998.

One was at Cape Greco tip from Sept 19th to 22nd (JDS).

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

A common spring passage migrant from March to mid-May, sometimes in hundreds. It is much less frequent in the autumn from mid-September to November.

Singles were at Paralimni Lake on Apr 2nd and the Paphos Lighthouse area on 3rd. Numbers built up slowly and the first group was 15 at Evretou Dam on Apr 15th. A fall occurred on Apr 21st, associated with wet and windy weather, and small flocks were subsequently seen over a wide area. Seven were at the Paphos Lighthouse area, plus 12 at nearby Kamares, nine at Smyies and ten at Cape Greco during the fourth week of April. There were some 52 records involving a total of about 160 spring migrants. Passage ended after the first week of May, but one late bird was at Akrotiri reed beds on 18th.

One at Bishop's Pool on Sept 2nd, but no further sightings until 15th, when one was at Larnaca sewage works. Records were more frequent in the last week of September, but passage came to an end in early October, with one at Yermasoyia Dam on 5th and singles at Cape Greco until 8th. There were just 13 records and 14 birds over the autumn migration.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, sometimes in hundreds. It occurs on lower open ground, mainly from October to March.

There were no large flocks during the first winter period. Four to six were at the Paphos Lighthouse area during January, 35 on Feb 5th, up to 30 in March, 12 on Apr 2nd and eight on 7th. Ten at Zakaki Marsh on Jan 15th, 33 on Feb 26th and 13 at Lady's Mile on Mar 7th. 20 at Asprokremnos Dam on Feb 9th, 45 on 12th, 30 on 23rd and 20 to 30 on Mar 20th. Other flocks were 20 at Akhna Dam during January, 20 at Paralimni Lake on Feb 3rd, 20 at Cape Greco on Feb 28th, 25 at Stavrokonou (Xeros Potamos) on Mar 30th and 30 at Yermasoyia Dam on Mar 31st, with 20 from Apr 1st to 4th. Most had gone by the first week of April and the last was at Phasouri reed beds on 8th.

Four were at Kiti on Oct 7th and five at Ayia Napa football fields on 9th and 10th. The first autumn flocks were 30 at Kiti on Oct 23rd and 24th, 40 at Paramali on 25th and 200 at Akrotiri gravel pits on Oct 31st. During November flocks of 30 to 50 were recorded at Zakaki Marsh, Paramali, Phasouri reed beds, M1 pools, the RAF Akrotiri sports pitches and Kiti Dam. In December 30 were at Akrotiri gravel pits on 1st, 30 at Ayios Yeoryios (Cape Drepanum) on 2nd, 50 at Galataria (Pano Panayia) on 19th and 25th, 80 at Khlorkakas on 19th and 40 on 26th. There were many reports of smaller numbers.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

A common passage migrant in hundreds and winter visitor in variable numbers. Peak passage times are from March to May and October/November and it is commonest in

wetland areas. Spring passage was exceptionally poor this year and all records are included.

One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Feb 25th, then ones and twos from Mar 10th to Apr 18th and May 4th and 5th, apart from five on Apr 4th and four on Apr 19th. Singles at Larnaca sewage works on Feb 29th, Phasouri reed beds on Mar 28th, Mandria (Paphos) on 29th and Cape Greco on Apr 3rd. 20 at Yermasoyia Dam from Apr 7th to 12th. 15 at Paralimni Lake on Apr 13th. One at Nata on Apr 13th. One at Coral Bay on Apr 13th, two on 14th. Two at Evretou Dam on Apr 15th, one on 16th. One at Asprokremnos Dam on Apr 16th.

Two were at Paphos Plain on Sept 25th and five or six around the Akrotiri peninsula on 28th and 29th. The first flock was 60 on the playing fields at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on Sept 29th. Further flocks in October were 300 at Mandria (Paphos) on 6th, 100 at Kiti on 7th and 9th, 32 at Paramali on 15th and up to 55 at Ayia Napa football fields until 23rd. The only reports in November were singles at Kiti on 2nd, Zakaki Marsh on 3rd and the RAF Akrotiri sports pitches on 25th.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

A fairly common spring passage migrant at wetlands in double figure numbers from late March to early May. It is less frequent in the autumn in October/November and scarce during the winter.

Up to six were at Akhna Dam throughout January, four in February and one on Mar 31st. Singles at a small reservoir at Pharmakas on Jan 6th, Lymbia Dam on Feb 10th and Evretou Dam on Feb 24th. Four at Zakaki Marsh on Feb 26th. Two at Cape Greco tip on Mar 16th, one on 17th and 20th. Singles at the Paphos Lighthouse area from Mar 25th to Apr 2nd and Apr 13th. Singles at Yermasoyia Dam from Mar 31st to Apr 2nd, five on 3rd and 4th, one on 7th and 12th. Singles at Ayia Thekla and Cape Greco on Apr 1st, Sotira Pools (Paralimni) and Asprokremnos Dam pools on 3rd and Akrotiri Salt Lake on 4th. Two at Nata and two at Akrotiri reed beds on Apr 13th.

One at Kiti on Oct 17th, two on 24th, flocks of ten on Oct 30th and 15 on Nov 2nd. One at Cape Greco tip on Oct 23rd and 24th, two on Oct 29th and 31st, up to three from Nov 6th to 15th. One at Akhna Dam from Oct 28th to 30th, two or three from Nov 7th to 11th and one from 14th to 16th. Three at Zakaki Marsh on Oct 27th, rising to seven or eight on Oct 31st and 17 from Nov 5th to 8th, then dropping to 14 on 16th, 12 on 22nd and four on 25th. One at Kiti Dam on Oct 31st and Nov 2nd. One at Parthenitis Dam on Nov 3rd. Four at Bishop's Pool on Nov 10th. Two at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Nov 22nd.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

A small number of pairs of the sub-species M.f.feldegg are summer visitors and breed locally. Three races occur as very common passage migrants, M.f.feldegg, flava and thunbergi. Peak numbers occur, sometimes in thousands, from March to mid-May and August to October. There are a few records, mainly in spring, which refer to the races M.f.cinereocapilla, beema and lutea. Sightings during the winter months are occasional.

The first spring arrivals were 20 at Ayios Yeoryios (Cape Drepanum) on Mar 19th and flocks were seen in many areas in the west after this date. 30 at Mandria (Paphos) on Mar 23rd and 50 on Apr 21st. 80 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 28th, 200 on Apr 10th, 300 on 13th, but only 50 on 15th and 20 on 18th. 50 at Coral Bay on Mar 30th, 100 on Apr 7th, 120 on 13th, then a sharp fall to 16 on 21st. 260 at Evretou Dam on Apr 12th, but only 12 on 15th. Numbers dropped markedly after mid-April, but there were still 40 at Cape Drepanum on

Apr 22nd and 30 on May 14th. There were far fewer in the east, peak counts being 30 at Larnaca sewage works on Apr 10th and 12th and 20 at Cape Greco on Apr 13th.

Small numbers were seen in early August, but it was not until the last week that passage began in earnest. Ten at Cape Greco on Aug 26th increased to 40 on 30th, then there were up to 60 in September, a large fall of 200 on Sept 27th, following rain in the early hours of the morning, 30 on Oct 1st and 2nd, falling to ten on 11th, ones and twos until Nov 7th and one to Nov 15th. 40 at Parthenitis Dam on Aug 29th and 60 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Aug 31st. Relatively few were around the Akrotiri peninsula in September, but 100 were at Akrotiri reed beds on Sept 13th and 40 at Phasouri reed beds on Oct 7th. 78 at Ayios Nikolaos (Famagusta) on Sept 1st, 50 on 29th. 70 at Ayia Napa football pitches on Sept 7th, then 30 to 40 until Sept 14th, ten to 12 in early October, rising to 25 on 19th, three on Oct 23rd. 100 at Paphos Plain from Sept 15th to 26th. 60 at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 26th; there was a huge fall of 800 on Oct 6th, yet only ten remained on 7th and the last three were seen on Oct 14th. 300 were in an irrigated field at Kiti on Sept 20th, but numbers were reduced by shooting and limesticks over the next few days; 200 remained on Oct 7th, dropping to 20 from Oct 18th to 24th. 30 at Paramali on Oct 13th, 40 on 14th. One at Zakaki Marsh on Nov 3rd, two at Parthenitis Dam also on 3rd and one on 8th.

M.f.flava: two at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 21st, increased to 12 at the end of the month and 50 on Apr 13th. 50 at Paphos Plain on Mar 30th. 30 at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 9th, 20 on 19th. Ten at Nata on Apr 13th. 12 at Asprokremnos Dam on Apr 21st. 20 at Khlorakas on May 9th.

One at Khlorakas on Aug 19th. Small numbers were identified in early September, but at the end of the month there was a substantial passage, with 18 at Phasouri reed beds and 80 at Mandria (Paphos) on 25th, and 30 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 26th, increasing to 130 on 28th.

M.f.thunbergi: one or two at the Paphos Lighthouse area from Mar 21st to 27th, seven on 28th. Two at Yermasoyia Dam on Apr 2nd, one on 10th. One at Larnaca sewage works on Apr 4th. Four at Nata on Apr 13th.

Singles at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 4th, Nov 11th and 16th.

M.f.feldegg: 17 at Mandria (Paphos) on Mar 19th. 40 came in off the sea at the Paphos Lighthouse area, also on Mar 19th, then 100 on Mar 24th and up to 30 until 31st, 100 on Apr 13th, but only small numbers after this. 500 at Paphos Plain on Mar 30th. Other high counts during April were 350 at Mandria (Paphos) on 9th and 50 at Yermasoyia Dam on 10th. In May two were at Cape Greco on 7th, a female at Mavrokolymbos Dam on 21st and one at Larnaca sewage works on 22nd.

Breeding record: three adults and a juvenile at Akrotiri Salt Lake on June 9th was the only record to confirm breeding.

M.f.beema: three flew in off the sea at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 19th and one on Apr 8th. 20 at Paphos on May 4th and 5th and five at the Tombs of the Kings on May 8th.

M.f.superciliaris: one, showing characters of this apparent hybrid type, was at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 13th.

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*

A scarce passage migrant in spring that was first recorded in 1971, but has now become more regular. Sightings from late March to late May have been annual since 1993. Prior to this year autumn records were exceptional.

Single males at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 29th, Ayios Yeoryios (Cape Drepanum) on Apr 2nd and Larnaca sewage works on Apr 6th. One at Zakaki Marsh on Apr 25th and a female on May 4th.

Single juveniles were at Cape Greco tip on Aug 8th and 9th, from Sept 1st to 4th, Sept 17th and 18th and from Sept 25th to 27th and at Bishop's Pool on Aug 9th and Sept 6th. One juvenile at Akhna Dam on Aug 25th and an adult on Oct 4th. An adult and juvenile at Larnaca sewage works on Sept 4th, the adult remained until Sept 15th and another adult was seen on Oct 6th. One juvenile at Ayia Napa football pitches pool from Sept 7th to 9th, two on 10th. One juvenile at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 19th.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

The breeding status remains uncertain, but it is possible that occasional attempts are made in the mountains. It is fairly common as a passage migrant and winter visitor from August to April.

In January and February ones and twos were seen on the Akamas, Evretou Dam, Kalopanayiotis, Akhelia Dam, Asprokremnos Dam pools, Arminou Dam, Happy Valley, Bishop's Pool and Kalavassos Dam. Singles were at Lymbia Dam on Mar 3rd, Mandria (Paphos) on Mar 25th, Amathus on Apr 1st and the Paphos Lighthouse area on May 3rd. Two were at the Psilo Dendro trout farm (Platres) on Apr 7th, but there were no records to suggest breeding.

One at Asprokremnos Dam and pools on Sept 17th, two on 26th, three on Oct 7th, singles until Nov 7th, three on Dec 25th, one on 27th. Singles at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 26th and 28th, Oct 3rd, Nov 1st, two on Nov 3rd, one on Nov 10th and 11th. Singles at the Dhiarizos River valley on Sept 27th, Yermasoyia Dam on Sept 30th and Oct 1st, and the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 30th. One or two at Bishop's Pool from Oct 2nd to 27th, singles from Nov 3rd to 19th, and on Dec 17th. Singles at Akrotiri gravel pits on Oct 5th and Akhna Dam on Oct 7th. Two at Paramali on Oct 13th. Singles at Xiliatos Dam on Oct 13th, Larnaca sewage works on Oct 18th and 24th, the Baths of Aphrodite on Oct 26th, Parthenitis Dam on Oct 30th and Caledonian Falls on Nov 7th. Four at Xeros Potamos on Nov 2nd. Singles at Ora Dam on Nov 9th, Evretou Dam on Nov 20th and Dec 30th, Happy Valley on Dec 3rd, Kiti Dam on 23rd, Paphos Forest on 24th, Konia (Paphos) on Dec 26th and Troodos on 28th. Two at Platres on Dec 28th.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

A very common passage migrant and winter visitor, in flocks that sometimes number several hundreds. It is present from August to early May. Roosts occur in reed beds, citrus plantations and urban areas.

The only large numbers during January were seen at Larnaca Airport, where each evening about 200 came into roost in small trees in the car park. 40 were at Phasouri reed beds on Jan 21st and 20 at Happy Valley on 23rd. Few were reported in February, the maximum counts being 30 at Paralimni Lake on 3rd and 18 at Mandria (Paphos) on 27th. There was a small passage from mid-March to mid-April, with 25 at Akhna Dam and 30 at Larnaca sewage works on Mar 17th, 30 at Asprokremnos Dam on Mar 20th, 42 between Coral Bay and Cape Drepanum on Apr 2nd, ten at Larnaca sewage works on Apr 12th, ten at Xeros Potamos on 13th, ten at Polis reed beds on 14th and ten in the Dhiarizos River valley on Apr 18th. Ones and twos continued to be seen until early May and the last reports were singles at Neokhorio on May 20th and Akhna Dam on 23rd.

The first two in autumn were at Cape Greco tip on Sept 21st and over the next few days numbers rapidly increased. High counts were 100 at Cape Greco from Oct 13th to 24th, dropping to 50 on Nov 6th and 20 on Nov 21st, 400 at Paramali on Oct 13th, 200 on 14th, 100 at Mandria (Paphos) on Oct 12th, 160 on 14th, 300 at Kiti on Oct 17th, dropping to 200 on

18th, after much use of limesticks, and 100 on 23rd and 24th, 50 at Parthenitis Dam on Nov 3rd, up to 40 at Zakaki Marsh from Nov 5th to 23rd and 100 at Paralimni Lake on Dec 5th. There were many records of smaller numbers. During late afternoons in November birds flew over Athalassa Forest to roost. A roost of 50 was at Evagoras Avenue, Nicosia on Nov 27th. About 100 were roosting in small trees on Larnaca seafront by the marina on Dec 2nd.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

A common resident that breeds on the higher and middle slopes of the Troodos range and locally on lower ground. It is more widespread in winter.

In January singles were seen in the lowland area of Mandria (Paphos) on 9th and 11th. There were song records from the Troodos range in April and also several from the Ayia and Stavros tis Psokas areas of the Paphos Forest in April/May. One was out of usual habitat at Mousere on May 9th. Two were at Perapedhi Forest and two at Ayios Therapon on May 23rd. One was at Kellaki (Limassol Forest) on June 2nd and three at Episkopi (Paphos) on June 6th, where song and alarm calls were heard. Three family groups were located at Xerovounos Forest and three at Potamos tou Limniti (Paphos Forest) on June 24th, both sites at an altitude below 200 metres. One was at Cape Greco tip on Nov 6th.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

A winter visitor in small numbers from October to early April. Possibly it is also a passage migrant, but few records have been received.

Singles at Arminou Dam on Feb 23rd, Evretou Dam on Feb 24th and 25th and the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 5th.

Two on limesticks at Cape Greco on Oct 31st. One at Akhna Dam on Nov 16th. Two at Arminou Dam on Dec 6th, three on 11th, two on 15th.

RUFOUS BUSH CHAT *Cercotrichas galactotes*

A very scarce passage migrant from mid-March to early May and August to early October, with no more than three having been seen in any one year. There is one winter record.

Singles at Bishop's Pool on Apr 5th (JYG) and the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 10th (JRB). The only autumn record was one at Episkopi on Sept 7th (DT).

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

A very common passage migrant and winter visitor from October to April, particularly to the forests of the Troodos range.

During the first winter period two or three were in the Strovolos and Athalassa Forest areas of Nicosia, up to four at the Paphos Lighthouse area, five in Happy Valley, six at Evretou Dam on Jan 15th and three at Polis on Mar 10th. The only April records were one at the Baths of Aphrodite on 6th and one dead on a limestick at Cape Greco on 9th.

Four or five winter visitors were heard in the Athalassa Forest and Acropolis Park areas of Nicosia from Oct 15th until the end of December. Ten were at Cape Greco and a similar number at Lysos on Oct 31st, and ten at Bishop's Pool on Nov 10th. Three were found long dead in mist nets at Cape Pyla (Eastern Sovereign Base Area) on Nov 12th. Eleven were at Arminou Dam on Dec 6th and up to six daily at Armou in late December. There were many reports of ones and twos.

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia*

A fairly common, though rarely identified, passage migrant from late March to early May and late August to October.

One at Smyies on Apr 11th, four on limesticks at Cape Greco on Apr 25th, singles limed on 26th and 28th, and singles seen at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 27th and 30th.

One was released from a mist net at Cape Pyla (Eastern Sovereign Base Area) on Sept 10th.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

A common summer visitor, breeding species and passage migrant. It nests in valleys of the Troodos range in pine forest and cultivated areas. Peak passage is from mid-March to May and it is more scarce in the autumn from late August to mid-October.

March records were singles at Cape Greco on 15th, the Paphos Lighthouse area on 28th and Akrotiri gravel pits on 29th. Sightings increased markedly in April and high counts were ten at the Baths of Aphrodite on 11th, six at Xeros Potamos on 12th, ten at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 15th and five at Cape Greco on 24th. Spring passage ended during the first week in May and altogether there were 75 records with details of 146 birds. Eight were singing in the Paphos Forest on Apr 27th, and there were other song records from Mandria (Platres), Kelephos Bridge (Dhiarizos River valley), Perapedhi Forest, Arakapas and the Letimbu/Khoulou valley in May and June. Juveniles were found at Episkopi (Paphos) on June 6th and Kambos (Paphos Forest) on June 25th. The only autumn migrants were singles at Bishop's Pool on Sept 1st and Akrotiri gravel pits on 9th.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*

*An autumn passage migrant and winter visitor from late August to early April, generally in single figure numbers. Spring passage birds are rarely seen. The most commonly occurring race is the red-spotted form, *L.s.svecica*. *L.s.cyanecula* is much scarcer and there are just a few records of *L.s.magna*.*

Up to seven were at Akhna Dam in January and four in February until 15th, plus two passage birds on Mar 31st (one *L.svecica* and one *magna*). One at Evretou Dam on Jan 15th. One female at Ayios Yeoryios (Cape Drepanum) on Apr 2nd. Single males, showing characters of the race *L.magna* were at Cape Greco on Mar 30th and Evretou Dam on Apr 2nd.

One juvenile at Evretou Dam on Oct 6th and one on Nov 7th. One at Larnaca Salt Lake on Oct 19th. Singles at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Oct 20th and 29th. Singles at Zakaki Marsh from Oct 26th to 29th, two on 31st, five or six from Nov 1st to 3rd, seven on 8th, three or four to 19th and one on Nov 22nd. Singles at Akhna Dam on Oct 28th and 29th, one or two in November and December. Singles at Cape Greco tip on Oct 29th and 31st, Kiti Dam on Nov 2nd, Bishop's Pool on Nov 3rd and Parthenitis Dam on Nov 8th.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

A common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor to lower areas from September to mid-April.

Most records came from the Paphos Lighthouse area, with 'tens' in January, up to 14 in February, and 30 in early March, decreasing to two on 16th and singles on Apr 14th and 15th. Five at Evretou Dam on Jan 15th, seven at Arminou Dam on Feb 15th and three at Paramali in early March, where the last winter visitor departed on Mar 26th. There was a small

passage at Cape Greco, with eight on Mar 10th and six on 16th. Ones and twos were at other sites and the last spring record was one at Smyies on Apr 17th. Singles at Amathus on Oct 6th, Cape Greco on 8th and Mavrokolymbos Dam on Oct 12th. Large numbers arrived during the second half of October. Four were at Androlikou on Oct 26th, 15 at Cape Zevgari (RAF Akrotiri) on Nov 2nd and 20 around the Akrotiri Salt Lake on Nov 3rd. 50 were estimated around Asprokremnos Dam and ten at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Nov 4th. Most records came from lowland areas, but one was on the summit of Mount Olympus on Nov 7th.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A common passage migrant from March to mid-May and mid-August to October. The race P.p.samamiscus is frequent in spring, but very scarce in the autumn.

Singles were reported at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Mar 3rd and the Paphos Lighthouse area on 10th, yet it was not until after the middle of the month that the species became more widespread, with singles at Cape Greco, Kiti Dam, Paramali, the Paphos Lighthouse area, Peyia and the Akamas. In April there were only 34 records involving 41 birds in coastal areas from Cape Greco to the Akamas. Most of the sightings came from the Paphos Lighthouse area, but there were no more than two together at any one site. Two males were on limesticks at Cape Greco on Apr 25th. Single males were seen there and at Akrotiri Salt Lake on May 2nd and a female at Larnaca Salt Lake on May 13th.

One female was in the Dhiarizos River valley on Sept 16th. More migrants were seen at the end of the month, with one at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 27th, increasing to three on 28th, and singles at Parthenitis Dam, Cape Greco and Paphos Plain on 28th, and Akrotiri Salt Lake on 29th. During October most were recorded at Cape Greco, including ten on 3rd, five of which were found on limesticks or were mist netted. Only singles were seen elsewhere, at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 2nd, the Paphos Lighthouse area on 3rd, Yermasoyia Dam and Eagles Baths (Troodos) on 5th, Lachi on 8th, Armou from 14th to 17th, Neokhorio on 26th, Paramali on 27th and Parthenitis Dam on 30th. Altogether there were 26 records and 38 autumn migrants were noted.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

A common passage migrant from March to early May and mid-August to early November.

Singles at Yeroskipos on Apr 5th, Zakaki Marsh on 8th and Avgas Gorge on 9th. Numbers gradually increased. Five were at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 15th, four on 19th, and five at Coral Bay on 21st. There were more noticeable falls in the last week of April and early May, with six at Paramali on Apr 24th, eight at Cape Greco on Apr 24th and 26th, followed by 12 on 29th and 30 on May 2nd. Spring passage ended abruptly with two at Asprokremnos Dam and one at Panayia tou Sindi (Xeros Potamos) on May 9th. In total there were 80 spring records with reports on 215 birds.

Two were at Akhna Dam on Sept 1st and passage continued all month. Up to six were at Cape Greco until Sept 26th, then there was a fall after overnight rain when 25 were estimated on 27th, eight on Oct 12th, but only one or two until 15th. Elsewhere larger numbers were ten at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 18th and 19th, eight on Oct 12th, six or seven at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 28th and 29th, six at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 8th and nine at Paramali on Oct 13th. The last was one on the Akamas on Oct 26th. In total there were 75 records of 192 birds during the autumn period.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

The race S.t.rubicola is a very common and widespread winter visitor from October to April, mainly at lower altitudes.

At the Paphos Lighthouse area there were 'tens' in January and 12 on Feb 25th. A strong passage there during the third week of March peaked at 100 on Mar 21st. Numbers then dropped quickly, with one female on Mar 31st and a male on Apr 15th. High winter counts were 30 on the Akrotiri peninsula on Jan 13th, 25 at Evretou Dam and 20 at Mandria (Paphos) on Jan 15th, 30 at Asprokremnos Dam on Jan 16th and 18 on Feb 23rd. Obvious migrants were nine in the Dhiarizos River valley on Mar 25th, dropping to one on 27th, and 20 at Paramali that briefly appeared on Mar 29th. Most had left by the beginning of April. Singles were at Akhna Dam on Oct 7th and Evretou Dam on 11th. From then on the species rapidly became widespread, as pairs set up their winter territories. High counts were 20 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 19th, 14 at Asprokremnos Dam on Oct 21st, increasing to 40 on Nov 4th, 40 on the Akamas on Oct 26th, 20 at Cape Zevgari (RAF Akrotiri) on Nov 2nd, 15 at Zakaki Marsh on Nov 8th and ten at the Baths of Aphrodite on Nov 12th.

'SIBERIAN' STONECHAT* *Saxicola torquata maura*

This sub-species is a rare winter visitor. Many are claimed, but most lack descriptive detail. This is the third record for Cyprus.

One male was at Cape Greco tip on Sept 3rd and 4th (JDS).

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina*

A common spring passage migrant from late February to early May and less numerous in the autumn from mid-August to November.

February records were singles at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 20th, Larnaca sewage works on 22nd and Avdellero (Larnaca) on 27th. There were 54 records involving 420 birds during March, including a huge fall of 100 or more at Asprokremnos Dam on 24th. Other high counts during the month were ten at Cape Greco from 18th to 30th, 15 at Mandria (Paphos) on 25th, 18 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 28th, 20 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on 28th and 15 at Phasouri reed beds on 28th. Strong passage continued during the first few days of April, with eight at Cape Greco and 20 at Paralimni Lake on 1st, nine at Cape Drepanum on 2nd, 26 at the Paphos Lighthouse area also on 2nd, reducing to four on 6th, 11 at Mandria (Paphos) and ten at Akrotiri Salt Lake on 4th. Numbers quickly declined during the second week of the month and the last was at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 17th. During April there were 53 records of 242 birds.

In August singles at Cape Greco from 6th to 12th, two on 29th, singles at Phasouri reed beds on 21st, Akrotiri Salt Lake on 27th, Evdhimou on 23rd and Ayia Thekla on 29th. Passage increased in September, higher numbers were six at Akrotiri gravel pits and nine at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 18th, 11 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 26th, 14 on 29th and five at Cape Greco after overnight rain on 27th. Only ones and twos were seen during October and the last was one at Cape Greco on 31st. 60 autumn records included details of 120 birds.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A very common passage migrant from February to May and August to early November.

Spring passage started with one male at Mandria (Paphos) on Mar 12th and two males at Cape Greco on 13th. Peak movements were during the fourth week of March, with 30 at

Phasouri reed beds on 24th, 40 at Akrotiri gravel pits on 24th, 60 at Paramali on 24th, 40 at the Paphos Lighthouse area, 40 at Asprokremnos Dam and 40 at Mandria (Paphos), all on 25th. 50 were at Paralimni Lake on Apr 2nd, but many of these were being illegally trapped on limesticks and shot from trucks, so that only two remained on 3rd. Other high counts in April were 20 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 2nd, 35 on 4th, 35 at Cape Greco on 3rd and 18 after easterly winds on 11th, 22 at Cape Drepanum on 4th and 20 at Akrotiri peninsula on 11th. Numbers dropped after the middle of the month, but there were still singles at Akhna Dam and the Paphos Lighthouse area on May 4th. One or two remained at Cape Greco from May 1st to 7th and there was one very late bird there on 25th. Altogether there were 144 records and a total of 1,014 birds were reported on spring passage.

Four were at Akrotiri Salt Lake and one at the gravel pits on Sept 5th, but it was not until after 10th that the main movements started. Ten were at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 18th and 12 on 26th, while up to 20 were at the Paphos Lighthouse area from Sept 26th to 29th. There were notable falls in late September and October, with 50 after overnight rain at Cape Greco on Sept 27th, 40 on Oct 12th, 23 at Paramali on Oct 13th and 18 at Mandria (Paphos) on Oct 14th. Few remained into November, just singles at Cape Zevgari (RAF Akrotiri) and Akhna Dam on 2nd, two on Cape Greco on 6th and one at Cape Pyla on 12th. Far less were seen in the autumn, compared with the spring, with 87 records detailing 395 birds.

PIED WHEATEAR* *Oenanthe pleschanka*

There has been one previous record for this species, at Kourion Beach in April 1992.

One female was in the valley leading down to Ayii Anargyri at Cape Greco on Apr 7th (JDS).

CYPRUS WHEATEAR *Oenanthe cyprica*

A very common summer visitor and breeding species, with the highest numbers occurring on the hills and mountains.

One male was at the Kourion ruins on Jan 2nd. This is about the sixth winter record for Cyprus. Singles were at Episkopi on Feb 24th, Paramali on Mar 2nd and the Paphos Lighthouse area on 10th. There was a very rapid spread over the recording area after mid-March. Eight were at Yermasoyia Dam from Apr 1st to 12th, eight at Arakapas on Apr 2nd, 12 at Cape Greco on 3rd and six at Akrotiri reed beds on Apr 13th. 40 had already returned to the Troodos range by Apr 10th.

Breeding records: pairs were nest building at Amathus ruins and Tsadha on Apr 1st and the first adult with food for young was at Cape Greco on Apr 30th. A nest and four eggs, found in a drain pipe at Lythrodhondas on Apr 11th, was washed away by heavy rain later in month. At RAF Akrotiri four young fledged from a nest in a computer cable conduit at the Station HQ in late May.

Larger counts were made in June, 32 (including ten juveniles) at Potamos tou Limniti (Paphos Forest) on 24th, 22 at Chakistra (Paphos Forest) and 30 (including ten juveniles) at Xerovounos Forest on 25th. In July 30 were at Troodos on 6th and good numbers remained in the breeding areas at the Troodos, Paphos and Makheras Forests from August and into early October. Few obvious autumn migrants were seen, but three were at Larnaca sewage works on Oct 1st, up to six at Cape Greco and four at Paramali during October. One male at Kannaviou on Nov 1st and one near Panayia tou Sindi (Xeros Potamos) on Nov 2nd.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca*

A fairly common spring passage migrant from late March to early May. It is occasionally reported in the autumn from late August to October.

Singles were at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 17th and 19th and four males at Cape Greco on 20th. It was a particularly good spring for the species, with more records than is usual, and an exceptional fall of about 100 birds at Phinikas, above Asprokremnos Dam, on Mar 24th. Eight were at Paramali on Mar 29th. Passage continued throughout April, with one to four being seen at many coastal and near coastal sites from Cape Greco to the Akamas. High counts were eight at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 5th, nine at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on 11th and 12 at Akrotiri reed beds on 13th. There were just four records in May, two at the Tombs of the Kings on 4th and single females at Cape Greco on 7th, Larnaca sewage works on 10th and Kiti on 11th. There were 102 spring passage records with reports of 325 birds.

Comparatively few were seen in the autumn. A first-winter female at Phasouri reed beds on Aug 9th, a male at Akhna Dam on Sept 14th, a juvenile female at Larnaca sewage works on Sept 20th, one at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Sept 28th, a female at Cape Greco on Oct 3rd and one at Mandria (Paphos) on Oct 14th.

DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti*

A scarce passage migrant from March to mid-April and even less frequent in the autumn from mid-August to November. There was one winter record in 1987.

One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 30th and a female at Asprokremnos Dam on the same day. A male at Phasouri reed beds on Apr 3rd. Single females at Cape Drepanum from Apr 4th to 6th and at Cape Greco on Apr 24th. One juvenile at Cape Greco on Oct 8th.

FINSCH'S WHEATEAR *Oenanthe finschii*

A winter visitor in small numbers and scarce passage migrant, with records from late September to March. Males outnumber females to a considerable degree.

Up to six at Asprokremnos Dam, including one female, during January, three males in February, up to four (one female) in early March until 20th and then one or two males until Mar 25th. A male and female at Pyla Ranges on Jan 19th. One male at Philousa (Dhiarizos River valley) on Jan 27th. Up to three (one female) at Cape Greco in February, one male remained until Mar 13th. Presumed migrants at Cape Greco were a female on Mar 15th and male on 18th and a migrant male was on the shore at Potamos Liopetri on Mar 17th.

Two at Asprokremnos Dam on Oct 14th, four on 21st, then up to four males and one female during November and December. One male at Cape Greco on Oct 19th and 31st, a female on Nov 21st. One male at Pendalia (Pano Panayia) on Nov 1st. One female at Marathounda on Nov 5th. Three at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on Nov 5th, six on 7th, 23 (21 males) on Dec 5th, one female at a different site there on Dec 26th. Two females at Cape Pyla on Nov 12th. One at Ayia Marina (Xeros Potamos) on Nov 16th, two on Dec 12th, one on 19th. One at Panayia tou Sindi (Xeros Potamos) on Dec 12th, four on 19th, three on 25th. Two on the Akamas on Dec 1st and 17th. One at Ayia Napa on Dec 6th and 20th. One in a cereal field at Kivisil (Larnaca) on Dec 22nd. One at Evretou Dam on Dec 27th.

HOODED WHEATEAR* *Oenanthe monacha*

This is the ninth record for Cyprus. All have been in April and May.

A first-summer male was photographed at Ayios Yeoryios (Cape Drepanum) on Apr 13th and seen again on the morning of 14th (OGR TRS).

WHITE-CROWNED BLACK WHEATEAR* *Oenanthe leucopyga*

This is the fifth record for Cyprus and the first to be seen in April.

One first-summer bird remained in the coastal area between the Baths of Aphrodite and Fontana Amorosa on the Akamas from Apr 12th to 23rd (JRB DFS VPC *et al.*).

ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis*

A scarce passage migrant from February to early May. Although there has been the occasional summer record there has been no evidence of breeding. It is rare in autumn from late August to mid-November.

One male at Cape Greco on Apr 5th, three (two males) on 6th, a female on 10th and male on 14th. One male at Paralimni Lake on Apr 6th. Single males by Limassol hospital on Apr 9th, at Phasouri reed beds on 12th and by Limassol football stadium on 17th.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius*

Mainly a winter visitor to low rocky ground in single figure numbers from mid-September to early April. A few records from late February to April refer to spring passage, but there is little evidence of autumn movements. The species is rare in summer and there have been three reports of breeding, two in 1991 and one in 1999.

Singles at Coral Bay on Jan 2nd and 16th, and Mar 17th. One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Jan 7th, a male on Feb 10th, a female on Feb 20th and single males in March until 30th. One at Kissonerga on Mar 8th and a male at the Tombs of the Kings on Apr 4th. In the Western Sovereign Base Area, a male and female at Tunnel Beach and a female in Happy Valley on Jan 12th, a male on Jan 23rd, a female at Paramali on Mar 1st and 5th, a male at Kensington Cliffs on Mar 3rd and a male and female at Akrotiri gravel pits on Mar 29th. At Cape Greco a male in February, a male and female on several dates in March until 20th, up to three passage females from Apr 1st to 6th and one until 13th. Single male and female at Asprokremnos Dam from Feb 12th to 27th and one on Apr 21st. One female on the shore at Ayia Thekla on Mar 13th. One at Ayios Yeoryios (Cape Drepanum) on Mar 19th and a female on Apr 2nd. One on the Akamas on Mar 25th, two on Apr 5th. One male at Amathus ruins on Apr 1st. There were no breeding records.

A male returned to the wintering site at Cape Greco on Sept 10th; three were seen on Oct 31st and one male in November. One male at Peyia Forest on Oct 26th. One at Asprokremnos Dam on Nov 2nd, two on 23rd, one on Dec 26th. One at Marathounda on Nov 5th. Single males at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on Nov 7th and Cape Drepanum on Nov 24th. One in Happy Valley on Dec 7th, a female on 29th. One at Arminou Dam on Dec 11th. One male at Kensington Cliffs on Dec 18th and 21st. Three at Evretou Dam on Dec 25th. One at Pissouri Beach on Dec 26th.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

A fairly common winter visitor in variable numbers from October to April. Since 1979 there have been summer records from the Troodos range and song is often heard, yet the record below is the first to be received by a Society Recorder that proves breeding.

During the first winter period there were ten at Prodhromos on Jan 1st, ten at Tunnel Beach on Jan 12th, 30 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Jan 13th, ten at Smyies on Feb 17th and one to four at many other sites. The last migrant was one at Smyies on Apr 6th.

From late March to June there were sighting and song records from Mount Olympus, Troodos and Leave Centre Valley, Prodhromos Dam, Eagles Baths, Platres and the Kionia and Ayia Mina valley areas of the Makheras Forest. Eleven birds were at Kionia on June 2nd. *Breeding record*: a juvenile and male were seen at Troodos on May 23rd.

Winter visitors were singles at Limassol on Sept 28th and Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 31st. Very few were subsequently reported, just two at Akhna Dam on Nov 1st, two at Xeros Potamos on Nov 2nd, one on Dec 19th, singles at Cape Greco on Nov 6th and 13th, Tunnel Beach on Dec 3rd, Paphos Forest on Dec 19th and 24th, Akrotiri Salt Lake on Dec 23rd, Armou from Dec 22nd to 31st and the Dhiarizos River estuary on Dec 26th. Three at Arminou Dam on Dec 6th, four at Platres on 28th.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

A winter visitor in variable numbers.

One at the Ayia Napa football pitches on Jan 9th. Up to 30 at Anarita from Jan 28th to Feb 9th, 90 on Feb 12th and 20 on 13th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

A common and widespread winter visitor from October to April.

Early in the year larger counts were 30 at Evretou Dam on Jan 15th, 60 at Asprokremnos Dam on Jan 29th, up to 22 in February and up to 25 at Cape Greco, also in February. There was a notable passage at Cape Greco in March, with 20 to 30 daily throughout the month. Ten at Akrotiri peninsula on Mar 7th and seven at Happy Valley on Mar 21st, but only one to three elsewhere. April records were singles at Cape Greco, Amathus Hills and Ayia Thekla on Apr 1st, the Paphos Lighthouse area on 3rd, Evretou Dam and nearby Sarama on 15th. Two at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 26th, three on 31st, one on Dec 23rd. One at Bishop's Pool on Oct 31st. Five at Akhna Dam on Nov 1st. 20 at Cape Zevgari (RAF Akrotiri) on Nov 2nd. Three at Athalassa Forest on Nov 5th. In the Dhiarizos River valley, two were at Arminou Dam on Dec 18th and five at Ayios Savvas Monastery on Dec 25th. 11 at Ayia Marina (Xeros Potamos) on Dec 19th and up to four at Armou in late December. It was generally agreed that the species was unusually scarce in the autumn and second winter period.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

A scarce winter visitor in up to double figure numbers from late October to March.

Two in the Anarita area, with Fieldfares, on Feb 9th, one on 13th.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

A winter visitor in variable numbers, most often seen from November to February.

Singles at Kissonerga on Feb 28th and the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 5th and 9th.

One at Caledonian Falls on Nov 7th.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

A locally common breeding resident that is more widespread during the autumn and winter.

The species became vocal at the end of January, with one to four being heard at many sites. Five were singing in the Asprokremnos Dam and pools area on Feb 21st and 23rd and five at Arminou Dam on Feb 23rd. Other larger counts were six at Evretou Dam on Apr 2nd, 12 in the Dhiarizos River valley on Apr 27th, up to ten at Athalassa Forest and eight at Tsadha during May, seven at Arakapas on May 5th, six at Ayios Therapon on May 23rd and nine at Episkopi (Paphos) on June 6th.

Records during July and August were few, as the birds became silent. In the autumn there were up to four at Asprokremnos Dam pools from September to December, four at Athalassa Forest during November and December, three at Bishop's Pool on Nov 8th and four at the Baths of Aphrodite on Nov 12th, plus ones and twos at many other sites until the end of the year.

FAN-TAILED WARBLER *Cisticola juncidis*

A common resident on lower ground which disperses widely after the breeding season.

At the Paphos Lighthouse area there were up to seven in January and four in March. Other high counts were five at the Tombs of the Kings on Mar 26th, 15 at Mazotos on Apr 16th and 12 in the Dhiarizos River valley on Apr 27th.

Breeding records: an adult with a faecal sac was at Zakaki Marsh on Apr 8th, an adult was feeding young in a nest at Khlorakas on Apr 25th and a family party were at Akhna Dam on July 6th. Fledged juveniles were at Mamonía in the Dhiarizos River valley on May 29th and on the Akamas on July 30th.

During the autumn there were up to four at Cape Greco tip and eight at Akhna Dam. Ten at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Nov 3rd. Smaller numbers were reported until the end of December.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides*

A passage migrant in small numbers from mid-March to April and August to October.

Singles were at Bishop's Pool on Aug 30th and Cape Greco tip on Oct 11th.

MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Acrocephalus melanopogon*

A regular winter visitor, mainly in single figure numbers, to reed beds and wetland areas from October to March.

One or two at Asprokremnos Dam pools throughout January, up to four in February, one or two in March and singles until Apr 7th. One or two at Bishop's Pool from Jan 11th to Feb 8th and singles on Apr 5th and 8th. The birds at both sites in early April were singing and showed characters of *A.m.mimica* (MR MC), a sub-species that previously has not been reported.

Singles at Akhelia Dam on Oct 28th and Zakaki Marsh on Oct 29th, 31st and Nov 7th. One at Asprokremnos Dam pools from Oct 29th to 31st, one or two from Nov 1st to 9th, four on 14th and three on Nov 22nd, one on Dec 16th, two on 25th. Singles at Akhna Dam from Nov 1st to 9th and Bishop's Pool on Nov 3rd and 10th.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A passage migrant in double figure numbers from March to May and August to November.

March records were singles at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 23rd and 30th, three at Mandria (Paphos) on 23rd and two at Phasouri on 28th. Ones and twos were seen throughout April and until May 9th at Evretou Dam, Coral Bay, the Paphos Lighthouse area, Asprokremnos Dam pools, Xeros Potamos, Bishop's Pool, Akrotiri Salt Lake and Akrounda Dam. Three were on limesticks at Cape Greco on Apr 25th. Late birds were singles at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on May 12th and Asprokremnos Dam pools on 15th. There were just 34 records with details of 41 spring passage birds.

One at Akhna Dam on Aug 10th. Two at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Aug 20th and singles on six dates from Sept 6th to Oct 1st. One at Bishop's Pool on Sept 5th. Two at Cape Greco tip from Sept 6th to 11th, singles from Sept 17th to 26th, and on Oct 2nd, 14th and 18th. One at Ayia Napa football pitches pool on Sept 8th and 9th. Autumn passage was very poor, with only 18 records of 20 birds.

MARSH WARBLER* *Acrocephalus palustris*

A passage migrant, but its status is unclear due to identification problems. Apparently it is very scarce in spring, chiefly in April, and slightly more numerous in autumn from late August to early November.

Singles were by the Apollo Hotel, Kato Paphos on Apr 5th (MC) and at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on May 3rd (JDS).

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A summer visitor and local breeding species, mainly in reed beds in the Akrotiri and Phasouri area. It is more common as a passage migrant from mid-March to early May and mid-August to early November.

In March at least two were at Zakaki Marsh and two were singing at Paphos Plain on 30th. During April and May other song records came from Akrounda Dam, Akrotiri reed beds (up to 12 birds), Zakaki Marsh (five), Limassol new port (two), Phasouri reed beds (two), Ezousas River (one), Kouklia (Paphos) (four) and Evretou Dam (three). There were eight records of two on the Akamas on Apr 6th, up to three at Bishop's Pool from Apr 8th to May 24th, up to four at Polis reed beds on Apr 16th and May 7th, two at Coral Bay on Apr 17th, singles at Asprokremnos Dam pools from Apr 17th to May 9th, one at Cape Greco on Apr 24th and 25th, three at Kouris Dam on May 9th, one at Akhna Dam on May 19th and 22nd and up to five at the Xeros Potamos estuary from May 18th to 26th.

An interesting record concerned a pair apparently nest building at Eagles Baths (Troodos) on June 3rd, but there were no follow up reports to confirm breeding. Two were in a reed bed in the Letimbou/Khoulou valley on June 6th. Three, including one juvenile, were at Episkopi (Paphos) on June 6th. Other June records were one at Ayia Varvara pools (Paphos) on 5th, 14 at Evretou Dam on 11th, one at Kato Pyrgos on 23rd and six at Akrotiri Salt Lake on 29th.

Presumed autumn migrants were one at Symvoulos Dam (Episkopi Garrison) on Aug 15th and two at Cape Greco on 20th. Passage continued at Cape Greco all September and until Oct 24th; generally only ones and twos were seen, but there was a small fall of six on Sept 10th. Very few were seen at other sites, just singles at Bishop's Pool on Aug 24th and 26th, one trapped in a mist net at Cape Pyla on Sept 4th, one or two at Asprokremnos Dam pools from Sept 16th to Oct 12th, one at Akrounda Dam on Oct 4th and singles at Ayia Napa

football pitches pool on Oct 6th, 23rd and 24th. One very late bird was seen well at Akhna Dam on Nov 24th. 25 records of autumn migrants were received, with details of 41 birds.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Breeding has occasionally been attempted in the Phasouri and Akrotiri reed beds, the last occasion being in 1985. Mainly single figure numbers are seen on passage from mid-March to early May and mid-August to early November.

One at Polis campsite on Apr 2nd and at the reed beds on 14th. Singles at Paphos tip on Apr 3rd and at the lighthouse area on three dates from 5th to 15th. Singles at Kouklia (Paphos) on Apr 5th, the Baths of Aphrodite on 6th and on the Akamas on 25th and 26th. Singles at Bishop's Pool from Apr 6th to 25th, but two on 14th. Singles at Asprokremnos Dam pools on seven dates from Apr 8th to 22nd, Akrotiri gravel pits on Apr 10th, Neo-Kholetria on 12th, Evretou Dam on 15th and 16th and Akhelia Dam on 21st. Three at Coral Bay on Apr 17th. One on a limestick at Cape Greco on Apr 25th and one seen on 26th. May records were one at Asprokremnos Dam on 3rd, one singing at Evretou Dam on 5th and one at Kouris Dam on 9th. One was heard at Ricco's Beach (Yeroskipos) on June 8th.

In the autumn singles were at Cape Greco tip from Aug 6th to 9th, two juveniles on Sept 6th, an adult on 9th, two from Sept 11th to 18th, singles on Sept 19th and 24th and Oct 2nd. Singles at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Sept 5th and Oct 7th. Singles at Bishop's Pool on four dates from Sept 6th to 19th.

OLIVACEOUS WARBLER *Hippolais pallida*

A summer visitor and the most common and widespread breeding warbler species. It starts to arrive in late March and the last are seen in October. Relatively few passage birds occur in spring, they are usually more common in the autumn from late July.

One early bird was at Bishop's Pool on Apr 5th, but the main arrival was not until 12th, with singles at Cape Drepanum, Kouris Dam and Tunnel Beach. The species spread quickly over the country and there were 13 in Avgas Gorge on Apr 17th and five in the Kannaviou Quarry area on 25th. Three had reached the Troodos Leave Centre Valley by Apr 29th. Up to 15 were heard at Athalassa Forest during May, nine at Arakapas on May 5th, ten at Phini on 22nd, 17 at Telephos Bridge (Dhiarizos River valley) on 22nd, 17 at Perapedhi Forest and 11 at Ayios Therapon on 23rd. Juveniles started to appear in June and the adults stopped singing in mid-July.

Autumn passage birds were few. The highest counts were three at Bishop's Pool on Aug 1st and four at Cape Greco on Aug 30th. The last was one at Phasouri reed beds on Sept 28th.

OLIVE-TREE WARBLER* *Hippolais olivetorum*

A scarce and less than annual passage migrant, mainly from late April to early May.

One was at the Paphos Lighthouse area on May 2nd (CR NSI *et al.*).

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*

A scarce passage migrant in April/May and from late August to mid-October. It is seen more often in the spring.

Singles at Cape Greco on Apr 29th and 30th, Polis reed beds and Kato Paphos on May 5th and Kamares (Paphos) on May 6th.

One at Bishop's Pool on Aug 30th and two at Asprokremnos Dam on Sept 10th.

SPECTACLED WARBLER *Sylvia conspicillata*

A locally common resident breeding species, at lowland sites mainly to the east of Asprokremnos Dam, that tends to disperse from nesting areas during the winter. There is one known breeding site on the Akamas.

One to four were at the regular sites, Cape Greco, Akhna Dam, Larnaca sewage works, the Akrotiri peninsula and Asprokremnos Dam, all year. One at Avgas Gorge on Apr 11th.

Breeding records: one at a nest site on the Akamas on May 27th. A pair with food for young at Larnaca sewage works on Apr 16th. Fledged young were at Cape Greco on Apr 28th. Two family parties with three and four juveniles at Akrotiri Salt Lake on June 9th.

High counts were six at Larnaca sewage works on Aug 13th and 19th, seven at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 30th, six on Oct 5th and 12 around Akrotiri Salt Lake on Nov 3rd. Two males on the Akamas on Dec 17th, one female at Panayia tou Sindi (Xeros Potamos) on Dec 19th and one at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on Dec 25th.

SUBALPINE WARBLER** *Sylvia cantillans*

A spring passage migrant in variable numbers in March/April. There has been just one autumn record, in 1997.

March records were single males at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 20th and the Baths of Aphrodite on 26th, a male at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 27th and a male and female on 29th, a male at Yeroskipos on 30th and one at Yermasoyia Dam on 31st. There were 15 records in April involving 18 migrants at near-coastal sites from Cape Greco to the Baths of Aphrodite. Just one was seen in May, a male at Asprokremnos Dam on 4th.

SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala*

Formerly only a fairly common winter visitor to areas of dense scrub on lower ground from late August to early May. Breeding was first proved on the Akamas peninsula in 1992. Since then numbers have increased each year and the breeding area extended.

One at Kalopanayiotis on Jan 1st. During the first winter period from one to four were at many lowland sites from Cape Greco to the Akamas. The few records received confirmed that the species is common in the west of the Island from the Akamas to Coral Bay, extending eastwards to Paphos Forest, but they gave no indication of the full extent of the breeding range. Four were in the region of Nata and Pano Panayia on Apr 11th and 12th and an adult male at Akrotiri reed beds on Apr 13th, but there was nothing to suggest nesting in these areas. Ten were in the Smyies and Baths of Aphrodite area of the Akamas on Apr 6th, five males in Peyia Forest on May 1st and 25 between Cape Drepanum and Smyies, via Lara, on May 7th. At Coral Bay, on Apr 21st, a nest was found within 20 metres of that of a Cyprus Warbler.

Winter visitors returned to Asprokremnos Dam from mid-September. A male was at Yermasoyia Dam on Sept 29th and two were on limesticks at Cape Greco on Oct 31st. High counts were five at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Nov 9th and 14th, 15 at the Baths of Aphrodite on Nov 11th and 12th, 12 at Lachi and 15 at Neokhorio on Nov 11th and five at Cape Zevgari (RAF Akrotiri) on Nov 15th.

CYPRUS WARBLER *Sylvia melanothorax*

A common resident breeding species in areas of low dense scrub. A part of the population leaves the Island during the winter. There has been evidence of a contraction of breeding range in the north-west in recent years, following the colonisation by Sardinian Warblers.

Ones and twos in January and February, included two on the Akamas on Feb 15th and two at Smyies on 17th. Seven singing males were in the Amathus Hills on Mar 30th and eight at Yermasoyia Dam from Mar 31st to Apr 12th. There were breeding season records over a wide area from Kalavassos westwards, the highest concentrations being five males at Asprokremnos Dam on Apr 13th, up to 12 at Coral Bay from Apr 12th to 25th, seven at Evretou Dam on Apr 15th, five at Paramali on Apr 24th, eight (six males) at Kamares (Paphos) on May 6th and five at Panayia tou Sindi (Xeros Potamos) on May 9th. Four were at three sites at Perapedhi on May 23rd, 100 metres apart and at an altitude of 800 metres. The only spring and summer sightings on the Akamas were single males on Mar 28th, May 1st and 20th, plus two males on May 27th and June 3rd. There were no breeding records from this area.

Breeding record: a nest with five pulli was found at Asprokremnos Dam on May 8th and the first fledged juvenile was seen there on May 19th.

In the autumn small numbers were recorded in areas from Amathus and Yermasoyia Dam westwards. Five were at Mavrokolymbos Dam on Sept 6th, four at Quarry Beach on Sept 26th and four at Yermasoyia Dam on Oct 5th. The only records from the Akamas were one on Oct 26th and two on Dec 17th. In early winter three were at Kato Pyrgos on Nov 1st, up to six at Armou from Dec 14th to 31st, a male at Panayia tou Sindi (Xeros Potamos) on Dec 19th, three at Zakaki Marsh on Dec 23rd, four at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Dec 23rd, one at Kiti Dam on Dec 23rd, two males at Ayios Savvas Monastery (Dhiarizos River valley) on Dec 25th and two at Lara on Dec 30th.

RUPPELL'S WARBLER** *Sylvia rueppelli*

A fairly common spring passage migrant from March to mid-May. It is rare in autumn from August to November and there are a few winter records.

One at Xeros Potamos on Mar 13th and three at Mandria (Paphos) on 19th. There were 14 records involving 28 birds during late March, the highest concentration being in the Western Sovereign Base Area with five at Cape Gata on 23rd, three males at Paramali and up to four at Bishop's Pool on 29th. Three were at Mandria (Paphos) on Mar 19th and three at Cape Greco on 20th. Passage continued throughout April, with 31 records of 34 birds in near-coastal areas from Cape Greco to Evretou Dam. Strangely, none was seen on the Akamas. May records were single males at Asprokremnos Dam on 3rd and Kamares (Paphos) on 6th, and a female at Cape Greco on 7th.

ORPHEAN WARBLER *Sylvia hortensis*

A common spring migrant, occasionally from early February, but mainly from mid-March to mid-April. It is scarce in the autumn from August to October.

There were seven records in March, involving ten birds, including one male at Cape Greco on 15th and two or three until 30th, singles at the Paphos Lighthouse area from 22nd and one at Paramali on 29th. The species was relatively scarce this year, with just 18 records of 25 birds from Cape Greco to the Akamas during the first three weeks of April. Males were singing on the Akamas on Apr 2nd and Avgas Gorge on 11th and the last was one at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 23rd.

Two were at Cape Greco on Aug 8th and singles on 10th and 12th. One juvenile was trapped in a mist net at Cape Pyla (Eastern Sovereign Base Area) on Sept 10th.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

A fairly scarce passage migrant from mid-March to mid-May and September/October. It tends to be more common in the east.

Single males at Akrotiri gravel pits on Apr 6th and Kamares (Paphos) on 15th. One female on a limestick at Cape Greco on Apr 25th, a male and female seen on Apr 29th and a female on May 2nd and 3rd. One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on May 1st, two on 2nd, one heard on 3rd. Two first-winters were at Cape Greco tip on Aug 6th. One remained until 8th and was found on a limestick on 9th.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

There are records for all months, but it is most common as a spring migrant from March to early May. Fewer occur in the autumn in August and September.

Spring movements started with singles at Mandria (Paphos) on Mar 3rd, Lady's Mile on 7th and the Paphos Lighthouse area on 9th. Numbers increased at the end of March, with six at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 29th and 20 at Cape Greco on 30th. Passage continued throughout April, but few high counts were made, peaks being 30 at the Baths of Aphrodite on 11th, ten at Akrotiri reed beds on 14th and eight at Cape Greco on 17th. Altogether there were 73 records of 211 spring migrants. Few were seen in May and the last were two at Cape Greco on 11th and one at Khlorakas on 14th.

Most autumn migrants were seen at Cape Greco from Aug 12th to Oct 24th. Numbers were small, the largest count being four on Aug 26th. The only other records were singles at Cape Pyla (Eastern Sovereign Base Area) on Sept 10th (released from a mist net), the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 30th, Paramali on Oct 12th, Ayia Napa football pitches pool on Oct 23rd, and Cape Zevgari (RAF Akrotiri) on Nov 2nd. There were 18 records of 27 birds on autumn passage.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Spring migrants appear from late February, but the main passage is in April and early May. Smaller numbers pass through in the autumn from mid-August to October.

March records were singles at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 19th, Asprokremnos Dam pools on 23rd, the Ezousas river on 24th, Cape Greco and Yermasoyia Dam on 30th. Passage increased after the first week of April, but the only double figure count was 12 at Cape Greco on 24th. Five were at Coral Bay on the same day. Movements ended during the first week of May, apart from one male singing at Asprokremnos Dam pools on May 12th. In total there were 53 spring records with details of 95 birds.

The only autumn records were one at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Aug 27th, one juvenile at Cape Greco tip on Sept 1st, two on 3rd, one on a limestick on 28th, and a juvenile in a garden at Vrysoulles (Famagusta) on Sept 16th.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

A passage migrant in small numbers from March to May and late August to mid-October.

Two at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 19th. Singles at Smyies on Apr 20th, the Paphos Lighthouse area on 21st, the Baths of Aphrodite on May 5th and 7th, Cape Greco tip on 13th.

One at Akhna Dam on Aug 27th. Singles in mist nets at Cape Pyla (Eastern Sovereign Base Area) on Sept 4th and 10th, and Oct 1st. Singles at Cape Greco on Sept 1st and 17th. One at Kissonerga on Sept 18th.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

A very common passage migrant and winter visitor from late August to mid-May.

Very few were reported in January and February, and only a maximum of three were seen together. There were 40 records in March and numbers increased markedly at the end of the month with 12 at Coral Bay on 27th, 30 by the watchtower at Akrotiri Salt Lake on 28th, 14 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 28th and 31st, ten at Paramali on 29th and 50 at Cape Greco on 30th. There was a notable fall in the north-west on Apr 11th, with 15 at Mavrokolymbos Dam, 60 at Avgas Gorge and 100 at the Baths of Aphrodite on that day. The only other double figure counts in April were ten in the Pouzis valley at Kivisil (Larnaca) on 15th and 15 (five on limesticks) at Cape Greco on 25th. Passage continued at Cape Greco well into May, with high counts of ten on 2nd and 7th, and the last spring birds were five on May 20th. 20 at the Baths of Aphrodite on 10th, but few were seen elsewhere during May.

Autumn migrants returned in late August, with three or four at Mavrokolymbos Dam and a male at Asprokremnos Dam, both on 30th, and a male at Cape Greco on 31st. During September and October the largest counts made were of birds in mist nets. Ten were trapped at Cape Pyla (Eastern Sovereign Base Area) on Sept 10th and 20 at Cape Greco and Cape Pyla on Oct 1st. Song was heard at sites around Nicosia from Oct 23rd onwards. Ten were seen in the Arminou area of the Dhiarizos River valley on Nov 7th and 15 at the Baths of Aphrodite on Nov 12th. In addition, single figure numbers were seen at other localities until the end of the year.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER* *Phylloscopus inornatus*

This is the eighth record for Cyprus and the second in early spring. The others have been in late autumn and early winter, from the end of September to November.

One was feeding actively in a large deciduous tree by Ayios Andronikos Church, below Evretou Dam, on Mar 25th (SJP JDS *et al.*).

EASTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER** *Phylloscopus orientalis*

A fairly common spring passage migrant from March to mid-May, but scarce in the autumn from late August to early October. Few were seen this year and all records are included.

One at the Dhiarizos River valley on Mar 25th. One at Smyies on Apr 5th and the Baths of Aphrodite on 6th. Singles at Bishop's Pool on Apr 6th and 8th, Zakaki Marsh on 10th, Akrotiri gravel pits on 11th, the Salt Lake on 23rd and Paramali on 24th. Singles at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) on Apr 9th and Avgas Gorge on 13th. Two at Akhna Dam on Apr 14th. One at Cape Greco on Apr 17th, one limed on 25th. One at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 25th.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

A spring passage migrant in double figure numbers from March to May. It is less numerous in autumn from mid-August to October.

Singles at Amathus ruins on Mar 30th and the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 3rd. No more were seen until Apr 10th and from then on there were a trickle of records. Notable falls occurred on Apr 21st and during the next few days, associated with showers of rain. Peak

counts were 25 at Bishop's Pool on Apr 21st, ten at Paramali and eight at Cape Greco on 24th, and 30 on the Akamas on 26th. There were still four or five at Akrotiri Salt Lake on May 1st and three at the Baths of Aphrodite on 7th. The last in spring were a singing male at Stavros tis Psokas and one at Kiti Dam on May 8th. In total there were 50 records which detailed 171 birds.

The only autumn records were singles at Cape Pyla on Sept 4th and Phasouri on Sept 28th.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

A very common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly from October to April.

There were many reports early in the year. In January up to ten were at Akhna Dam, 40 at Evretou Dam and 20 at Ora Dam, while in February up to 25 at Asprokremnos Dam pools and 17 in Happy Valley on 29th. The main spring passage in March occurred at Cape Greco, with numbers rising from two on 8th to 30 on 15th and 100 on 18th, after overnight rain. There was a second peak of 100 at this site on 30th. Fewer were seen at other places, but there were 20 at Bishop's Pool on Mar 3rd, a fall of 40 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 19th and 'tens' at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Mar 25th. Passage fell away rapidly in April, up to five being at the Paphos Lighthouse area, Bishop's Pool and Cape Greco during the first week. Movements came to an end during the middle of the month, with two at Bishop's Pool and one singing at Coral Bay on Apr 14th, and singles at Paphos on 15th and 20th.

Large numbers of autumn migrants arrived in the last week of October. Four were at Athalassa Forest on Oct 22nd and two at Cape Greco on 23rd, increasing to 30 on 24th and 31st. 40 were around Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 26th and a further ten at Bishop's Pool on the same day. The species became more widespread during November, there were ten at Akhna Dam on 1st, ten at Cape Greco tip on 6th, 15 in the Arminou area of the Dhiarizos River valley on 7th, ten at Zakaki Marsh and ten at Bishop's Pool on 8th, ten at Neokhorio and 30 at the Baths of Aphrodite on 11th and 15 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 15th. Ten were still at Bishop's Pool on Dec 1st and single figure numbers at other sites until the end of the year. One showing characters of the Siberian race *P.c.tristis* was seen, and the distinctive call heard, at Akrotiri gravel pits on Apr 6th (JYG).

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

A common spring passage migrant from late March to mid-May. In autumn it is the most abundant of the warbler species, chiefly from mid-August to mid-October.

The first spring migrants were two at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 28th and two at Cape Greco on 30th. It was a very poor passage this year, with no obvious falls, and just 36 records were received with details of 53 birds. From one to three were seen at near-coastal sites throughout April. Most records came from Cape Greco and ones and twos continued to pass through here until May 18th. The highest count was seven at Akrotiri Salt Lake on May 15th. One was found dead in a garden at Khlorakas on May 23rd.

In the autumn, one was at Cape Greco tip on Aug 6th, five were on limesticks on 9th and up to five seen daily until 31st. Singles at Ayia Napa football pitches pool on Aug 9th and Evretou Dam on 13th. Two or three at Bishop's Pool from Aug 24th to 31st. Ten to 15 were at Cape Greco for much of September and there were small falls of 20 on 10th, 25 on 17th and 20 on 28th. Ten were trapped in mist nets at Cape Pyla (Eastern Sovereign Base Area) on Sept 10th and ten seen at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Sept 16th. There were notable falls at Mandria (Paphos) of 50 on Sept 14th, 40 on 25th and 30 on 26th, while 30 were estimated at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 29th. Far fewer were seen in October, ten at Evretou Dam on 1st, six at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 10th, 15 at Cape Greco on 12th and 18 at

Asprokremnos Dam pools on 21st, being the peak counts. Movements continued to the end of October and the last was one at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 28th. In total there were about 60 autumn records reporting the sightings of 300 birds.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

A winter visitor to pine forests in small numbers from late October to early April. Few records are submitted.

Five were on the Akamas on Feb 10th, two at Smyies on 25th and one at Peyia Forest on Mar 8th.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

A summer visitor and breeding species in pine forests on the Troodos range. It is more common as a passage migrant in April/May and August to October.

Singles at Coral Bay on Apr 13th and the Paphos Lighthouse area on 14th. The species quickly spread, higher numbers being five at Cape Drepanum on Apr 22nd, five at Kiti Dam and six at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 23rd, five at Coral Bay on 24th, six at Bishop's Pool on 25th, six on the Akamas and seven at Paramali on 26th, ten at Akrotiri cliffs on May 1st and eight at Cape Greco on May 20th. Two late migrants were at Bishop's Pool on June 8th. Altogether there were 78 spring records with details of 188 birds.

Breeding record: breeding birds had returned to Troodos by late May, but there were few records and the only proof of breeding was a family party of five by the Platania restaurant at Prodhromos on July 15th.

Return migration started in late August, with singles at Cape Greco from 20th and at Khlorkas on 28th. At Cape Greco passage continued all September and into early October, but the highest counts were only five on Sept 10th and five on Oct 10th. More were seen at Akhna Dam, with eight on Sept 6th and six on 9th. Three to five were at Asprokremnos Dam on Sept 15th, at Kissonerga on Sept 18th and 19th, Bishop's Pool on Sept 25th and Oct 2nd, the Paphos Lighthouse area and Troodos on Sept 29th and Paramali on Oct 3rd. Most had left by the middle of October, the last being one at Cape Greco on 19th. Altogether there were 68 records of 128 autumn migrants.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

Very scarce in spring from mid-April to early May, but more regular in autumn in single figure numbers from September to mid-November.

One male at Coral Bay on Apr 23rd.

One juvenile at Cape Greco tip on Oct 13th.

SEMI-COLLARED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula semitorquata*

A scarce spring passage migrant, first recorded in 1938. Generally less than ten are seen each year from late March to early May. There has been just one autumn record.

Single males at the Baths of Aphrodite on Apr 2nd, by the Apollo Hotel at Kato Paphos on 3rd and 5th, by the Veneris Apartments at Paphos on 4th, at Coral Bay on 11th, Akrotiri on 20th and Lady's Mile on 21st. Single females at Avgas Gorge on Apr 11th, Kiti Dam and Mandria (Paphos) on 23rd. Two at Paramali on Apr 24th.

COLLARED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula albicollis*

A fairly common spring passage migrant from late March to early May, sometimes in three figure numbers. There has been just one autumn record.

Singles were at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 1st and Coral Bay on 5th. Passage increased markedly after Apr 11th and there was a fall, associated with wet weather on 21st. 19 were counted at Lady's Mile and five on the Akamas on that day. 20 were at Paramali on 24th. The last was a male at Cape Drepanum on May 1st. In total there were 44 spring records involving 116 birds in southern and western coastal and low lying areas from Cape Greco to the Akamas.

PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A fairly common spring passage migrant from late March to May. It sometimes occurs in hundreds, yet in autumn it is very scarce, with just a handful of records in September/October.

Singles were by the Roman Hotel at Kato Paphos on Apr 2nd and at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 10th. Relatively few were seen in the first half of the month. The main passage was from Apr 20th onwards, with high counts of six or seven at Bishop's Pool from 20th to 21st, six at Lady's Mile on 21st and six on the Akamas also on 21st, increasing to 12 on 26th, five at Cape Drepanum and ten at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 23rd. Migration continued during the first week of May and the last was a female at Khlorakas on 9th. 47 records were received detailing 127 birds.

FLYCATCHER *Ficedula*

One at Akhna Dam on Sept 17th was probably a Pied Flycatcher.

COAL TIT *Parus ater cypristes*

The distinctive endemic race is a common resident in pine forests in higher parts of the Troodos range.

Singles were heard at Xiliatos Dam and Asinou on Mar 26th.

Breeding records: young were found in a nest at Platres on Apr 15th and a family party was on the wing at Pano Panayia on May 4th.

25 were counted in the Ayia and Stavros tis Psokas area on May 8th, 23 at Troodos on Sept 29th and 30 at Mount Olympus on Nov 7th.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

A common resident that breeds in broad-leaved woods and less commonly in pine forests. It occurs at lower altitudes than the previous species and disperses widely during the winter months.

Breeding record: seven young were found in a nest in a letterbox at Coral Bay on Apr 6th. Fledged juveniles were seen in many areas from early April onwards, but no large groups were reported.

WALLCREEPER *Tichodroma muraria*

A scarce and less than annual winter visitor. Records have decreased in recent times.

In the Western Sovereign Base Area, singles were at Tunnel Beach on Jan 8th and Kensington Cliffs on Mar 30th.

One was at Kensington Cliffs on Dec 7th and two on 10th, then at least one remained until the end of the year.

SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER *Certhia brachydactyla dorotheae*

A common breeding resident in the higher pine forests of the Troodos range.

Breeding record: there were young in a nest at Platres on Apr 16th.

Breeding season records came from Prodhromos Dam, Troodos Leave Centre Valley, Paphos and Perapedhi Forests. One at Roudhias bridge (Xeros Potamos) on June 8th was at low altitude. Four at Prodhromos Dam on Sept 29th and four at Caledonian Falls on Nov 7th.

PENDULINE TIT *Remiz pendulinus*

A regular winter visitor to reed beds and wetland areas from October to April.

On the Akrotiri peninsula, two at Zakaki Marsh on Feb 6th, three at the Salt Lake on Mar 9th, singles on 11th and 12th, three at Phasouri reed beds on Mar 28th, six at the gravel pits on Mar 28th, nine or ten on 29th, four on Apr 4th, and a flock of 56 at Akrotiri reed beds, also on Apr 4th. Two males at Akhna Dam on Feb 7th. Two at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Feb 13th, one on 27th.

Two at Phasouri reed beds on Sept 28th, three on Nov 22nd. One male at Bishop's Pool on Nov 5th. Three at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Nov 14th and 15th.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

Breeding has rarely been proved in the deciduous woodlands of the Troodos range. The species is fairly common as a spring passage migrant in April and May and less numerous in autumn, mainly in September.

One male at Kiti Dam on Apr 15th and two at Kamares (Paphos) on 16th. There was a strong passage from Apr 20th, associated with heavy showers of rain. 11 were at Smyies on 20th, 15 at Neo-Kholetria on 21st, 12 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on 22nd, 18 on 23rd, and seven at Asprokremnos Dam, also on 23rd. However, the largest flocks were evidently not seen by birdwatchers, since a hunter reliably reported 'hundreds' in the Lara area of the Akamas on 21st. There were still ten at Armou on 30th, 13 on the Akamas on May 1st and nine at Akrotiri Salt Lake on May 2nd, but migration quickly came to a halt after the first week of the month. Apart from the hundreds reported at Lara there were 44 spring records with details of about 170 birds.

Breeding season records: seven were at a known site on June 2nd and two in a new area on the same day, but there were no follow up reports to confirm breeding. One was at a third site on June 5th and a female at Paramali on June 7th, but again there was nothing to indicate breeding.

In the autumn one was released from a mist net at Akhna Dam on Sept 3rd and four were seen in the area on 11th. One or two were around Cape Greco tip from Sept 10th to 17th, two at Asprokremnos Dam from Sept 10th to 18th, three juveniles at Adonis Baths (Paphos) on Sept 13th and one female at Kato Dheftera (Nicosia) on Sept 15th. By far the largest count was 20 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Sept 11th. There were twelve autumn records of 40 birds.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

A common passage migrant, chiefly in April and May and from mid-August to October. Breeding was proved for the first time in 1999, but not recorded this year.

Two males were at Inia and one at RAF Akrotiri on May 1st, and one at Cape Greco on 2nd. Relatively few spring birds were seen this year, larger numbers being three at Protaras on May 10th and six at Cape Greco on May 13th. There were just 28 records and sightings of 39 birds, the latest by far being a female near Peyia on June 4th.

Autumn passage started in late August, with one at Cape Greco on 20th, increasing to five on 26th, and a male at Asprokremnos Dam on 22nd. Seven were at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Aug 26th, but only ones and twos at other sites. Movements increased in September, with five at Akhna Dam on 1st, five at Akrotiri Salt Lake on 5th, four at Bishop's Pool and four at Mandria (Paphos) on 14th and four juveniles at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 29th. The main passage was at Cape Greco where there was a small fall of seven on Sept 10th and another of ten after rain on 27th. Migrants in smaller numbers were seen throughout October, high counts being four at Akrotiri Salt Lake on 5th and four at Paramali on 12th. Single juveniles were at Kannaviou on Nov 1st and Akhna Dam and Zakaki Marsh on 3rd. There were 123 autumn records with details of 235 birds.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*

Generally a scarce spring passage migrant in April and May, but much more common in autumn from mid-August to mid-September.

Singles were at Cape Greco on Apr 28th and May 2nd, Asprokremnos Dam pools on May 1st, Paralimni Lake and Akrotiri gravel pits on May 11th, Pyla on 14th, Kiti on 16th and Xeros Potamos on 19th.

Autumn passage started with two at Cape Greco on Aug 12th. Most occurred at sites along the south coast and by far the greatest numbers were around the Akrotiri peninsula. The first five were here on Aug 22nd, increasing to 30 on 26th and 40 on 27th. However, although passage continued in the area throughout September numbers declined, seven being seen on 4th and nine on 12th, dropping to two on Sept 30th. Five were at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 14th and up to five at Paphos Plain from 16th to 26th, but only one to three were at other sites. During early October singles were at Zakaki Marsh, Akrotiri Salt Lake and Cape Greco tip on 2nd, and Mandria (Paphos) on 7th and 12th. 78 records were received and about 240 birds were noted on autumn passage.

SOUTHERN GREY SHRIKE* *Lanius meridionalis*

*There have been three previous records. One in 1989 referred to the race *L.m.elegans* and the other two in 1998 and 1999 to *L.m.pallidirostris*.*

One, showing features of the North African desert race *L.m.elegans*, was photographed in a sheep pen between Larnaca Airport and the sewage works on Feb 26th (SC).

One adult 'Steppe' Grey Shrike *L.m.pallidirostris* was at the Paphos Lighthouse area from Dec 7th to the end of the year (JJG NSI).

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*

A scarce summer visitor and breeding species in the west of the Island, that has increased in numbers. Counts of migrants vary from year to year, but they are generally more numerous in the spring.

In March there were singles at the Paphos Lighthouse area from 21st to 29th, Phasouri reed beds on 23rd, Lady's Mile on 24th and Yeroskopos on 30th. There was a good passage in April, although no large groups were recorded. The higher counts were four at Asprokremnos Dam pools on 10th, six at Nata and three at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on 11th, six near Pano Panayia on 12th, four at Akrotiri reed beds on 13th, five at Smyies on 20th, three at Mandria (Paphos) on 22nd and four at Cape Greco on Apr 30th. Ones and twos were widely reported at other sites, mainly in near-coastal areas, and the last obvious migrant was one at Akrotiri gravel pits on May 17th. 90 spring records were received with details of about 140 birds.

Breeding records: a minimum of twenty nesting pairs were located at a breeding site on the Akamas during May and June and fledged juveniles were seen, all within a six square kilometre area. Two pairs were at a second site near Peyia, one of which was seen with five juveniles on June 9th. The nest of the second pair was predated. A male was on territory at a third site near Kathikas, but breeding was not confirmed. This represents a considerable increase over previous years. For full details see the article by Mrs. J.C. Dawes and D..J. Whaley on page 115 of this *Report*.

Few autumn migrants were seen. Singles were at Akrotiri gravel pits on Aug 24th and 25th, by the Salt Lake on Aug 26th, from Sept 1st to 9th and on Sept 28th, and at Mavrokolymbos Dam on Sept 6th. Two juveniles were at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Sept 6th, one on 17th.

MASKED SHRIKE *Lanius nubicus*

A common summer visitor and breeding species, particularly in wooded areas of the Troodos range. It also occurs on passage and is recorded from mid-March to October.

Two were at Paramali on Mar 22nd and one on 25th. Two had already returned to the breeding site at Eagles Baths (Troodos) on Mar 27th, when heavy snow was still lying on the ground. One was at Akrotiri gravel pits on Mar 29th and seven at Yerasa (Limassol) on 31st. There were many records during April, but it is difficult separating migrants from summer visitors. A female was on a nest in an olive tree at Kannaviou Quarry on Apr 25th, yet singles at Protaras on May 10th and Asprokremnos Dam pools on 12th are likely to have been late passage birds. Breeding season records came from the Akamas, Paphos Forest and Tillyria, the Troodos range and as far east as the Makheras Forest. The first juveniles were seen on the Akamas on June 9th.

Migrants in small numbers started to appear at the Akrotiri peninsula and other sites along the south coast from early August onwards. Four were at Asprokremnos Dam on Aug 29th and three at Cape Greco on 31st. About 52 were recorded in September, mainly in ones and twos, but six were at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 18th. The last were single juveniles at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Oct 2nd and at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 3rd.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius glazneri*

A common breeding resident in the higher pine forests of the Troodos range. Birds tend to descend to lower altitudes during the winter months.

The highest count at Troodos was 20 on Apr 10th. One was on the Akamas on May 27th, the first record here in eight years. In late June juveniles were seen at Potamos tou Limniti (Paphos Forest), Saittas Dam and Xerovounos Forest (at an altitude of 150 metres). Two were at Lysos on Oct 31st.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

A common breeding resident species away from the highest slopes of the Troodos range.

Larger numbers were 22 at Asprokremnos Dam on Jan 2nd, 55 at Evretou Dam on Feb 24th and up to 30 at Kivisil pig slurry pits (Larnaca) during June.

Breeding records: the first fledged juveniles were at Malia on May 23rd and many young birds were in a flock of 40 in the Dhiarizos River valley at Mamonía on May 29th.

Winter counts were 30 at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on Nov 5th, 30 at the Baths of Aphrodite on Nov 11th, 63 in two flocks at Marathounda on Nov 25th, 22 on the Akamas on Dec 1st, 69 in a pre-roost gathering at Armou on Dec 19th, 40 at Panayia tou Sindi (Xeros Potamos) on Dec 19th and 32 at Neo-Kholetria on Dec 25th.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

A locally common resident breeding species, nesting on cliffs and buildings, generally at lower altitudes. Roosts are formed during the winter, when flocks include visitors from the Continent.

Many flocks of 100 to 200 were reported. High counts were 600 at Evretou Dam on Jan 15th, 400 on Nov 13th and 20th, 600 on Dec 27th, 280 in Happy Valley on Jan 23rd, 350 on Feb 29th, 300 on Oct 18th, 200 on Nov 12th and 250 at Asprokremnos Dam on Nov 4th.

HOODED CROW *Corvus corone*

A very common and widespread breeding resident that nests in all areas away from the higher pine forests of the Troodos range. Family parties gather in post-breeding flocks and winter roosts.

The highest concentration recorded was in the Strovolos area of Nicosia, where large numbers gathered in a winter roost. The table below details the maximum monthly counts:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Strovolos	182	178	145	3		48	169	280	259	245	217	240

Larger flocks at other sites were 50 at Evretou Dam on Jan 15th, 40 at Phasouri reed beds on Feb 6th, 30 on Mar 3rd and 11th, 160 at Bishop's Pool on Feb 23rd and 30 at Asprokremnos Dam on Apr 29th.

Two at Kellaki (Limassol) on June 2nd were with a juvenile Great Spotted Cuckoo. In the autumn 40 were at Phasouri reed beds on Aug 9th, 50 on Sept 6th, 140 on Nov 19th and 40 on Dec 1st. 40 at Mandria (Paphos) on Oct 1st and 30 at Athalassa Forest throughout November.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

A fairly scarce breeding resident, that usually nests on cliffs, less often in trees. It is most frequently seen soaring over the high slopes of the Troodos range.

One at Droushia on Mar 12th and two at Lysos on Mar 26th. One heard at Smyies on Apr 6th. Two at Cape Greco on Apr 7th (this is an unusual record, being during the breeding season and very far from the usual habitat; field notes were provided). One near Neo-Kholetria on Apr 21st. Two in the Ayia Mina valley (Makheras Forest) on May 5th and four (probably a family party) on June 2nd. Four (possibly another family party) at Mount Olympus on July 2nd. Eight at Troodos on Sept 3rd and 20 on 8th.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

A common winter visitor to open low ground, chiefly from October to February.

About 1,000 were in the Larnaca sewage works and Salt Lake area all January and February. They roosted at the airport each evening. Up to 80 roosted at Phasouri reed beds during January. Ten at Anarita on Jan 28th. 12 at Paramali on Feb 1st. 30 at Kiti Dam on Feb 22nd. 15 at Xylotymbou (Larnaca) on Feb 29th. Five at Happy Valley on Feb 29th. Singles at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Mar 27th and Khlorakas on May 6th.

Four in the Larnaca sewage works and airport area on Nov 3rd, 12 on 23rd, increasing to 300 on Dec 3rd and 2,000 from 8th until the end of the year. One at Zakaki Marsh on Nov 3rd, then up to 60 at Phasouri reed beds and sites around the Akrotiri Salt Lake during November. 30 at Sotira (Paralimni) on Nov 17th. 500 at roost in Eleftherias Square (Nicosia) on Nov 20th, 250 on 27th. 100 at Mazotos on Dec 23rd. The highest count for the west of the Island was 17 at Khlorakas on Dec 22nd.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus*

A scarce and irregular passage migrant in May and August.

Three were on wires in the village of Ayios Yeoryios (Dhiarizos River valley) on the morning of May 27th (JDS ME) and one male remained in the afternoon (NSI LA).

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

An abundant resident breeding species at all altitudes. Those nesting high in the Troodos range tend to descend to lower ground during the winter.

Large winter roosts occur in Nicosia, but a decline was noticed at the end of the year. There was none at all in Evagoras Avenue in November and December, where recorded in previous winters. High counts were 120 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Feb 21st and 100 at Coral Bay from Apr 13th to 25th. There were cliff-nesting colonies at Cape Greco and in the Letimbou/ Khoulou valley. The first fledged juveniles were at Paramali on May 7th. 150 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Nov 4th and 100 at Paphos Airport on Nov 7th.

SPANISH SPARROW *Passer hispaniolensis*

A locally common breeding resident that has increased in numbers in recent years. It is very numerous as a passage migrant, particularly in the autumn, when large flocks occur from September to November.

At the Paphos Lighthouse area there were 'tens' in January, 16 on Feb 26th and 200 from Mar 22nd to 29th. A flock of 400 roosted each night by the Kissos Hotel at Kato Paphos from Apr 2nd to 9th. At Mandria (Paphos) just two were seen on Jan 16th, but passage started during mid-February with 150 on 15th, 280 on 27th, up to 100 in early March and 400 on Apr 3rd. At Larnaca sewage works 50 were estimated on Jan 14th and up to 500 fed in a cereal field at nearby Meneou at the end of February. 250-300 were at the Baths of Aphrodite on Mar 24th and 'hundreds' on the Akamas on Apr 12th.

Breeding records: the largest breeding colony was on the Akamas where about 500 birds and up to 40 nests in each of 20 trees were seen on May 27th. Other colonies were 80 birds in pines at Arakapas on May 5th, 40 at Phini and 200 in pines at Arminou Dam on May 22nd, 20 in pines at Kellaki (Limassol) and 50 in four colonies in the Ayia Mina valley (Makheras Forest) on June 2nd, 40 at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) and 20 in the Letimbou/Khoulou valley, both in Oriental Alder, on June 6th and 50 (20 nests) at Xerovounos Forest on June 24th.

There was apparently a small colony in Athalassa Forest on June 21st, but nesting was not proved. Breeding has not previously been recorded here.

Post-breeding flocks were 30 feeding in an unharvested cereal field at Akhna Dam on July 21st, increasing to 200 on July 28th, 500 during August, 100 on Oct 7th and Nov 14th, 200 on Nov 27th and 50 on Dec 11th, 500 at Larnaca sewage works from Sept 16th to Oct 19th, decreasing to 200 on Oct 24th and then 300 from Nov 15th to Dec 3rd, 300 at Cape Greco on Sept 20th, 1,000 feeding in vineyards at Paramali on Oct 13th, 500 on 14th and 200 on Oct 21st, 200 at Bishop's Pool on Oct 10th and 15th, but only 20 until mid-November, and a huge flock of 2,500 at Mandria (Paphos) on Oct 14th, dropping to 30 on Nov 4th.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

A scarce and less than annual winter visitor that is usually recorded amongst flocks of Spanish Sparrows.

Ten were at Mandria (Paphos) on Jan 4th, seven on Jan 25th and one to three until Feb 27th.

PALE ROCK SPARROW* *Petronia brachydactyla*

The first was in 1994 and there have been three records subsequently. All have been in March and April.

15 at Khlorakas on Apr 28th (NSI) and 11 at the Paphos Lighthouse area later in the morning were presumed to be the same birds (SR *et al.*). Two were photographed at Cape Greco on Apr 28th and a flock of 13 seen later the same day; one was singing from the top of a small tree on May 3rd (SC TPP).

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

A common resident and breeding species in the pine forests and orchards of the Troodos range. It is also a common passage migrant and winter visitor from late October to April.

The largest flocks in January were 40 at Athalassa Forest all month, 50 at Prodhromos on 1st and 100 at Evretou Dam on 15th. Unusually, of 30 in Happy Valley on Jan 23rd about half were males (females usually predominate during the winter months). In February 120 were at Mandria (Paphos) during the month and 100 at Asprokremnos Dam on 26th. There were 50 at Athalassa Forest on Mar 5th, a similar number at Tsadha on Mar 15th and one male at Akrotiri reed beds on Apr 13th. 25 were in Paphos Forest on Apr 27th and 20 males were singing in the Troodos Leave Centre Valley on 29th. 37 were seen between Paphos Forest and Troodos on May 8th and nine were singing at Phini on 22nd. 13 in the Dhiarizos River valley at Kelephos Bridge on May 22nd and 40 in the Ayia Mina valley and Makheras Forest on June 2nd. 30 at Cedar Valley on July 15th.

Migrants started to appear in October, with singles at Cape Greco tip on 13th, Paramali on 15th and Asprokremnos Dam on 21st. There were no large counts, 30 at Anadihou on Nov 1st, 15 at Kiti Dam on Nov 2nd, 30 at Troodos on Nov 6th, 15 on Mount Olympus on Nov 7th and 14 at Arminou Dam on Dec 6th, being the most reported.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

A scarce winter visitor that is usually seen in single figure numbers from October to March.

Three at Paphos Forest on Dec 24th was the only record.

SERIN *Serinus serinus*

A locally common resident and breeding species. It occurs in flocks of hundreds as a winter visitor from late October to March.

During the first winter period larger flocks were up to 100 at Akhna Dam and 50 at Evretou Dam in January, 40 at Asprokremnos Dam on Feb 8th, 100 at Tsadha golf course on Feb 20th, with still 90 remaining on Mar 15th, 100 at Paramali on Feb 23rd and 80 at Happy Valley on Mar 21st.

During April and May song and display flights were recorded at Kannaviou Quarry, Omodhos, Troodos (six singing males) and Phini (three males). Other breeding season records came from the Troodos range, the upper Dhiarizos River valley, Paphos Forest (six on Apr 27th), the Akamas, Perapedhi Forest, Ayios Therapon, Makheras Forest and Xiliatos Dam.

Breeding records: one juvenile was at Xerovounos Forest on June 25th. A nest with young was at Asproyia (Pano Panayia) on July 12th and four juveniles at Lysos on Aug 4th.

20 were at Arminou Dam on Sept 3rd, but only small numbers were recorded elsewhere until November. 15 at Asprokremnos Dam on Nov 4th, 40 on Dec 23rd. Ten at Paramali on Nov 4th, 60 on 8th, 30 on 25th. Two at Akhna Dam on Nov 5th, increased to 20 on 20th, 50 on Nov 27th, 100 on Dec 5th and 150 on 8th, then 60 on Dec 24th. 270 at Arminou Dam on Dec 6th, 800 on 15th, 450 on 24th. 30 at Inia on Dec 8th and 300 near Pendalia (Pano Panayia) on 19th.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

A common resident breeding species that first colonised the west of the Island in the early 1960's. It is also a passage migrant and winter visitor from October to March.

Few were seen in January, but there were 35 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Feb 5th, 12 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Feb 26th, 30 at Mandria (Paphos) on Mar 11th and 30 at Paralimni Lake on Mar 13th.

Breeding records: there were song records from Coral Bay, Amargeti, Kelephos Bridge in the Dhiarizos River valley, Skoulli and Episkopi (Paphos). The first juveniles were at the Paphos Lighthouse area on May 8th and others were seen on the Akamas, at Tillyria (Paphos Forest), Phini and the Xerovounos Forest. Two were on Mount Olympus on July 2nd.

Ten at Athalassa Forest during August, 20 on Oct 4th. Ten at Mandria (Paphos) on Sept 14th. 60 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Sept 28th, 40 on Oct 29th. Ten at Bishop's Pool on Oct 1st. 25 at Kiti on Oct 18th and 24th. 30 at Cape Zevgari (RAF Akrotiri) on Nov 2nd and 20 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Dec 23rd. Ten at Tunnel Beach on Dec 3rd.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

A common and widespread resident breeding species that is most numerous on lower ground. Flocks of winter visitors and migrants are present from November to March.

100 were at the Paphos Lighthouse area from January to March, 200 at Mandria (Paphos) on Feb 15th and still 60 on Mar 3rd. 800 were feeding amongst vines at Paramali on Feb 17th and 110 at Asprokremnos Dam on Feb 23rd.

Breeding record: an adult was feeding two juveniles at RAF Akrotiri on Apr 3rd.

The only flock reported during May and June was 30 at Akrotiri reed beds on May 18th. There were large numbers in the Ezousas River valley at Pitargou during July, a maximum of 200 being counted on 5th. More flocks were seen from August onwards. 40 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Aug 13th, 100 on Nov 9th, 70 on 14th. 50 at Potamos Liopetri on Aug

29th. 50 to 60 at Bishop's Pool on many dates from Aug 22nd to Oct 2nd. 100 at Paphos on Sept 16th and 80 in the lighthouse area on 28th. 150 at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Nov 3rd. 40 at Mandria (Paphos) on Nov 4th and 350 at Paphos Airport on Nov 7th. 60 at Phasouri reed beds on Nov 10th, 200 on 19th. 250 between Troodos and Kykko Monastery on Nov 6th. 50 at Larnaca sewage works from Nov 15th to Dec 14th. 115 at Lara on Dec 8th. 90 at Panayia tou Sindi (Xeros Potamos) on Dec 19th. 60 at Galataria (Pano Panayia) on Dec 25th.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

A winter visitor, generally in double figure numbers, from November to early April.

Singles at Prodhromos and Phini on Jan 1st. One at Happy Valley on Jan 12th, 12 at Evretou Dam on Jan 15th, one at Peyia on Mar 17th and at least two at Eagles Baths on Mar 27th.

The species was reported, without numbers, at Paphos Forest on Dec 24th, Troodos and Platres on Dec 28th.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

A locally common breeding resident in more open areas with bushes or scrub. It is far more numerous as a migrant and winter visitor on lower ground from November to March.

Larger flocks were up to 150 at Mandria (Paphos) in February, 130 at Asprokremnos Dam on Feb 28th, 80 at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Mar 13th and 55 on the Akamas on Mar 28th. Only small numbers were seen in April, mainly in the south and west of the Island. 12 were at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Apr 19th and ten at Mandria (Paphos) on 23rd.

Breeding records: the first juvenile was at the Ezousas River on May 11th, and others were on the Akamas, the Letimbu/Khoulou valley and Episkopi (Paphos) from late May to June. Eight at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Aug 1st, seven on Oct 21st, 20 on 31st. Ten at Evretou Dam on Sept 8th, six on 19th. Seven at Arminou on Sept 27th. Six at Lady's Mile on Oct 5th, ten on Dec 30th. Six at Mandria (Paphos) on Oct 12th, 40 on 31st, 20 on Nov 4th. 20 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on Oct 29th. Ten at Cape Zevgari (RAF Akrotiri) on Nov 2nd. 20 at Lachi on Nov 11th and ten on the Akamas on Dec 1st. Five at Akhelia Dam on Nov 26th. Eight at Ayia Thekla on Dec 24th. 20 at Anarita on Dec 25th.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

A local breeding resident in the high pine forest of the Troodos range. Winter visitors from the Continent have been recorded from September to December in previous years, but not recently.

Four at Eagles Baths on Mar 27th. Two at Mount Olympus on Apr 7th, 15 on Nov 7th. Three at Prodhromos Dam on Apr 7th, four on Sept 29th, five on Oct 3rd. Three at Troodos on May 8th, one singing on Sept 3rd, ten on Nov 6th and 7th, one male on Dec 28th.

TRUMPETER FINCH* *Bucanetes githagineus*

A scarce and less than annual spring passage migrant in March and April. There has been one winter record.

One male at Mandria (Paphos) on Apr 18th (APW) was photographed on 19th (ASP). Five (two adult males) at Cape Greco on Apr 26th, at least two on 28th (JDS SC); photographs were taken of one of the males and a female (TPP).

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

A scarce winter visitor to wooded areas, mainly from November to early March.

One at Kissonerga on Mar 2nd and 5th was the only spring record.

One at Neokhorio on Oct 26th. Three at Troodos on Nov 6th. An injured bird at Pano Panayia on Nov 25th. One at Arminou Dam on Dec 15th. One at Armou on Dec 15th, two on 17th. Three at Ayios Therapon on Dec 24th.

CINEREOUS BUNTING *Emberiza cineracea*

A scarce spring passage migrant in late March and April.

The only record was a female in the car park area at Asprokremnos Dam on Apr 13th.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*

A fairly common spring passage migrant from March to early May, but more scarce in the autumn from late August to mid-September. There have been a few summer records, yet breeding has never been confirmed.

March records were five at Episkopi (Paphos) on 28th, four at Peyia on 29th, and singles at Asprokremnos Dam on 30th and Yermasoyia Dam on 31st. Numbers increased in April, peak counts being 30 at Yermasoyia Dam on 7th and 8th, 14 at Mavrokolymbos Dam on 11th, 20 at Cape Greco on 13th and 19 at Coral Bay on 16th. Fewer were seen in late April and just one or two were at Cape Greco until May 7th, one at Asprokremnos Dam on May 3rd and a female on the Akamas on May 21st. There were 60 spring records and a total of 260 birds.

Two were at Asprokremnos Dam on Aug 29th, three on Sept 6th. Three at Cape Greco on Aug 29th and 31st, increased to five on Sept 3rd and then one or two until Sept 17th. One at Bishop's Pool on Sept 5th, three at Akhna Dam on Sept 7th, one on 9th and three at Evretou Dam on Sept 8th. There were 13 records in the autumn and 28 birds were reported.

CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING *Emberiza caesia*

A locally common summer visitor and breeding species on open rocky slopes. It is also common on passage from mid-March to mid-April, but less frequent in the autumn until mid-September.

One very early migrant, a male, was at Paramali on Mar 4th. The main passage started at Cape Greco on Mar 10th and small numbers were then seen over a wide area at lowland sites. Peak counts were made at the end of March, with 30 at Paramali on 29th, ten at Asprokremnos Dam and 22 at Amathus Hills on 30th, and up to 12 at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 31st. By far the largest group was 200 at Peyia on Mar 29th. There were 29 records in March involving 330 birds. In April obvious migrants were 12 at Yermasoyia Dam on 1st, 12 at Cape Greco on 4th and six at the Paphos Lighthouse area on 7th and there were 29 more records with details of 96 birds.

Breeding records: birds had returned to presumed breeding sites at Kannaviou Quarry on Apr 25th and Arminou in the Dhiazos River valley on 29th. In May song was reported at Smyies and in the Lythrodhondas, Makheras Forest and Vavatsinia area. Five juveniles were on the Akamas on May 27th and during June others were seen at Lythrodhondas, Vrecha (Pano Panayia), Roudhias Bridge (Xeros Potamos), Kato Pyrgos, Xerovounos Forest and Pakhna.

There were still six at Kelephos Bridge (Dhiarizos River valley) on Sept 2nd and autumn migrants were single juveniles at Cape Greco on Aug 12th and 26th and Sept 27th, and at Akhna Dam on Sept 12th.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Formerly this was described as a common winter visitor to reed beds and wetland areas from October to April, but numbers have declined in recent years.

The only spring records were two at Akhna Dam on Feb 9th, seven at Zakaki Marsh on Feb 26th and one at Akrotiri Salt Lake from Mar 9th to 12th.

One or two were at Bishop's Pool from Oct 26th to Nov 10th, then five on 16th, seven on 19th, two on 23rd and three on Nov 25th. Two at Akhna Dam from Nov 1st to Dec 24th, five on Dec 31st. Singles at Asprokremnos Dam pools on Nov 4th and 8th, two on Nov 15th. One at Akrotiri Salt Lake on Nov 19th. Three at Cape Greco tip on Nov 6th, six on 13th, three on Nov 15th. Singles at Evretou Dam on Nov 13th and Phasouri reed beds on Dec 20th.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala*

A locally common summer visitor and breeding species on the lower slopes of the Troodos range, the adjacent coastal areas and on the Akamas. It is also common on spring passage from mid-April to early May, but scarce in the autumn until September.

Six were between Lachi and Polis on Apr 17th, two males at Cape Greco and two at Kathikas on 19th. Up to four males were singing below Nata in the Xeros Potamos in late April. Ten pairs were around Armou and four males at Smyies. Four males were singing at Cape Greco in early May. Other breeding season records came from lowland areas extending from Asprokremnos Dam to the Akamas, and Evretou Dam, Skoulli, Yioulou, Akoursos, Phini, Kambos (Paphos Forest), Ayios Therapon, Perapedhi village and Forest, Omodhos, Arakapas, the Ayia Mina valley and Makheras Forest area and Kellaki (Limassol). One male was at Kiti on June 12th and 22nd.

Breeding record: one female was at Cape Greco tip on July 5th. Breeding was proved at this site, apparently for the first time, when a family party of one female and three juveniles were seen on Aug 6th. The three juveniles remained until Sept 1st, then two on 3rd and one (which was apparently injured in the right wing) until Oct 9th. One female was at Asprokremnos Dam on Aug 22nd.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*

A common and widespread resident in cultivated areas, vineyards and rough open ground. It is also a common migrant and winter visitor from late October to early May.

Larger flocks in the first winter period were 40 at Asprokremnos Dam on Jan 2nd, 35 at Akhna Dam on Jan 12th, 20 at Kissonerga on Mar 20th and 20 at Neokhorio on Mar 28th. Obvious migrants during April were 25 at Xeros Potamos on 8th and 100 at Evretou Dam on 15th. Already the breeding birds had established territories and there were records from Cape Greco to the Akamas and on the lower slopes of the Troodos range, but none from the north in the Paphos Forest area. Larger concentrations were eight singing males at Yermasoyia Dam, 20 at Myrtou, 15 in the Nata and Asprokremnos Dam area and ten at Armou.

Breeding records: an adult with food for young was at Cape Greco on Apr 10th and a pair were feeding young in a nest at Coral Bay on 17th. The first young on the wing were at Cape Greco on Apr 24th.

20 were on the Akamas on May 1st, but no other flocks were reported until July.

Numbers built up at Akhna Dam from five on July 5th to 30 on 27th, then 30 to 40 during August, increasing to 60 on Sept 5th and dropping to 25 on Sept 12th, after which there were no more sightings until November. Ten on Nov 1st, increased to 20 on 14th and 25 on 16th, then four on Nov 22nd and two on Dec 11th. The only other September flock was 30 at Evretou Dam on 27th. 40 at Kiti Dam on Oct 31st, 20 on Nov 2nd. 40 in two flocks at Anadhiou on Nov 1st. 20 at Xeros Potamos on Nov 2nd, up to 17 at Asprokremnos Dam pools from Nov 4th to 14th and 70 in three flocks, plus single singing males, at Panayia tou Sindi (Xeros Potamos) on Dec 19th. 20 at Zakaki Marsh on Nov 3rd, 50 on 5th, up to 20 until Nov 16th. 12 at Ayia Varvara (Paphos) on Nov 7th. 15 on the Akamas on Dec 1st, 21 at Lara on Dec 8th. 23 at Khlorakas on Dec 26th. There were many other records of smaller numbers.

ESCAPES FROM CAPTIVITY

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

Two at Akhna Dam from Jan 1st to 14th, one on 15th. Two at Evretou Dam from Apr 15th to 25th, one until May 9th. One at Sotira Pools (Paralimni) from June 5th to July 12th. One female and eight ducklings at Kannaviou on June 8th.

BARBARY DOVE *Streptopelia roseogrisea* 'risoria'

One male, by the Apollo Hotel at Kato Paphos on Apr 5th and 8th, was calling and displaying to a Collared Dove. It was still present on May 3rd, but there were no subsequent records and it is not known whether breeding occurred.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus*

One at Zakaki Marsh on Sept 1st.

Additional 1999 RECORD

PECTORAL SANDPIPER* *Calidris melanotos*

This is the second record for Cyprus.

One was photographed at Akrotiri gravel pits on Sept 26th 1999 (SC TPP CM).

**THE FOLLOWING RECORDS WERE NOT ACCEPTED FOR INCLUSION IN
THE SYSTEMATIC LIST**

1999 record

Pacific Golden Plover, Mandria (Paphos), one photographed on Dec 1st 1999.

2000 records

Lesser Spotted Eagle, Asprokremnos Dam pools, one photographed on Oct 11th.

Spotted Eagle, Bishop's Pool, Oct 14th.

Lesser Kestrel, Armou, 16 on Dec 12th and four on Dec 16th.

Lesser Kestrel, Kato Paphos, 12 on Dec 15th.

Lesser Kestrel, Marathounda, of 26 falcons on Dec 26th, most were Lesser Kestrels.

Lanner, Evretou Dam, May 6th (no field notes).

Lanner, Voroklini (Larnaca), two on May 21st.

Spotted Crane, Kato Paphos, one heard after dark on May 6th.

Little Crane, Kato Paphos, one heard after dark on May 6th.

Baillon's Crane, Yermasoyia Dam, May 7th (no field notes).

Great Snipe, Bishop's Pool, two photographed on Sept 14th.

Terek Sandpiper, Akhna Dam, two on Nov 9th and Dec 6th (no field notes).

Great Black-headed Gull, Larnaca sewage works, a second-summer on Apr 14th.

Armenian Gull, Larnaca sewage works, a third-winter on Sept 10th.

Calandra Lark, Cape Greco, seven singing on Apr 14th (no field notes).

Lesser Short-toed Lark, Cape Greco, Apr 14th (no field notes).

Richard's Pipit, Paphos Lighthouse area, Mar 22nd.

Rufous Bush Chat, Pomos Point, Apr 13th.

Siberian Stonechat, Asprokremnos Dam pools, a male on Feb 21st and 23rd.

Finsch's Wheatear, Paphos Lighthouse area, a male on Apr 10th.

Mourning Wheatear, Lara Beach, a male on Apr 20th.

White-crowned Black Wheatear, Avgas Gorge, a first-summer on Apr 16th.

Savi's Warbler, Khlorkakas, Mar 19th.

Olive-tree Warbler, Asprokremnos Dam, May 3rd (no field notes).

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, Cape Greco, Aug 26th.

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, Phasouri, Sept 28th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher, Lady's Mile, a male on Apr 17th (no field notes).

Sombre Tit, Troodos village, two on Jan 27th.

Isabelline Shrike, Akrotiri Salt Lake, a juvenile, Aug 22nd.

Isabelline Shrike, Zakaki Marsh, a first-winter on Nov 3rd.

Should an observer wish to know the reasons why their record was not accepted the Recorder would be pleased provide the explanation. This procedure is in accordance with the recommendation of the Association of European Rarities Committees.

CONTRIBUTORS

BDA	Mrs. B.D. Aloneftis	Nicosia	SML	S.M. Lister	UK
NA	Mrs. N. Andreou	Nicosia	CM	C. Makris	Limassol
MA	M. Askew	UK	KM	K. Martin	UK
LA	Mrs. E.M. Atkinson	Coral Bay	AMC	Mrs. A. McArthur	Paphos
TA	T. Axelsen	Norway	EM	Mrs. E. McGurk	Akrotiri
PB	P. Baron	UK	RM	R. Monaghan	UK
DB	D. Basnett	Mazotos	JPM	J. & Mrs. P. Moore	Kissonerga
SAB	R. & Mrs. S. Bedford	UK	FM	F. Moren	Limassol
AWB	A.W. Brannan	Paphos	KN	K. Noble	UK
HB	H. Buck	Nicosia	DN	D. Norman	UK
JRB	J.R. Butcher	UK	DN	D. Nye	UK
MC	M. Charalambides	Nicosia	PO	P. Ottaway	UK
JC	J. Chesbrough	UK	SJP	S.J. Palmer	UK
SC	S. Christodoulides	Nicosia	ASP	A. & Mrs. S. Parker	UK
YC	Y. Christofides	Platres	DP	D. Pomeroy	Uganda
LC	L. Christophorou	Limassol	TPP	Dr. T.P. Poullis	Paralimni
JDC	J. & Mrs. Clifton	UK	BR	B. Rasmussen	Denmark
MCo	M. Collard	UK	CR	C. Richardson	UAE
AJC	A.J. Collinge	UK	MR	M. Robb	Holland
VPC	V. & Mrs. P. Cozens	UK	OGR	O. & Mrs. G. Roberts	UK
AC	A. Crabtree	Peyia	SR	S. Robson	UK
MC	M. Crewe & Limosa	UK	StR	S. Rowland	UK
DLC	D. Le Croissette	UK	JR	J. Rushforth	UK
RC	R. Crosby	UK	AES	A.E. &	
MDa	M. Dadds	UK		Mrs. J.E. Sadler	Larnaca
MD	M. Danzenbaker	USA	TRS	T. & R. Salvadores	Spain
DW	Mrs. J.C. Dawes		JDS	J.D. Sanders	Ayios Nikolaos
	& D.J. Whaley	Armou	RPS	R. & Mrs. P. Scraton	Akrounda
CD	C. Donald &		LCS	L.C. Sharpe	Lasa
	Ms E. Stuart	UK	RJS	R.J. Shaw	UK
ME	M. Easterbrook	Ayios Nikolaos	PBS	P. & Mrs. B. Sibley	Tsadha
BF	B. Fagan	UK	JES	J.M.A. & Mrs. E. Sly	UK
MG	M. Gibbons	Kouklia	CS	C. Spyrou	Paphos
JG	J. Gooders	UK	WAS	W.A. Stacey	UK
JJG	J.J. Gordon	Paphos	PS	P. Stamps	Akrotiri
MEJG	M.E.J. Gore	UK	KS	K. Stanway	Episkopi
MGr	Dr. M. Greenhalgh	UK	GHS	G. & Mrs. H. Stokes	UK
JYG	J-Y. Guillosson	France	MAS	M.A. &	
MCH	Mrs. M.C. Hall	UK		Mrs. P. Sutcliffe	UK
MMH	M.M. Hansen	Denmark	DFS	D., Mrs. & Paul Suter	UK
ISH	I. & Mrs. S. Hardy	UK	NPS	N.P. Sykes	Lysos
KH	K. Hart	Paphos	DBT	D.B. Thexton	UK
BH	B. Holgarth	Paphos	FJT	F.J. Thompson	UK
RH	R. Hooper	UK	DT	D. Tomlinson	UK
SI	S. Iezekiel	Nicosia	FW	F. Walsh	UK
NSI	N.S. Irving	Khlorakas	AW	A. Ward	UAE
RI	R. Irving	UK	APW	A.P. Warne	Episkopi
HJ	H. Jaklitsch	Livadhia	RW	R. Wasley	UK
MJa	M. Jarvis	UK	WEW	Prof. W.E. Waters	UK
MJ	M. Jones	Akrotiri	SSW	S. & Mrs. S. Watkins	UK
NKa	N. Kassinis	Limassol	SW	S. Woodcock	Akrotiri
NK	N. Kendall	UK	PHW	P.H. Woods	UK
AK	A. Kephalas	Phrenaros	REY	R.E. Youngman	UK

A SURVEY OF ELEONORA'S FALCON BREEDING SITES

by A.P. Warne

On 8th Sept 2000 a survey of the Eleonora's Falcon breeding sites was undertaken by members of COS(57). It was conducted from the sea and covered all the known breeding cliffs on the south coast. The survey team comprised of five members of the Society: Ash Warne, John Sanders, Ken Stanway, Mike Jones and Edel McGurk. The project was supported by the Cyprus Logistics Unit (a unit within British Forces Cyprus), who kindly loaned a boat and crew.

It was agreed that probable nest sites would be defined as those where falcons were present actually on the cliffs and where the geography of the site indicated potential nest crevices and ledges. In many cases birds were often present on the cliffs in pairs and in some cases communally. In the communal areas there was heavy guano staining on the cliffs immediately below probable nest ledges indicating long term usage of the sites. The summary of probable nest sites found is recorded in the table below, alongside the results of a survey carried out in 1972 by W.F. Corris and an estimate of the falcon population by Flint and Stewart (1992) based on accumulated observations.

Location	1972 (pairs)	1982 (pairs)	2000 (probable nest sites)
Cliffs west of Cape Aspro (east of Petra tou Romiou)	44 – 50	50 – 60	22
Cape Aspro			37
East of Cape Aspro to Pissouri beach			8
Bloodhound Camp (western end)	12	12	6
Bloodhound Camp (eastern end)			5
Tunnel Beach (western tip)	17+	23	4
Zapallo fishing station (western end)			6
Quarry Cliffs (to eastern tip)			10
Akrotiri below radar tower	18 – 20	25	19
Akrotiri east of main radar site			2
Akrotiri lighthouse			8
Totals	c 95 pairs	110 – 120 pairs	127 sites

Overall the survey was judged to have been a success in that it gave a reasonable understanding of the status of breeding Eleonora's Falcon. It would appear that the Cyprus population is stable, with broadly similar numbers of probable breeding sites compared with those found in 1972 and 1982. In all at least 150 falcons were actually seen on the cliff faces, with another 30 or 40 birds in the air near the sites surveyed. The survey results have been passed to Dr. Dietrich Ristow who has been studying Eleonora's Falcon for many years and is the co-ordinator of the Birdlife Action Plan on the Eleonora's Falcon.

References

Corris, W.F. 1972. Cyprus Ornithological Society (1957) *Annual Report* 19:20-21.
 Flint, P.R. & Stewart, P.F. 1992. *The Birds of Cyprus*. BOU Check-list No.6 (Second Edition) Tring.

AN APPARENT INCREASE IN BREEDING WOODCHAT SHRIKES

by Mrs. J.C. Dawes and D.J. Whaley

Until 1993 there were only two records of Woodchat Shrikes *Lanius senator* breeding in Cyprus [Flint and Stewart (1992) and COS(57) *Annual Reports*], but in that year we recorded birds carrying food or nest material and feeding young at two sites near Peyia. In May 1994 we found a pair at a nest near Evretou and two adults close to the now established Akamas site. In early July of that year we saw two adults near Peyia. 1995 was a barren year, but in 1996 we recorded three birds in the Akamas, including a singing male, and a pair feeding two juveniles near Tala. There were two territories, one with confirmed breeding, near Peyia in 1997 and confirmed breeding by single pairs at the same site and in the Akamas in 1998. In June 1999 we found five territories with adults and juveniles in the Akamas and an adult with three juveniles near Peyia.

There appear to have been no satisfactorily documented breeding records from other sites during these years and we were determined to cover the two areas more thoroughly during 2000. We found the result staggering, especially because the males favour high lookout perches within a hundred metres of the nest making the territories not difficult to find during the breeding season. This suggests that we might not have overlooked many territories in previous years. As was becoming expected we found two nests near Peyia, but more surprising was the discovery of twenty pairs for which breeding was proved in the Akamas. In addition there were two probable and three possible breeding attempts. The Akamas site held at least forty-five adult birds, all within an area of six square kilometres. A male was on territory near Kathikas, yet we were never able to confirm breeding there.

The preferred habitat at all sites is orchards of citrus, almond or carob, in the latter case sometimes sparsely planted and almost abandoned. The territories can be small with nests only 200m apart and although the males are often very obvious the nests are frequently difficult to find. Both birds' visits to the nest are well disguised and they can seem to disappear for long periods. We lunched within fifty metres of one nest, over a period of an hour and a half, without locating it. Finally, having stopped to close a car door, we found that nest by accident, the sitting female, low in a tree, eyeing us from three metres away.

Nests tended to be low, seldom higher than two metres above ground level, and often towards the ends of branches. Commonly broods were of four or five and the family groups moved away from the nest territory within three or four days of fledging.

Our last record of recently commenced nest building was on 20th May. A clutch of five was there on 9th June. Two recently hatched nestlings were being brooded by the female on 16th June, but we were unable to see the other young. Shortly afterwards we left the country, so could not document fledging. The female of this pair had very pale plumage, possibly indicating a first-summer bird, which might also have been the reason for the late nest.

There is plenty of suitable habitat for expansion of the Akamas site, but unfortunately development near Peyia is eventually likely to cover the existing breeding territories, as has already happened with territories directly to the south of the village.

Incidentally, we have also recorded Red-backed Shrike at these sites. A female was with a juvenile in the Akamas in late June 1999, while a male was close by in late May 2000. A female was at the Peyia site on 4th June 2000.

Reference

Flint, P. R. & Stewart, P.F. 1992. *The Birds of Cyprus*. BOU Check-list No. 6 (Second Edition). Tring.

RINGING CONTROLS

Ringed birds were recorded as follows during 2000. The symbol 'vv' indicates that the inscriptions on the rings were read in the field with a telescope.

Cormorant

Mauve BBN E 4031	pullus	27.05.99	Koyanly Island, Crimea, Ukraine, 45°55'N 34°45'E
	vv from	11.01.00	Larnaca sewage works, 34°52'N 33°38'E
	vv to	15.02.00	Larnaca sewage works
	vv from	07.11.00	Larnaca sewage works
	vv to	31.12.00	Larnaca sewage works

Mauve FHH A 358067	pullus	30.05.99	Koyanly Island, Crimea, Ukraine, 45°55'N 34°45'E
	vv from	17.01.00	Larnaca sewage works, 34°52'N 33°38'E
	vv to	09.02.00	Larnaca sewage works
	vv from	11.11.00	Larnaca sewage works
	vv to	31.12.00	Larnaca sewage works

Mauve FLC A358079	pullus	30.05.99	Koyanly Island, Crimea, Ukraine, 45°55'N 34°45'E
	vv	10.11.00	Larnaca sewage works, 34°52'N 33°38'E

Mauve JVS A 358440	pullus	01.06.99	Kitay Island, Crimea, Ukraine, 46°03'N 34°20'E
	vv	11.02.00	Larnaca sewage works, 34°52'N 33°38'E
	vv from	03.12.00	Larnaca sewage works
	vv to	31.12.00	Larnaca sewage works

White Pelican

Moskwa 000778	pullus	13.08.99	Orlov Island, Black Sea, Ukraine, 46°17'N 31°45'E
	vv from	28.06.00	Akhna Dam, 35°03'N 33°49'E
	vv to	13.07.00	Akhna Dam

Greater Flamingo

White 01BBF	pullus	23.08.97	Fuentepiedra, Spain, 37°06'N 4°45'W
Icona 10-03575	vv	01.01.00	Larnaca sewage works, 34°52'N 33°38'E

Audouin's Gull

Red CB2 P000579	pullus	23.06.98	Agathonisi, Aegean Sea, Greece, 37°28'N 27°00'E
	vv	11.06.00	Potamos Liopetri (A. Kephalas, ring not read)
	vv	13.06.00	Potamos Liopetri, 34°58'N 33°54'E

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus f. fuscus*

White CPE2 CT111995	juvenile	25.06.99	Dragsfjard, Turku-Pori, Finland, 60°06'N 22°20'E
	vv	04.09.99	Dragsfjard
	vv	11.01.00	Larnaca sewage works, 34°52'N 33°38'E
	vv	17.01.00	Larnaca sewage works, 2930km SSE
	vv from	24.03.00	Ashdod, Israel, 31°51'N 34°40'E, 3280km SSE
	vv to	09.04.00	Ashdod, Israel
	vv	15.09.00	Ashdod, Israel

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus c. cachinnans*

Kiev T-000047	pullus	20.05.00	Obitochnaya kosa, isl. Bolshoy, Zaporizhzhya O. Ukraine, 46°35'N 36°15'E
	vv	21.12.00	Larnaca sewage works, 34°52'N 33°38'E