

Πτηνολογικός
Σύνδεσμος Κύπρου

BirdLife
Cyprus



The Monthly Checklist

and society news

January 2016 - Issue 1



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December 2015 Waterbird Count and Report
December 2015 Systematic List
Field Meeting Reports
Rare Cyprus Visitor – White-headed Duck
Eurasian Crag Martin in Cyprus
Melanistic, Leucistic and Albino Birds
Monthly Bird Quiz
New Collins Bird Guide in Greek
Reminder for 2015 Sightings
Invitation to Talk: In the Footsteps of Shackleton



ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ & ΠΡΟΣΩΠΙΚΟ ΤΟΥ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΥ
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Last pages: Membership Application Forms

Birdline Operated by June Neal on behalf of BirdLife Cyprus is the bird information hotline. To hear a pre-recorded message with recent interesting bird sightings and to add your own observations, please phone 00357 25 934076.

Join the [BirdLife Cyprus Google](#) group to exchange and receive emails updating local and visiting birders about recent sightings <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/birdlifecyprusbirds>

The Monthly Newsletter and Society News is compiled by Jane Stylianou.

Any suggestions concerning subjects for future inclusion gratefully received, as are photographs of any recent sightings. If you are sending photographs for inclusion in the Systematic List please send them by 20th of the month –photographs taken in January should be sent by 20th February. Every effort is made to ensure that the work of as many contributors is used but inclusion cannot be guaranteed. Please send photographs in JPEG format where possible.

Please send to janesty@yahoo.co.uk. Telephone: 99558953

Cover photograph: *Present most winters in small number Common Reed Buntings Emberiza schoeniclus are found island wide in suitable habitat at locations such as Akrotiri Salt Lake, Ezousas Pools, Larnaca Salt Lake and Oroklini Marsh. This female was one of several at Zakaki Marsh at the end of 2015 and was photographed there by Dave Walker.*

BIRDLIFE CYPRUS FIELD MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES
Spring 2016

For field trips, please don't forget your flask of coffee and sandwiches

*Although their higher clearance is an advantage, 4x4s are not necessary for any of the field trips unless **stated otherwise** below.*

The schedule of field trips is drawn up well in advance of the actual dates. The schedule will only change due to an extraordinary event. However, it is sometimes necessary to assign a different leader.

Please note certain field trips require pre booking with the leader to ensure there are suitable conditions at the site for the time of year and sufficient participation (These will be marked Pre Book). Participants in field trips are always advised therefore to check with the BirdLife Cyprus website in case of any late changes or cancellations.

Whilst BirdLife Cyprus does not charge for attending field trips, any voluntary donation to its conservation work would be very welcome. Please present your gift to the leader on the day.

February 2016

Saturday 6th February: Mandria, Anarita Park and Nearby

Leader: Alan Crane Tel: Mobile: 99276310

Winter rarities of the area

Meet at 9.30 am Mandria Village car park (on the left just before the village)

Saturday 13th February: Paphos Foothills

Leader: John Stapley. Tel: Home: 26652223, Mobile: 99554561

Winter thrushes and finches.

Meet at 9.30 am, roundabout Paphos end of motorway, lay-by at "Konia" exit.

**Saturday 20th February: Larnaca Sewage Works, Seafront and (possibly) Oroklini Marsh
PLEASE PRE BOOK WITH LEADER**

Leader: Stavros Christodoulides. Tel: Mobile: 99425050

Wintering gulls and waterfowl.

Meet at 9.30 am, dirt track leading to Larnaca Sewage Pool hide.

Saturday 27th February: Asprokremmos Dam and Mandria

Leader: Dave and Jan Walker, Tel: Mobile: 99915907

Winter visitors and early spring migrants.

Meet at 9.30 am, Asprokremmos Dam car park.

March 2016

**Saturday 5th March: Akhna Dam & Oroklini Marsh
PLEASE PRE BOOK WITH LEADER**

Leader: Stavros Christodoulides. Tel: Mobile: 99425050

Late winter visitors, early spring migrants and waterbirds

Meet 9.30 am west end of Akhna Dam Wall

Wednesday 16th March: Akrotiri Peninsula

Leader: June Neal. Tel: Home: 25932008, Mobile: 99918665

Late winter visitors, water birds and spring migrants

Meet 9.30 am, New viewing hide at Zakaki Marsh

Saturday 19th March: Paphos Lighthouse

Leader: John Stapley. Tel: Home: 26652223, Mobile: 99554561

Spring migrants

Meet 8.30 am (please note the earlier start time), Entrance of Archaeological area by the Paphos Harbour Car Park

Saturday 26th March: Larnaca Sewage Works & Oroklini Marsh (*This corresponds to the UK Easter weekend.*)

PLEASE PRE BOOK WITH LEADER

Leader: Martin Hellicar. Tel: Mobile: 99907893.

Late spring migrants and waterbirds

Meet 9.30 am, Larnaca Sewage Works Hide.

April 2016

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th April: Karpasia Peninsula

Spring migrants and rare residents

Details will follow

Leader: Melis Charalambides. Tel: Home: 22632155, Mobile: 99653205

Please book in advance with Melis Charalambides. Note, there is a 50 euro deposit on each booking

Saturday 16th April: Cape Greco

PLEASE PRE BOOK WITH LEADER

Spring migrants

Meet 7.30 am, Kermia Beach Hotel turn-off (please note earlier start time)

Meet 9.30 am, Kermia Beach Hotel turn-off (a second meeting time for those unable to make the earlier one)

Leader: Stavros Christodoulides. Tel: Mobile: 99425050

Saturday 23rd April: Neo Chorio Ringing Demonstration

Directions for Meeting Point: Drive through Neo Chorio village passing by the village church, and follow the sign for the Smyies Picnic Area. After about one kilometre the well-made track makes a sharp turn to the right. The demonstration will be at the bend on the left. You will probably see several parked vehicles. If you reach the small Ayios Minas Church on your right, you have gone too far.

Duration of the demonstration is 9.00 am -12.30 pm Leader: Alan Crabtree. Mobile: 99455345

Friday 29th April – Monday 2nd May: Greek Orthodox Easter

May 2016

Saturday 7th May: Kannaviou Dam & Paphos Forest

Resident raptors, recent migrants and water birds.

Meet 9.30 am, Stroumbi, Ezzo Petrol Station, opposite turn off to Polemi.

Leaders Dave and Jan Walker, Tel: Mobile: 99915907

Saturday 14th May: Akrotiri Peninsula.

Late spring migrants and water birds.

Meet 9.30 am, Akrotiri Marsh (Phassouri Reed-beds)

Leader: John Stapley, Tel: Home: 26652223, Mobile: 99554561

Saturday 21st May: End of Season Get Together Lunch

12.30 pm at Kyrenia Restaurant, Avdimou.

For booking please contact : Mrs Loria Phylakti, Tel: Mobile: 99413383, email: loriaph@gmail.com

Important Announcement: Participation in BirdLife Cyprus field meetings is at one's own risk. BirdLife Cyprus accepts no liability or responsibility for accidents, illness, injury or loss or damage to property that might occur. Field trips require light to moderate exercise. Please contact the field trip leader for more information on difficulty, distances and terrain of a particular field trip.

Σημαντική Ανακοίνωση: Η συμμετοχή σας στις εξορμήσεις του Πτηνολογικού Συνδέσμου γίνεται με δική σας ευθύνη. Ο Πτηνολογικός Σύνδεσμος Κύπρου δεν φέρει καμία ευθύνη για τυχόν ατυχήματα, ασθένειες, απώλειες ή ζημιές σε προσωπικά αντικείμενα. Οι εξορμήσεις απαιτούν ελαφριά με μέτρια άσκηση. Παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με τον εκάστοτε υπεύθυνο εξορμήσεων για περισσότερες πληροφορίες που σχετίζονται με το βαθμό δυσκολίας, αποστάσεις και συνθήκες των εξορμήσεων.

COULD YOU WRITE ARTICLES FOR THE MONTHLY CHECKLIST?

We would love to hear from members and friends who would like to provide bird and bird watching related articles in future editions of the Monthly Checklist. Get in touch and let us know your ideas. Suggestions for topics could include ID pointers, great locations to visit, birding walks or drives, interesting personal birding experiences and others that you feel fellow readers of the Checklist would enjoy. Please contact Jane Stylianos janestycy@yahoo.co.uk

KEEP UP TO DATE AND SHARE RECENT SIGHTINGS WITH THE BIRDLIFE CYPRUS GOOGLE GROUP

Continuing BirdLife Cyprus' attempts to ensure both resident and visiting birders receive up to date information on the birds being spotted on the island, we have set up a Google Group through which group members can email in their recent sightings and bird news and receive and read those of other members.

If you would like to join please [click here](#).

Email: BirdLifeCyprusBirds@googlegroups.com

Once you are a member you can choose whether to receive all emails or check the news via the web at a time convenient to you. Visit the settings option to ensure that you get emails if you want to. It is an informal group for birders to share what is around. It cannot be checked for accuracy or be held responsible for misinformation. The group is open to both BirdLife Cyprus members and non-members alike. If you know a non-member or friend who may be interested please let them know.

Any news will also be shared with the BirdLife Cyprus BirdLine 25 934076 and the BirdLife Cyprus [Recent sightings page](#) of the website. You can also use these two resources to find out what is around if you don't want to join the Google group.

In addition, don't forget to make your records count by submitting your bird records to the BirdLife Cyprus Recorder and adding them to the country database. Use the [Cyprus portal of BirdTrack](#), download [our reporting excel](#) or email the BirdLife Cyprus Recorder, Jane Stylianos janestycy@yahoo.co.uk

SIGHTINGS RECORDS FOR 2015

Jane Stylianou

Don't forget to send all your 2015 sightings in to the Recorder if you haven't already done so. They can be sent either via the Global portal of the [BTO BirdTrack database](#) or [on the excel form](#) which you can either download from the BirdLife Cyprus website or the Recorder can send to you. Email lists are acceptable if you are not comfortable with either of those two methods. For those without access to the internet please send your list via post to the address below.

So that the 2015 database can be completed it would be appreciated if they are received by February 10th 2016. If you are unable to meet that deadline but still have 2015 records to submit please let the Recorder know.

Make your birdwatching count and ensure that your sightings are included in the 2015 country database. Please note that the only way for your records to be included in the database is to ensure that the Recorder receives them. Unfortunately she is unable to include those only noted on various social media sites, 'round-robin' emails, "BirdLine" etc.

Jane Stylianou janestycy@yahoo.co.uk
BirdLife Cyprus Bird Recorder
P O Box 24382, 1703 Nicosia, Cyprus
Telephone - 99558953

LARNACA SEWAGE WORKS AND SALT LAKE FIELD MEETING REPORT, 12th December 2015

Martin Hellicar

A satisfactory 31 species were recorded at the Sewage Works ponds, even though driving rain meant the group of seven birders could not cover other sites around the Salt Lake other than the beach and fields along the coast South of the airport. Highlights were 8 **Mediterranean Gull**, 3 **Eurasian Curlew**, 2 **Eurasian Golden Plover**, a **Ruddy Shelduck**, 8 **Black-necked Grebe**, a **Northern Lawing**, the small flock of 6 **Greater White-fronted Geese** and around 100 **Greater Flamingo**.

The other species found were as follows:

Little Grebe, Great Egret, Eurasian Teal, Northern Shoveler, Mallard, Eurasian Coot, Common Kestrel, Western Marsh Harrier, Caspian Gull, Common Ringed Plover, Ruff, Little Stint, Common Redshank, Common Black-headed Gull, Crested Lark, Eurasian Skylark, Red-throated Pipit, Meadow Pipit, Zitting Cisticola, Spectacled Warbler, Common Starling, Hooded Crow, House Sparrow

With rain stopping 'play' at the Sewage Works, we moved on to Oroklini Marsh, where the information kiosk viewing area provided respite from the rain and some excellent, close-up views of many species (23 were recorded in total). Highlights were two **Northern Pintail**, excellent close-up views of **Temminck's Stint, Little Stint, Common Ringed Plover, Kentish Plover** and **Common Snipe**, another Mediterranean Gull and a flock of 45 **Greater Flamingos**.

The other species picked up at Oroklini were as follows:

Little Grebe, Eurasian Teal, Northern Shoveler, Mallard, Eurasian Coot, Common Moorhen, Spur-winged Lapwing, Northern Lapwing, Common Redshank, Common Black-headed Gull, Eurasian Collared Dove, White Wagtail, Common Chiffchaff, House Sparrow & European Goldfinch.

AKROTIRI FIELD MEETING REPORT, 9th January 2016

June Neal

Nine of us met at Zakaki Hide on a beautiful, warm and sunny morning which was such a relief following a week of grey clouds and wet weather. The water level had risen in the pool but there were more birds feeding along the gravel edge, amongst the vegetation in front of the reeds – a **Bluethroat**, a **European Robin**, at least six **Water Pipit**, seven **Crested Lark**, a few **House Sparrow** and a couple of **White Wagtail**. Amongst the reeds were **Common Moorhen**, 3 feeding female **Common Reed Bunting** and a few **Spanish Sparrow** plus unseen but heard **Cetti's Warbler** and a **Water Rail**. On the far side of the pool, almost hidden amongst the reeds, were more **Common Moorhen** and probable **Mallard** and **Common Teal**. A female **Western Marsh Harrier** regularly quartered the reed-bed and there were at least four **Common Kestrel** in the area, plus a possible and distant Hen Harrier. A solitary male **Black Francolin** was calling on the opposite side of the road but was not located. One **Little Egret** put in a brief appearance from inside the container park, to where it returned.

Owing to the recent rains we drove along the main road towards Akrotiri Marsh (Phasouri Reed-beds) and were fortunate to see two **Common Buzzard** in flight across the orchards near the Malcolm Cat Sanctuary. More raptors appeared as we drove onto the track – another Common Buzzard perched in a tree and at least three more in flight plus four female and one second-year

male Western Marsh Harriers. The pool's water level had hardly risen since my last visit there before the rains and the water meadow was very quiet with only a few **Common Stonechat** plus one **Common Snipe** that flew over the reeds. A **Cattle Egret** was feeding along the track, **Common Goldfinch** overflowed and **Common Chiffchaff**, **Common Chaffinch**, **Great Tit** and Cetti's Warbler were in the fields but not everyone spotted them in flight or feeding as we drove down to the old rabbit farm. We were joined by three more people as we watched at least 33 **Northern Lapwing** fly over the track towards the Gravel Pit. Five **Woodlark** joined the Common Chiffchaffs and Common Chaffinches in the olive grove before we headed towards Akrotiri. The one car's occupants braving the water-filled potholes on the Gravel Pit saw more Common Stonechat before arriving at Sylvania's Restaurant and viewing the 5,000 – 8,000 **Greater Flamingo** on the Salt Lake. The small pool nearby held a pair of **Eurasian Wigeon**, around a dozen Common Teal, Mallard and 40+ **Northern Shoveler** as well as being the crèche area for a group of immature Greater Flamingo.

Time was running out before our New Year lunch at Lady's Mile but we managed a short stop at Bishop's Pool where the highlights included four each of **Eurasian Blackbird** and **Song Thrush**, several **Little Grebes** and a lone **Ferruginous Duck** amongst the many Eurasian Teal, Mallard, Eurasian Coot and Northern Shovelers. European Robins, Common Chaffinches and Cetti's Warbler were also spotted around the pool or along the approach road.

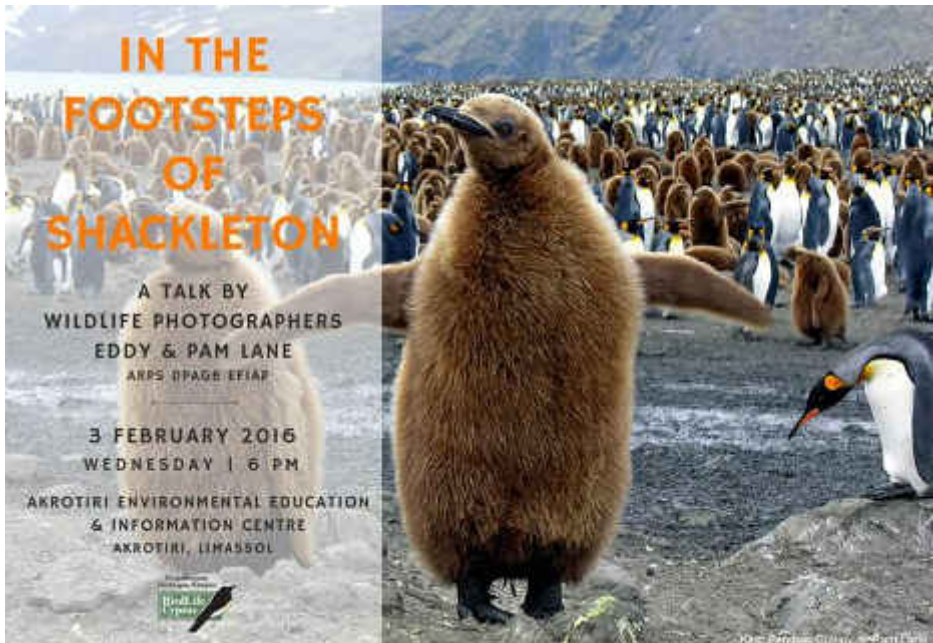
Lady's Mile proved to be full of muddy puddles and all vehicles were in need of a good clean after the journey to the Oasis Restaurant. Hundreds of **Common Black-headed Gull**, some **Armenian Gulls**, Common Stonechats, **Common Linnets** and five feeding **Common Redshank** awaited us at the pool but lunch called and was a fitting finale to a most pleasant morning's bird watching in excellent company (and the fish meze was delicious).



Many participants of the field meeting stayed to enjoy the fish meze at the Oasis Restaurant on Lady's Mile. They were joined by several other BirdLife Cyprus members and friends for the annual New Year Get-together. Thanks to Loria Phylacti for organising this event.

Photograph by Patrick Callaby.

A TALK BY WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHERS EDDY AND PAM LANE: 18.00 WEDNESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY AT AKROTIRI ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION CENTRE



Award winning wildlife photographers Pam and Eddy Lane will be giving a talk Wednesday 3rd February 2016, titled 'In the Footsteps of Shackleton', combining images from their two major expeditions to the South Atlantic where they visit the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica and show a variety of habitats, vast landscapes and exceptional wildlife. Among them, sites that polar explorer Ernest Shackleton visited during his epic expedition of 1914 to 1916.

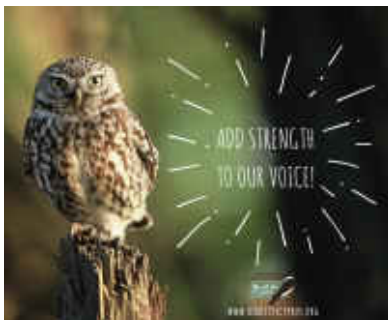
The talk will be held in English and will take place at Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Centre in Akrotiri, Limassol on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at 18:00.

Exactly 100 years ago, Shackleton and his men were in a desperate fight for survival. On 28 October 1915, their ship Endurance, which had been trapped in ice for many months, had finally sunk and three lifeboats had been saved. For the following five months, they were at the mercy of the ice and the Southern Ocean, until 17 April 1916 when they finally reached dry land at the Elephant Island.

Pam Lane ARPS DPAGB EFIAP and Eddy Lane ARPS DPAGB EFIAP are both wildlife and travel photographers based in Wiltshire, UK and they love visiting some of the wildest places on earth. While they try to capture their experiences with their images, sometimes, a moment is so magical, that they simply put their cameras down and just take in the complete environment.

For more information please contact BirdLife Cyprus on 22455072.

2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



We would like to thank you for your invaluable support for BirdLife Cyprus's work towards the protection and conservation of birds and nature in Cyprus. As a member you have helped us save wildlife and threatened habitats across the island. Our continuous conservation efforts would not have been possible without your support.

We would like to remind you that it is now the time to renew your support to nature for the year 2016.

Our members are vital to us and we need your support if we are to implement our mission to conserve nature. **So please remember to renew your subscription as soon as possible! We really hope for your continued interest.**

BirdLife Cyprus members upon presentation of their annual membership card now enjoy **discount** at the following places:

- **Moufflon Bookshop**, Sofouli 38, Nicosia, Tel: 22 665155 10% off on all natural history books - www.moufflon.com.cy
- **GET OUT** Outdoor Store, Arsinoes 18A, Acropolis, Nicosia, Tel: 22311012 - 15% on all products (on RRP, not to be combined with other offers, does not apply during sale periods) - www.facebook.com/getoutfans
- **Aperanti**, traditional Agrotourism accommodation, Pera, Nicosia, Tel: 96 730699 - 20% off for direct bookings, not to be combined with other offers - www.aperantiagrotourism.com
- **Vasilias Nikoklis Inn**, traditional Agrotourism accommodation, Nikokleia, Paphos, Tel: 26432211 - 20% off for direct bookings (does not apply for Easter period and August) - www.vasilias.nikoklis.com



BIRD PHOTO QUIZ
Stavros Christodoulides

PHOTO # 35



Last Month's Quiz answer

Last month's mystery bird is a thin-billed passerine with greyish-brown upperparts and whitish, dark-streaked underparts. It appears long-legged and long-tailed suggesting a terrestrial nature. These features should immediately suggest a species of Pipit, a family which can pose identification problems for many birders.

Key to correct Pipit identification is overall colouration, intensity of streaking on upperparts and underparts and colour of bare parts. In Cyprus we have no breeding species but have several occurring as passage migrants and three species occurring as regular winter visitors. Tawny, Tree, Richard's, Olive-backed, Buff-bellied, Blyth's and Long-billed are all passage migrants. Tawny and Tree are rather common, Richard's is rare while the rest are extremely rare vagrants. Meadow, Water and Red-throated Pipits are regular winter visitors with Red-throated being the least common, being much commoner during the two passage periods. On the basis of our bird's greyish brown upperparts, diffuse streaking on the flanks and dark legs all species but Water and Buff-bellied can be excluded.

In breeding plumage, the two species can be very similar but in winter the *japonicus* race of Buff-bellied Pipit usually shows paler (darkish orange) legs, browner, rather unstreaked upperparts and boldly streaked underparts. Furthermore, in all plumages Buff-bellied Pipits show a pale lore. Our bird shows a dark lore and black legs and is therefore a **Water Pipit**, a quite common winter visitor that can quite easily be identified by its dark legs, greyish upperparts, strong supercilium, dark lores and diffuse flank streaking.

EURASIAN CRAG MARTIN IN CYPRUS

Jane Stylianou

The Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* is a localised resident in Cyprus, breeding mainly in upland forest areas. At this time of year small flocks may descend to lower levels and there is a good chance to see one away from the Troodos and Pentadaktylos ranges or the Paphos Forest. Over the last years small numbers – usually no more than ten, sometimes up to twenty – have been seen during January and February at Arminou Dam, Evretou Dam and Finikaria (Germasogeia Dam). They appear especially to head to the lower elevations when the temperatures drop or there is unsettled weather higher up. They choose sheltered valleys and cliffs around the south, west and north-west of the island and in the past have been seen as far south as Bishop's Pool. In 'The Birds of Cyprus' by P. Flint and P. Stewart (2nd ed), it states that winter flocks of up to 50 and once 100 were recorded over the years. The authors quote the 1911 observation from Bucknill that 'considerable numbers' were on the south coast during the especially bitter winter of that year.

Small numbers can be seen on migration through Cyprus usually from late March to mid-April. Cape Greco and Cape Andreas seen pretty reliable locations with a few records each year. Most springs there are also records from Avakas Gorge and the Baths of Aphrodite area at Latchi. It is possible that a few pairs breed in those areas but no firm evidence has been discovered. From spring through to early autumn Eurasian Crag Martins can be seen at higher levels with frequent reports from well known bird watching locations such as Livadi tou Pashia. Amiantos, Kannoures Track (Troodos), Panagia, Kannaviou Dam area, Asprogia, Xeros Valley (Roudias Bridge), Kantara and Stavros tis Psokkas. Post-breeding flocks are seen from early July onwards.



In 2005 and 2007 survey teams organised by Edith Loosli observed previously unnoted autumn migration of this species over Cape Greco from mid to late October. In 2005 they recorded mainly ones and twos with exceptions of an unprecedented count of 233 between 10.00 - 14.30 on 28th October, 18 on 25th, 12 on 27th and 15 on the last day of their survey on 29th October. In 2007 the team again noted considerable passage over Cape Greco with 122 in two hours on 25th October, 30 on 26th and four on 27th.

Photograph left: Eurasian Crag Martin, Germasogeia Dam, January 2015 by Rajja Howard.

The Eurasian Crag Martin is a fairly large, 'stocky' martin with powerful and fast flight. It is larger than the Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*, which is a common passage migrant through Cyprus. It has a 'dusky' ventral area and a dark spotted throat, no breast band and dark underwing coverts that contrast with the rest of the wing when seen in flight. It has white spots near the tip of the tail which are also visible when the tail is spread in flight.

It has a large range breeding in south and central southern Europe that is south from southern France and Germany, Austria and Romania; NW Africa; the western Arabian Peninsula; from Asia Minor, the Caucasus and south to Israel and east to Iran; S Russia as far east as south west Siberia; north Mongolia; the Himalayas from Pakistan to Bhutan and west, north and central

China. Some birds are migratory and winter in the Mediterranean area, northern Africa, the Middle East, India and south China. Flint and Stewart do not feel that the Cyprus population is migratory.

References:

The Birds of Cyprus by Peter Flint and Peter Stewart 2nd edition (1992)

The Handbook of Bird Identification for Europe and the Western Palearctic by Mark Beaman and Steve Madge

Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive <http://www.hbw.com/>

MELANISTIC, LEUCISTIC, ALBINO ET AL?

Jane Stylianou

The black Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*, that was first seen in Cyprus in early April 2014, has recently been creating headlines again. It has been spotted several times at both Akortiri and Larnaca Salt Lakes among the large numbers of this species currently present on the island. And no, that doesn't mean that there are two of them! – the Greater Flamingo move between the two Salt Lakes depending on which has the more favourable conditions. 'Our' black flamingo is probably unique being completely black with a small tuft of white feathers visible near its rump. It is almost certainly the same individual that was seen in Eilat, Israel in February 2014.



The melanistic Greater Flamingo in with the thousands of 'normal' birds at Larnaca Salt Lake January 16th 2016. Photograph by Jane Stylianou.

Although this may be a unique Greater Flamingo, colour aberrations in the plumage of birds (or other animals) are not. In fact 'in some species it is sufficiently common that the aberrant forms represent a large proportion of the whole population and are thus considered to be a colour morph within that species' (Hein van Grouw in *British Birds* Vol 106 January 2013). Van Grouw uses the Pomarine *Stercorarius pomarinus* and Arctic Skua *S. parasiticus* as his examples but here in Cyprus we would be more familiar with the two morphs of the Eleanor's Falcon *Falco eleonora*.

The kind of colour mutation that most of us will be familiar with is 'albino' or 'partial albino'. However, it appears that this term is usually incorrectly applied and only used correctly in a tiny proportion of cases. In his article in *British Birds*, Van Grouw states that albinism is defined as an 'absence of both melanins in feathers, eyes and skin'. Melanins (there are two types) are the most common pigmentation in both birds and mammals with carotenoids the second most common in birds. The former are responsible for the black, grey, dark brown, reddish brown and buff colours with the latter providing shades of yellow and red.

The complete lack of melanins is usually a completely colourless bird – albino. The pink or reddish hue that can be seen in the eyes and skin is caused by blood. But an albino can have some carotenoid pigmentation e.g. red or white feathers. Van Grouw notes that albino birds are rarely

found in the wild as the absence of melanin in their eyes means their poor eyesight makes them vulnerable and most die soon after fledging.

So, birds that we may see in the wild with varying levels of white variations in their plumage are more likely to be 'leucistic'. This according to Van Geuw is '*the partial or total lack of both melanins in feathers (and skins).*' The extent of the white feathering can vary, from just a few white feathers to the plumage being completely white. Partially leucistic birds may have a normally coloured bill and feet but **all leucistic birds have coloured eyes**. Interestingly, the white pattern occurs in juvenile plumage and does not change with age.



Above: A leucistic Barn Swallow was seen in the village of Dora in mid August 2011. This photograph is by Thomas Hadjikyriacou.

Below: A leucistic Common Stonechat photographed outside Morphou November 2015 by Jane Stylianou.



Van Grouw notes that the white feathers sometimes seen can be due to age and a 'greying' of the feathers. The bird will gain an increasing number of white feathers after each moult and finally the entire plumage will become white. This could be inherited, due to age alone or due to a disorder. It seems to be common in European Blackbird *Turdus merula*, House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* and Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*. He is of the opinion that white feathers in these species is hardly every due to leucism.

Three other aberrations are 'Brown', 'Dilution' and 'Ino'. 'Brown' is a result of a reduction in the amount of one of the two melanins – this time eumelanin and means that the pigment that is usually black remains dark brown. This is probably the most common mutation and is widespread among all species and 'after progressive greying, is the most frequently encountered colour aberration in birds.' (Van Grouw British Birds).

'Dilution', van Grouw states is 'a qualitative reduction of melanins'. This means the bird's colour is weaker, appearing diluted as a result. Birds with this mutation look like a paler version of the normal bird. 'Ino' is as a result of a '*strong qualitative reduction of both melanins*'. The darkest forms of this resemble 'Brown' and the lightest albino. Van Grouw tell us that 'Ino' birds have reddish eyes but their eyesight is much better than that of an albino so a white bird in the wild with reddish eyes is likely to be an 'Ino' and not an albino.

Our black Greater Flamingo has the melanism aberration. Melanism is '*an abnormal deposit of melanin in skin and/or feathers.*' Apparently it is not necessarily an increase in pigmentation but may be the result of this abnormal deposit. In general a melanistic bird will appear dark but not always black. There are three ways the plumage can be affected: i) normally dark markings are bolder and exceed their normal boundaries. This would seem to apply to the Sardinian Warblers *Sylvia melanocephala* that have been seen on several occasions in Cyprus with dark 'hoods'; ii) the entire plumage is darkened and appears dark brown or black; iii) the normal pattern of the plumage is changed but not darker.



This melanistic Sardinian Warbler was at Akrotiri 31st December 2015. Photograph by Rajja Howard.

Van Grouw notes that the plumage of a melanistic bird is often not obviously aberrant and as the plumage looks natural such birds have in the past been mistaken for a new species. If you get the

chance look at both the below articles which can also be found online for some very interesting photographs and examples of colour aberrant birds.

References:

Not every white bird is an albino: sense and nonsense about colour aberrations in birds. Hein van Grouw Dutch Birding 28:79-89 [www.ekstersenzo.nl/images/pdf/kleurmutaties-db28\(2\)_2006.pdf](http://www.ekstersenzo.nl/images/pdf/kleurmutaties-db28(2)_2006.pdf)

Colour aberrations in birds. Hein van Grouw. British Birds Vol 106 p17 – 19 January 2013 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/273348895_What_Colour_is_that_bird_The_causes_and_recognition_of_common_colour_aberrations_in_birds

<http://www.montereyherald.com/article/ZZ/20140312/NEWS/140318486>

WHITE-HEADED DUCKS AT OROKLINI MARSH

Jane Stylianou

After the visit of a Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* to Larnaca Sewage Works during November 2015, there was more good news for local birders when Matt Smith and a visiting birder discovered three female White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* at Oroklini Marsh on 14th December. It was especially pleasing as the birds decided to hang around (and in fact at the time of writing are still present) and were frequently out in the open so were easy to see. Their appearance at Oroklini Marsh was further proof of the value of the recent Life Oroklini Project, that has meant that birds using the area can do so undisturbed, while at the same time birders and other interested visitors can use the raised observation kiosk to watch them. A bit disappointing that a flashy male wasn't also present but maybe next winter!

The White-headed Duck is now one of Europe's rarest ducks and has been classified as Endangered, with the 2015 European Red List Assessment noting that this species has a small, rapidly declining population in Europe. Within the countries of the EU the small population is fluctuating or stable and it is therefore listed as Vulnerable. The species breeds in Russia and Kazakhstan as well as Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Armenia and Mongolia with a resident sub-population in Spain, Algeria and Tunisia. Previously it also bred in Italy, France, Hungary, Albania, the former Yugoslavia, Greece, Israel and Egypt.

Worries of interbreeding between, especially the Spanish population, and the non-native North American Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* which was spreading from collections in western Europe has led to a culling of the Ruddy Duck. This was carried out in order to preserve the integrity of the White-headed Duck population in that area and to prevent the spread of the North American bird to Russia and Turkey.

The Oroklini birds are the second record of the species in Cyprus for 2015. A female was at Mia Milia Water Treatment Plant in February. Both that location and Larnaca Sewage Works have the bulk of the most recent records. As a rare, less than annual migrant and winter visitor these long-staying birds have given many birders the chance to see them. The other Cyprus records for the last ten years are:

2014: One fem/juv at Larnaca Sewage Works 6th December

2012 & 2013: No records

2011: A fem at Larnaca Sewage Works 24th – 28th November

2009: A fem (first seen 13th December 2008) Larnaca Sewage Works till 4th January 2009. Two males and a fem at Mia Milia Water Treatment Plant 10th January 26, 2016 .

2008: Two fem at Larnaca Sewage Works 13th December and then two 16th December to 4th January 2009. A fem Mia Milia Water Treatment Plant 19th December.

2007: A male and a female Larnaca Sewage Works 28th November to 20th December when four were seen.

2005 & 2006: No records.

References:

<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/factsheet/22679814>

http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/userfiles/file/Species/erlob/summarypdfs/22679814_oxyura_leucocephala.pdf

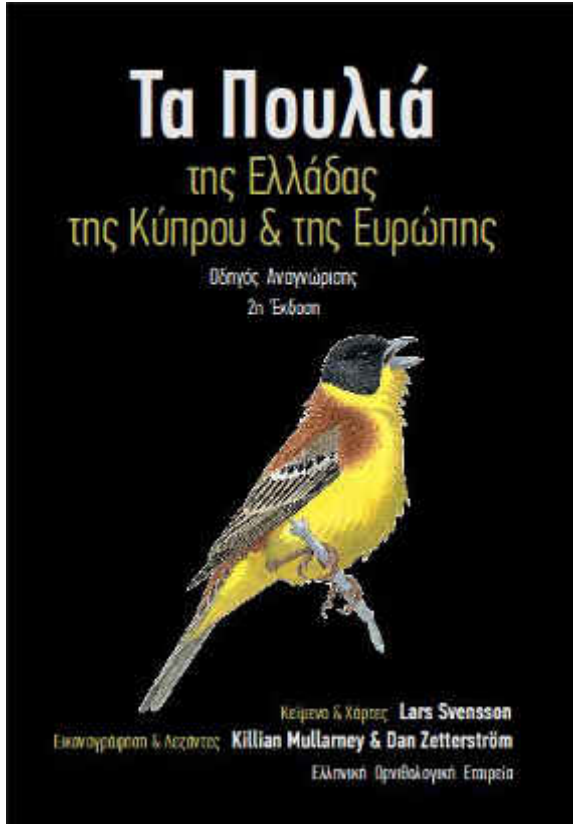


Above: Two of the three White-headed Ducks asleep at Oroklini Marsh 15th December 2015. Photograph by Tony Reeves

Below: This photograph gives a good opportunity to see the characteristic bulbous swelling at the top of bill of this species. Photograph by Filippos Georgiades.



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SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR DECEMBER 2015

Jane Stylianou

1739 bird records received

128 species and forms recorded in December 2015, compared to 145 in December 2015.
[Please note, the list has been edited for the purposes of this newsletter and contains records that have not been corrected or corroborated.]

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Νεροβούτιης



Little Grebe, Germasogeia Dam, 30th December. Photograph by Tony Reeves.

Largest counts:

Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 40 7 & 28-Dec MSS

Larnaca Sewage Works 47 15-Dec JS

Vyzakia dam 20 24-Dec FGe

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* Σκουφοβούτιης Asprokremmos Dam 1 7 & 11-Dec MSS

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* Μαυροβούτιης



Black-necked Grebe, Finikaria, 22nd December. Photograph by Raija Howard.

Finikaria (Germasogeia Dam) 3 22, 23 & 30-Dec KH/MPH

Finikaria (Germasogeia Dam) 1 28-Dec KH

Finikaria (Germasogeia Dam) 2 30-Dec TRe

Larnaca Sewage Works 8 12-Dec MH

Larnaca Sewage Works 11 14-Dec MSS
Larnaca Sewage Works 13 15 & 21-Dec JS/KH
Larnaca Sewage Works 19 26-Dec JN

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* Κορμορόνος



Great Cormorant, Paphos Headland, 30th December. Photograph by Dave Walker.

Max count per location:

Akhna Dam 15 16-Dec BB

Akti Beach, Paphos 2 11-Dec MSS

Asprokremnos Dam 45 at least on far NE shore 5-Dec JN

Evretou Dam 2 15-Dec DJW

Germasogeia Dam 4 30-Dec TRe

Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 10 28-Dec MSS

Kannaviou Dam 2 15-Dec DJW

Larnaca Sewage Works 1 14-Dec MSS

Limnatis IBA 1 7-Dec JN

Paphos Headland 4 30-Dec DJW

EUROPEAN SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Θαλασσοκόρακας

Cape Drepanum 4 24-Dec DJW

Kensington Cliffs 5 23-Dec KH

Kensington Cliffs 4 31-Dec DJW

Larnaca Airport Coast 2 15-Dec JS

Limassol Old Port 1 6-Dec MGr

Mandria, Paphos 1 13-Dec MSS

Oroklini Beach 2 flying east 20-Dec FGe

Paphos Headland 1 11-Dec MSS

Spiros Beach 6 12-Dec BB

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* Γελαδάρης



Cattle Egret, Oroklini Marsh. Photograph by Albert Stöcker

Akhna Dam 1 16-Dec BB
Livadia 1 4-Dec BB
Oroklini Marsh 1 14 & 26-Dec JS/MSS/JN
Oroklini Marsh 2 15-Dec ADT
Paphos Sewage Plant 4 3-Dec MSS
Paphos Sewage Plant 2 8 & 11-Dec
AWH/MSS
Phassouri Reed-beds 4 13, 14 & 31-Dec
MSS/MGr/DJW
Phassouri Reed-beds 3 19-Dec JN
Pyla 6 11-Dec BB
Pyla 5 13-Dec BB

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* Χιονάτη

Agia Thekla 1 18-Dec JS
Asprokremmos Dam 1 7 & 11-Dec MSS
Germasogeia Dam 1 28 & 30-Dec
KH/TRE
Pediaios river, Yiorkio area, Nicosia 2 1-
Dec FGe
Pediaios river, Yiorkio area, Nicosia 1 16-
Dec FGe
Pyla coast 1 23-Dec BB
Zakaki Marsh 1 10-Dec DJW

GREAT EGRET *Ardea alba* Χανούμισσα

Kannaviou Dam 2 15-Dec DJW
Larnaca Sewage Works 1 12-Dec MH
Manglis Lake 1 Flew off NW as I arrived
16-Dec JS
Pediaios river, Yiorkio area, Nicosia 1 1 &
22-Dec FGe

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Σταχτοψαροφάς
Max count per location:
Achelia Dam 1 3 & 11-Dec MSS
Akhna Dam 1 16-Dec BB
Akrotiri Salt Lake 120 4-Dec JN
Asprokremmos Dam 5 11-Dec MSS
Evretou Dam 2 7-Dec AWh

Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 1 7-Dec
MSS

Kannaviou Dam 5 15-Dec DJW

Oroklini Marsh 2 14-Dec MSS

GREATER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus*

roseus Φλαμίνγκο
Akrotiri Salt Lake c3500 4-Dec JN
Akrotiri Salt Lake 10000 at least, possibly
as many as 20000 28-Dec JN
Larnaca Salt Lake 9 15-Dec JS
Larnaca Sewage Works 100 12-Dec MH
Larnaca Sewage Works 219 15-Dec JS
Oroklini Marsh 45 12-Dec MH
Zakaki Marsh c200 at end of outflow,
visible from the hide 19-Dec JN

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Anser albifrons Αρκόσινη
Larnaca Sewage Works 6 12, 14, 15 & 21-
Dec MH/MSS/JS/KH
Larnaca Sewage Works 7 26 & 27-Dec
JN/KH

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

Καστανόπαπια
Larnaca Sewage Works 1 12-Dec MH
Larnaca Sewage Works 2 14, 15, 21, 26 &
27-Dec MSS/JS/ADT/KH/JN

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Αλδούτρος
Lady's Mile 1 10-Dec DJW
Larnaca Sewage Works 1 14 & 15-Dec
MSS/JS
Larnaca Salt Lake 39 15-Dec JS

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Αρμαπάσσης
Larnaca Sewage Works PRESENT 14-
Dec MSS
Larnaca Sewage Works 5 2 pair and a
female 26-Dec JN
Larnaca Sewage Works 1 m 27-Dec KH

GADWALL *Anas strepera* Κανναούρα

Larnaca Sewage Works 1 14, 15 & 27-
Dec MSS/JS/KH
Zakaki Marsh 2 10-Dec DJW
Zakaki Marsh 3 13-Dec MSS

EURASIAN TEAL *Anas crecca* Σαρσέλλι

Largest count per location:

Akrotiri Salt Lake 12 4-Dec JN
 Asprokremmos Dam 2 7-Dec MSS
 Bishop's Pool PRESENT 13-Dec MSS
 Evretou Dam 4 7-Dec AWh
 Germasogeia Dam 10 30-Dec TRe
 Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 10 inc 1
 leucistic 28-Dec MSS
 Larnaca Salt Lake 175 15-Dec JS
 Larnaca Sewage Works 493 15-Dec JS
 Oroklini Marsh 338 at least 26-Dec JN
 Zakaki Marsh 7 10-Dec DJW

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Πρασινοτζίεφαλη

Largest counts:

Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 30 7-Dec
 MSS
 Kannaviou Dam 23 13 male, 10 fem 15-
 Dec DJW
 Larnaca Sewage Works 133 15-Dec JS
 Oroklini Marsh 62 26-Dec JN
 Vyzakia dam 18 24-Dec FGe

NORTHERN PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Σουβλονούρα



Northern Pintail, Oroklini Marsh. Photograph by Albert Stöcker.

Larnaca Sewage Works 3 14-Dec MSS
 Larnaca Sewage Works 1 15 & 27-Dec
 JS/KH
 Oroklini Marsh 2 12-Dec MH
 Oroklini Marsh 3 2m and 1f 14-Dec JS
 Oroklini Marsh 4 15-Dec TRe
 Oroklini Marsh 7 3 males and 4 females
 26-Dec JN

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Μασουρατζίης

Larnaca Sewage Works 1 female 7-Nov
 JN

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Σαξάνα

Largest counts:

Larnaca Sewage Works 674 15-Dec JS
 Oroklini Marsh 380 at least 26-Dec JN

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

Κοτσιηνοτζίεφαλη

Oroklini Marsh 1 male 26-Dec JN

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

Κουντούρα

Larnaca Sewage Works 4 males 26 & 27-
 Dec JN/KH

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca*

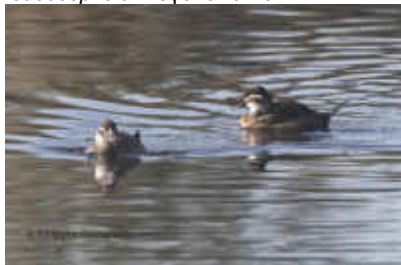
Βαλιόπαπια

Bishop's Pool 2 13-Dec MSS
 Bishop's Pool 11 24-Dec KH
 Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 1 28-Dec
 MSS
 Kannaviou Dam 1 15-Dec DJW
 Larnaca Sewage Works 1 14-Dec MSS
 Larnaca Sewage Works 11 15-Dec JS
 Larnaca Sewage Works 2 27-Dec KH

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Μαυροκέφαλη Πάπια

Larnaca Sewage Works 1 14, 15 & 21-
 Dec MSS/JS/KH

WHITE-HEADED DUCK *Oxyura**leucocephala* Κεφαλόπαπια

*White-headed Duck, Oroklini Marsh 20th
 December. Photograph by Filippos
 Georgiades.*

Oroklini Marsh 3 fems 14, 15, 16, 20, 21
 & 26-Dec
 MSS/JS/FGe/ADT/BB/TRe/KH/JN

EURASIAN GRIFFON VULTURE *Gyps**fulvus* Γύπαας

Kensington Cliffs 11 11-Dec MSS
 Kensington Cliffs 5 23-Dec KH
 Kensington Cliffs 18 26-Dec KH

Kensington Cliffs 14 10 on cliffs, 4 circling above 31-Dec DJW
 Kidasi, Diarizos Valley 9 5-Dec DJW/JN
 Limnatis IBA 4 a group of 4 seen twice 7-Dec JN
 Sotira, Limassol 1 perched on rock over the motorway slip road, facing W 5-Dec JN

WESTERN MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* Βαλτοσιάχινο



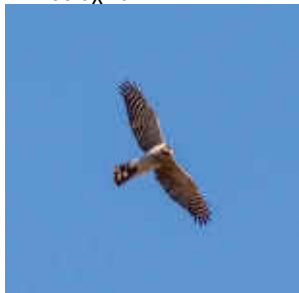
Western Marsh Harrier, Phassouri Reed-beds. Photograph by Albert Stöcker

Largest count per location:
 Bishop's Pool 1 13-Dec MSS
 Larnaca Salt Lake 1 15-Dec JS
 Larnaca Sewage Works 2 14 & 26-Dec MSS/JN
 Oroklini - Motorway 1 29-Dec BB
 Oroklini Marsh 1 14 & 26-Dec JS/MSS/JN
 Phassouri Reed-beds 6 28-Dec JN
 Zakaki Marsh 3 19-Dec JN

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*
 Ορνιθοσιάχινο

Agios Sozomenos 1 Male 14-Dec JS
 Zakaki Marsh 1 ringtail 23-Dec KH
 Zakaki Marsh 1 fem 31-Dec DJW

NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*
 Διπλοσιάχινο



Northern Goshawk, Goudi, 6th December. Photograph by Ray Atkinson

Evretou Dam 1 1-Dec RAT
 Goudhi 1 Flew in and set the resident doves and pigeons to flight. 6-Dec RAT
 Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 1 7-Dec MSS
 Mandria 1 ad 25-Dec KH

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* Ξεφτέρι



Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Zakaki Marsh, 29th December. Photograph by Raija Howard.

Akrotiri Salt Lake 1 4-Dec JN
 Anarita Park 1 3-Dec MSS
 Avakas Gorge 1 3 & 4-Dec MSS/AWh
 Ezousas Pools 1 3-Dec RAT
 Finikaria (Germasogeia Dam) 1 22 & 30-Dec KH/TRe
 Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 2 7 & 28-Dec MSS
 Kensington Cliffs 1 23-Dec KH
 Mavrokolymbos Dam 1 15-Dec DJW
 Souni 1 3-Dec JN
 Zakaki Marsh 1 20, 28 & 29-Dec KH/MGr

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*
 Γερακίνα

Agia Varvara, Paphos 1 21-Dec DJW
 Kensington Cliffs 1 31-Dec DJW
 Paphos Sewage Plant 1 11-Dec MSS
 Parekkklisia 1 21-Dec ADT
 Phassouri Reed-beds 3 4 & 28-Dec JN
 Phassouri Reed-beds 1 13 & 14-Dec MSS/MGr
 Phassouri Reed-beds 2 20-Dec KH
 Zakaki Marsh 2 23-Dec KH

LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus*
 Διπλογέρακο

Agia Varvara, Paphos 1 21-Dec DJW
 Agios Sozomenos 1 14-Dec JS
 Avdimou 1 9-Dec JN
 Evretou Dam 1 1-Dec RAT
 Kensington Cliffs 1 ad 23-Dec KH
 Konnos Bay 1 Hunting - flying N along coast 18-Dec JS

Kouklia Soakaways 2 11 & 28-Dec MSS
Kourio Stadium, Episkopi 1 10-Dec DJW
Mandria 1 ad 25-Dec KH
Mavrokolymbos Dam 1 24-Dec DJW
Parekklesia 1 20 & 21-Dec ADT
Phassouri Reed-beds 1 perched in a
eucalyptus tree in the first pull in. It flew to
W after about 8 minutes 28-Dec JN

BONELLI'S EAGLE *Aquila fasciatus*
Σπιζαιτός – Περτικοσιάχινο
Agia Varvara, Paphos 1 imm 21-Dec
DJW
Arodhes 2 adult pair 26-Dec DJW
Asprokremmos Dam 1 28-Dec MSS
Evretou Dam 2 adult pair 7-Dec AWh
Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 2 7 & 28-
Dec MSS
Phassouri Reed-beds 1 juv 26-Dec KH
Zakaki Marsh 1 juv 20-Dec KH

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*
Κίτσος
Largest counts:
Agioi Trimithias 4 13-Dec FGe
Asprokremmos Dam 5 7-Dec MSS
Ezousas Pools 18 3-Dec MSS
Phassouri Reed-beds 4 28-Dec JN

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* Νανοφάλκονο
Akrotiri Salt Lake 1 juv 31-Dec KH

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*
Ζάνος
Asprokremnos Dam 1 3 & 7-Dec MSS
Kensington Cliffs 2 1 ad and 1 juv 23-Dec
KH
Kensington Cliffs 2 ads 26-Dec KH

CHUKAR *Alectoris chukar* Περίτζι
Largest counts:
Diarizos Valley, Paphos 14 9-Dec JN
Limnatis IBA 14 13 seen plus another
covey heard 7-Dec JN
Peristerona, Paphos 19 15-Dec DJW
Tamassos Dam 10 5-Dec FGe

BLACK FRANCOLIN *Francolinus*
francoelinus Φραγκολίνα
Astromeritis 2 calling 26-Dec FGe
Goudhi 1 Heard calling in the distance 2-
Dec RAT
Larnaca Salt Lake 1 15-Dec JS
Larnaca Sewage Works 1 14-Dec MSS
Phassouri Reed-beds 2 13 & 20-Dec
MSS/KH

Phassouri 1 male seen briefly in flight 28-
Dec JN
Pyla 1 calling 26-Dec BB

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*
Μαυροπουλάδα



Water Rail, Lower Ezousas, 3rd December.
Photograph by Ray Atkinson.

Bishop's Pool 1 heard 24-Dec KH
Larnaca Salt Lake 1 Heard 15-Dec JS
Lower Ezousas 1 3-Dec MSS/RAT
Lower Ezousas 2 6-Dec AWh
Zakaki Marsh 3 10 & 17-Dec DJW/MGr
Zakaki Marsh 1 19, 20 & 23-Dec JN/KH

COMMON MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*
Αρκοπετέιναρο
Largest counts:
Oroklini Marsh c20 12-Dec MH
Phassouri Reed-beds 7 13-Dec MSS
Zakaki Marsh 9 10-Dec DJW

EURASIAN COOT *Fulica atra* Καραπαπάς
Largest counts:
Akhna Dam 48 16-Dec BB
Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 60 7-Dec
MSS
Kannaviou Dam 47 15-Dec DJW
Oroklini Marsh 67 at least 26-Dec JN
Vyzakia dam 28 24-Dec FGe

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus*
himantopus Καλαμοκαννάς
Oroklini Marsh 1 26-Dec JN
Larnaca Sewage Works 7 26-Dec JN

PIED AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Αβοκέτα
Oroklini Marsh 1 21-Dec KH

EURASIAN STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* Τρουλλουριά



Eurasian Stone-curlew, Meneou Pool.
Photograph by Albert Stöcker

Kermia Beach 13 Roosting on beach when I arrived. Flew off towards Cape Greco 18-Dec JS

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* Αμμοπλουμιδι

Larnaca Airport Pools South 1 15-Dec JS
Larnaca Salt Lake 4 15-Dec JS
Larnaca Sewage Works PRESENT 12 & 14-Dec MH/MSS
Oroklini Marsh 6 12-Dec MH
Oroklini Marsh 1 14-Dec JS
Oroklini Marsh 4 15-Dec JS

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* Νανοπλουμιδι

Larnaca Salt Lake 168 15-Dec JS
Oroklini Marsh 1 12-Dec MH

GREATER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius leschenaultii* Βραχοπλουμιδι



Greater Sand Plover, Paphos Headland, 25th December. Photograph by Raija Howard.

Paphos Headland 1 7-Dec AWh
Paphos Headland 3 11-Dec MSS
Paphos Headland 4 25 & 30-Dec KH/DJW

EURASIAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* Χρυσοπλουμιδι
Larnaca Airport Pools South 330 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Sewage Works 2 12-Dec MH
Mandria 60 25-Dec KH
Paphos Headland c30 7 & 30-Dec AWh/DJW
Paphos Headland 26 25-Dec KH

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* Στακτοπλουμιδι

Agia Trias 4 18-Dec JS

SPUR-WINGED LAPWING *Vanellus spinosus* Πελλοκατερίνα

Larnaca Salt Lake 2 15-Dec JS
Oroklini Marsh 27 12-Dec MH
Oroklini Marsh c50 14 & 15-Dec JS
Oroklini Marsh 43 26-Dec JN
Paphos Sewage Plant 10 11-Dec MSS

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* Γιαννής

Akrotiri Salt Lake 28 31-Dec KH
Kermia Beach 1 Flying over fields 18-Dec JS
Larnaca Desalination Plant 6 26-Dec JN
Larnaca Sewage Works 1 12-Dec MH
Larnaca Sewage Works 11 15-Dec JS
Larnaca Sewage Works 17 26-Dec JN
Oroklini Marsh 27 12-Dec MH
Oroklini Marsh 25 14-Dec JS
Oroklini Marsh 24 15-Dec ADT
Oroklini Marsh c50 21-Dec KH
Oroklini Marsh 8 at least but partly hidden behind vegetation 26-Dec JN
Phassouri Reed-beds 2 13-Dec MSS
Phassouri Reed-beds 19 flying over 31-Dec DJW
Zakaki Marsh 1 31-Dec KH

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* Νανονεραλλιδι

Lady's Mile 2 18-Dec TR
Larnaca Sewage Works 15 15-Dec JS
Oroklini Marsh 4 12-Dec MH

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* Σταχτονεραλλιδι

Oroklini Marsh 1 12 & 15-Dec MH/JS
Oroklini Marsh 2 14-Dec MSS

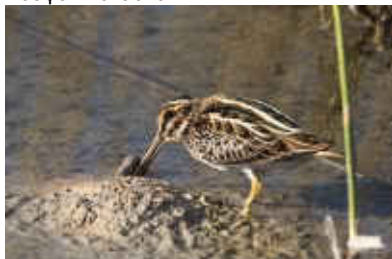
DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* Λασπονεραλλιδι

Larnaca Sewage Works 1 14-Dec MSS
Oroklini Marsh PRESENT 14-Dec MSS

Paphos Headland 2 7-Dec AWh
Paphos Headland 1 11-Dec MSS
Paphos Headland 3 25-Dec KH

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* Μαχητής
Larnaca Sewage Works 4 12-Dec MH
Larnaca Sewage Works 1 15 & 26-Dec
JS/JN
Larnaca Sewage Works 3 27-Dec KH

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*
Κουφοπικάτσονο



Jack Snipe, Zakaki Marsh, 10th December.
Photograph by Dave Walker.

Germasogeia Dam 2 23 & 28-Dec KH
Zakaki Marsh 1 10-Dec DJW

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*
Πικασόνι
Achelia Dam 1 3-Dec MSS
Achelia Dam 3 11-Dec MSS
Ezousas Pools 1 3-Dec RAT
Finikaria (Germasogeia Dam) 10 22-Dec
KH
Finikaria (Germasogeia Dam) 6 30-Dec
TRe
Goudhi 1 2-Dec RAT
Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 1 28-Dec
MSS
Larnaca Salt Lake 5 15-Dec JS
Oroklini Marsh 3 12-Dec MH
Oroklini Marsh 2 14-Dec JS
Oroklini Marsh 4 26-Dec JN
Phassouri Reed-beds 1 10 & 19-Dec
DJW/JN
Phassouri Reed-beds 3 13-Dec MSS
Phassouri Reed-beds 2 31-Dec DJW
Zakaki Marsh 1 31-Dec DJW

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*
Φαιομπεκάτσα



Whimbrel, Paphos Headland, 30th December.
Photograph by Dave Walker

Paphos Headland 1 11 & 30-Dec
MSS/DJW

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata*
Νερομπεκάτσα
Larnaca Sewage Works 3 12 & 21-Dec
MH/KH

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*
Κοκκινόνεραλλίδι



Common Redshank, Lady's Mile, 31st
December. Photograph by Jan Walker

Lady's Mile 4 10 & 13-Dec DJW
Lady's Mile 11 17-Dec TRe
Lady's Mile 13 18-Dec TRe
Lady's Mile 12 19-Dec JN
Lady's Mile 9 28-Dec JN
Lady's Mile 7 31-Dec DJW
Larnaca Airport Pools South 1 15-Dec JS
Larnaca Salt Lake 8 15-Dec JS
Larnaca Sewage Works 5 26-Dec JN
Meneou Pool 1 15-Dec JS
Oroklini Marsh 3 12 & 14-Dec MH/JS
Oroklini Marsh 2 15-Dec ADT/JS
Oroklini Marsh 1 26-Dec JN

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis*
Βαλτονεραλλίδι
Larnaca Salt Lake 2 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Sewage Works 2 27-Dec KH

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Δασονεραλλίδι

Bishop's Pool 2 24-Dec KH

Paphos Sewage Plant 1 11-Dec MSS

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Ακτίτης



Common Sandpiper, Paphos Headland, 30th December. Photograph by Dave Walker.

Agia Thekla 1 18-Dec JS

Paphos Headland 2 7-Dec AWh

Paphos Headland 1 25-Dec KH

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Χαλίκονεραλλίδι

Paphos Headland 1 11-Dec MSS

GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus*

ichthyaetus Αετόγλαρος

Cape Greco 2 Two adults in winter plumage flew along coast from N and then headed SW over aerial area 18-Dec JS

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus*

melanocephalus Μαυροκέφαλος Γλάρος

Lady's Mile 1 18-Dec TRe

Larnaca Salt Lake 1 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Sewage Works 8 12-Dec MH

Larnaca Sewage Works 2 14-Dec MSS

Larnaca Sewage Works 1 15-Dec JS

Oroklini Marsh 1 12 & 15-Dec MH/TRe

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus*

ridibundus Χωραφόγλαρος

Largest counts:

Lady's Mile c400 10 & 28-Dec DJW/JN

Oroklini Beach 150 15-Dec JS

Oroklini Marsh 65 12-Dec MH

SLENDER-BILLED GULL *Larus genei*

Λεπτόραμφος Γλάρος

Lady's Mile 2 18-Dec TRe

Larnaca Sewage Works 2 14-Dec MSS

Paphos Headland 1 7-Dec AWh

HEUGLIN'S GULL *Larus heuglini*

Μελανόγλαρος Σιβηρίας

Larnaca Salt Lake 2 15-Dec JS

Mandria 1 11-Dec MSS

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus*

michahellis Ασημόγλαρος

Akti Beach, Paphos PRESENT 11-Dec MSS

Asprokremmos Dam c100 5-Dec AWh

Cape Drepanum c20 24-Dec DJW

Coral Bay 2 24-Dec DJW

Kermia Beach 5 18-Dec JS

Lady's Mile 1 28-Dec JN

Larnaca Salt Lake 1 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Sewage Works PRESENT 14-Dec MSS

Larnaca Sewage Works 2 26-Dec JN

Mandria PRESENT 11-Dec MSS

Paphos Headland 15 11-Dec MSS

Paphos Lighthouse 3 flying over 30-Dec DJW

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans* Γλάρος Κασπίας

Asprokremmos Dam 1 11-Dec MSS

Lady's Mile 8 19-Dec JN

Lady's Mile 5 28-Dec JN

Larnaca Sewage Works PRESENT 12-Dec MH

Larnaca Sewage Works 1 14-Dec MSS

Larnaca Sewage Works 5 26-Dec JN

Zakaki Marsh 1 28-Dec JN

ARMENIAN GULL *Larus armenicus*

Γλάρος Αρμενίας

Lady's Mile 9 10-Dec DJW

Lady's Mile 8 13-Dec MSS

Lady's Mile 4 adults 19-Dec JN

Lady's Mile 17 28-Dec JN

Lady's Mile PRESENT 31-Dec DJW

Larnaca Salt Lake 2 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Sewage Works PRESENT 14-Dec MSS

Larnaca Sewage Works 1 15-Dec JS

Oroklini Beach 3 15-Dec JS

Oroklini Marsh 2 14-Dec FGE

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* Γιγαντόγαρος
Cape Drepanum 1 1st w 1-Dec TD Rare
Bird report submitted
(Possible 8th Cyprus record. Last accepted record 1996)

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*
Χειμωνογάρωνο



Sandwich Tern, Lady's Tern, 17th December.
Photograph by Tony Reeves.

Cape Drepanum 1 24-Dec DJW
Lady's Mile 2 13-Dec MSS
Lady's Mile 1 17 & 29-Dec TRe/KH
Oroklini Beach 3 20-Dec FGe
Paphos Headland 1 30-Dec DJW

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* Αρκοπέζουνο
Avakas Gorge 2 3-Dec MSS

COMMON WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* Φάσσα
Largest counts:
Agia Varvara c50 21-Dec DJW
Mavrokolymbos Dam c50 8-Dec DJW
Souni 125 includes 1 flock of 90 8-Dec JN
Stavrovouni, c40 14-Dec FGe

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* Φιλικοτούνη
Largest counts:
Astromeritis 14 26-Dec FGe
Phassouri Reed-beds 7 28-Dec JN
Souni 15 includes 11 together near old goat farm in village 21-Dec JN
Zanadja 9 16-Dec JN

EURASIAN SCOPS OWL *Otus scops*
Θουπί
Nicosia Old Pedagogical Academy 1
calling at dusk 10-Dec SC

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*
Κουκουφκιάος



Little Owl, Geri, 20th December. Photograph by Filippos Georgiades

Agia Varvara, Paphos 2 pair 21-Dec DJW
Anarita Park 1 3 & 11-Dec MSS
Arodhes 1 26-Dec DJW
Asprokremmos Dam 3 11-Dec MSS
Asprokremmos Dam 2 28-Dec MSS
Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 1 7-Dec MSS
Souni 1 15, 18, 21, 29 & 31-Dec JN

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*
Αλκούνη
Agia Trias 3 18-Dec JS
Akti Beach, Paphos 1 11-Dec MSS
Coral Bay 1 1 & 24-Dec DJW
Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 1 7-Dec MSS
Kermia Beach 1 18-Dec JS
Oroklini Marsh 1 21-Dec KH
Paphos Headland 1 11, 25 & 30-Dec MSS/KH/DJW
Pediaios river, Yiorkio area, Nicosia 1 1-Dec FGe
Zakaki Marsh 1 20-Dec KH

EURASIAN HOOPOE *Upupa epops*
Πουπουζίος
Dekelia Garrison 1 10-Dec STi

LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella rufescens* Ερημοτρασιηλούδα



Lesser Short-toed Lark, Spiros Beach, 27th December. Photograph by Raija Howard.

Spiros Beach 7 27-Dec KH

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata*

Σκορταλλός

Largest counts:

Cape Greco 18 18-Dec JS

Kermia Beach 20+ 18-Dec JS

Larnaca Sewage Works 10 26-Dec JN

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

Πευκοτρασιήλα

Agia Varvara, Paphos 2 21-Dec DJW

Anarita Park PRESENT 3-Dec MSS

Anarita Park 10 11-Dec MSS

Arodhes 18 3 separate flocks 26-Dec

DJW

Asprokremnos Dam PRESENT 3-Dec

MSS

Cape Greco 6 18-Dec JS

Mavrokolymbos Dam 7 1-Dec DJW

Phassouri Reed-beds 4 19-Dec JN

Phassouri Reed-beds 3+ 20-Dec KH

Souni 5 1 & 24-Dec JN

Souni 3 8 & 29-Dec JN

Souni 32 21-Dec JN

Souni 16 31-Dec JN

EURASIAN SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

Τρασιήλα



Eurasian Skylark, Coral Bay, 1st December. Photograph by Dave Walker.

Agioi Trimithias 12 13-Dec FGE
Asprokremnos Dam PRESENT 3-Dec
MSS

Asprokremnos Dam 1 5-Dec JN

Coral Bay c20 1-Dec DJW

Larnaca Airport Coast 90+ 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Airport Pools South 7+ 15-Dec
JS

Larnaca Salt Lake 1+ Heard 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Sewage Works PRESENT 12 &
14-Dec MH

Larnaca Sewage Works 28 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Sewage Works 4 26-Dec JN

Mandria 300 11-Dec MSS

Mandria 150 13-Dec MSS

Meneou Pool 1+ Heard 15-Dec JS

Paphos Headland 5 11-Dec MSS

Paphos Headland 12 30-Dec DJW

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* Χελιδόνι

Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 1 7 & 28-
Dec MSS

Oroklini Marsh 1 14-Dec MSS

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Λιβαδογαλούδι

Largest counts:

Asprokremnos Dam 50 at least disturbed
in fields 5-Dec JN

Mavrokolymbos Dam c20 1-Dec DJW

Paphos Lighthouse 20 30-Dec DJW

Phassouri 27 28-Dec JN

Souni 29 29-Dec JN

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

Κοτσινογαλούδι

Agios Sozomenos 3 14-Dec JS

Larnaca Airport Coast c10 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Sewage Works 12 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Sewage Works 2 21-Dec KH

Mandria 5 11-Dec MSS

Mandria 2 13-Dec MSS

Paphos Headland 2 25-Dec KH

Phassouri Reed-beds 5 19-Dec JN

Potamia 5 14-Dec JS

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

Νερογαλούδι

Germasogeia Dam 1 22 & 30-Dec KH

Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 2 7-Dec
MSS

Larnaca Salt Lake 2 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Sewage Works PRESENT 14-
Dec MSS

Mandria 2 11-Dec MSS

Mandria 4 13-Dec MSS

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Σταχτοζευκαλάτης

Avakas Gorge 1 3 & 4-Dec MSS/AWh
 Bishop's Pool 1 13 & 24-Dec MSS/KH
 Finikaria (Germasogeia Dam) 2 22 & 30-Dec KH/TRe/MPH
 Finikaria (Germasogeia Dam) 3 28-Dec KH
 Goudhi PRESENT 1-Dec RAT
 Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 2 7-Dec MSS
 Kakopetria 1 26-Dec FGe
 Pedaios river, Yiorkio area, Nicosia 2 16-Dec FGe
 Pouziaros 1 at Psilo Dendro 18-Dec MGr
 Souni 1 15 & 31-Dec JN

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Ασπροζευκαλάτης

Largest counts:

Agios Sozomenos c50 14-Dec JS
 Phasouri 13 28-Dec JN
 Zakaki Marsh 13 single flock flying past 28-Dec MGr

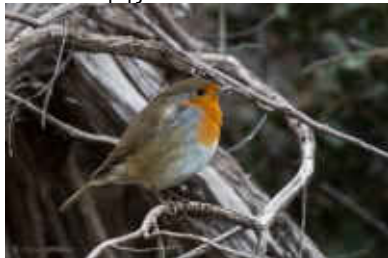
WINTER WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Τρυποκάρυδο

Avakas Gorge 3 3-Dec MSS
 Avakas Gorge 1 4-Dec AWh
 Pouziaros 1 18-Dec MGr
 Saittas 1 30-Dec KH

EUROPEAN ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

Κοτινολαίμης



European Robin, Avakas Gorge, 26th December. Photograph by Dave Walker.

Largest counts:

Machairas monastery c10 6-Dec FGe
 Phassouri Reed-beds 14 19-Dec JN
 Souni 40 1-Dec JN
 Tamassos Dam 12 5-Dec FGe
 Zanadja 12 16-Dec JN

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*

Γαλαζολαίμης



Bluethroat, Agios Sozomenos, 26th December. Photograph by Agamemnon Loutsios.

Agios Sozomenos 1 26-Dec AgL
 Ezousas Pools 1 3-Dec MSS/RAT
 Germasogeia Dam 1 23 & 30-Dec KH/TRe
 Germasogeia Dam 2 1 ad m and 1 juv 28-Dec KH
 Oroklini Marsh 1 21-Dec KH
 Phassouri Reed-beds 1 13-Dec MSS
 Zakaki Marsh 1 17 & 23-Dec MGr/KH

WESTERN BLACK REDSTART*Phoenicurus ochrurus* Καρβουνιάρης

Western Black Redstart, Paphos Headland, 30th December. Photograph by Dave Walker.

Largest counts:

Kidasi, Diarizos Valley 5 3 males and 2 females 5-Dec JN
 Paphos Lighthouse 5 fem 30-Dec DJW
 Souni 9 1-Dec JN

COMMON STONECHAT *Saxicola rubicola*

Παπαθιά

Largest counts:

Agios Sozomenos 13 14-Dec JS
 Arodhes 13 3-Dec DJW
 Diarizos Valley 25 many perched on bushes, tall vegetation and on wires 5-Dec JN

Larnaca Desalination Plant 12 7 males and 5 females 26-Dec JN
 Limnatis IBA 17 7-Dec JN
 Mavrokolymbos Dam 12 8-Dec DJW
 Paphos Lighthouse 17 8 male, 9 fem 30-Dec DJW
 Phassouri Reed-beds 15 includes a pair, 2 females and 6 males - other more distant 28-Dec JN
 Souni 13 1, 29 & 31-Dec JN
 Tamassos Dam 18 5-Dec FGe

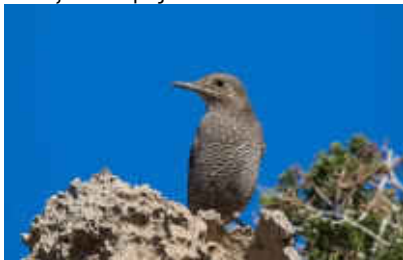
FINSCH'S WHEATEAR *Oenanthe finschii*
 Βουνοσκαλιφούρτα



Finsch's Wheatear, Anarita Park. Photograph by Albert Stöcker.

Agia Varvara, Paphos 2 male, female 21-Dec DJW
 Agios Sozomenos 3 2m and 1f 14-Dec JS
 Anarita Park 1 3-Dec MSS
 Arodhes 2 male 3 & 26-Dec DJW
 Arodhes 1 5-Dec RAT
 Asprokremmos Dam 1 7-Dec MSS
 Asprokremmos Dam 2 11 & 28-Dec MSS
 Kidasi 3 male 5 & 8-Dec DJW/JN/AWh
 Mavrokolymbos Dam 1 24 & 26-Dec DJW

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius*
 Γαλαζοκότσουφος



Blue Rock Thrush, Avakas Coast, 24th December. Photograph by Dave Walker

Anarita Park 1 11-Dec MSS
 Asprokremmos Dam 2 11 & 28-Dec MSS

Avakas Gorge 3 3-Dec MSS
 Avakas Coast 2 male, female 24-Dec DJW
 Cape Greco 1 Male 18-Dec JS
 Coral Bay 1 male 24-Dec DJW
 Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 1 7-Dec MSS
 Kensington Cliffs 1 male 23-Dec KH
 Paphos Headland 1 11 & 30-Dec MSS/DJW

EURASIAN BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* ♂

Μαυρόπουλλος (♀ Μαυρότζικλα)

Largest counts:

Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 6 7-Dec MSS
 Machairas monastery 8 6-Dec FGe
 Prodromos 7 4-Dec MH
 Souni 8 31-Dec JN

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Τζίκηλα

Largest counts:

Agioi Iliofotoi 20 12-Dec FGe
 Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 40 7-Dec MSS
 Mavrokolymbos Dam 15 8-Dec DJW
 Stavrovouni 18 14-Dec FGe

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

Ψευταηδώνι

Agia Varvara 2 21-Dec DJW
 Avakas Gorge 2 26-Dec DJW
 Ezousas Pools 2 3-Dec MSS
 Goudhi PRESENT 1 & 2-Dec RAT
 Larnaca Salt Lake 2 15-Dec JS
 Manglis Lake 1 Heard 14-Dec JS
 Oroklini Marsh 4 26-Dec JN
 Pedaios river, Yiorkio area, Nicosia 1 16-Dec FGe
 Pedaios river, Yiorkio area, Nicosia 2 22-Dec FGe
 Phassouri Reed-beds 2 19-Dec JN
 Phassouri Reed-beds 18 28-Dec JN
 Souni 1 16, 21 & 31-Dec JN
 Zakaki Marsh 2 19 & 28-Dec JN

ZITTING CISTICOLA *Cisticola juncidis*

Δουλαππάρης

Akrotiri Salt Lake 1 28-Dec JN
 Asprokremmos Dam 3 5-Dec JN
 Coral Bay 3 24-Dec DJW
 Ezousas Pools 4 3-Dec MSS
 Ha Potami - Secret Valley Dam 2 7-Dec MSS
 Larnaca Salt Lake 1 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Sewage Works 1 12-Dec MH
 Oroklini Marsh 2 26-Dec JN
 Paphos Lighthouse 3 30-Dec DJW
 Phassouri 1 4-Dec JN
 Phassouri Reed-beds 2 4 & 10-Dec JN
 Phassouri Reed-beds 5 13-Dec MSS
 Phassouri Reed-beds 1 14-Dec MGR
 Phassouri Reed-beds 3 19-Dec JN
 Phassouri Reed-beds 13 28-Dec JN

MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Acrocephalus melanopogon* Μουστακομουγιανούδι



Moustached Warbler, Lower Ezousas, 3rd December. Photograph by Ray Atkinson

Ezousas Pools 4 3-Dec MSS
 Finikaria (Germasogeia Dam) 2 22 & 28-Dec KH
 Finikaria (Germasogeia Dam) 1 30-Dec TRe
 Goudhi PRESENT 1 & 2-Dec RAT
 Lower Ezousas 1 6-Dec AWh
 Oroklini Marsh 1 14-Dec JS
 Zakaki Marsh 1 10-Dec DJW

SPECTACLED WARBLER *Sylvia conspicillata* Κοτινοφτέρι
 Agios Sozomenos 1 14-Dec JS
 Larnaca Airport Coast 1 15-Dec JS
 Larnaca Sewage Works 3 14 & 15-Dec MSS/JS
 Manglis dam 1 14 & 16-Dec JS
 Phassouri Reed-beds 1 4-Dec JN

SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala* Τρυποβάτης
 Largest counts and interesting records:
 Akrotiri Salt Lake 1 melanistic 31-Dec KH
 Arodhes 8 26-Dec DJW
 Asprokremnos Dam 6 includes 2 males and 2 females 5-Dec JN
 Coral Bay 7 24-Dec DJW
 Souni 17 4 males also seen 21-Dec JN

CYPRUS WARBLER *Sylvia melanothorax* Τρυπομάζης
 Akrotiri Salt Lake 2 31-Dec KH
 Arodhes 3 2 male, 1 fem 3-Dec DJW
 Cape Greco 1 Female 18-Dec JS
 Diarizos Valley 1 9-Dec JN
 Limnatis IBA 9 3 seen together others heard calling 7-Dec JN
 Paphos Headland 1 25-Dec KH
 Sotira, Limassol 1 5-Dec JN
 Souni 12 1-Dec JN
 Souni 6 3 & 18-Dec JN
 Souni 22 8-Dec JN
 Souni 2 10-Dec JN
 Souni 7 15-Dec JN
 Souni 5 2 males seen 21-Dec JN
 Souni 11 24 & 31-Dec JN
 Souni 9 29-Dec JN
 Stavrovouni 4 14 & 23-Dec FGe

EURASIAN BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* Αμπελοπούλλι
 Agios Sozomenos 1 Heard 14-Dec JS
 Cape Drepanum 1 male 24-Dec DJW
 Ezousas Pools 1 3-Dec MSS
 Limnatis IBA 1 male 7-Dec JN
 Pedaios river, Yiorkio area, Nicosia 6 22-Dec FGe
 Peristerona, Paphos 1 15-Dec DJW
 Phassouri Reed-beds 1 19 & 28-Dec JN
 Souni 7 1-Dec JN
 Souni 2 male and female together 8-Dec JN
 Souni 3 15 & 16-Dec JN
 Souni 1 21-Dec JN
 Zanađa 1 16-Dec JN

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* Μουγιαννούδι



Common Chiffchaff, Mavrokolympos Dam, 8th December. Photograph by Dave Walker.

Largest counts and interesting record:
 Ezousas Pools 1 tristis spp "Siberian chiffchaff" 3-Dec MSS
 Phassouri Reed-beds 23 28-Dec JN

Souni 39 1-Dec JN
Zanadja 10 16-Dec JN

COAL TIT *Parus ater* Πέμπτετος

Kannavia c20 26-Dec FGe
Lazanias c10 6-Dec FGe
Machairas monastery 12 6-Dec FGe
Pouziaros 8 singles, pairs and trios seen;
many others heard 18-Dec MGr
Prodromos 4 4-Dec MH
Stavrovouni 4 23-Dec FGe
Troodos Visitor Centre 8 26-Dec FGe

GREAT TIT *Parus major* Τσαγκαρούδι

Largest counts:
Asprokremnos Dam 5 5-Dec JN
Paphos Lighthouse 5 30-Dec DJW
Phassouri Reed-beds 5 19-Dec JN
Souni 22 21-Dec JN
Zanadja 5 16-Dec JN

WALLCREEPER *Tichodroma muraria*

Τοιχοδρόμος
Avakas Gorge 2 3 & 4-Dec MSS/AWh
Avakas Gorge 1 26-Dec DJW

SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER *Certhia*

brachydactyla Δενδροβάτης
Pouziaros 3 single and pair seen at start
of walk 18-Dec MGr
Prodromos 1 4-Dec MH

EURASIAN PENDULINE TIT *Remiz*

pendulinus Υφάντρα
Goudhi 1 2-Dec RAT
Zakaki Marsh 2 23-Dec KH

EURASIAN JAY *Garrulus glandarius* Κίσσα

Lazanias 2 6-Dec FGe
Machairas monastery 6 6-Dec FGe
Pouziaros 3 18-Dec MGr
Prodromos 2 4-Dec MH
Troodos Visitor Centre 2 26-Dec FGe

EURASIAN MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Κατσκορώννα
Largest counts:
Arodhes 23 3-Dec DJW
Evretou Dam North 15 15-Dec DJW
Mavrokolymbos Dam 15 8-Dec DJW
Peristerona, Paphos 12 15-Dec DJW

WESTERN JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Κολοιός
Largest counts:
Agia Varvara, Paphos 100 21-Dec DJW

Arodhes c100 3-Dec DJW
Diarizos Valley 162 at least 5-Dec JN
Evretou Dam North c350 15-Dec DJW

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* Κοράζινος

Largest counts:
Agios Sozomenos 18 14-Dec JS
Pediaios river, Yiorkio area, Nicosia 26 16-
Dec FGe
Phassouri Reed-beds 33 2 chasing a
distant Marsh Harrier 19-Dec JN
Vyzakia dam 19 24-Dec FGe

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Λαζούρι
Bishop's Pool 20 13-Dec MSS
Kouklia Soakaways 20 11-Dec MSS
Larnaca Sewage Works PRESENT 12-
Dec MH
Mandria 3 13-Dec MSS
Paphos Headland 19 30-Dec DJW
Phassouri Reed-beds 1 4-Dec JN
Phassouri Reed-beds 8 13-Dec MSS
Phassouri Reed-beds 4 28-Dec JN
Zakaki Marsh 1 28-Dec MGr

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Στρούθος
Largest counts:
Agia Trias c30 18-Dec JS
Cape Greco 50+ 18-Dec JS
Phassouri Reed-beds 46 19-Dec JN
Souni 47 15-Dec JN
Spiros Pool 30+ 15-Dec JS
Tamassos Dam c250 5-Dec FGe

SPANISH SPARROW *Passer*

hispaniolensis Αρκόστρουθος
Agios Ioannis Malountas c80 12-Dec FGe
Cape Drepanum c20 24-Dec DJW
Coral Bay c40 1-Dec DJW
Kermia Beach 20+ 18-Dec JS
Larnaca Airport Coast 40+ 15-Dec JS
Larnaca Salt Lake 69 15-Dec JS
Manglis Dam 9 14-Dec JS
Mavrokolymbos Dam c15 1-Dec DJW
Paphos Sewage Plant PRESENT 3-Dec
MSS
Peristerona, Paphos 5 15-Dec DJW
Phassouri 5 19-Dec JN
Phassouri Reed-beds 4 3 males and 1
female 4-Dec JN
Spiros Pool 10+ 15-Dec JS

COMMON CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Σπίνος

Largest counts:

Evretou Dam North c50 15-Dec DJW

Lazanias c70 6-Dec FGe

Machairas monastery c50 6-Dec FGe

Phassouri Reed-beds 54 19-Dec JN

Souni 186 at least 29-Dec JN

Tamassos Dam c250 5-Dec FGe

EUROPEAN SERIN *Serinus serinus*

Μπισσαρτοκανάρινο

Max count per location:

Agiou Iliofotou 16 12-Dec FGe

Agios Ioannis Malountas 15 12-Dec FGe

Arodhes 9 3-Dec DJW

Asprokremmos Dam PRESENT 11-Dec

MSS

Mavrokolymbos Dam c10 8-Dec DJW

Paphos Sewage Plant PRESENT 3-Dec

MSS

Peristerona, Paphos 5 15-Dec DJW

Souni 17 10 & 31-Dec JN

Tamassos Dam c35 5-Dec FGe

EUROPEAN GREENFINCH *Carduelis**chloris* Λουλουδάς η Φλώρος

Largest counts:

Kidasi 66 5-Dec JN

Larnaca Airport Coast c30 15-Dec JS

Souni 77 29-Dec JN

Zanadja 15 16-Dec JN

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH *Carduelis**carduelis* Σγαρτίλι

Largest counts:

Agios Ioannis Malountas c30 12-Dec FGe

Cape Greco c30 18-Dec JS

Kidasi 73 5-Dec JN

Larnaca Airport Coast 32 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Salt Lake c34 15-Dec JS

Limnatis IBA 34 7-Dec JN

Mavrokolymbos Dam c30 1-Dec DJW

Souni 38 31-Dec JN

Tamassos Dam c30 5-Dec FGe

EURASIAN SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Θκιολαρούδι

Diarizos Valley 1 5-Dec JN

Saittas 6 30-Dec KH

Troodos Visitor Centre 8 26-Dec FGe

COMMON LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Τσακροσγάριλο

Largest counts:

Agios Ioannis Malountas c45 12-Dec FGe

Arodhes 12 3-Dec DJW

Larnaca Airport Coast 11 15-Dec JS

Larnaca Salt Lake 22 15-Dec JS

RED CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Σταυρομούπτης

Pouziarios 2 pair of females seen at

junction with walking trail and E4 forest

track 18-Dec MGr

Troodos Visitor Centre 4 26-Dec FGe

COMMON REED BUNTING *Emberiza**schoeniclus* Καλαμοπιπίλλα

Common Reed Bunting, Zakaki Marsh, 31st December. Photograph by Dave Walker.

Akrotiri Salt Lake 1 31-Dec KH

Larnaca Salt Lake 1 15-Dec JS

Phassouri Reed-beds 2 28-Dec JN

Zakaki Marsh 5 17-Dec MGr

Zakaki Marsh 3 23 & 31-Dec KH/DJW

Zakaki Marsh 9 31-Dec KH

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra*

Τσακρόστρουθος

Largest counts:

Agios Ioannis Malountas c80 12-Dec FGe

Arodhes c30 26-Dec DJW

Astromeritis 13 26-Dec FGe

Diarizos Valley 18 5-Dec JN

Larnaca Salt Lake 11 15-Dec JS

Souni 13 together 31-Dec JN

CONTRIBUTORS

| | |
|-----|-------------------------|
| ADT | Alan Turtle |
| AgL | Agamemnon Loutsios |
| AWh | Alan Whitehead |
| BB | Bill Barker |
| DJW | Dave & Jan Walker |
| FGe | Filippos Georgiades |
| JN | June Neal |
| JS | Jane Stylianou |
| KH | Keith & Rajja Howard |
| MGr | Michael Green |
| MH | Martin Hellicar |
| MPh | Marios Phillipou |
| MSS | Matt Smith |
| RAt | Ray Atkinson |
| SC | Stavros Christodoulides |
| STi | Simon Tidman |
| TD | Tim Drew |
| TRe | Tony Reeves |

MONTHLY WATERBIRD COUNT

DECEMBER 2015

Martin Hellicar

The BirdLife Cyprus waterbirds monitoring programme has been running since 2005 and covers around 60 wetlands and other waterbird sites around the island. All sites are covered at least every January (mid-winter count) and every May (breeding season count), while the more important sites are also covered in March, September and November. Key Important Bird Area (IBA) wetlands such as the island's two salt lakes, which attract large numbers of birds, are covered on a monthly basis. The monitoring programme is based on the voluntary work of a team of dedicated and experienced recorders and preliminary results are presented in the Monthly Checklist.

The year ended with counts at 14 sites, including almost all the key wetlands island-wide. Just shy of 13,000 waterbirds were counted, with more than half of these birds (7,000+) being Flamingos. The big flocks of Flamingos were on the Akrotiri Salt Lake. Wintering ducks were also abundant, with Shoveler and Teal the most numerous, as would be expected, and most birds recorded at Oroklini Marsh, Larnaca Sewage Works and Kouklia Dam. The other really numerous species was the Black-headed Gull, with over 800 recorded, mostly in the Lady's Mile area of the Akrotiri wetland complex.

The site with the most birds – thanks to the Flamingo flocks – was Akrotiri Salt Lake, Meras and Lady's Mile, while Oroklini Marsh, Larnaca Sewage Works and Kouklia Dam also held over 1,000 waterbirds each. The most species-rich sites were Oroklini Marsh and Larnaca Sewage Works. In total, 45 different waterbird species were recorded, with the most notable being the 3 White-headed Duck and single Red-crested Pochard at Oroklini Marsh, the Tufted Duck at Larnaca Sewage Works, Ruddy Shelduck at Larnaca Sewage Works and Kouklia Dam and Water Rail at 4 different sites.

Site coverage for the December 2015 Waterbird Count

| Site | Observer | Date | Water level |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Phassouri Reed Bed | Martin Hellicar | 24th December 2015 | low |
| Akrotiri Meras, Salt Lake & Lady's Mile | Martin Hellicar | 24th December 2015 | 75% |
| Bishop's Pool | Martin Hellicar | 24th December 2015 | 75% |
| Zakaki Pond | Martin Hellicar | 24th December 2015 | 30% |
| Larnaka Salt Lake | Jane Stylianou | 15th December 2015 | |
| Larnaka Sewage Works | Jane Stylianou | 15th December 2015 | |
| Oroklini Marsh | Martin Hellicar | 24th December 2015 | 50% |
| Achna Dam | Bill Barker | 16th December 2015 | |
| Evretou Dam | Dave & Jan Walker | 15th December 2015 | 58% |
| Kioneli Dam | Martin Hellicar | 11th December 2015 | 70% |
| Kouklia Dam | Martin Hellicar | 11th December 2015 | 50% |
| Mavrokolymbos Dam | Dave & Jan Walker | 15th December 2015 | 45% |
| Kannaviou Dam | Dave & Jan Walker | 15th December 2015 | 50% |
| Manglis Dam | Jane Stylianou | 16th December 2015 | |

December 2015 Site and Species Totals

| WETLAND BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 2015 | Little Grebe | Black-necked Grebe | Cormorant | Cattle Egret | Little Egret | Great White Egret | Grey Heron | Greater Flamingo | White-fronted Goose |
|---|--------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Phassouri Reed Bed | | | | 2 | | | | | |
| Akrotiri Meras, Salt Lake & Lady's Mile | | | | | | | 100 | 7000 | |
| Bishop's Pool | 20 | | | | | | | | |
| Zakaki Pond | 2 | | | | | | 30 | | |
| Larnaka Salt Lake | | | | | | | | 9 | |
| Larnaka Sewage Works | 47 | 13 | 2 | | | | | 219 | 6 |
| Oroklini Marsh | 5 | | | 100 | | | 1 | 45 | |
| Achna Dam | 1 | | 15 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Evretou Dam | | | 2 | | | | 1 | | |
| Kioneli Dam | 1 | | | | | | 2 | | |
| Kouklia Dam | 50 | | | | | | | | |
| Mavrokolymbos Dam | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| Kannaviou Dam | 4 | | 2 | | | 2 | 5 | | |
| Manglis Dam | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | |
| TOTAL | 135 | 13 | 21 | 102 | 1 | 3 | 140 | 7273 | 6 |

| WETLAND BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 2015 | Ruddy Shelduck | Common Shelduck | Wigeon | Teal | Mallard | Gadwall | Pintail | Shoveler | Red-crested Pochard |
|---|----------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|------------|----------|----------|-------------|------------------------|
| Phassouri Reed Bed | | | | | | | | | |
| Akrotiri Meras, Salt Lake & Lady's Mile | | | 2 | | 4 | | 2 | 44 | |
| Bishop's Pool | | | | 60 | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Zakaki Pond | | | | 1 | | | | 4 | |
| Larnaka Salt Lake | | 39 | | 175 | | | | | |
| Larnaka Sewage Works | 2 | 1 | | 493 | 133 | 1 | 1 | 674 | |
| Oroklini Marsh | | | | 330 | 40 | | 5 | 380 | 1 |
| Achna Dam | | | | | | | | | |
| Evretou Dam | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Kioneli Dam | | | | | 5 | | | | |
| Kouklia Dam | 4 | 10 | | 600 | 15 | | | 400 | |
| Mavrokolymbos Dam | | | | | | | | | |
| Kannaviou Dam | | | | | 23 | | | | |
| Manglis Dam | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 6 | 50 | 2 | 1660 | 221 | 1 | 8 | 1503 | 1 |

| WETLAND BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 2015 | Ferruginous Duck | White-headed Duck | Tufted Duck | Marsh Harrier | Hen Harrier | Water Rail | Moorhen | Coot | Lapwing |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | Phassouri Reed Bed | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Akrotiri Meras, Salt Lake & Lady's Mile | | | | | | | | | |
| Bishop's Pool | 11 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 20 | |
| Zakaki Pond | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 6 | |
| Larnaka Salt Lake | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Larnaka Sewage Works | 11 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 6 | 11 |
| Oroklini Marsh | | 3 | | | | | 20 | 50 | 27 |
| Achna Dam | | | | | | | | 4 | |
| Evretou Dam | | | | | | | 1 | 5 | |
| Kioneli Dam | | | | 2 | | | 2 | 45 | |
| Kouklia Dam | | | | 1 | | 3 | 2 | 70 | 1 |
| Mavrokolymbos Dam | | | | | | | | | |
| Kannaviou Dam | 1 | | | | | | | 47 | |
| Manglis Dam | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 23 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 35 | 253 | 39 |

| WETLAND BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 2015 | Spur-winged Lapwing | Golden Plover | Kentish Plover | Ringed Plover | Little Stint | Temminck's Stint | Dunlin | Ruff |
|--|------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|-----------|----------|
| Phassouri Reed Bed | | | | | | | | |
| Akrotiri Meras, Salt Lake & Lady's Mile | | | | | | | | |
| Bishop's Pool | | | | | | | | |
| Zakaki Pond | | | | | | | | |
| Larnaka Salt Lake | 2 | 330 | 168 | 6 | | | | |
| Larnaka Sewage Works | | | | | 15 | | | 1 |
| Oroklini Marsh | 27 | | 1 | 6 | 4 | 1 | | |
| Achna Dam | | | | | | | | |
| Evretou Dam | | | | | | | | |
| Kioneli Dam | | | | | | | | |
| Kouklia Dam | | | | | 15 | | 25 | |
| Mavrokolymbos Dam | | | | | | | | |
| Kannaviou Dam | | | | | | | | |
| Manglis Dam | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 29 | 330 | 169 | 12 | 34 | 1 | 25 | 1 |

| WETLAND BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 2015 | Snipe | Redshank | Marsh Sandpiper | Green Sandpiper | Mediterranean Gull | Black-headed Gull | Heuglin's Gull |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Phassouri Reed Bed | | | | | | | |
| Akrotiri Meras, Salt Lake & Lady's Mile | | 14 | | | | 700 | |
| Bishop's Pool | | | | 2 | | | |
| Zakaki Pond | 1 | | | | | | |
| Larnaka Salt Lake | 5 | 10 | 2 | | 1 | 32 | 2 |
| Larnaka Sewage Works | | | | | 1 | 11 | |
| Oroklini Marsh | 3 | 3 | | | 1 | 65 | |
| Achna Dam | | | | | | | |
| Evretou Dam | | | | | | | |
| Kioneli Dam | 5 | | | | | | |
| Kouklia Dam | 1 | 5 | | | | | |
| Mavrokolymbos Dam | | | | | | | |
| Kannaviou Dam | | | | | | | |
| Manglis Dam | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 15 | 32 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 808 | 2 |

| WETLAND BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 2015 | Yellow-legged Gull | Armenian Gull | Kingfisher | TOTAL | species count |
|---|--------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| Phassouri Reed Bed | | | | 3 | 2 |
| Akrotiri Meras, Salt Lake & Lady's Mile | | 14 | | 7880 | 9 |
| Bishop's Pool | | | | 118 | 9 |
| Zakaki Pond | | | | 56 | 10 |
| Larnaka Salt Lake | 1 | 2 | | 786 | 17 |
| Larnaka Sewage Works | | 1 | | 1651 | 22 |
| Oroklini Marsh | | | | 1118 | 22 |
| Achna Dam | | | | 22 | 5 |
| Evretou Dam | | | | 10 | 5 |
| Kioneli Dam | | | | 62 | 7 |
| Kouklia Dam | | | 1 | 1203 | 16 |
| Mavrokolymbos Dam | | | | 3 | 1 |
| Kannaviou Dam | | | | 84 | 7 |
| Manglis Dam | | | | 3 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 1 | 17 | 1 | 12999 | 45 |



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