

### **BIRDLIFE CYPRUS AUTUMN 2019 RAPTOR MIGRATION COUNT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## What to record regarding birds:

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

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

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

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

# BIRDLIFE CYPRUS AUTUMN 2019 RAPTOR MIGRATION COUNT - FIELD DATA SHEET

DATE:  LOCATION (and observation point):				Πτηνολογικός Σύνδεσμος Κύποου BirdLife Cyprus
OBSERVER(S):				
SURVEY DURATION:	Start time	End time	Total time	_

### **WEATHER:**

Code	Cloud	Rain	Visibility	Temperature	Wind	Wind direction
	cover					
1	0–33%	None	Good	Cool	Calm	Use compass
2	33–66%	Drizzle	Moderate	Warm	Light	points
3	66–100%	Showers	Poor	Hot	Windy	
At start time:						
At half-way point:						
At end:						

Time	Species	Numbers	Observations / Comments

Time	Species	Numbers	Observations / Comments
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Time	Species	Numbers	Observations / Comments

Please return completed forms to:

BirdLife Cyprus Research Coordinator Christina Ieronymidou, PO Box 12026, Nicosia 2340. Email: <a href="mailto:christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy">christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy</a>) Tel: 22 455 072, Fax: 22 455 073

Data gathered by volunteers under BirdLife Cyprus recording schemes, while remaining the property of the person undertaking the survey, can be used by BirdLife Cyprus for the purpose of relevant reports and can be added to the BirdLife Cyprus database of bird records to be used for conservation purposes and may be provided to third parties, always under the terms & conditions of the BirdLife Cyprus data provision and access policy.