



BirdLife Cyprus

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2018



**BirdLife
Cyprus**

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WHO WE ARE

BirdLife Cyprus is a registered, non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) that works to conserve wild birds, their habitats and wider biodiversity, and maintain a healthy environment in which people on the island can prosper alongside nature, in Cyprus, through research, monitoring, lobbying and conservation and awareness-raising actions.

It was formed in 2003 through the merger of two Cyprus Ornithological Societies, and now has offices in Strakka, Nicosia.



© Emma Louise Photography

Our Vision

An island with healthy ecosystems, where people actively safeguard nature for a sustainable future.

Our Mission

Protecting the wild birds of Cyprus, their habitats, and wider biodiversity through monitoring, conservation and education actions, and by developing people's appreciation of nature.



BirdLife Cyprus is the official partner of **BirdLife International** in Cyprus. BirdLife International is the world's largest nature conservation Partnership and is widely recognised as the world leader in bird conservation, with 121 BirdLife Partners worldwide – one per country or territory – and growing. The BirdLife Partnership works locally to deliver high impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.



SAVING SPECIES



Systematic Species Monitoring

Thanks to the dedication of our team of volunteer bird recorders, we continued our systematic bird monitoring work in 2018. More than 30 volunteers, including visitors from abroad, were involved in counts for Common Breeding Birds, nocturnal bird surveys, waterbirds, migrating raptors and other soaring birds, European Rollers, Griffon Vultures and the Audouin's Gull. In total, over 650 surveys were carried out at more than 200 different sites/locations.

The 2018 monitoring effort was funded entirely through BirdLife Cyprus own funds and volunteer generosity.

Monitoring the Griffon Vulture population

During the spring Vulture census, one active nest was identified at the vulture stronghold of Episkopi Cliffs IBA. Also, a pair of vultures that were brought from Crete and released as part of the GYPAS Project during 2013 and 2014 were seen mating at the site of a former colony in the Xeros Valley IBA, though no nest was observed at the second site.

Unfortunately, in December 2018, one vulture was found dead in the Diarizos Valley IBA. With only around 20 vultures left on the island, each death comes at a great cost for the species' survival. We continue to sound the alarm and to push the government authorities to take all necessary measures to combat the illegal killing of our vultures.

Bird Recording

The BirdLife Cyprus Bird Recorder, Jane Stylianou, received more than 70,000 records from local and visiting birders, volunteers, survey workers and BirdLife Cyprus Council members and staff.

No new species were added to the Cyprus list in 2018, although two new races were recorded. We occasionally see races of Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* in Cyprus but for the first time the nominate race was found sitting on wires by the coast at Agios Theodoros outside Larnaca on 10 February. It caused several ID conundrums for local birders until the identity was finally confirmed by expert Swedish ornithologist Lars Svensson. The first European record of the eastern race 'ocularis' of the White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* was found by a visiting birding group at Akrotiri Marsh on 28 March. It remained in the area until mid-April and was seen by many visiting and local birders.

The BirdLife Cyprus Google Group and the BirdLine continued to update local and visiting birders on the latest sightings during the year. The sightings received by the Recorder were collated and published in the Monthly Checklist throughout 2018.



White Wagtail © Filippas Georgiades



Great Grey Shrike © Filippas Georgiades

Bird Ringing

During 2018, BirdLife Cyprus continued running the Cyprus ringing scheme, which is registered with EURING. The majority of the ringing effort occurred in the Pafos area (Polis Chrysochous, Kouklia, Neo Chorio), however ringing activities took place in other places such as Troodos and Machairas, and during the year, 3,418 birds were ringed, and 362 were re-trapped i.e. birds that were ringed on other occasions and were re-caught. There were also three birds controlled in 2018, these are re-trapped birds ringed in other countries. The birds came from: Israel (a Reed Warbler which was caught in Polis Chrysochous), Ukraine (a Kentish Plover was seen in Larnaka) and Czech Republic (a Savi's Warbler which was caught in Neo Chorio).



Common Whitethroat © Michaela Moysi

There were also a few projects that included bird ringing, such as a project targeting Cyprus Wheatears on which geo-locators have been fitted, as well as a project, funded by the Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation, about the breeding species in Cyprus including the endemic species and subspecies.



Campaign against illegal bird trapping

Following the significant reduction in bird trapping in 2017, 2018 showed a further reduction with trapping levels being 90% lower than the levels recorded in 2002 when our monitoring programme began. This positive development is primarily the result of more effective enforcement, by the SBA Police and administration and their adoption of a partnership approach with BirdLife Cyprus, the RSPB, and CABS. This increased enforcement saw trapping levels in the Dhekelia SBA drop by 70% compared to levels recorded in 2017. Covert surveillance jointly by the RSPB and SBA Police continued for the third consecutive year and we believe this has also contributed to the reduction of trapping within the SBAs. In autumn 2018, seven individuals were caught on camera trapping with mistnets (cases still pending).

However, there are three important caveats to the progress achieved during the last year.

1. The number of birds killed due to illegal trapping with mistnets and limesticks within the survey area is estimated at 250,000 with the kill estimate in the SBA area (121,000) still being higher than the republic (84,000), indicating that there is still work to be done within the Bases.
2. An 200% increase in trapping was noted in the Republic compared to 2017 levels, a worrying development.

3. There is zero room for complacency, as the demand for illegally trapped bird delicacies still exists and this illegal market remains lucrative, so any 'let-up' in enforcement would see trapping levels rapidly climb again, as has happened in the past.

On-the-spot fines which were first implemented in June 2017 after the passing of the amendment to the "The Protection and Management of Wild Birds and Game Species" Law, are continuing to be handed out. Up until the beginning of February 2019, 293 fines have been handed out equating to €960,000. However, although more than half the fines have been paid, large fines have generally not been. These cases will be going to court and it remains to be seen if the court will uphold the large fines. The Cyprus Police Anti-poaching Unit, which a few years ago was a highly effective unit, largely halted its enforcement action this year, with only 4 arrests in autumn 2018 compared to 13 and 36 in autumn 2017 and 2016 respectively.

Overall, 2018 was another successful year with another significant reduction in trapping in Cyprus. However, the increase in trapping, compared to autumn 2017, which was noted in the Republic, is worrying and shows that with reduced enforcement, trapping levels can swiftly increase again. We will continue lobbying the authorities to ensure no slide back to higher trapping levels takes place.

Invasive Alien Species

Acacia saligna is an Invasive Alien Species (IAS), native to Australia, which was introduced to Cyprus and was widely planted in the past. It is recognised as probably the most problematic invasive alien plant species on the island. The species is also widely planted by trappers, to create 'runs' for setting illegal mist nets.

BirdLife Cyprus worked together with the RSPB, with the support of BirdLife Europe, to push for the listing of *Acacia saligna* on the List of Invasive Alien Species of the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation 1143/2014. A team of independent academic experts were contracted to prepare a detailed risk analysis for *Acacia saligna* and two external peer reviewers were recruited to review it. This document was submitted to the EU for consideration and the European Commission's Scientific Forum for IAS recommended that *Acacia saligna* be included on the IAS List. Efforts will be made for the recommendation to be heeded by the IAS Regulation Committee and for the species to be added to the IAS List in 2019. The above work was funded by the RSPB.

Awareness raising work to combat illegal bird trapping

Throughout the year, we continued with our education and awareness-raising activities for schools and organised groups. In 2018, over 1000 children and young people had the opportunity to learn about the magical world of birds through our presentations and events.

We also completed a thorough revision of our educational activities, resulting in an improved educational programme to be delivered to schools. The revision included the creation of a new presentation and new interactive educational activities. Furthermore, we have established a collaboration with the Environmental and Educational Centre (ESC) at Kritou Terra (part of Terra Cypria), through which the ESC will be delivering our educational programme in schools in Paphos and Limassol districts. With this cooperation, our educational programme has a Cyprus-wide reach.



With funding from NABU (BirdLife in Germany), we developed 'My Cape Greco Mandala Colouring Book'. This colouring book, produced jointly with artist Melissa Hekkers, aims to raise awareness on Cape Greco and its wildlife by introducing the reader to various species that can be found in the area. BirdLife Cyprus organized two launch events in December 2018 (one at Cape Greco Environmental Education Centre and one in Artos Foundation in Nicosia) to promote this publication.

NABU also funded a second educational animation on the journey of bird migration featuring 'Ulysses the Blackcap'. In this animation, Ulysses is travelling with his son Telemachos, teaching him all about migration, navigation, how to best to prepare for the long journey and the difficulties and dangers ahead. The animation has been promoted on social media and now forms part of our school programme.

BirdLife Cyprus organized various outreach events during 2018, including an event for EuroBirdwatch on the first weekend of October at Athalassa park (Nicosia) with funding from the MAVA Foundation. The event activities included birdwatching, colouring print outs of life-size Flamingos and a birdbath making workshop. This was also the official launch event of the activity booklet, which was distributed to more than 100 participants of the event.



© Silvio A. Rusmigo

Finally, we were successful in winning a LIFE-funded project titled 'LIFE Against Bird Crime' that will be running until February 2022. The project will be coordinated by BirdLife Europe and other involved partners are LIPU (BirdLife Italy), HOS (BirdLife Greece), BIOM (BirdLife Croatia), BirdLife Cyprus and BirdLife International. The project aims to bring the partnership together to address the problem of illegal bird killing on a flyway level, with BirdLife Cyprus being one of the key experts.

BirdLife Cyprus and Cyta team up to give Common Swifts a home

Our efforts to help swifts continued in 2018 with support from Cyta - the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority. The result of our collaboration was 30 new nests for Common Swifts installed at five Cyta buildings in Nicosia, Larnaka and Limassol. The nest boxes are specially designed to attract Common Swifts. The placement of nest boxes was coordinated by BirdLife Cyprus as part of its efforts to conserve the Common Swift population in Cyprus. Cyta, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility programme, has installed the nests on its buildings, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity in our country.

The degradation and loss of biodiversity is happening on a global scale and affects Common Swifts too. The two greatest threats that Common Swifts face are the intensification of agriculture, which results in the reduction of food availability (reduction of insect availability due to pesticide use) and the loss of nesting sites. Unlike Barn Swallows, Common Swifts do not build nests. Instead, they choose to breed in small holes under roofs, tiles or eaves - usually found in old buildings. Such spaces have however become increasingly hard to find, due to the fast-paced modernization of the urban landscape. As their population is decreasing, both in Cyprus and in other parts of the world, the placement of nest boxes has proven to be an effective measure to offset this loss. The nests will be monitored each year to assess the project's success and continuation.





CONSERVING SITES AND HABITATS



Akamas Peninsula in 2018: A Forest Park all about recreation, and a forgotten Natura 2000 site

Developments concerning the protection and management of Akamas Peninsula remained at the centre of our attention. Development pressures brewing during the last three years escalated in 2018, with the finalization and approval by the Ministerial Council of the 'Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Akamas National Forest Park'. Although this Plan proposed some positive measures for the management of the Forest Park, such as controlled access and a 4x4 Park Shuttle Service to minimize the use of private cars, many of its provisions raised serious concerns. These include the creation of 14 'Nodes', providing facilities such as refreshment points, toilets and souvenir stands, some of which are cited in highly sensitive areas for biodiversity, as well as the improvement of 88 km of roads. This Plan, as approved by the Council of Ministers, had not, by the end of 2018, undergone an Appropriate Assessment for its potential impact on the Natura 2000 site, nor a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment,

as required by national and EU Law.

At the same time, and while new constructions are being proposed in Akamas, no effort has been made by the Authorities to remove existing illegal structures. The Local Plans for Akamas and Peyeia, which are being prepared by the Urban Planning Council, and which will decide the kind of development which will be allowed, are still pending, with no concrete progress during 2018.

The environmental NGO coalition for Akamas, of which BirdLife Cyprus is an active member, retained and will continue to retain a united front to fight for the protection and proper management of the Akamas Natura 2000 site. To this end, we participated in a number of consultations and meetings with competent authorities and decision makers and sent position papers on various issues of concern.



Akrotiri Peninsula in 2018: A devastating year for this important wetland complex

Akrotiri Peninsula is arguably the most important site in Cyprus for birds and biodiversity in general. This extensive site comprises the largest complex of wetlands on the island, as well as a mosaic of coastal scrub, dunes, agricultural areas and impressive coastal cliffs that merge to form a unique and complex landscape. Sadly, this important area not only lacks proper management but is also at risk of serious degradation as a result of pressure from development. In 2018, we focused our efforts on lobbying the government to respect and follow appropriate procedures for assessing major projects such as the Casino resort, by participating in meetings with competent authorities, sending position papers and making our voice heard through the press.

In 2018, the proposal for the construction of the largest Photovoltaic Park (20 MW) in Cyprus, within the Akrotiri Important Bird Area remained on the table. Its construction would mean the destruction of a large citrus grove and of valuable habitat for the Red Footed and the Eleonora's Falcons, while the lake-effect threat (i.e. collision risk for birds mistaking Photovoltaic panels' surface for water) cannot be ruled out. The same two species are also threatened by the construction of the huge Casino-Resort, located next to the wetland, and which received the green light from the Authorities in the summer of 2018, through a fast-tracked procedure that violated proper assessment requirements. These new developments come on top of the extensive antennae installation, the already licensed Golf Course Resort north of the wetland, the potential authorization of the demarcation of 80 plots for the construction of villas south of the Casino-Resort, the future port expansion, as well as illegal activities. These include the expansion of Lady's Mile Restaurant parking lots, parking of trailers, off road driving, opportunistic rallying, predation by feral cats, fly-tipping, illegal shooting and many other threats. A Non-Military Development Plan bringing changes in the planning regulations within the Sovereign Base Areas is also looming. Akrotiri Peninsula will remain at the centre of our attention in 2019, as a top priority.



In July 2018, after a very long delay, and following the European Commission's formal request for Cyprus to comply with EU Law, the new Environmental Impact Assessment Law was passed by Parliament.

This new Law harmonizes national legislation with the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2014/52/EU). Most importantly, it highlights the binding nature of the Appropriate Assessment process for Natura 2000 sites. In other words, before any approval, projects and programs must be assessed for possible negative impacts on protected species or habitats and the conclusion of such an assessment is binding. It also establishes a new Committee which is responsible for assessing the potential impact of proposed projects on the environment. This Committee advises the Environment Department, which has the final authority to issue its opinion and retains the right to accept or reject any opinions expressed by the Committee.

BirdLife Cyprus was appointed as a permanent member of this Committee, a position it shares with Terra Cypria. This means that BirdLife Cyprus has an important seat at the table when important issues are being discussed concerning habitats and protected sites in Cyprus.



ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABILITY





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The Barn Owl Project

During 2018, we worked closely with farmers who were interested in using Barn Owls *Tyto alba* to control rodent populations in their fields, instead of using harmful poisons. The logic is simple, Barn Owls feed almost exclusively on rodents. An excellent hunter and a natural rodent predator, the Barn Owl is also easily attracted to nest boxes and can be used as a nature-friendly method to control rodent populations.

Through the Barn Owl project, which is funded by the Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation, we installed around 37 nest boxes for Barn Owls in agricultural areas in Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaka and Paphos district. These nest boxes will be monitored during the 2019 breeding season to record occupancy and breeding activity. In addition, nine nest boxes for Common Kestrels *Falco tinunculus* were installed. Common Kestrels feed on rodents during the day and can work in a complementary way to the Barn Owls for rodent population control.

As part of the project, we also participated in three workshops in Jordan, Israel and Switzerland to increase our knowledge on the Barn Owl method and share experience with partners who implement similar projects abroad. We also hosted a workshop in Cyprus with experts as invited speakers aiming at informing farmers on the benefits of using Barn Owls as a natural pest control for rodents and exchanging knowledge with government bodies that also work with Barn Owls and farmers.

This project builds on the pilot project that started in 2015 with funding from the Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation and is carried out in collaboration with the BirdLife partner in Israel, the University of Lausanne and Greece. As part of the 2018 project, the nests installed in 2015-16 were also monitored. Out of the 24 nest boxes monitored, Barn Owls occupied seven, which is a satisfactory occupancy rate given the various factors that can affect this.

In late 2018, the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Prof Kostas Kadis requested that efforts made by BirdLife and government bodies (Game and Fauna Service, Department of Agriculture, Department of Forests, Veterinary Services) be joined up to form a national action plan on the use of Barn Owls as a natural rodent control agent. As a result, in 2019 BirdLife Cyprus will coordinate the setting-up of a working group that will work towards this aim.

The Cyprus Bycatch Project

A first in the work history of BirdLife Cyprus was to take on a marine related project to study seabirds and their range. Kicking off in early 2018, we began implementing the Cyprus Bycatch Project together with our partners Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre and the Society for the Protection of Turtles (SPOT/University of Exeter). The aim is to understand and mitigate the negative effects of incidental catches ('bycatch') on the status of vulnerable species like dolphins, turtles, sharks and rays and seabirds.

The incidental capture of vulnerable species in fishing gear (also known generically as 'bycatch') is a key conservation issue in the Mediterranean for a number of taxonomic groups, including sea turtles, cetaceans, elasmobranchs, seals and seabirds. Typically, data on this issue has been collected in a haphazard manner, at local scales, and in Cyprus, very little is known on the issue and data has been collected in ways that make comparison between studies difficult. Quantifying the bycatch rate of vulnerable species is particularly complicated given that fisheries do not systematically report these captures, often despite national and international obligations, and observer programs do not cover the entirety of a fleet and are patchy in space and time. Developing and implementing solutions to prevent bycatch remains extremely challenging in the absence of a detailed understanding of the spatial/temporal interaction between fisheries and vulnerable species.

Following a year of data collection from our multi-taxa observers program with a team of trained and dedicated onboard observers both from BirdLife Cyprus and Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre through an at-sea-monitoring survey in September 2018, we are now confident and preparing for our second year of attempting to understand the bycatch problem in small scale and polyvalent fisheries. Our attempts will also focus on implementing mitigation techniques (already trialed on a bigger Mediterranean scale) which will prove helpful to both reduce the number of incidental catches of vulnerable species but also minimize their damaging effects to fishermen's gear.

We believe that the Cyprus Bycatch Project is having a positive effect in the fishing community and is raising awareness in both the aforementioned but also the political scene, to take action on tackling the issue and safeguarding the future of a healthy and sustainable fishing industry.

The Cyprus Bycatch Project is funded by the MAVA Foundation through BirdLife International.



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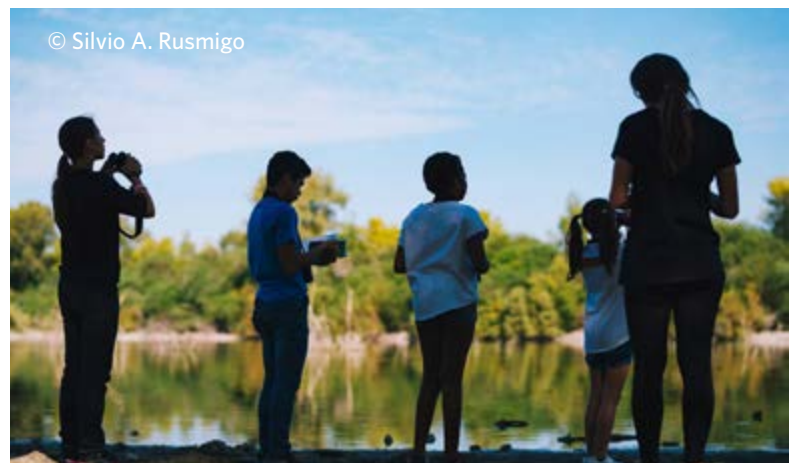


EMPOWERING PEOPLE

Our events

With funding from the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, we were once more present at the UK Birdfair, the biggest wildlife event in the world, to raise awareness about our campaigns and projects as well as promote Cyprus as a birdwatching destination. In 2018, we engaged with over 400 people at the BirdLife Cyprus' stand. Our 2018 presence at the Birdfair was further reinforced by a talk that we gave jointly with the RSPB titled "Bird trapping in Cyprus – the complexities of progress". The talk focused on the positive reduction in bird trapping as a result of the ongoing collaboration between the RSPB, the SBA Police and BirdLife Cyprus. The talk was attended by 90 people.

As every year, we organized and participated in the EuroBirdwatch, the biggest European birdwatching event hosted by 40 national partner organisations of BirdLife International in Europe and Central Asia. Three birdwatching events were organized in Nicosia, Limassol and Paphos which were attended by 105 people. We continued our family birdwatching events, at Athalassa Park and at Oroklini Lake, to introduce both adults and children to the enchanting world of birds and birdwatching. In 2018, we also had the opportunity to organize in collaboration with other groups various nest-box making and bird-bath making workshops.



In collaboration with the NGO Let's Make Cyprus Green, a clean-up event was organized at Zakaki Marsh, Limassol, in November. At the cleanup, a total of 67 people attended and put in their efforts to help clean around the Marsh. In just 3 hours of cleaning, we managed to collect over 160 bags full of trash and recyclable materials. The clean up event was followed by birdwatching at the Zakaki Marsh hide, where BirdLife Cyprus provided binoculars, telescopes and information material.

We also participated in many fairs such as the Annual Environment and Culture Festival and the Street Life Festival in May, the NGO fair in September, the Environmental Youth Festival in October, as well as Christmas fairs such as the Goethe Christmas Fair. Such events provide opportunity to promote our work and inform the public about our projects and activities and also exchange ideas.

BirdLife International

BirdLife Cyprus participated actively in BirdLife International meetings organised during 2018 and in particular the Global Partnership meeting in October 2018 in Belgium. It also responded to consultations and calls for action by BirdLife.

Of particular note was a 3-day workshop that BirdLife Cyprus had the pleasure of organizing and hosting in Nicosia, on behalf of the BirdLife International Partnership. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the launch of the 'Flight for Survival' campaign, funded by the EU's LIFE programme and MAVA Foundation, which aims to raise awareness on the problem of illegal bird killing. Over 40 delegates from BirdLife partners from Europe and the Middle East participated in this workshop.



Our publications

Monthly Checklist: During 2018, we published the Monthly Checklist with the latest bird records and with many articles on bird identification, species to see, which also of course includes all the bird sightings of the previous month. This was sent electronically once a month, to all members.

Quarterly Magazine 'Cyprus Wheatear': We also produced the quarterly magazine 'Cyprus Wheatear' keeping our members updated with the latest news and informed about Cyprus birds.

Electronic newsletter: We sent our monthly e-newsletter to approximately 1,700 newsletter subscribers.

Cyprus Bird Report: We produced the Cyprus Bird Report for 2017, which like every year, includes species charts and tables and a full Cyprus bird list.

Birds of Cyprus Checklist: The Birds of Cyprus Checklist for 2018 was also produced with tables of monthly sightings and yearly occurrences for 2012 - 2017.

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

Income (€)	2018
Contribution from A. P. Leventis Conservation Foundation	163,000
Income from projects	170,290
Income from services rendered	600
Income from workshops	15,549
Subscriptions from members	11,036
Subsidies	56,820
Other income	11,012
Total	428,307
Expenditure (€)	
Payroll cost	246,786
Office administration expenses	39,979
Other direct expenses	14,698
Project costs	79,580
Costs of services rendered	11,820
Third party services	9,691
Printing and publications	9,119
Transportation and travelling expenses	14,463
Obsolete and free stock	421
Diminution in value of shares	817
Finance cost	1,610
Purchase of bird rings	976
Total (€)	429,961
(Deficit) Surplus for the year (€)	(1,654)



Governance

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting took place on 18 March 2018, at the Akrotiri Environmental Education Center in Limassol, with 54 members attending. At the AGM, there was a report on activities for 2017 and a presentation of the Audited Statements for 2017, and a presentation of the workplan and budget for 2018. These were approved by the members.

During the AGM in 2018 there were elections for a new Council of BirdLife Cyprus, as per the Constitution, as the previous Council's term came to an end.

Council

The BirdLife Cyprus Council met four times during 2018. The new Council members following the elections at the March 2018 AGM are as follows:

Melis Charalambides, Chairman
Dave Walker, Vice Chairman
Stavros Christodoulides, Secretary
Christakis Charalambides, Treasurer
Loria Phylakti, Member / Social Secretary
Jane Stylianou, Bird Recorder
Victor Tjernberg, Ringing and Field Trips Officer
Constantinos Konis, Projects and Funding Officer

Staff

The BirdLife Cyprus staff during 2018 were as follows:

Martin Hellicar, Director
Christina Ieronymidou, Monitoring and Research Coordinator
Melpo Apostolidou, Project Coordinator
Tassos Shialis, Campaigns Coordinator
Natalie Stylianou, Campaign Officer against Illegal Bird Killing (until December 2018)
Elena Markitani, Development Officer
Filio Iouliauou, Natura 2000 Officer (until late summer 2018)
Vasiliki Anastasi, Nature Policy Officer (from September 2018)
Markos Charalambides, Research Assistant
Myria Achilleos, Accountant
Romina Constantinou, Secretary

Acknowledging our Donors and Supporters

A number of people have helped BirdLife Cyprus during the year through their voluntary work.

First and foremost the members of the Council with their hard work, offering their time and experience to BirdLife Cyprus. BirdLife Cyprus depends a lot on volunteers, who give their time and expertise generously, and participate in the numerous surveys BirdLife Cyprus organises and help in events. A big thank you is due to them.

The BirdLife Cyprus Recorder is also a volunteer. Jane Stylianou has worked tirelessly producing the Monthly Checklist, the Annual Checklist and the Annual Bird Report. A big thank you to her for her dedication and hard work.

The work carried out during 2018, could not have been carried out without the valuable and fundamental support from our donors.

The following were the main BirdLife Cyprus donors during 2018:

- Our President Mr. Tassos Leventis whose funding comes through the Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation and contributes to our office core funding. Mr Leventis is acknowledged also for his invaluable general support and guidance to BirdLife Cyprus.
- The RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds / BirdLife in the UK)
- NABU (BirdLife in Germany)
- The EU's LIFE programme, for funding LIFE Against Bird Crime
- The MAVA Foundation, through BirdLife International for funding the Cyprus Bycatch Project
- The Oak Foundation for funding various awareness raising actions under the anti-trapping awareness campaign, including the covert surveillance work
- The A.G. Leventis Foundation for their annual donation
- The Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO) for funding part of our participation in the British Birdwatching Fair
- Cyta for funding the placement of nest boxes for Swifts on their buildings
- The Human Resources Development Authority
- Our members (in Cyprus and abroad) through the subscriptions
- Our work would not have been possible without the support from our members who add strength to our voice and help us reach our vision. Heartfelt thanks go to them for their ongoing support.





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