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Important Bird Areas *of Cyprus*



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BirdLife Cyprus is a registered non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) that works to conserve wild birds, their habitats and wider biodiversity in Cyprus, through research, monitoring, lobbying, 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. It is the national Partner of BirdLife International, a global Partnership of nature conservation organisations working in more than 100 countries worldwide.

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BirdLife Cyprus

Important Bird Areas *of Cyprus*

Hellicar, M.A., Anastasi, V., Beton, D. & Snape, R.

*With a Birdwatching Guide to the IBAs of Cyprus
by Jane Stylianou*





Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
SILVIO AUGUSTO RUSMIGO

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FOREWORD

ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONER

Mrs Ioanna Panagiotou



As Environment Commissioner, I am very aware - as we all must be - of the importance of biodiversity and its conservation. Biodiversity is increasingly under threat, while at the same time we are becoming increasingly aware of its crucial role in keeping our environment healthy. We need biodiversity for the maintenance of the ecosystem services that are essential for long-term human well-being - including clean water provision, soil protection, erosion control, pollination and many others. I am also aware of the amazing wealth of wild birds we have on our island. Some of these are breeding species, including our unique endemics, the Cyprus Wheatear and Cyprus Warbler. Many more are 'visitor' birds that we play host to, both on their migration travels in spring and autumn and also during the winter months. Some of these visitors, such as Flamingos, are quite well known; others, such as Red-footed Falcons, are not so well known to most people. But all are important, and many occur in Cyprus in numbers that are of significance on a pan-European or even a global level. This means we have an important role to play in their protection. It therefore gives me much pleasure and satisfaction to welcome this report by BirdLife Cyprus on the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of our island. This updated Inventory of 34 sites, including forests, wetlands, coastal and farmland areas, covers all the key areas for both breeding and visiting birds and can act as an invaluable conservation instrument for Cyprus. The fact that these sites are defined on the basis of clear criteria well-recognised across the world, lends extra certainty and validity to this Inventory. I note with satisfaction that most of these IBAs already enjoy legal protection as Special Protection Areas, that is to say Natura 2000 sites for birds. This is vital, but does not represent an end in itself - these sites and the habitats they hold must now be managed to ensure they are in a condition that allows the key bird populations they support to continue to flourish. And looking after these precious sites is not just a job for governments and non-governmental organisations like BirdLife Cyprus. It is also something that the general public and local communities can and should be involved in. I am pleased to note therefore, that BirdLife Cyprus is launching a ground-breaking initiative to set up an IBA 'Caretakers' Network, as detailed in this book. I hope this IBA Inventory will be utilised for the long-term protection of birds and their habitats in Cyprus, so that future generations can enjoy a healthy and living countryside, with waterbirds on our Salt Lakes, Griffon Vultures on our sea-cliffs, songbirds in our scrublands and forests and eagles and falcons in our skies!

BIRDLIFE CYPRUS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Mr Melis Charalambides



Fourteen years have passed since the second BirdLife International IBA Inventory was published, which included 16 important sites for the conservation of birds in Cyprus. As the author of the Cyprus chapter of the 2000 IBA publication, I am moved to be holding this book today, detailing the latest update of the Cyprus IBA inventory, with 34 sites included. This revised inventory bears witness to years of hard work and dedication to preserve these invaluable sites. So much has happened since 2000. BirdLife Cyprus was formed, in 2003, through the merger of the two Cyprus Ornithological Societies, was subsequently awarded BirdLife International full partner status and has already celebrated its 10-year anniversary. Cyprus entered the EU in 2004, and the third Cyprus IBA Inventory (Iezekiel, Makris & Antoniou, 2004), published that same year, succeeded in aiding the Cyprus government in establishing a network of Special Protection Areas, Natura 2000 sites for birds. This represented a huge step forward for bird conservation in Cyprus. Today, thanks to the increasing availability of good data on the distribution and abundance of our birds, the fully revised, fourth revision of the IBA Inventory for Cyprus can claim to be the most complete to date. This new IBA inventory demonstrates once more BirdLife Cyprus' commitment to ensuring that the most important sites for birds are recognised and enjoy legal protection and proper management on the ground. As the author of the 2000 IBA inventory, I know how much work is needed for the completion of such a task, so I want to thank the BirdLife Cyprus office team for the work that went into the revised inventory, and especially Martin Hellicar and Vasiliki Anastasi, the lead authors. Mention must also be made here of the cooperation we enjoyed with the Turkish Cypriot Bird Protection Society, KUŞKOR, in putting this inventory together. I mention especially Damla Beton, Robin Snape and former KUŞKOR chairman Martin Marancos. As the threat analysis for each site clearly shows, sympathetic management is by no means guaranteed, so it is reassuring to know that the publication of this book is a key part of setting up a network of IBA 'Caretakers' to keep an eye on these sites, helping ensure the multiple threats can be kept at bay. Finally, I am delighted to see that the joy of birdwatching has not been left out of this new IBA book. Jane Stylianou helps bring the 34 IBA sites to life with great suggestions for birding days out in these wonderful areas. I hope and believe this inventory will play a key part in ensuring the protection of these wonderful sites for decades to come.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The revision of the Cyprus IBA Inventory was in many ways both a collaborative and a collective effort and the authors and BirdLife Cyprus are grateful to all who contributed. This IBA revision could not have been achieved without the contribution of local bird experts, who provided data and knowledge to enable a rigorous updating to be undertaken.

The Cyprus Interior Ministry's Game and Fauna Service – the responsible body for bird conservation in Cyprus – deserves special mention in this context. Game and Fauna Service Officers Nicolaos Kassinis and Panicos Panayides made substantial and valuable contributions to the revision process. Officers Haris Nicolaou and Minas Papadopoulos of the Department of Forests also made useful contributions.

From within the ranks of BirdLife Cyprus, a special thanks to Chairman Melis Charalambides (the author of the 2000 IBA Inventory) for support and encouragement, but also to Director Dr Claire Papazoglou, for support and reviewing and for contributing many hours of relevant field work. BirdLife Cyprus Council Secretary Stavros Christodoulides, the current and former Recorders, Jane Stylianou and Colin Richardson, plus former Research Officer Michael Miltiadou also deserve mention for their contributions, while Christodoulos Makris (one of the authors of the 2004 IBA) also contributed with expert opinion. The work – both published and not – of ornithologists Professor Derek Pomeroy and Dr Christina Ieronymidou contributed significantly to the IBA revision.

Thanks must also go to KUŞKOR, the Turkish Cypriot Bird Protection Society, which worked as a partner with BirdLife Cyprus on the EC-funded project for the revision of Cyprus IBAs in 2010-2011. Former KUŞKOR chairman Martin Marancos deserves special mention for his dedication to the revision effort, while Dr Wayne Fuller and Asuman Korukoglu contributed much, including extensive field work effort.

A big thank you to the birdwatching community of Cyprus, whose interest and dedication provided a large proportion of the data used to carry out the assessment needed to arrive at the revised list of IBAs. Many local birdwatchers – on both sides of the UN-controlled buffer zone - also made substantial contributions by participating in targeted surveys aimed at providing data for the new IBA inventory.

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Particular thanks are due to Dr Ian Burfield, Global Science Coordinator at BirdLife International, for indispensable support throughout the IBA revision process. Dr Burfield acted as 'IBA policeman', providing regular guidance and advice and painstakingly and rigorously checking all our analyses against IBA criteria.

Thanks must also go to Claire Papazoglou and Margaret Hellicar for proofreading this publication in detail and for providing suggestions for important improvements.

The European Commission, through a Europe-Aid project, provided financial support through a two-year (2010-11) bi-communal project entitled 'All-Island IBA Revision Project', undertaken in cooperation between KUŞKOR and BirdLife Cyprus, which covered the extensive field work needed for producing all this data used for the IBACareCY Project which started in 2014.

Finally, we would like to thank the EEA Grants for funding the publication of this book under the IBACareCY Project for the development of a network of IBA Caretakers in Cyprus (2014-2015).

INTRODUCTION

CYPRUS' ORNITHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Cyprus is an important island for birds on both a European and a global scale. Over 400 species of birds have been recorded in Cyprus, which is a corridor linking Africa, Europe and the Middle East. It is host to two endemic species that breed nowhere else, the Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and the Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*). Cyprus also has four endemic sub-species, mostly confined to the forests of the Troodos range: Cyprus Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla dorothea*), Cyprus Coal Tit (*Parus ater cypriotes*), Cyprus Jay (*Garrulus glandarius glaszneryi*) and Cyprus Scops Owl (*Otus scops cyprius*). Cyprus also hosts an important proportion of the European breeding populations of certain species, notably: Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*), Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*), Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*), Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) and Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*). But Cyprus is not just important for breeding birds. It lies along one of the major flyways between European breeding grounds and wintering areas in Africa and the Middle East for many species of migratory birds. Millions of birds use the island as a stop-over point during both spring and autumn migration, among them significant numbers of raptors and of some species of global conservation concern, such as Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) and Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*). Finally, Cyprus has some important sites for wintering waterbirds, including significant numbers of species such as Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) and Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*).

THE IBA PROGRAMME

The BirdLife International Important Bird Area (IBA) Programme aims to identify the key sites for bird conservation across the globe utilizing standardised and scientifically rigorous criteria, with the aim of securing the protection and sympathetic management of these sites, for the benefit of birds, wider biodiversity and people.

More specifically, the BirdLife International criteria used to identify IBAs are:

- Sites important for species of global conservation concern (criteria A1, C1),
- Sites that regularly hold 1% or more of global (criterion A4i/ii/iii) or European (criteria B1i/ii/iii, C2, C3) flyway populations of one or more species,
- Sites where birds congregate in important numbers on passage migration or for wintering (criteria B1iv, C4, C5),
- Important breeding sites for species of conservation concern in Europe (criteria B2, C6) or for species whose populations are concentrated in Europe (criterion B3),
- Sites important for endemic species or species that are confined to a particular biome (criteria A2 and A3 respectively),

- Sites that have been designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) based on other ornithological criteria (similar, but not equal to IBA criteria C1-C6) in recognised use for identifying SPAs (criterion C7).

THE IBA PROGRAMME IN CYPRUS

BirdLife Cyprus, as the partner organisation of BirdLife International on the island, has as one of its principal aims to ensure the protection of the key sites for birds on the island, thereby helping to conserve birds and other biodiversity.

The BirdLife Cyprus revision of the IBA Inventory for Cyprus presented here documents the 34 priority sites for bird conservation across the entire island. The revised Cyprus IBA Inventory was compiled following BirdLife International's IBA criteria and represents a key instrument for bird conservation in Cyprus.

This revision of the IBA Inventory is the updated successor to earlier Inventories (Iezekiel, Makris, & Antoniou, 2004; Charalambides in Heath and Evans, 2000; Bennett in Grimmett and Jones, 1989). While the periodic updating of IBA inventories is in any case good practice, in the case of Cyprus an additional driver for this revision was the desire to achieve a more comprehensive coverage of the area north of the UN-controlled buffer zone. Another significant factor was the increased availability of relevant data on bird numbers and distribution, in large part due to data made available by the Cyprus Game and Fauna Service – the authority responsible for implementation of the EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm) in Cyprus. Improved coverage of Cyprus north of the UN-controlled buffer zone in this revised IBA inventory was achieved thanks to close cooperation for field work with the Turkish Cypriot Bird Protection Society, KUŞKOR, under a relevant two-year EC-funded project, which ran from 2010-2011. The EC-funded project was coordinated by Martin Hellicar of BirdLife Cyprus, while the other project team members were Damla Beton and Robin Snape of KUŞKOR and Vasiliki Anastasi of BirdLife Cyprus.

This revised Inventory is the first done for Cyprus on the basis of the three levels of BirdLife International IBA criteria: Global (A criteria), Regional (B criteria) and European Union (C criteria). The majority of the 34 IBAs in the updated Cyprus IBA Inventory qualify under a combination of A, B and C criteria. Achieving this identification involved a rigorous and exhaustive 3-year assessment period (2010-12) involving extensive field work across Cyprus and analysis of all available data. BirdLife Cyprus and KUŞKOR staff undertook systematic surveys and organised a team of volunteers to participate in this survey work, which took place on both sides of the UN-controlled buffer zone. A number of volunteer training workshops were organised in order to lay the groundwork for the field work, which involved line transects, point counts, driven surveys, nocturnal surveys, waterbird counts, migrant raptor counts and some more targeted species-specific surveys (such as boat counts for *Larus audouinii* on Kleides islands). The field work focused on candidate IBA areas, which were identified on the basis of analysis of

existing data up to 2012 and consultations with experts. The IBA revision process was overseen by a Steering Committee made up of experts from BirdLife Cyprus and KUŞKOR, which met in February, May, July and October of 2010 and in January and July of 2011. Expert input was a key aspect of the IBA revision process, with key individuals both within and outside relevant government departments being asked for input on the distributions and populations of IBA qualifying species. The experts were interviewed individually and were involved in every stage of the revision process, including relevant workshops held in July, August, September and October 2012 and in September and October 2013, where the experts were invited to comment on draft versions of the new IBA inventory, with their views considered carefully before the IBA list was finalised. A key expert and advisor throughout this revision process was BirdLife International, and specifically Global Science Coordinator Dr Ian Burfield, who was at the time Research and Data Manager at BirdLife International.

This process resulted in a revised Inventory that includes all the sites covered in the 2004 inventory plus 15 new sites that were not included in the 2004 inventory. This revised IBA Inventory can claim to be the most comprehensive, geographically complete and up-to-date catalogue of its sort for Cyprus. The thorough and exhaustive analyses carried out to arrive at the new catalogue of 34 Cyprus IBAs allows BirdLife Cyprus to be satisfied that the most crucial sites for bird conservation have been correctly identified and included in the current inventory. Where an element of uncertainty remains, this concerns exact numbers for a minority of species (concerning breeding population ranges or numbers occurring) at some sites. Where these uncertainties exist, numbers are reported as provisional in brackets in this publication. Though the level of uncertainty is certainly not high enough to undermine the validity of IBA site identification, these gaps need to be filled through ongoing monitoring effort at IBAs and beyond, not least in order to aid management actions.

LEGAL PROTECTION

Effective bird conservation action in Cyprus can make a significant contribution to wider regional and global efforts to halt biodiversity loss. As an EU Member State, Cyprus is party to and has an obligation to play its part in meeting relevant targets enshrined in international agreements, such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2010) and the EU Biodiversity Strategy (European Commission, 2011) as well as to fully implement the EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC and Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm; http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm). But bird conservation is of course also important on a local scale for the maintenance and enhancement of the island's ecosystems, with biodiversity protection contributing to both the functionality and resilience of these life-supporting systems in the longterm.

As with all IBA Inventories approved by BirdLife International, the particular, practical conservation relevance of the new Cyprus IBA list rests in its legally recognised relationship with key provisions of the EU Birds Directive. The Birds Directive is a legal instrument for

bird conservation that applies to all EU Member States. Among other measures, the Directive requires the creation and proper management of a coherent network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for almost 200 bird species, subspecies or populations that are considered most in need of conservation action in Europe, as well as for all other migratory bird species, especially waterbirds, and for all wetlands of international importance known as Ramsar Sites (The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 1971). Along with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive, SPAs form the Natura 2000 network of protected areas.

The means by which BirdLife identifies IBAs in the EU is directly relevant in this context, as the selection criteria for IBAs at EU level (C criteria) were deliberately aligned with SPA selection criteria. As a result, the value of BirdLife's IBA Inventory as a 'shadow list' of SPAs has repeatedly been recognised by the European Court of Justice and the European Commission in a series of cases brought against Member States for failure to designate sufficient SPAs. This has helped to bring about a dramatic increase in the total area of IBAs designated as SPAs across the EU, from 23% in 1993 to 67% in 2013 (BirdLife International, 2013). This increase is even more impressive considering that the total number of IBAs has doubled over the same period as the EU has expanded. However, one third of the total land area of IBAs in the EU remains undesignated.

In Cyprus, the BirdLife Cyprus 2004 IBA inventory proved an invaluable tool in helping secure legal protection of key sites, through their designation as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the EU Birds Directive and inclusion in the Natura 2000 network of sites protected for nature across the EU. All the IBAs in the new inventory are designated as SPAs in the areas of the island under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, though at the time of writing some SPA sites are significantly smaller in extent than the equivalent IBAs – notably the 'Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini – Agia Paraskevi Gorges' IBA. In 1974 the Turkish army invaded Cyprus and occupied almost 40% of the island. This divided the island in two, with the internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus to the south and the break-away 'Turkish Republic of North Cyprus' to the north, recognised only by Turkey. A UN-controlled buffer zone lies between the area controlled by the Republic and the northern part of Cyprus. In areas of Cyprus north of the UN-controlled buffer zone the application of the *acquis communautaire* is postponed according to Protocol 10 of the Accession Treaty of Cyprus (2003), and thus SPA designation is not currently possible. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union is not applied in areas that fall under the jurisdiction of the British Sovereign Base Areas, according to Protocol 3 of the Accession Treaty of Cyprus (2003), unless necessary and to the extent necessary in order to ensure the application of arrangements defined in the Protocol, but SPA-equivalent sites are designated in the Bases under the British Sovereign Base Areas Administration's Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance (26/2007) which broadly mirrors the Republic of Cyprus' wildlife and nature legislation, i.e. laws 152(I)/2003 and 153(I)/2003 (<http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environment.nsf/All/3E05B63E28C38920C22578D10024582A?OpenDocument>), implementing the

provisions of the EU Nature Directives

This revised Inventory acts to reinforce the importance of sites identified in previous IBA inventories, to update population data for qualifying species and also to add new and previously overlooked sites to the list. This revision aims to both support proper management of existing SPAs and to catalyse the expansion of existing SPA boundaries where needed (and the designation of further SPAs, even though the political situation in Cyprus does not allow this at present).

IBA MONITORING

Effective conservation action is impossible without reliable information. IBA monitoring is necessary in order to develop a better understanding of the state in which these important sites are, to detect the threats they face and to be able to act on time, as well as to assess the progress made towards protecting them, or the lack thereof. Monitoring helps also to expand and update the data for a site, and also provides a broader understanding of the activities that take place in IBAs on a national level.

Monitoring has been deeply embedded in BirdLife Cyprus' areas of action since its formation in 2003 and it is one of its top priorities in its Strategy for 2013-2020. Inspired by similar examples from other BirdLife International Partners, BirdLife Cyprus envisioned the enrichment of its ongoing monitoring action, expanding it from monitoring species to monitoring sites, through the establishment of a network of volunteers who would become the watchdogs of the island's most important areas for birds.

The IBACareCY Project for the "Development of a Network of Important Bird Area (IBA) Caretakers in Cyprus" (EEA/CY03/2.23 April 2014 – April 2015), generously funded by the EEA Grants, embodies BirdLife Cyprus' vision for site monitoring and protection. The main objective of the project is to implement BirdLife Cyprus' IBA Caretakers Strategy through the establishment of a network of volunteers for the 34 IBAs in Cyprus. This network of volunteers will play an active role in the protection of those important sites for biodiversity, through monitoring the site threats, the birds and taking action for their protection and promoting their importance. The network will be called the 'IBA Caretakers Network' and will be established for the first time in Cyprus, although it is quite widely established in other European and non-European countries, as part of the BirdLife International Strategy.

Through this project BirdLife Cyprus aims to attract and motivate active citizens or groups with an enthusiasm in protecting nature and to provide them with the necessary materials, essential information and training to become IBA Caretakers. These volunteers will ideally be locals, living close to the IBAs. By becoming IBA Caretakers, people concerned about nature near where they live will be able to channel their concern in a dynamic, constructive and empowering way.

ANALYSIS BY SITES

INTRODUCTION TO THE SITES

The updated IBA Inventory as confirmed by BirdLife International includes a total of **34 sites, covering 310,022 hectares** (ha) of wetlands, forest, scrub and farmland habitats both inland and in coastal areas and peninsulas, ranging from sea-level to the highest peaks of the Troodos range. Of the 310,022ha, 295,881ha are terrestrial and 14,141ha marine. These sites are of key importance for the conservation of a total of 44 individual species and three species groups or assemblages, namely migrant raptors, wintering waterfowl and characteristic species of the Mediterranean Scrub Biome. The species covered occur in Cyprus in numbers that are of importance on an EU, Regional (European) or Global scale, or a combination thereof. They are predominantly species considered to be of priority for conservation action within the EU (those listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive), but also include additional passage migrant and wintering species, plus species of regional importance that are not Annex I species (Species of European Conservation Concern (SPEC species) as defined by BirdLife International). Special mention should be made of the identification of 18 IBAs that are key for one or more of eight species of global conservation concern that occur in Cyprus regularly. Also noteworthy are the 23 sites important for the two Cyprus endemics, Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*), including nine IBAs that are Endemic Bird Area sites.

The IBA sites included in the updated IBA Inventory are **presented by district** following the Local Administrative Unit (LAU level 1) system used by Eurostat (<http://epp.eurostat.ec>), and within each district they follow an order relevant to their size, from the larger to the smaller sites. Because some IBAs span more than one district, each site's central point has been chosen to define the district under which it comes in the order.

Additional details are presented which include the **IBA national code, location, district, size and the criteria met for each site** as well as a **small map** depicting where the IBA is with respect to the whole island. A **summary** exists for each site as well as their **history as IBAs**. In each site analysis of the **protection status** of the IBA is included, as a percentage of the IBA covered by a protection status. The protection statuses include designation as an SPA or SPA-equivalent, coverage by Wildlife Conservation Areas (either permanent or temporary) as classified by the Game and Fauna Service, where hunting is prohibited according to the law, and Ramsar Wetland of International Importance designation. For sites north of the UN-controlled buffer zone which are in areas of Cyprus where the *acquis communautaire* is postponed according to Protocol 10 of the Accession Treaty of Cyprus, the n/a acronym is used as these sites cannot currently be designated as SPAs. A table referring to **qualifying species and threshold numbers for criteria and population estimates**, lists threshold numbers and population estimates either as 'p' referring to pairs, or as 'i' referring to individuals and mentions

whether these estimates are reached during the breeding season (**B**), spring passage (**S**), migration (**M**) or during the winter (**W**). Threshold numbers for each qualifying species should be met regularly and could be met cumulatively (over a season). Where uncertainties exist, population estimates are reported as provisional and are presented in brackets. Regarding the A2 Criterion, where this is met the IBA is defined as a site holding a significant component of the populations of the two endemic species that define Cyprus as an Endemic Bird Area. Regarding the A3 Criterion, where this is met the IBA is defined as a site holding a significant component of the group of species whose distributions are largely or wholly confined to the Mediterranean scrub biome. Relevant A3 criterion species for Cyprus are the following: Eleonora's Falcon (*Falco eleonora*), Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*), Spectacled Warbler (*Sylvia conspicillata*), Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*), Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*), Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*), and Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*). IBAs meeting the A3 criterion are scrub-dominated sites (with significant areas of phrygana, garrigue and/or maquis vegetation) that hold significant populations of at least four of the above-mentioned species.

Additional to the table of the qualifying species for each IBA, **a list of additional, non-qualifying species** is included. This list aims to provide a more complete picture of the bird community at the IBA sites and to cover species that are important at a local level. The additional species list includes both breeding and non-breeding species and consists of:

- i. IBA qualifying species for Cyprus that occur regularly at the site in question, but not in sufficient numbers to trigger IBA qualification
- ii. Birds Directive Annex I species that are not IBA qualifying species for Cyprus (do not occur in sufficient numbers on the island) but do occur regularly at the site, and
- iii. Rare or localised breeding species for Cyprus (including endemic sub-species), such as *Bubulcus ibis*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Sterna albifrons*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Motacilla flava feldegg*, *Turdus merula*, *Monticola solitarius*, *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*, *Garrulus glandarius glaszneri*, *Corvus corax* and *Loxia curvirostra*

The **land uses** are summarised for each IBA based on the Corine Land Cover land use types (European Environment Agency, 2010) and the Standard Data Forms produced by the Republic of Cyprus, which contain site information for Natura 2000 sites. **Threats** that each site is facing are also detailed for each IBA.

Finally a map of each IBA is included in each site account showing:

 The IBA boundaries of each site as confirmed by BirdLife International

 The towns

 The most prominent villages in and around the site


 Named places of interest


 Forests

 Capes

 Wetlands

 Water bodies such as dams

 Water treatment plants

 Main rivers and streams

 Airports

 Ports

 Highways

 British Sovereign Base Areas


 UN-controlled buffer zone

The sites are layered over the Corine Land Cover of 2006 (European Environment Agency, 2010) showing land use type as per the following:

 Artificial surfaces

 Agricultural Areas

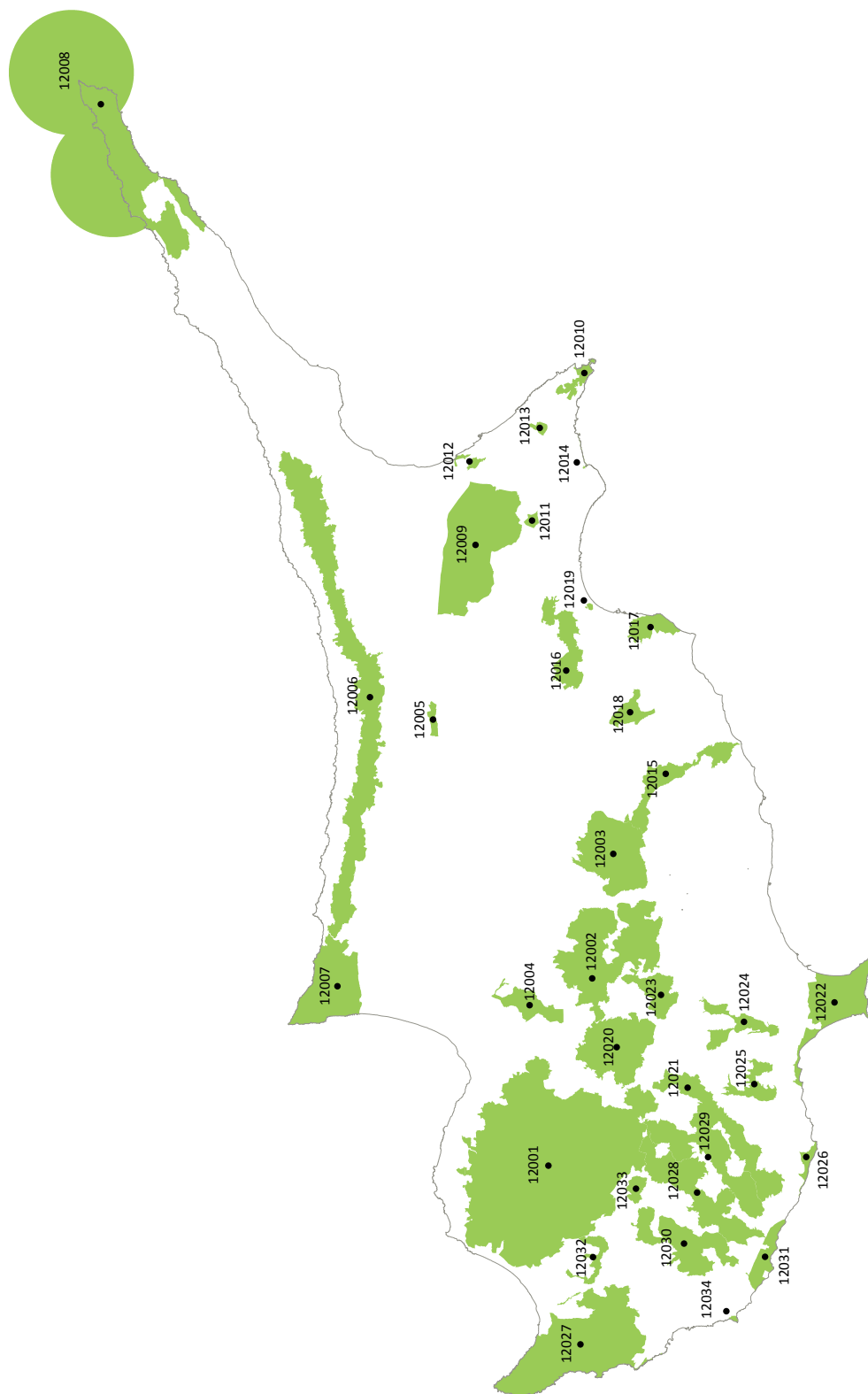
 Forest and seminatural areas

 Wetlands

 Water bodies

THE 34 IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS OF CYPRUS

12001	Pafos Forest
12002	Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsa
12003	Mahairas Forest - Tzionia
12004	Atsas - Agios Theodoros Area
12005	Mia Milia Sewage Treatment Plant
12006	Pentadaktylos Mountains
12007	Kormakitis Peninsula
12008	Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands
12009	Mesaoria Plain
12010	Cape Greco
12011	Akhna Dam
12012	Famagusta Lakes
12013	Paralimni Lake
12014	Agia Thekla - Liopetri River
12015	Pentashoinos River
12016	Koshi - Pallourokampos and Troulloi Plain
12017	Larnaca Salt Lakes
12018	Panagia Stazousa River
12019	Oroklini Lake
12020	Troodos Forest
12021	Cha Potami River
12022	Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs
12023	Xylourikos Valley
12024	Limnatis Valley
12025	Paramali River and Plateau
12026	Cape Aspro
12027	Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges
12028	Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs
12029	Diarizos Valley
12030	Ezousa Valley and Cliffs
12031	Pafos Plain
12032	Saramas Valley
12033	Vouni Panagias
12034	Kato Pafos Lighthouse Area







Nicosia *District*

Pafos Forest

Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsia

Mahairas Forest - Tzionia

Atsas - Agios Theodoros Area

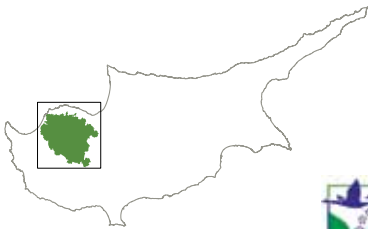
Mia Milia Sewage Treatment Plant



NICOSIA District

12001

Pafos Forest



NATIONAL CODE: 12001

LOCATION: 35° 1.697'N 32° 40.413'E

DISTRICT: Nicosia, Pafos, Limassol

IBA CRITERIA: A2, B2, B3, C2, C6

TOTAL AREA: 64185 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 64185 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

A relatively remote and un-spoilt mountain site at the western end of the Troodos range and with peaks rising to 1,352m, 'Pafos Forest' IBA is the largest and one of the most important IBAs in Cyprus. This site hosts the biggest breeding populations of all nine of the IBA qualifying species that are largely confined to forest sites, namely Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*), Cyprus Coal Tit (*Parus ater cypriotes*), Cyprus Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla dorothea*), Cyprus Scops Owl (*Otus scops cyprius*), Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*), Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) and Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*). The site is an Endemic Bird Area, hosting a large population of Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*). In addition to this impressive list of qualifying species, the site is among the few sites with breeding Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*) and Crag Martins (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) in Cyprus. It is also important for other rare breeding species such as Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) and is the only site where Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) has been recorded breeding in Cyprus.



Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*
ANASTASIOS P. LEVENTIS

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
✓	✓	✓	✓
First identified as an IBA	Updated	Updated	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area ‘CY2000006’ designated in 2005	94
Permanent Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	87

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area		5000	8000	p	B
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites					
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area		4000	7000	p	B
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites					
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	C2	10 p	B	10	12	p	B
	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites					
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		(500)	(900)	p	B
	B2	Top breeding site					
<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		500	2000	p	B
	B2	Among top 10 breeding sites					
<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		(500)	(1500)	p	B
	B3	Among top 10 breeding sites					
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		250	750	p	B
<i>Parus ater cyprites</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		15000	30000	p	B
<i>Certhia brachydactyla dorothea</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		2000	4000	p	B
<i>Otus scops cyprius</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		1200	3500	p	B

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Accipiter gentilis*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Aquila heliaca* (former breeder – species now extinct in Cyprus), *Alectoris chukar*, *Athene noctua*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*, *Turdus merula*, *Garrulus glandarius glaszneri*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Sylvia rueppelli*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site is dominated almost in its entirety by coniferous forest, with Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia*) being the most dominant species. A unique Cedar forest (*Cedrus brevifolia*) on Trypilos peak and significant areas of Golden Oak (*Quercus alnifolia*) scrub exist at the site, as well as rock screes and phrygana on lower slopes.

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity in the majority of its extent. The greatest threat to the site is posed by fire and fire prevention practices, the latter linked to direct habitat fragmentation as a result of the creation and maintenance of fire breaks. This infrastructure significantly increases access, including for poachers, and increases the accidental fire risk. These threats are also linked to the high density of the road network within the forest, especially for small forest nesting birds like the IBA qualifying Masked Shrike and the Cyprus Coal Tit. The operation of logging sites and quarries also cause habitat loss and disturbance to the site, and proposals for further quarrying developments cause additional risks. Proposals for energy production developments and specifically the construction of wind farms on the boundaries of the site could potentially pose a direct bird mortality threat, especially with regard to raptors like the IBA qualifying Bonelli's Eagle. Spraying of insecticides in the streams of the forest is also a potential threat to birds at the site. The status of almost the entire site as a 'permanent wildlife conservation area', where hunting and hunting dog training is banned, is positive, as it reduces disturbance.





NICOSIA District

12002

Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsia



NATIONAL CODE: 12002

LOCATION: 34° 56.565'N 33° 3.090'E

DISTRICT: Nicosia, Limassol

IBA CRITERIA: A2, A3, B2, B3, C6

TOTAL AREA: 17048 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 17048 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This is an extensive upland site within the Troodos range, with varied landscapes and elevation ranging from just below 500m to over 1,600m.

This key site is important for many breeding species including priority species typical of the Troodos forests, and qualifies as an Endemic Bird Area site with significant populations of the endemic Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*). Significant numbers of breeding Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*) and Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*), along with the two endemics, are components of the typical Mediterranean scrub biome bird community, allowing the site to qualify as one of only four Mediterranean Biome sites in Cyprus. The site also hosts significant populations of Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) and Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*). In addition, this site has significant breeding numbers of European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) and Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and of the endemic Cyprus sub-species of Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla dorothea*) and Cyprus Coal Tit (*Parus ater cypriotes*), while the two other endemic sub-species, the Cyprus Jay (*Garrulus glandarius glaszneryi*) and Cyprus Scops Owl (*Otus scops cyprius*) also breed here.



Cyprus Wheatear
Oenanthe cyriaca

ALBERT STOECKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
✓	✓	✓	✓
First identified as an IBA	Updated	Updated	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY2000015' designated in 2007	75
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	12

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area	2000	3000	p	B
	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site				
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites				
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites				
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area	2000	3000	p	B
	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site				
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites				
<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site	500	1500	p	B
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites				
	B2	Among top 10 breeding sites				
<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site	(400)	(1000)	p	B
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites				
	B3	Among top 10 breeding sites				
<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site	1500	2000	p	B
	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites				
<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites	2	4	p	B
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	3	5	p	B
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	(100)	(250)	p	B
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	100	300	p	B
<i>Parus ater cypriotes</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	1000	2000	p	B
<i>Certhia brachydactyla dorothea</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	200	500	p	B

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Falco peregrinus* (2-3p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Otus scops cyprius*, *Turdus merula*, *Garrulus glandarius glasznieri*, *Corvus corax* (former breeder)

NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site includes mainly forest of Golden Oak (*Quercus alnifolia*) scrub but also extensive areas of Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia*) forest. Agriculture, mostly vineyard and almond groves on terraced hillsides, is also a feature of this distinctive site, as are rocky areas, including screes.

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity in the majority of its extent. A threat to the site is posed by fire and fire prevention practices, the latter linked to direct habitat fragmentation as a result of the creation and maintenance of fire breaks. This infrastructure significantly increases access, including for poachers, and increases the accidental fire risk. Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development mostly for isolated housing and road infrastructure are threats to the site. Intensification and/or abandonment of agriculture, and especially vineyards, are important threats for this site, notably for the two endemic species and the IBA qualifying Black-headed Bunting. Energy production and specifically the construction of a wind farm on the boundaries of the site poses a direct bird mortality threat, especially with regard to IBA qualifying raptors like the Long-legged Buzzard and the Bonelli's Eagle. Spraying of insecticides in streams in the forest is also a potential threat to the site. Illegal shooting and illegal bird trapping with mist nets and limesticks pose potential threats. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season.

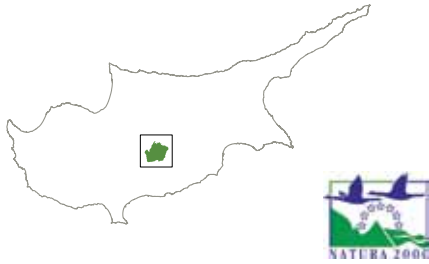




NICOSIA District

12003

Mahairas Forest - Tzionia



NATIONAL CODE: 12003
 LOCATION: 34° 56.097'N 33° 13.180'E
 DISTRICT: Nicosia, Larnaca
 IBA CRITERIA: A2, B2, B3, C6
 TOTAL AREA: 10402 ha
 TERRESTRIAL AREA: 10402 ha
 MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This is an extensive upland site on the Eastern end of the Troodos range, with varied landscapes and elevation ranging from just below 400m to over 1,400m at Tzionia peak. This site hosts important breeding populations of characteristic species of the open pine Troodos range forests, in particular European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), Cyprus Coal Tit (*Parus ater cypriotes*) and Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*). The site also has large enough breeding populations of the two endemics, Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*), to qualify as an Endemic Bird Area. Significant numbers of Cyprus Scops Owls (*Otus scops cyprius*) and Black-headed Buntings (*Emberiza melanocephala*) complete the picture of qualifying species at this rich site, which also hosts the endemic sub-species Cyprus Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla dorothea*) (though not common) and Cyprus Jay (*Garrulus glandarius glaszneri*). This area is also among the few in Cyprus to have breeding Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) and Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*).



European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*
ANASTASIOS P. LEVENTIS

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	√	√
Updated	Updated	First identified as an IBA	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area ‘CY2000013’ designated in 2008	66
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	5

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area	1000	1500	p	B
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites				
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area	2000	3000	p	B
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites				
<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	300	1200	p	B
	B2	Among top 10 breeding sites				
<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	(400)	(900)	p	B
	B3	Among top 10 breeding sites				
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	(50)	(150)	p	B
<i>Parus ater cypricus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	2000	6000	p	B
<i>Otus scops cypricus</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites	200	500	p	B
<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites	800	1200	p	B

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Accipiter gentilis*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Aquila fasciata* (1p), *Falco peregrinus* (2-3p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Athene noctua*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Lullula arborea*, *Turdus merula*, *Sylvia conspicillata*, *Certhia brachydactyla dorothea*, *Garrulus glandarius glaszneri*, *Corvus corax* (former breeder)

NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site includes mainly open and scrubby vegetation with occasional patches of coniferous forest, with Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia*) being the most dominant species. Low forest vegetation is dominated by Rock Rose (*Cistus creticus*) and Lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*), with scattered Olive trees (*Olea europaea*).

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity in the majority of its extent. A threat to the site is posed by fire and fire prevention practices, the latter linked to direct habitat fragmentation as a result of the creation and maintenance of fire breaks. This infrastructure significantly increases access, including for poachers, and increases the accidental fire risk. Abandonment of agriculture is an important threat to the site. Spraying of insecticides in streams in the forest is also a potential threat. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season.

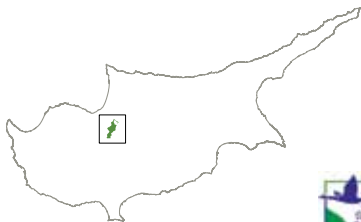




NICOSIA District

12004

Atsas - Agios Theodoros Area



NATIONAL CODE: 12004

LOCATION: 35° 3.338'N 32° 57.284'E

DISTRICT: Nicosia

IBA CRITERIA: B2, B3, C6

TOTAL AREA: 2924 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 2924 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This new IBA is situated west of Nicosia and extends from the edge of the dry Mesaoria plain, where the site is dominated by cereal-growing to the pine-covered foothills of the Troodos range, rising from 300m to 800m in elevation. The site is notable principally for important numbers of breeding Woodlarks (*Lullula arborea*), but also hosts good breeding populations of Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) and Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*) as well as of the two endemics, Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*). In its lower reaches, the site is important for breeding Black Francolins (*Francolinus francolinus*).



Woodlark *Lullula arborea*
ALBERT STOECKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	✓
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area ‘CY2000014’ designated in 2008	100
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	10

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	30	50	p	B
<i>FrancoLinus francoLinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites	<50		p	B
<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	B2	Among top 10 breeding sites	100	200	p	B
<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites	500	1000	p	B
<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	B3	Among top 10 breeding sites	(50)	(100)	p	B



Cyprus Jay *Garullus glandarius glaszneri*
ANASTASIOS P. LEVENTIS

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Alectoris chukar*, *Burhinus oedicnemus*, *Athene noctua*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Iduna pallida*, *Sylvia conspicillata*, *Parus ater cyprites*, *Garrulus glandarius glaszneri*, *Emberiza hortulana*

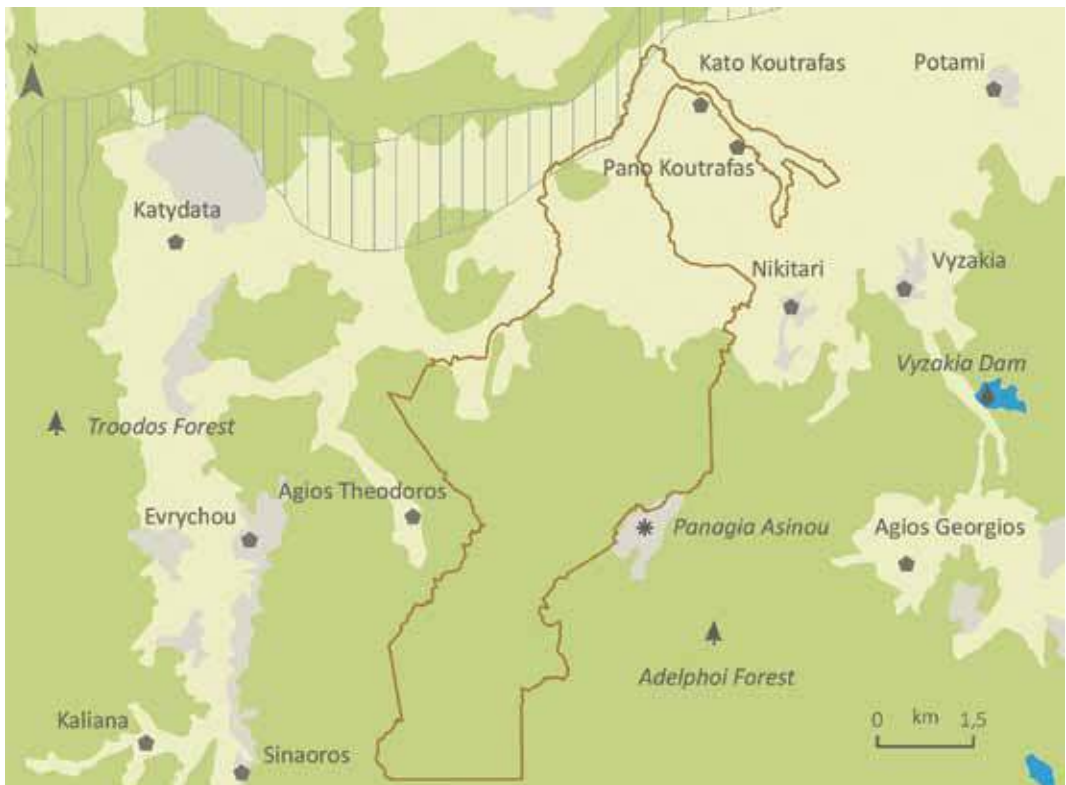
NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Aquila fasciata*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Otus scops cypricus*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site includes mainly coniferous forest, with Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia*) being the most distinctive species. Agriculture, mostly cereal cultivation, dominates the lowlands.

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity in the majority of its extent. Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including development for energy production (more specifically solar parks) and isolated housing are threats to the site. An additional threat, especially for forest bird species like the IBA qualifying Masked Shrike, is posed by fire and fire prevention practices, the latter linked to direct habitat fragmentation as a result of the creation and maintenance of fire breaks and access roads. This infrastructure significantly increases access, including for poachers, and increases the accidental fire risk. Intensification of agriculture with increased monocultures, fertiliser and pesticide use, and loss of landscape features is an important threat, especially for the IBA qualifying Black Francolin. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season.

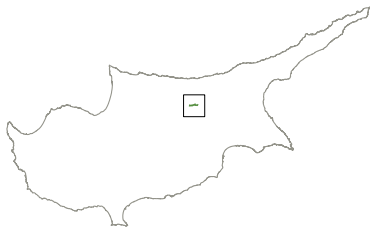




NICOSIA District

12005

Mia Milia Sewage Treatment Plant



NATIONAL CODE: 12005
LOCATION: 35° 11.644'N 33° 27.374'E
DISTRICT: Nicosia
IBA CRITERIA: A1, B2, C1, C6
TOTAL AREA: 592 ha
TERRESTRIAL AREA: 592 ha
MARINE AREA: 0 ha

A man-made set of sewage treatment pools on the meandering course of the seasonal Pedieos River across the open expanses of the Mesaoria Plain. This newly identified IBA is on the outskirts of the capital, Nicosia, and north of the island's UN-controlled buffer zone. The site has regularly attracted small but significant numbers of the globally threatened White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) in the winter months. It is also among the 'top 5' breeding sites in Cyprus for two key breeding waders, the Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*) and the Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*). It also hosts a small but significant breeding number of Calandra Larks (*Melanocorypha calandra*).



Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	√
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
n/a	n/a

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	A1/C1	Regular occurrence on migration / wintering irrespective of abundance	1	2	i	W
<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites	2	13	p	B
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	1	30	p	B
<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	(<50)		p	B



Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
MICHAEL GORE

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Alectoris chukar*, *Francolinus francolinus*, *Burhinus oedicnemus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Oenanthe cypriaca*, *Sylvia conspicillata*

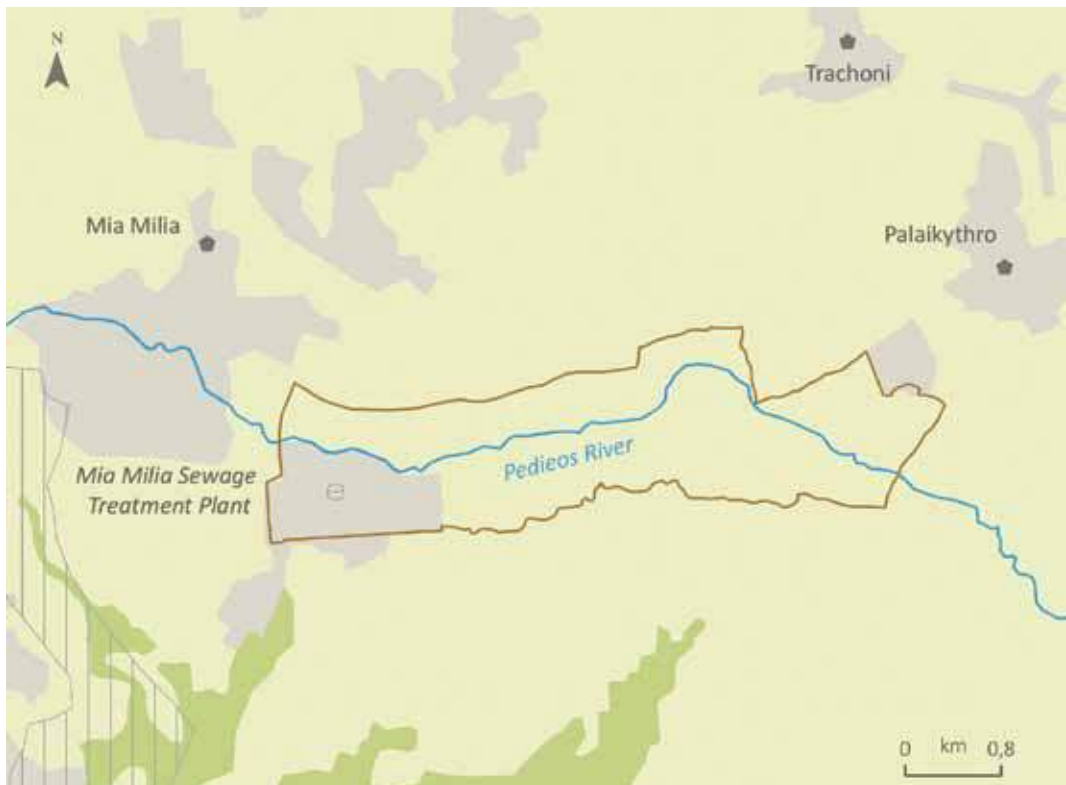
NON-BREEDING: *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Ardea alba*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Buteo buteo*, *Aquila fasciata*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Acrocephalus melanopogon*

LAND USE

The site, dissected by Pedieos River, is dominated by agriculture, mostly cereal cultivation. The man-made sewage treatment pools take up the rest of the site.

THREATS

The greatest threat to the site and especially the IBA qualifying Spur-winged Lapwing and the Calandra Lark, is the intensification of agriculture around the Sewage Treatment Plant with increased monocultures, fertiliser and pesticide use, and loss of landscape features. Another serious threat to the site is the lack of water management that would take the needs and requirements of species such as the IBA qualifying Black-winged Stilt into consideration. This is particularly relevant given the recent modernisation of the treatment facilities at the plant. The site is in an area of Cyprus where the *acquis communautaire* according to Protocol 10 of the Accession Treaty of Cyprus is postponed, and thus SPA designation is not currently possible.







Keryneia *District*

Pentadaktylos Mountains

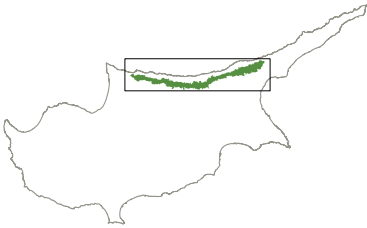
Kormakitis Peninsula



KERYNEIA District

12006

Pentadaktylos Mountains



NATIONAL CODE: 12006
 LOCATION: 35° 19.485'N 33° 31.998'E
 DISTRICT: Keryneia, Famagusta, Nicosia
 IBA CRITERIA: A1, A2, A3, B2, B3, C1, C2, C6
 TOTAL AREA: 26376 ha
 TERRESTRIAL AREA: 26376 ha
 MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This is one of the richest, in terms of qualifying species, and most distinctive IBAs in Cyprus, encompassing most of the Pentadaktylos range, which stretches along the north coast of the island. With the exception of the Cyprus Scops Owl (*Otus scops cyprius*), this range, rising to a relatively modest height of just over 1,000m, does not host the endemic forest sub-species of the Troodos. It is, however, both a Mediterranean Biome site and an Endemic Bird Area site. Here, numbers of breeding Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*) are as high as anywhere, while Cyprus Wheatears (*Oenanthe cyprica*) are more numerous only in the vast 'Pafos Forest' IBA. Mediterranean Scrub Biome status is achieved thanks to the populations of the two endemics plus those of Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*), Spectacled Warbler (*Sylvia conspicillata*), Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*), Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) and Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*) (the last two qualifying species in their own right for the site). The site is also a top breeding site for the Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). It is also the top breeding site in Cyprus for both the Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) and the Chukar Partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) and a key site for European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*). Finally, it is the most important remaining breeding site for the Raven (*Corvus corax*) in Cyprus as well as the key site for breeding Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*).



Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
✓	✓	✓	✓
First identified as an IBA	Updated	Updated	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
n/a	n/a

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	20	80	p	B
<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area		2500	5000	p	B
	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site					
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites					
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area		10000	15000	p	B
	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site					
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites					
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		(500)	(1000)	p	B
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites					
	B3	Among top 10 breeding sites					
<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		(1000)	(4000)	p	B
<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		(1000)	(2000)	p	B
<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		(200)	(300)	p	B
<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		400	1200	p	B
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites					
	B2	Among top 10 breeding sites					
<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	C2	10 p	B	10	12	p	B
	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites					
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		5	7	p	B
<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(2000)	(8000)	p	B
<i>Athene noctua</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		400	700	p	B
<i>Otus scops cyprius</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		300	700	p	B

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Francolinus francolinus*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Monticola solitarius*, *Corvus corax*

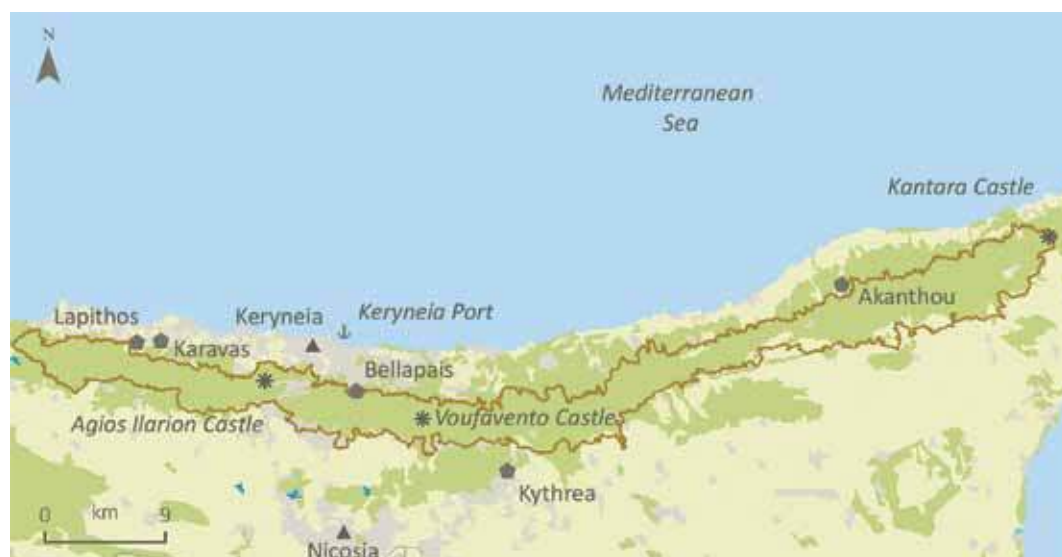
NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Grus grus*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Sylvia rueppelli*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The steep slopes of the range – crowned by impressive limestone crags - are sparsely vegetated on the southern face but covered in scrub and coniferous and mixed forest on the wetter north-facing slopes.

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity in the majority of its extent. The greatest threat to the site is the operation of quarries, in terms both of habitat loss and disturbance caused. Illegal shooting and use of poison baits pose potential threats, especially to raptors such as the IBA qualifying Bonelli's Eagle and the Raven. In addition, military exercises occasionally taking place at the site could cause disturbance to birds. The site is in an area of Cyprus where the *acquis communautaire* according to Protocol 10 of the Accession Treaty of Cyprus is postponed, and thus SPA designation is not currently possible. However the site has been proposed as a potential Natura 2000 site 'Keryneia Mountains (Pentadaktylos)' identified as part of a EuropeAid funded Project (Project EuropeAid/125695/C/SER/CY/7 Technical Assistance for Management and Protection of Potential Natura 2000 Sites in the Northern Part of Cyprus, 2008-2011).

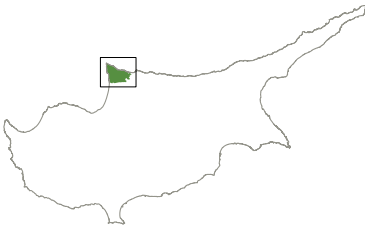




KERYNEIA District

12007

Kormakitis Peninsula



NATIONAL CODE: 12007

LOCATION: 35° 20.537'N 32° 59.280'E

DISTRICT: Keryneia

IBA CRITERIA: B1i, B2, B3, C2, C6

TOTAL AREA: 9789 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 9789 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This out-of-the-way site is of importance primarily as a breeding site for the nocturnal European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) and for the passage of waterbirds along its coastline, with Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) being the key species. But this windswept and picturesque new IBA is also of note for breeding Black Francolins (*Francolinus francolinus*), Chukar Partridges (*Alectoris chukar*), Crested Larks (*Galerida cristata*) and also for the two endemics: Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*).



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
DAVID NYE

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	√
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
n/a	n/a

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	C2/B1i	580 i	M	400	800	i	M
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		(50)	(150)	p	B
<i>FrancoLinus francoLinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		50	250	p	B
<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(1000)	(1500)	p	B
<i>Galerida cristata</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(2000)	(3000)	p	B
<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites		500	1500	p	B
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites		1000	2000	p	B



Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*
DAVE WALKER

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

- BREEDING:** *Burhinus oedicnemus*, *Athene noctua*, *Sylvia conspicillata*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza caesia*
- NON-BREEDING:** *Calonectris diomedea diomedea*, *Puffinus yelkouan*, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Ardea alba*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Grus grus*, *Grus virgo*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Charadrius leschenaultii*, *Vanellus spinosus*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Larus genei*, *Larus audouinii*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*

LAND USE

The site is dominated by low scrub, with patches of lowland pine forest. The site includes extensive agricultural areas, mainly low-intensity cereal cultivation, and its shores are framed by a rocky coastline.

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity in the majority of its extent. Disturbance caused to migrating IBA qualifying Little Egrets by fishermen on the coast can be an issue. In addition the north coast of the site is increasingly under pressure for development, especially for tourism. The site is in an area of Cyprus where the *acquis communautaire* according to Protocol 10 of the Accession Treaty of Cyprus is postponed, and thus SPA designation is not currently possible. However the site has been proposed as a potential Natura 2000 site 'Agia Eirini' identified as part of a EuropeAid funded Project (Project EuropeAid/125695/C/SER/CY/7 Technical Assistance for Management and Protection of Potential Natura 2000 Sites in the Northern Part of Cyprus, 2008-2011).







Famagusta *District*

Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands

Mesaoria Plain

Cape Greco

Akhna Dam

Famagusta Lakes

Paralimni Lake

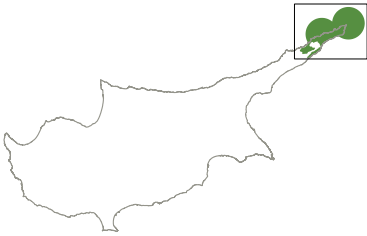
Agia Thekla - Liopetri River



FAMAGUSTA District

12008

Karpasia Peninsula -
Kleides Islands



NATIONAL CODE: 12008

LOCATION: 35° 36.717'N 34° 25.501'E

DISTRICT: Famagusta

IBA CRITERIA: A1, A2, A3, B2, B3, C1, C6

TOTAL AREA: 58861 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 14141 ha

MARINE AREA: 44720 ha

The remote, relatively un-spoilt and picturesque Karpasia Peninsula is one of the outstanding IBAs in Cyprus, qualifying as a Mediterranean Biome Site, Endemic Bird Area site and as significant for no fewer than four species of global conservation concern. Good populations of Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*) and Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) confer Endemic Bird Area status, while similarly strong populations of Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*), and Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*) confer Biome site status. The qualifying breeding species of global conservation concern are the European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*), for which the peninsula is the second most important site in Cyprus, and the Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*), for which the Kleides islands off the tip of the peninsula (and more recently also the islet of Lefkonisos off the peninsula's North coast) are the only breeding sites in Cyprus. There are also two qualifying migrant species of global conservation concern, both raptors: Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) and Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*). The rocky Kleides islands are also the top breeding site for Mediterranean Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*) in Cyprus. The rolling hills, juniper-dominated maquis and low-intensity farmland of the peninsula also provide excellent breeding habitats for Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedicanus*), Cyprus Scops Owl (*Otus scops cyprius*), Little Owl (*Athene noctua*), Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*), Chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) and Crested lark (*Galerida cristata*).



Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*

JANE STYLIANOU

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
✓	✓	✓	✓
First identified as an IBA	Updated	Updated	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
n/a	n/a

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	A1/C1	30 i	M	20	60	i	M
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A1/C1	30 i	M	50	500	i	M
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	A1/C1	20 p	B	15	28	p	B
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites (only breeding site known)					
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	250	1000	i	M
	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		30	120	p	B
<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area		1500	2500	p	B
	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site					
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area		10000	15000	p	B
	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site					
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites					
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		(4000)	(8000)	p	B
<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	A3	Medieterranean Biome Site		(500)	(1000)	p	B
<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	A3	Medieterranean Biome Site		(30)	(60)	p	B
<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		400	900	p	B
	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites					
<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		(40)	(60)	p	B
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		5	25	p	B
<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(<50)		p	B
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		250	1000	p	B
<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(1500)	(3000)	p	B
<i>Athene noctua</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		300	400	p	B
<i>Otus scops cyprius</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		300	600	p	B
<i>Galerida cristata</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(2000)	(4000)	p	B

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Falco peregrinus*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*

NON-BREEDING: *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Grus grus*, *Charadrius leschenaultii*, *Larus melanocephalus*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Anthus campestris*, *Monticola solitarius*, *Sylvia rueppelli*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site covers terrestrial and marine area. The terrestrial part of the site is dominated by scrubland comprised mainly of Juniper, with patches of lowland pine forest. It includes extensive agricultural areas, mainly low-intensity cereal cultivation, and its shores are framed by both rocky and sandy coastline. The marine part of the site includes the Kleides islands, and their surrounding waters.

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from intensive human activity in the majority of its extent. However, direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including tourism development and road infrastructures are serious threats to the site. Linked to the increasing tourism development, the site is threatened by increasing recreation activities. Fishermen and anglers pose a serious disturbance risk at the key Kleides islands nesting site, while illegal bird killing is also an issue at this site. Agricultural practice is currently non-intensive, but management provisions are needed to keep it thus, while grazing pressure at the site is in need of assessment and management. The site is in an area of Cyprus where the *acquis communautaire* according to Protocol 10 of the Accession Treaty of Cyprus is postponed, and thus SPA designation is not currently possible. However the site has been proposed as potential Natura 2000 sites 'Karpasia Peninsula' and 'South Karpasia' identified as part of a EuropeAid funded Project (Project EuropeAid/125695/C/SER/CY/7 Technical Assistance for Management and Protection of Potential Natura 2000 Sites in the Northern Part of Cyprus, 2008-2011).

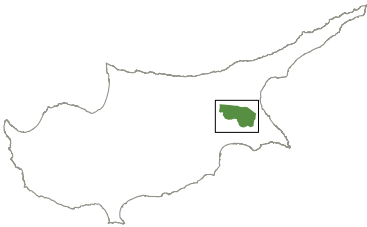




FAMAGUSTA District

12009

Mesaoria Plain



NATIONAL CODE: 12009

LOCATION: 35° 7.882'N 33° 45.749'E

DISTRICT: Famagusta, Nicosia

IBA CRITERIA: B2, C6

TOTAL AREA: 18217 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 18217 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This new and extensive IBA site captures an important part of the central Mesaoria plain and is almost entirely dominated by cereal fields. Though more intensively managed and man-dominated than most other IBAs, it is the top breeding site on the island for three species typical of open, flat and dry landscapes: Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oediconemus*), Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) and Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*). It is also a very important site for Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*) and has European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) and Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) among other non-qualifying breeders.



Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	✓
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
n/a	n/a

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites	(50)	(250)	p	B
<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	(250)	(1000)	p	B
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites	250	1000	p	B
<i>Galerida cristata</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites	(2500)	(10000)	p	B



Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*
DAVE WALKER

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Alectoris chukar*, *Pterocles orientalis* (possible breeding area), *Athene noctua*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Oenanthe cyprica*, *Sylvia conspicillata*

NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Emberiza caesia*

LAND USE

The site is dominated by agricultural areas mainly with intensive cereal cultivation, but also with some olive groves and pastures.

THREATS

The greatest threat to the site, and especially IBA qualifying farmland species like the Stone Curlew and the Crested Lark, is the intensification of agriculture with increased monocultures, fertiliser and pesticide use, and loss of landscape features. Illegal shooting and trapping pose potential threats for birds at the site especially to IBA qualifying Black Francolin which is a hunted species at the site. Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for housing development, pose additional threats to the site. Drought is another potential threat to the site. The site is in an area of Cyprus where the *acquis communautaire* according to Protocol 10 of the Accession Treaty of Cyprus is postponed, and thus SPA designation is not currently possible.

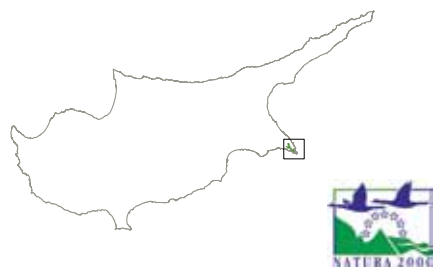




FAMAGUSTA District

12010

Cape Greco



NATIONAL CODE: 12010

LOCATION: 34° 59.359'N 34° 2.867'E

DISTRICT: Famagusta

IBA CRITERIA: A1, B1iv, B2, B3, C1, C5

TOTAL AREA: 1209 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 1209 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

The South-East corner of Cyprus is a key migration site, especially for raptors. Two raptors of global conservation concern, the Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) and the Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) pass through Cape Greco in significant numbers, while the site is also a raptor 'bottleneck', with over 3,000 birds of prey regularly using the area in the autumn. Honey Buzzards (*Pernis apivorus*), Red-footed Falcons (*Falco vespertinus*) and Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*) are the most numerous of the migrating raptors. The important breeding birds at the site are the two endemics, Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*) and the Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*). Cape Greco is also a 'bottleneck' for migrating passerines, a fact that does not escape the unwelcome and destructive attentions of illegal bird trappers.



Common Kestrel
Falco tinnunculus
ALBERT STOECKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
✓	✓	X	✓
First identified as an IBA	Updated	*	Updated

* This is the only case in Cyprus of an IBA which lost its identification in an IBA Inventory Revision (in 2004). The only reason for this was a shift from the application of A and B criteria in the 2000 Inventory to the application of only C Criteria in the 2004 Revision, which Cape Greco did not meet due to lack of breeding data at the time. The site is hereby reinstated.

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY3000005' designated in 2007	75
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	32

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	A1/C1	30 i	M	20	60	i	M
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A1/C1	30 i	M	50	500	i	M
Raptor bottleneck*	C5/B1iv	3000 i	M	(1000)	(4000)	i	M
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		<50		p	B
<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites		100	250	p	B
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites		250	500	p	B

*Main contributing species: *Pernis apivorus*, *Falco tinnunculus*, *Falco vespertinus*



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Alectoris chukar*, *Burhinus oedicnemus*, *Athene noctua*, *Galerida cristata*, *Sylvia conspicillata*

NON-BREEDING: *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Ardea alba*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Phoenicopiterus roseus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Grus grus*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Cursorius cursor*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Charadrius leschenaultii*, *Vanellus spinosus*, *Larus melanocephalus*, *Hydrocoloeus minutus*, *Larus genei*, *Larus audouinii*, *Gelochelidon nilotica*, *Chlidonias hybrida*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Asio flammeus*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Monticola solitarius*, *Sylvia melanocephala*, *Sylvia rueppelli*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Emberiza caesia*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

LAND USE

The area is dominated by scrubby vegetation, both garrigue and maquis, and some farmland. Its rocky coastlines are a distinctive feature.

THREATS

Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for tourism development, including the proposed construction of a golf course, are threats to the site. Additionally proposed projects for energy production and specifically the proposal for the construction of a wind farm would pose a direct bird mortality threat, especially with regard to migrating raptors. Off-road driving, often taking the form of opportunistic rallying, is of great concern at the site. Illegal shooting and especially, illegal bird trapping with mist nets and limesticks pose serious threats at this site. The presence and expansion of *Acacia* (an Invasive Alien Species to Cyprus) threatens the natural habitat of the site and is also linked to illegal bird trapping. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season. The status of part of the site as a 'temporary wildlife conservation area' where hunting is prohibited, is a positive, reducing disturbance in some parts.

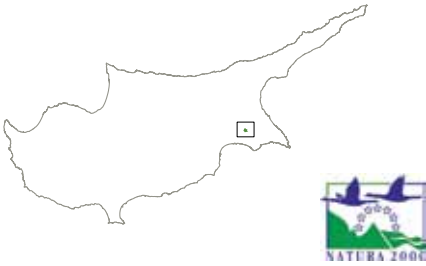




FAMAGUSTA District

12011

Akhna Dam



NATIONAL CODE: 12011

LOCATION: 35° 2.971'N 33° 48.266'E

DISTRICT: Famagusta

IBA CRITERIA: A1, C1

TOTAL AREA: 379 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 379 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

A small, man-made wetland and expanse of surrounding agricultural land that is important during the migration season, attracting significant numbers of the Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), a species of global conservation concern. The site is also important for wetland birds. Part of the site is in the British Sovereign Base Areas.



Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

JAMES WILLSON

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	✓	✓	✓
	First identified as an IBA	Updated	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY3000007' designated in 2008	45/55*
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	98

* 45% is the actual overlap between the IBA and the SPA. 55% is taking into consideration that part of the IBA is in the British Sovereign Base Areas where the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU is not applied.

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A1/C1	30 i	M	40	250	i	M



Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Himantopus himantopus* (0-6p), *Burhinus oedicephalus*, *Charadrius alexandrinus* (1-2p), *Vanellus spinosus* (2-4p), *Melanocorypha calandra*, *Galerida cristata*, *Oenanthe cypriaca*, *Sylvia conspicillata*

NON-BREEDING: *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Ardea alba*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Phoenicopertus roseus*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Alectoris chukar*, *Francolinus francolinus*, *Porzana porzana*, *Porzana parva*, *Porzana pusilla*, *Crex crex*, *Grus grus*, *Grus virgo*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Larus audouinii*, *Chlidonias hybrida*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Athene noctua*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Acrocephalus melanopogon*, *Sylvia rueppelli*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Emberiza caesia*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

LAND USE

The site is dominated by agricultural areas mainly with intensive cereal cultivation, while central to the site is the man-made wetland.

THREATS

Disturbance by fishermen, dog walkers, walkers and vehicles is an issue, linked to the ease of access to the site. Illegal shooting and illegal bird trapping with mist nets and limesticks pose additional threats to the site. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season. The dam is also sensitive to pollution, including pollution from agriculture which poses a further pressure to the site. Another serious threat to the site and especially ground-nesting waders is the lack of water management that would take the needs and requirements of these species into consideration. The site could be of greater importance for nesting wader species given an appropriate water regime. Another threat to birds at the site is dumping of rubbish. Pressure for development and more specifically the construction of sport facilities also exists at the site. The status of the entire site as a 'temporary wildlife conservation area' where hunting is prohibited, is a positive, reducing disturbance.





FAMAGUSTA District

12012

Famagusta Lakes



NATIONAL CODE: 12012

LOCATION: 35° 8.348'N 33° 54.548'E

DISTRICT: *Famagusta*

IBA CRITERIA: B2, C6

TOTAL AREA: 448 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 448 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

An extensive, though fragmented, complex of marshes, pools and brackish lagoons on the outskirts of Famagusta town. Water levels vary both seasonally and from year-to-year at this newly identified IBA. Though the site attracts a wide range of waterbirds, it is most important as a regular breeding site for Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*) and Spur-winged Lapwings (*Vanellus spinosus*). The lakes are also the only known breeding site for Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) in Cyprus, which first nested at the site in 2011. Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*), Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Little Egrets (*Egretta garzetta*) and Squacco Herons (*Ardeola ralloides*) also nest in the tamarisk bushes favored by the Ibises.



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	✓
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
n/a	n/a

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites (only site known)	10	20	p	B
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	2	10	p	B
<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites	2	10	p	B
<i>Fringilla monticola</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B



Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Burhinus oedicnemus*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Oenanthe cyprica*, *Sylvia conspicillata*

NON-BREEDING: *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Phoenicopterus roseus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Porzana porzana*, *Porzana parva*, *Grus grus*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Charadrius leschenaultii*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Larus audouinii*, *Chlidonias hybrida*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Melanocorypha calandra*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza caesia*

LAND USE

The site is dominated by a complex of marshes, pools and brackish lagoons while also scrubland vegetation exists. Some farmland can also be found at the site.

THREATS

The greatest threats to the site are direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including housing taking place around the lake, while a road has been constructed cutting through the south lake. Another serious threat to the site and especially to ground-nesting waders like the IBA qualifying Black-winged Stilt and Spur-winged Lapwing, is the lack of water management that would take the needs and requirements of these species into consideration. The site could be of greater importance for nesting wader species given an appropriate water regime. Predation by feral cats, stray dogs and other feral animals (possibly also natural predators) are additional threats to the birds at the site. Other threats include disturbance created by military activities taking place in close proximity to the lake, and dumping of vast amounts of rubbish. The wetland is also sensitive to pollution, including pollution from domestic and urban waste water and runoff water from the numerous roads that run through the site. The site is in an area of Cyprus where the *acquis communautaire* according to Protocol 10 of the Accession Treaty of Cyprus is postponed, and thus SPA designation is not currently possible. However the site has been proposed as a potential Natura 2000 site 'Famagusta Wetlands' identified as part of a EuropeAid funded Project (Project EuropeAid/125695/C/SER/CY/7 Technical Assistance for Management and Protection of Potential Natura 2000 Sites in the Northern Part of Cyprus, 2008-2011).

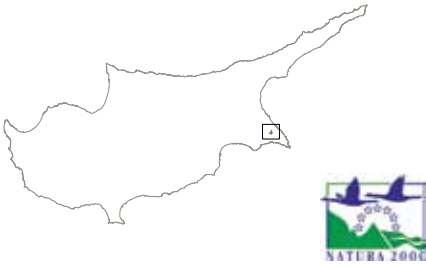




FAMAGUSTA District

12013

Paralimni Lake



NATIONAL CODE: 12013
 LOCATION: 35° 2.239'N 33° 58.011'E
 DISTRICT: *Famagusta*
 IBA CRITERIA: B2, C6
 TOTAL AREA: 353 ha
 TERRESTRIAL AREA: 353 ha
 MARINE AREA: 0 ha

Paralimni Lake is a highly seasonal natural wetland in the Famagusta district that retains significant bird interest, but could with little doubt be of even greater importance given more protection and sympathetic management. The site suffers seriously from disturbance. It is among the 'top 5' breeding sites for the Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*) and is also significant for breeding Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*). Other breeding species are Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), while the wetland is also a notable migration site for both wetland and other species.



Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	✓	✓
		First identified as an IBA	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY3000008' designated in 2009	77
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	28

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites	2	10	p	B
<i>Fringilla monticola</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites	<50		p	B



Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*
DAVID NYE

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Himantopus himantopus* (2-4p), *Charadrius alexandrinus* (1-2p), *Galerida cristata*, *Oenanthe cypriaca*, *Sylvia conspicillata*

NON-BREEDING: *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Ardea alba*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Phoenicopterus roseus*, *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Porzana porzana*, *Porzana parva*, *Porzana pusilla*, *Crex crex*, *Grus grus*, *Grus virgo*, *Burhinus oedicnemus*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Charadrius leschenaultii*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Hydrocoloeus minutus*, *Larus genei*, *Gelochelidon nilotica*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sternula albifrons*, *Chlidonias hybrida*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Asio flammeus*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Melanocorypha calandra*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Acrocephalus melanopogon*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Emberiza caesia*

LAND USE

The site is dominated by a shallow, brackish highly seasonal wetland which floods in the winter months and dries-up during the summer months leaving expanses of halophytic vegetation behind, characterised by Glasswort (*Salicornia europaea*).

THREATS

The greatest threat to the site is direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including housing. Another serious threat at the site is disturbance by visitors, linked to the ease of access to many parts of the wetland. During the breeding season, ground-nesting waders like the IBA qualifying Spur-wing Lapwing are particularly vulnerable to disturbance caused by vehicles all around and inside the site. Off-road driving, often taking the form of opportunistic rallying, is of great concern, as is the operation of a shooting range on the site. Another serious threat to the site, and especially ground-nesting waders, is the lack of water management that would take the needs and requirements of the qualifying species into consideration. The site could be of greater importance for nesting waders given an appropriate water regime. Excessive abstraction of water is also an issue. Illegal shooting and illegal bird trapping with mist nets and limesticks pose additional threats. Predation by feral cats, stray dogs and other feral animals (possibly also natural predators) is also a threat to ground-nesting birds. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season. Other threats to the site include dumping of rubbish. The wetland is also sensitive to pollution, including pollution from agriculture.

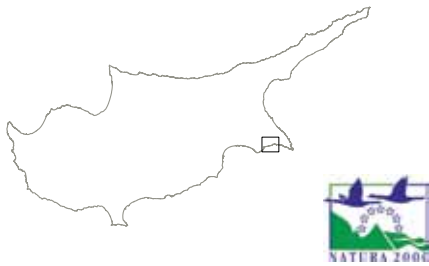




FAMAGUSTA District

12014

Agia Thekla - Liopetri River



NATIONAL CODE: 12014

LOCATION: 34° 58.554'N 33° 55.166'E

DISTRICT: *Famagusta*

IBA CRITERIA: C7

TOTAL AREA: 70 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 70 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This coastal strip site, designated as a Special Protection Area for its significance for wintering and migrant Greater Sand Plovers (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) is much impacted by development, but remains of importance both for the plover and for migrant herons and waders. It is also among the few sites away from Kleides Islands to regularly host Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*).



Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
ALBERT STOECKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	√	√
		First identified as an IBA	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY3000009' designated in 2008	100
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	95

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	C7	Designated SPA for importance for other ornithological criteria	10	20	i	M, W



Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*
DAVID NYE

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Galerida cristata*, *Sylvia conspicillata*

NON-BREEDING: *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Phoenicopus roseus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Larus genei*, *Larus audouinii*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Emberiza caesia*

LAND USE

A linear coastal strip, this site consists of mostly rocky shores and patches of phrygana behind the coastal belt.

THREATS

A site which has lost most of the habitat for its most important species, the IBA qualifying Greater Sand Plover and pressure exists for the destruction of the remaining habitat. Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including housing, tourism and road infrastructures, as well as pressure from additional proposed developments like the construction of a marina, have all taken a toll on this site. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season. The status of almost the entire site as a 'temporary wildlife conservation area' where hunting is prohibited, is positive, reducing disturbance.





A scenic landscape of a vast green field under a blue sky, with a stone wall in the foreground.

Larnaca *District*

Pentashoinos River

Koshi - Pallourokampos and Troulloi Plain

Larnaca Salt Lakes

Panagia Stazousa River

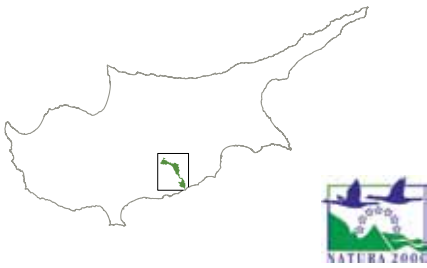
Oroklini Lake



LARNACA District

12015

Pentashoinos River



NATIONAL CODE: 12015

LOCATION: 34° 50.876'N 33° 20.996'E

DISTRICT: Larnaca, Nicosia

IBA CRITERIA: A1, B2, B3, C1, C6

TOTAL AREA: 4787 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 4787 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

Important numbers of breeding Bonelli's Eagles (*Aquila fasciata*), European Rollers (*Coracias garrulus*) and Cyprus Warblers (*Sylvia melanothorax*) are the key features of this new IBA. The site, which captures the valley of the Pentashoinos River, from the Mahairas Mountains to the Larnaca coast, is also important for breeding Cyprus Wheatears (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Black Francolins (*Francolinus francolinus*). The site also hosts breeding Long-legged Buzzards (*Buteo rufinus*) and Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), though not in qualifying numbers. The valley is also a "bottleneck" for migrating passerines, a fact that does not escape the unwelcome and destructive attentions of illegal bird trappers.



Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax*

MICHAEL GORE

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	✓
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Total coverage of IBA by Special Protection Area	86
Special Protection Area 'CY6000008' designated in 2007	85
Special Protection Area 'CY2000013' designated in 2008	1
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	27

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	10	40	p	B
<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		2	4	p	B
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		2000	3000	p	B
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		50	250	p	B
<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites		300	500	p	B



Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*
DAVE WALKER

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Buteo rufinus* (2p), *Falco peregrinus* (1p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Burhinus oedicnemus*, *Otus scops cyprius*, *Athene noctua*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Sylvia conspicillata*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza caesia*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonorae*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Sylvia rueppelli*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site, dissected by the Pentashoinos River, is a mosaic of Calabrian Pine Forest (*Pinus brutia*), scrub with phrygana and maquis being the dominant features, and agricultural areas of primarily orchards and citrus groves.

THREATS

The greatest threat to the site is illegal shooting and illegal bird trapping with mist nets and limesticks. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season. Additionally, pressure for energy production and more specifically proposals for the construction of a wind farm in or adjacent to the site poses a direct bird mortality threat, especially with regards to raptors like the IBA qualifying Bonelli's Eagle. Intensification of agriculture with increased monocultures, fertiliser and pesticide use, and loss of landscape features is an important threat. Modification of the natural riverine ecosystem caused by alterations to the river bed and excessive abstraction of water are additional issues. Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including isolated housing are additional threats to the site.





LARNACA District

12016

Koshi - Pallourokamos and Troulloi Plain



NATIONAL CODE: 12016

LOCATION: 35° 0.199'N 33° 35.150'E

DISTRICT: Larnaca

IBA CRITERIA: A1, B2, B3, C1, C6

TOTAL AREA: 4521 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 4521 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This lowland site, on the southern edge of the central Mesaoria plain, is dominated by phrygana and cereal fields and is important for species that favor such open, dry landscapes. European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*), Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedipnemos*) and Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*) are the most important qualifying species for a new IBA site that has the peculiarity of being partly within the UN-controlled buffer zone. Also of note as additional qualifying species are Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cyprica*), Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) and Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*).



Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	✓
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY6000009' designated in 2007	82/100*
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	36

* 82% is the actual overlap between the IBA and the SPA. 100% is taking into consideration that part of the IBA is in the UN-controlled buffer zone where the *acquis communautaire* is postponed.

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	10	50	p	B
<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(50)	(250)	p	B
<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		(50)	(250)	p	B
<i>Fringilla monticola</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		50	250	p	B
<i>Galerida cristata</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(1000)	(2500)	p	B
<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites		150	450	p	B



Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*
MICHAEL GORE

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Buteo rufinus* (1p), *Falco peregrinus* (1p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Pterocles orientalis* (possible breeding area), *Athene noctua*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Sylvia conspicillata*

NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Sylvia melanothorax*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Emberiza caesia*

LAND USE

The site is dominated almost in its entirety by phrygana and bare rocks, but it also combines extensive agricultural areas including cereal fields.

THREATS

The greatest threat to the site is the intensification of agriculture with increased monocultures, fertiliser and pesticide use, and loss of landscape features. Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development, especially isolated housing, road infrastructure and quarrying developments are additional threats. Development of renewables and specifically solar parks and windfarms as well as the construction of high voltage power lines are additional threats to the site. Illegal shooting and illegal bird trapping with mist nets and limesticks pose potential threats. Drought is another potential threat. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season. The status of part of the site as a 'temporary wildlife conservation areas' where hunting is prohibited, is positive, reducing disturbance in some parts.





LARNACA District

12017

Larnaca Salt Lakes



NATIONAL CODE: 12017

LOCATION: 34° 52.790'N 33° 36.978'E

DISTRICT: *Larnaca*

IBA CRITERIA: A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2, C1,
C2, C3, C4, C6

TOTAL AREA: 2147 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 2147 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

One of the outstanding IBAs of Cyprus and a Ramsar wetland, Larnaca Salt Lakes is a congregation site for waterbirds in winter and spring, including globally important numbers of Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*). It is also a regular wintering site for small but significant numbers of the globally threatened White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*). Other notable migrants occurring in numbers of regional importance include Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Crane (*Grus grus*), Demoiselle Crane (*Grus virgo*) and Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*). Important breeding waterbirds are the Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*), Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) and Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*).



Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
ALBERT STOECKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
✓	✓	✓	✓
First identified as an IBA	Updated	Updated	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area ‘CY6000002’ designated in 2005	73
Ramsar Wetland of International Importance designated in 2001	52
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	95

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	A1/C1	Regular occurrence on migration / wintering irrespective of abundance		1	4	i	W
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	A4i	5500 i	M, W	1000	9500	i	M, W
	C2/B1i	600 i	M, W				
Regular congregation of waterbirds*	A4iii	20000 i	M, W	9000	20000	i	W, S
	C4						
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	C1	30 i	M, W	20	40	i	W
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	C2/B1i	410 i	M, W	150	500	i	M, W
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		18	32	p	B
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	C2/B1i	580 i	M	100	600	i	M
<i>Grus grus</i>	C2/B1i	350 i	M	100	1000	i	M
<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	C2/B1i	240 i	M	50	300	i	M
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	C3/B1i	750 i	W	500	1500	i	W
<i>Grus virgo</i>	C3/B1i	7 i	M	20	60	i	M
<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		1	15	p	B
<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		(<50)		p	B
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		10	40	p	B
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		<50		p	B

* Main contributing species: *Phoenicopterus roseus*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Anas crecca*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anas clypeata*, *Fulica atra*

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Alectoris chukar*, *Burhinus oedicnemus*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sternula albifrons*, *Athene noctua*, *Galerida cristata*, *Oenanthe cypriaca*, *Sylvia conspicillata*

NON-BREEDING: *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Aquila fasciata*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Asio flammeus*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Sylvia rueppelli*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Emberiza caesia*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

LAND USE

The site is dominated by wetlands comprised of a series of salt lagoons and associated mud flats and open areas dominated by halophytic vegetation. The site is largely surrounded by built-up and agricultural areas on its landward side and is bisected by the Larnaca International Airport, while sewage pools to the East of the airport area have become an important addition to the natural lagoons.

THREATS

The greatest threats to the site and especially ground-nesting waders like the IBA qualifying Kentish Plover and Spur-winged Lapwing is the the lack of water management that would take the needs and requirements of these species into consideration,

as well as disturbance by visitors, linked to the ease of access to most of the sites of the wetland. During the breeding season birds are particularly vulnerable to disturbance by walkers, dog walkers and vehicles, especially at Spyros Beach, which becomes an illegal caravan parking site during summer months. Off-road driving, often taking the form of opportunistic rallying, is of great concern. Wind and kite surfing in the area can pose an additional disturbance threat during the breeding season. Additional threats to the site are direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of development pressure, including the construction of governmental buildings, road infrastructure and the Larnaca International Airport. The latter is also linked to a further threat to birds and especially IBA qualifying Flamingos, as birds and aircraft share a common airspace over the site. Predation by feral cats, stray dogs and other feral animals (possibly also natural predators) are additional threats to birds at the site. Dumping of rubbish occurs widely and is exacerbated by the unlicensed caravan park present there throughout spring and summer. The site is also sensitive to pollution, including pollution from agriculture and domestic and urban waste. The site is not adequately protected from potential major spills, and according to reports it regularly receives quantities of domestic and urban waste, especially in the north lake. Spraying of insecticides for mosquito control is also a potential threat to birds at the site. The status of the entire site as a 'temporary wildlife conservation area' where hunting is prohibited, is positive. Hunting is however permitted on the border of the site, which poses a potential disturbance risk, while illegal bird killing poses a threat. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season.





LARNACA District

12018

Panagia Stazousa River



NATIONAL CODE: 12018

LOCATION: 34° 54.592'N 33° 28.049'E

DISTRICT: *Larnaca*

IBA CRITERIA: A1, B2, B3, C1

TOTAL AREA: 1745 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 1745 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This new IBA in the Larnaca district is a phrygana-dominated site that is principally of importance as a breeding site for the European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*), a species of global conservation concern that finds nesting holes in the cliffs along the meandering course of the seasonal stream that bisects the hilly site. Other qualifying species here are the endemic Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*) and the Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*). Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) also breed here, though not in numbers sufficient for IBA qualifying status.



Chukar *Alectoris chukar*
ALBERT STOECKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	✓
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY6000007' designated in 2007	100
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	16

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	10	30	p	B
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		<50		p	B
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites		300	500	p	B



Red Footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*
JAMES WILLSON

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Buteo rufinus* (1p), *Falco peregrinus* (1p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Otus scops cyprius*, *Athene noctua*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Oenanthe cypriaca*, *Sylvia conspicillata*, *Emberiza caesia*

NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Sylvia rueppelli*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

LAND USE

The site is at the foothills of Stavrovouni Mountains and is dominated almost in its entirety by phrygana comprised mainly of *Sarcopoterium spinosum* and *Thymus capitatus*, and dissected by the Stazousa River. The site also combines agricultural areas including cereal fields with scattered Olive trees (*Olea europaea*) and Carob trees (*Ceratonia siliqua*).

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity in the majority of its extent. Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including isolated housing, road infrastructure and renewable energy development are threats to the site. Specifically, the greatest threat to the birds at the site is the construction of 2 wind farms which pose a direct bird mortality threat, especially to Long-legged Buzzards that nest at the site. An additional threat the site faces is fire and fire prevention practices, the latter linked to direct habitat fragmentation as a result of the creation and maintenance of fire breaks. This infrastructure significantly increases access, including for poachers, and increases the accidental fire risk. Spraying of insecticides in streams and pools is also a potential threat to birds at the site as is the use of agricultural pesticides and poison in general at the site. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season.





LARNACA District

12019

Oroklini Lake



NATIONAL CODE: 12019

LOCATION: 34° 58.032'N 33° 39.123'E

DISTRICT: *Larnaca*

IBA CRITERIA: B2, C6

TOTAL AREA: 93 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 93 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

A small but significant brackish wetland in the Larnaca district, Oroklini Lake has notably high breeding numbers of both Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*) and Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*). The natural wetland is also significant for breeding Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*). The marsh - a precious remnant of what were historically far more extensive seasonal wetlands - is also an important migration site for many wetland and other species, and hosts locally rare breeders such as Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*), Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) and Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*). Oroklini Lake is the only known breeding site for the last species.



Black-winged Stilt
Himantopus himantopus
ALBERT STOECKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	✓	✓
		First identified as an IBA	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY6000010' designated in 2009	61
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	100

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites	8	10	p	B
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	20	75	p	B
<i>Fringilla monticola</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites	<50		p	B

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Bubulcus ibis*, *Netta rufina*, *Alectoris chukar*, *Burhinus oedipnemus*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sternula albifrons*, *Galerida cristata*, *Motacilla flava feldegg*, *Oenanthe cypriaca*, *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, *Sylvia conspicillata*

NON-BREEDING: *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Ardea alba*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Phoenicopus roseus*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Porzana porzana*, *Porzana parva*, *Porzana pusilla*, *Crex crex*, *Grus grus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Charadrius leschenaultii*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Hydrocoloeus minutus*, *Gelochelidon nilotica*, *Chlidonias hybrida*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Lullula arborea*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Acrocephalus melanopogon*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza caesia*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

LAND USE

The site is a shallow brackish seasonal wetland that floods in the winter but retains some water in the summer months, and which hosts halophytic vegetation. The wetland is surrounded by agricultural areas of mainly cereal cultivation as well as encroaching development.

THREATS

Before the recent implementation of the LIFE Oroklini project (2012-2014) co-funded by the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union for the restoration and management of Oroklini SPA (LIFE Oroklini Project, 2012-2014), a whole catalogue of threats existed at this small site. The greatest threats to IBA qualifying species at the site were direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including housing and road infrastructure as well as disturbance caused by visitors and vehicles which was an issue linked to the ease of access to most of the areas in the wetland. Other threats faced by the birds at the site included the lack of water management that would benefit IBA Qualifying species and encroachment by Invasive Alien Species, i.e. acacias. These threats are at the time of writing being effectively tackled through a combination of direct conservation and public awareness actions implemented under the LIFE Oroklini project, coordinated by BirdLife Cyprus. However, the long-term sympathetic and efficient management of the site needs to be secured after the end of the LIFE Oroklini project to ensure that these threats do not re-emerge and also to tackle other potential threats like poor water quality reaching the site, predation by mainly foxes and feral cats, water shortages and salinity fluctuations and dumping of rubbish on site. An Action Plan that provides practical management objectives which can be carried out to enable the site to attain and maintain Favourable Conservation Status, has been prepared as part of the LIFE Oroklini project.







Limassol *District*

Troodos Forest

Cha Potami River

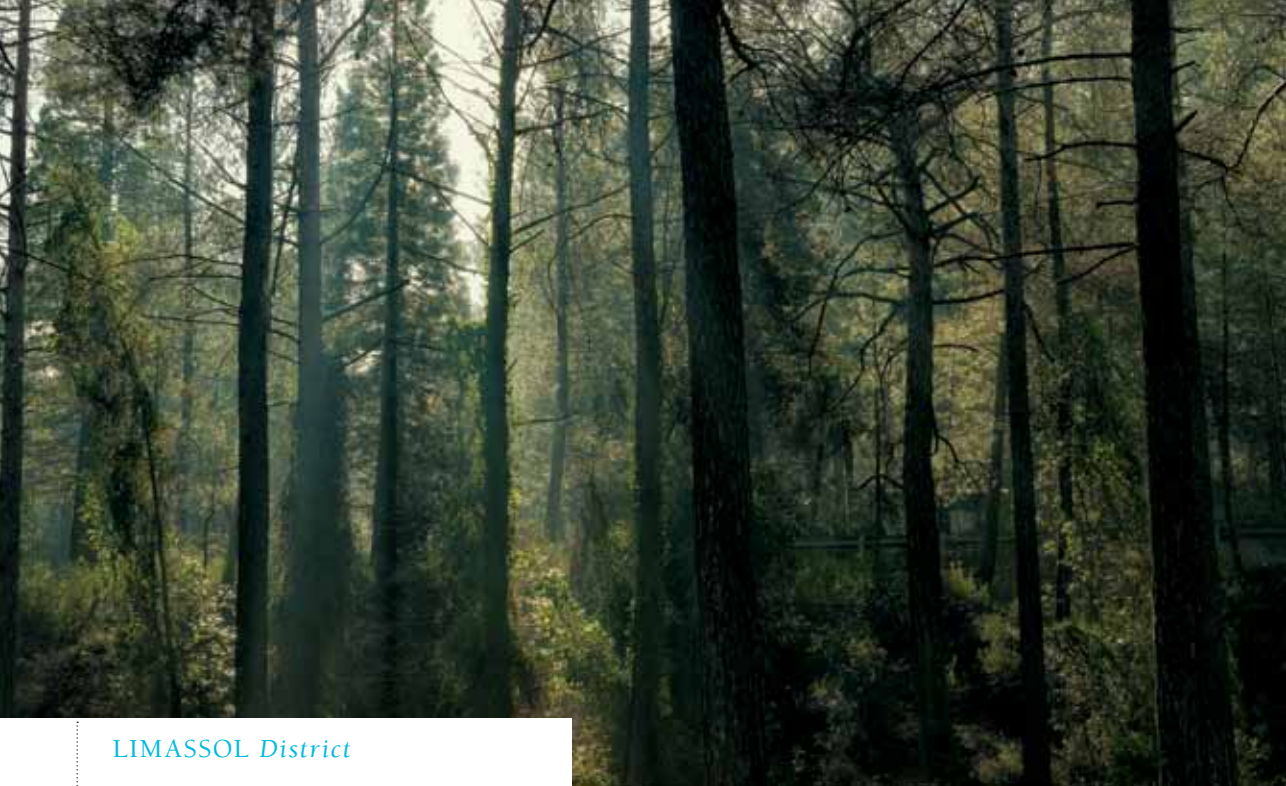
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs

Xylourikos Valley

Limnatis Valley

Paramali River and Plateau

Cape Aspro



LIMASSOL District

12020

Troodos Forest



NATIONAL CODE: 12020

LOCATION: 34° 55.804'N 32° 52.878'E

DISTRICT: Limassol, Nicosia

IBA CRITERIA: A2, B2, B3, C6

TOTAL AREA: 9398 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 9398 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

Dominated by the 1,951m Chionistra peak with its distinctive Black Pine (*Pinus nigra*) Forest, this is the highest elevation IBA in Cyprus, with a rich community of forest birds. Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia*) dominates on the lower slopes of the Endemic Bird Area site important for Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*), Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*), Cyprus Coal Tit (*Parus ater cypriotes*), Cyprus Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla dorothea*), Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*). Non-qualifying breeders worth noting are Cyprus Scops Owl (*Otus scops cyprius*), Cyprus Jay (*Garrulus glandarius glasznery*), Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*), European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*), Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) and Blackbird (*Turdus merula*). 'Troodos Forest' IBA is also the only breeding site for the Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) on the island.



Short-toed Treecreeper
Certhia brachydactyla dorothea
 ALBERT STOECKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	✓	✓
		First identified as an IBA	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY5000004' designated in 2005	96
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	4

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area	750	1750	p	B
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites				
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites				
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area	500	1500	p	B
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites				
<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	300	1200	p	B
	B2	Among top 10 breeding sites				
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	100	300	p	B
<i>Parus ater cypriotes</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	3000	7000	p	B
<i>Certhia brachydactyla dorothea</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	1000	2000	p	B



Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Accipiter gentilis*, *Aquila fasciata* (1p), *Falco peregrinus* (1-2p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Otus scops cyprius*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*, *Turdus merula*, *Garrulus glandarius glasznery*, *Corvus corax* (former breeder), *Loxia curvirostra*, *Emberiza caesia*

NON-BREEDING: *Gyps fulvus*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonorae*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site is dominated almost in its entirety by coniferous forest, with Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia*) and Black Pine (*Pinus nigra*) being the most dominant species. Significant areas of Juniper (*Juniperus oxycedrus*) and Golden Oak (*Quercus alnifolia*) scrub exist at the site, as well as rock screes.

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity in the majority of its extent. The greatest threat to birds at the site is fire and fire prevention practices, the latter linked to direct habitat fragmentation as a result of the creation and maintenance of fire breaks. This infrastructure significantly increases access, including for poachers, and increases the accidental fire risk. These threats are also exacerbated by the high density of the road network within the forest, especially for small forest nesting birds like the IBA qualifying Masked Shrike and the Cyprus Coal Tit. The operation of an asbestos mine between 1904 and 1988 left a big part of the site highly degraded, although efforts are being made for its restoration. Spraying of insecticides in the forest streams is also a potential threat to birds at the site.





LIMASSOL District

12021

Cha Potami River



NATIONAL CODE: 12021

LOCATION: 34° 46.366'N 32° 44.087'E

DISTRICT: Limassol, Pafos

IBA CRITERIA: A1, A2, B2, B3, C1, C6

TOTAL AREA: 7896 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 7896 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This new IBA is the easternmost of the four 'valley' IBAs carved by rivers flowing from the Troodos massif to the south-west coast. The main qualifying species are European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) and Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), while this is also an Endemic Bird Area site with both Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*) found in good numbers here. The site is also notable as an important feeding area for the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) and also hosts a breeding pair of Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) and 3-4 pairs of Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Like in all four 'valley' sites, at Cha Potami too there is an autumn raptor passage.



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	√
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY5000010' designated in 2007	88
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	21

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	15	50	p	B
<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area		500	750	p	B
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area		1500	2500	p	B
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		2	4	p	B
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		50	250	p	B

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Accipiter gentilis*, *Aquila fasciata* (1p), *Falco peregrinus* (1-3p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Otus scops cyprius*, *Athene noctua*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza caesia*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site is dominated almost in its entirety by scrubland vegetation comprised mainly of maquis and phrygana, and dissected by the Cha Potami River. The site also combines Olive tree (*Olea europaea*) and Carob tree (*Ceratonia siliqua*) forests, and significant areas of low-intensity farmland including vineyards. Grazing is a dominant shaper of the vegetation.

THREATS

The greatest threats to the site are direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development, including isolated housing, tourism and road infrastructure. Two large golf courses with the accompanying residential development and roads are already in place at the southern end of the site, with approval given for their expansion, threatening the IBA qualifying Long-legged Buzzard. Energy production is a major threat for the site, specifically the construction of a large wind farm inside the site, which poses a direct bird mortality threat, especially with regard to raptors like the Long-legged Buzzard and Griffon Vulture. Expansion of road infrastructure causes direct habitat loss and fragmentation and provides easy access to many parts of the site, significantly increasing access including for poachers and increases the accidental fire risk. Also land use change caused by the abandonment of agriculture poses an additional threat to birds at the site, especially IBA qualifying farmland birds like the European Roller. Another great threat to birds is the modification of the natural riverine ecosystem caused by alterations to the river bed including the illegal construction of a dam. Excessive abstraction of water is also an issue. Spraying of insecticides in streams and pools is also a potential threat as is the use of agricultural pesticides and poison in general at the site. Grazing pressure at the site is in need of assessment and management. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season.

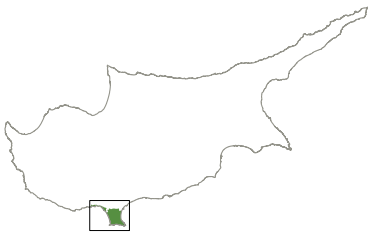




LIMASSOL District

12022

Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs



NATIONAL CODE: 12022

LOCATION: 34° 36.962'N 32° 57.592'E

DISTRICT: Limassol

IBA CRITERIA: A1, A4i, A4ii, A4iii, B1i,
B1iii, B1iv, B2, B3, C1, C2,
C3, C4, C5, C6

TOTAL AREA: 7891 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 7891 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

Among the outstanding IBAs of Cyprus, this extensive site is a congregation site for waterbirds in winter and spring, including globally important numbers of Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), and a raptor bottleneck site in the autumn, with globally important congregations of four birds of prey including Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*). Other notable migrants occurring in numbers of regional importance include Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Crane (*Grus grus*), Demoiselle Crane (*Grus virgo*) and Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*). Important breeding waterbirds are Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*). Beyond the wetlands, the Episkopi Cliffs host the most important remaining Cyprus breeding colony of Griffon Vultures (*Gyps fulvus*), while also hosting breeding Eleonora's Falcons (*Falco eleonora*) and Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*).



Greater Flamingo
Phoenicopterus roseus
ALBERT STOECKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
✓	✓	✓	✓
First identified as an IBA	Updated	Updated	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Total coverage of IBA by Special Protection Area*	60
Special Protection Area 'Akrotiri Wetlands' designated in 2010	48
Special Protection Area 'Akrotiri Cliffs' designated in 2010	5
Special Protection Area 'Episkopi Cliffs' designated in 2010	7
Ramsar Wetland of International Importance designated in 2003	29
Total coverage of IBA by Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	80
Permanent Wildlife Conservation Area	52
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area	28

* The site is in the British Sovereign Base Areas. SPA-equivalent sites are designated in the Bases under the Sovereign Base Areas Administration's Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance (26/2007) which broadly mirrors the Republic of Cyprus law 152(I)/2003, implementing the provisions of the Birds Directive.

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	A1/C1	Regular occurrence on migration irrespective of abundance	2	7	i	M
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	A1/C1	30 i M	20	60	i	M
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A1/C1	30 i M	500	2000	i	M
	C2/B1iii	975 i M				
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	A1/C1	6 i M	5	20	i	M
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p M, B	250	1000	i	M
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	A4i	5500 i M, W	2000	15000	i	M, W
	C2/B1i	600 i M, W				
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	A4ii	177 i M, B	50	70	p	B
	C2/B1iii	180 i or 60 p M, B				
	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites				
Regular congregation of water-birds*	A4iii	20000 i M, W	6000	22000	i	W, S
	C4					
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	C1	30 i M, W	10	40	i	W
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	C2/B1i	410 i M, W	200	450	i	M, W
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	12	125	p	B
	B2	Top breeding site				
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	C6	Top breeding site	1	5	p	B
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	C6	Top breeding site	2	4	p	B
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	4	5	p	B
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	2	55	p	B
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	C2/B1i	580 i M	100	750	i	M
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	C2/B1i	570 i M	100	600	i	M
<i>Grus grus</i>	C2/B1i	350 i M	100	500	i	M
<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	C2/B1i	240 i M	50	300	i	M
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	C3/B1i	750 i W	400	1200	i	W
<i>Grus virgo</i>	C3/B1i	7 i M	200	800	i	M
<i>Raptor bottleneck**</i>	C5/B1iv	3000 i M	2000	6000	i	M
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites	700	1000	p	B

* Main contributing species: *Phoenicopterus roseus*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Anas crecca*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anas clypeata*, *Fulica atra*

** Main contributing species: *Pernis apivorus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Falco vespertinus*

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*, *Alectoris chukar*, *Burhinus oedicnemus*, *Vanellus spinosus*, *Otus scops cyprius*, *Athene noctua*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Oenanthe cypriaca*, *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, *Sylvia conspiciata*, *Emberiza caesia*

NON-BREEDING: *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Cursorius cursor*, *Asio flammeus*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Acrocephalus melanopogon*, *Sylvia rueppelli*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

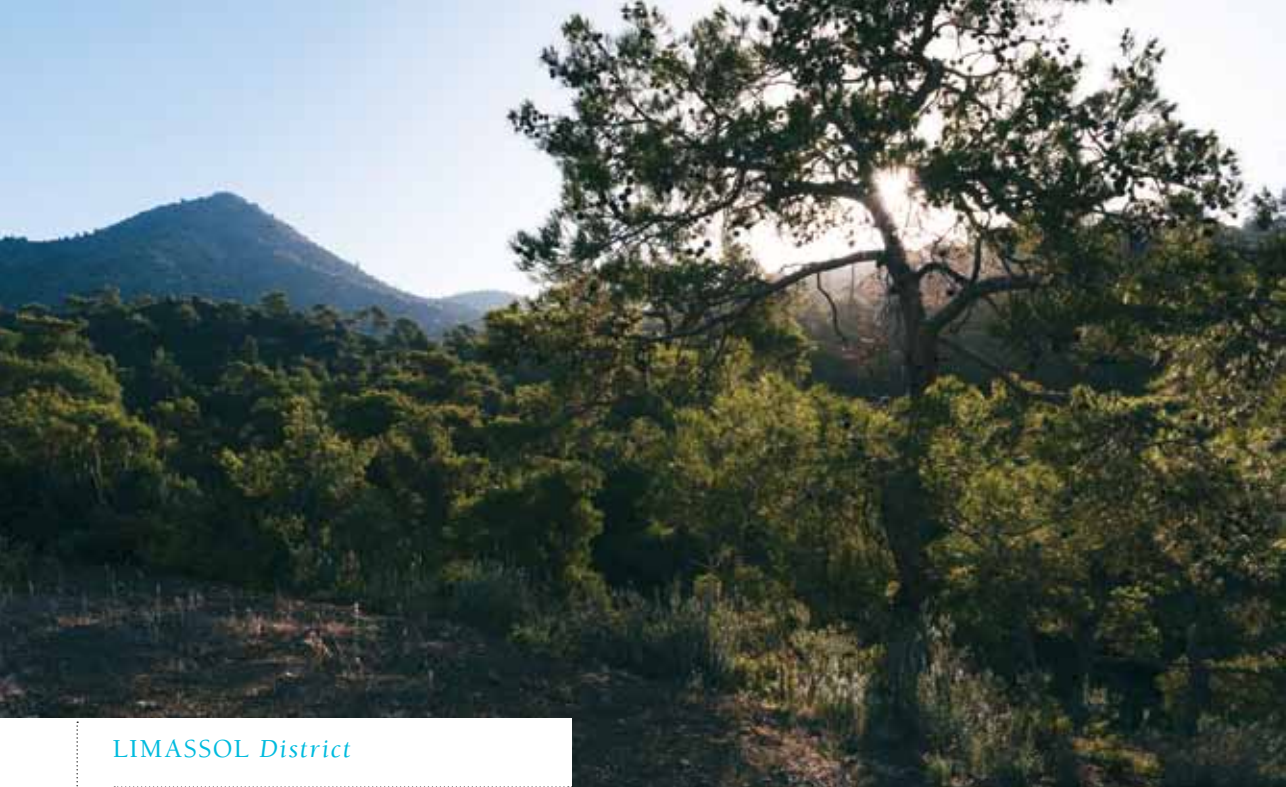
LAND USE

A seasonal salt lake occupies the centre of the Peninsula and is part of a wider aquatic system with a number of saline and freshwater habitats characterised by halophytic vegetation including Glasswort (*Salicornia europaea*). Coastal scrub and cliffs, sand dunes and agricultural areas including citrus plantations also exist at the site.

THREATS

The greatest threats to the site are direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including tourism, military, road infrastructures and antenna installations. Disturbance by visitors can be an issue, linked to the ease of access to the site. Ground-nesting waders are particularly vulnerable to disturbance caused by walkers, dog walkers and vehicles. Off-road driving, often taking the form of opportunistic rallying, is of great concern. Another great threat at Phassouri reed-beds in particular, is the lack of water management that would take the needs and requirements of these species into consideration. Predation by feral cats, stray dogs and other feral animals (possibly also natural predators) are additional threats. Illegal shooting and illegal bird trapping with mist nets and limesticks pose potential threats and training of hunting dogs can be an issue. The site is also sensitive to pollution, including from agriculture and storm sewers. Spraying of insecticides for mosquito control is also a potential threat. The extensive antenna installations and supporting guy wires pose a serious collision risk for migrating and breeding birds. Illegal dumping of rubbish (fly-tipping) is also an issue. The status of parts of the site as 'wildlife conservation areas' where hunting and hunting dog training is prohibited, is positive, reducing disturbance in some parts.

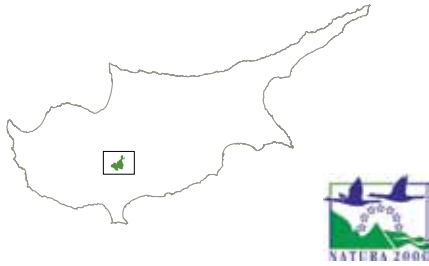




LIMASSOL District

12023

Xylourikos Valley



NATIONAL CODE: 12023

LOCATION: 34° 52.447'N 32° 58.694'E

DISTRICT: *Limassol*

IBA CRITERIA: B2, B3, C6

TOTAL AREA: 3203 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 3203 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This new IBA is a small forest site in the Troodos range that is of importance for Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and Cyprus Coal Tit (*Parus ater cypriotes*) in particular, but also holds good numbers of Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), the two endemics (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and (*Sylvia melanothorax*) and the two buntings, Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*) and Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*).



Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*
ANASTASIOS P. LEVENTIS

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	√
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area ‘CY5000008’ designated in 2007	100
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	22

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	30	60	p	B
<i>Parus ater cypriotes</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	500	1000	p	B
<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	B2	Among top 10 breeding sites	100	300	p	B
<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites	200	400	p	B
<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites	300	500	p	B
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites	500	1500	p	B
<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	B3	Among top 10 breeding sites	(150)	(450)	p	B



Woodlark *Lullula arborea*
DAVE WALKER

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Buteo rufinus* (1p), *Falco peregrinus* (1p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Otus scops cyprius*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Certhia brachydactyla dorothea*, *Garrulus glandarius glaszneri*

NON-BREEDING: *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*

LAND USE

The site is dominated almost in its entirety by maquis scrubland as well as coniferous forest, with Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia*) being the most dominant species. The site includes agricultural areas, mainly consisting of low-intensity farmlands including apple and peach orchards and scattered Olive Trees (*Olea europaea*).

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity in the majority of its extent. The greatest threat to the site is posed by fire and fire prevention practices, the latter linked to direct habitat fragmentation as a result of the creation and maintenance of fire breaks. This infrastructure significantly increases access, including for poachers, and increases the accidental fire risk. Illegal shooting and illegal bird trapping with mist nets and limesticks and illegal use of poison baits pose potential threats. Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development especially isolated housing, road infrastructure and quarrying developments pose additional threats.

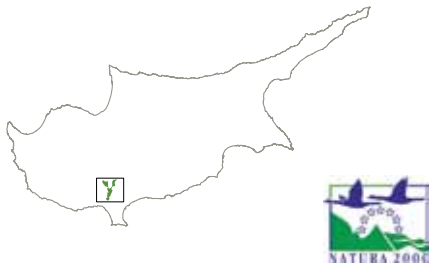




LIMASSOL District

12024

Limnatis Valley



NATIONAL CODE: 12024
LOCATION: 34° 45.615'N 32° 55.170'E
DISTRICT: Limassol
IBA CRITERIA: B3, C6
TOTAL AREA: 2892 ha
TERRESTRIAL AREA: 2892 ha
MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This scrub-dominated site, consisting of two steep-sided valleys of the Kouris and Limnatis rivers that merge at the Kouris dam, is important as the only site beyond Episkopi cliffs where the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) has been known to nest in recent years. The extensive areas of dense, spiny broom-dominated scrub at this new IBA also make it important for Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*), while mention could also be made of breeding Long-legged Buzzards (*Buteo rufinus*) and Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*).



Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*
RAIJA HOWARD

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	√
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY5000011' designated in 2013	100
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	62

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites	0	1	p	B
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites	250	1000	p	B



Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax*
DAVE WALKER

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Buteo rufinus* (1p), *Falco peregrinus* (3-4 p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Otus scops cyprius*, *Athene noctua*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Oenanthe cypriaca*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza caesia*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site is dominated almost in its entirety by maquis scrubland mainly with Olive Trees (*Olea europaea*) and Carob Trees (*Ceratonia siliqua*) as well as phrygana with mainly *Sarcopoterium spinosum*. Coniferous and broadleaved forests are also found at the site. The site includes agricultural areas, mainly comprising of vineyards and citrus orchards.

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity over most of its area. The greatest threats to the birds at the site and especially the small nesting birds like the IBA qualifying Cyprus Warbler are the pressures for the development of housing, road infrastructures, high voltage power lines and renewable energy developments, and more specifically solar parks, within the site. Spraying of insecticides in streams and pools and the use of agricultural pesticides and poison in general is also a potential threat to birds at the site. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season. Excessive abstraction of water is an additional issue. Grazing pressure at the site is in need of assessment and management. The status of part of the site as a 'temporary wildlife conservation area' where hunting is prohibited, is positive, reducing disturbance in some parts.





LIMASSOL District

12025

Paramali River and Plateau



NATIONAL CODE: 12025

LOCATION: 34° 43.897'N 32° 49.019'E

DISTRICT: Limassol

IBA CRITERIA: A1, B1i, B3, C1, C2, C3

TOTAL AREA: 2349 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 2349 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This new Limassol area IBA, with its rugged topography, goat-grazed scrubby vegetation and matorral on the plateaus between the ravines, is a key migration site, part of the across-Cyprus autumn flyway that has the Akrotiri peninsula as its destination. Red-footed Falcons (*Falco vespertinus*), Common Cranes (*Grus grus*) and Demoiselle Cranes (*Grus virgo*) all occur in significant numbers on migration, especially in the autumn months. But the site is also important for breeding birds, the European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*), and the two endemics, Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*). Both Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) nest here.



Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	✓
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY5000009' designated in 2008	76
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	54

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A1/C1	30 i	M	50	450	i	M
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	10	40	p	B
<i>Grus grus</i>	C2/B1i	350 i	M	(100)	(2000)	i	M
<i>Grus virgo</i>	C3/B1i	7 i	M	200	400	i	M
<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites		300	500	p	B
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites		1000	2000	p	B



Common Crane *Grus grus*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Aquila fasciata* (1p), *Falco peregrinus* (2p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Otus scops cypricus*, *Athene noctua*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Emberiza caesia*

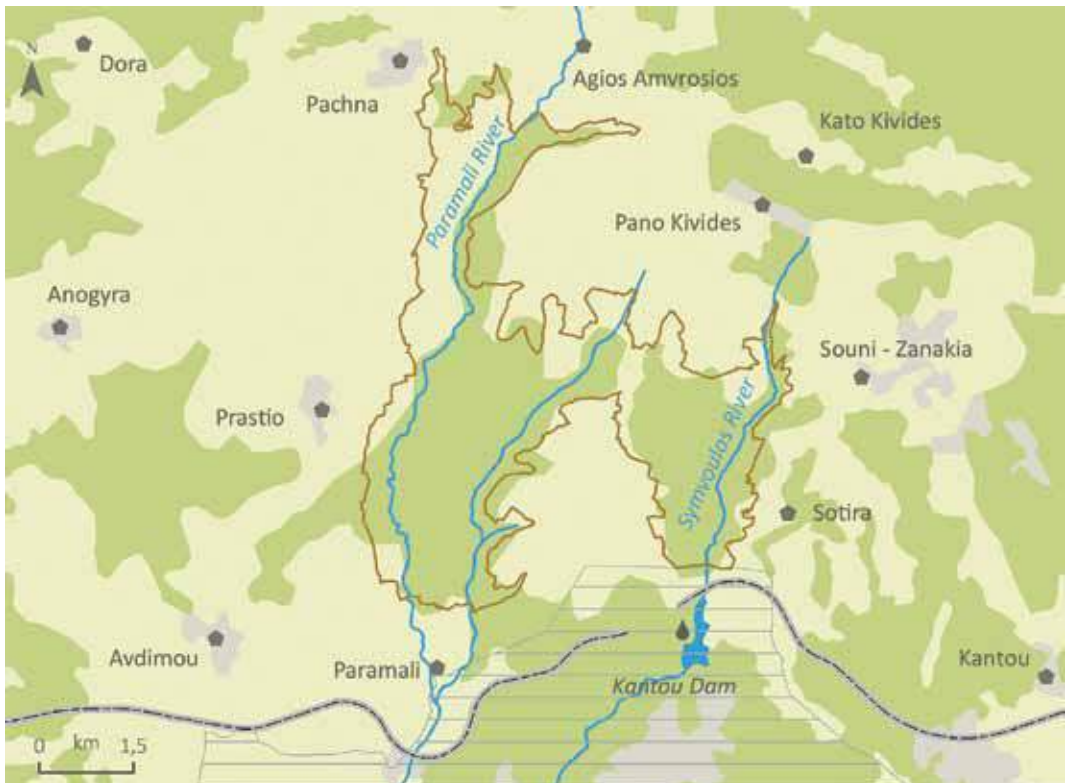
NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site is dominated almost in its entirety by maquis scrubland mainly with *Genista spaelata* and phrygana mainly with *Cistus creticus*. Scattered Pine Trees (*Pinus brutia*) and Carob Trees (*Ceratonia siliqua*) are found at the site and some olive groves exist. The site is dissected by the river systems of Paramali and Symvoulos rivers.

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity over most of its area. However, the great threats to the birds at the site and especially the Common and Demoiselle Crane which use the plateau during their migration are direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development for tourism, including 2 golf courses with the accompanying residential development and roads. The operation of a quarry within the site also poses a threat to birds in terms of both habitat loss and disturbance caused. Additionally grazing pressure at the site is in need of assessment and management. Illegal shooting and illegal bird trapping with mist nets and limesticks and illegal use of poison baits pose potential threats. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season. The status of part of the site as a 'temporary wildlife conservation area' where hunting is prohibited, is positive, reducing disturbance in some parts.





LIMASSOL District

12026

Cape Aspro



NATIONAL CODE: 12026

LOCATION: 34° 39.293'N 32° 40.902'E

DISTRICT: Limassol, Pafos

IBA CRITERIA: A4ii, B1iii, B2, C2, C6

TOTAL AREA: 744 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 744 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

The precipitous, coastal, chalk cliffs of Cape Aspro are a small site of great importance as one of only two nesting sites for Eleonora's Falcon (*Falco eleonora*) in Cyprus. The open, scrubby areas immediately behind the cliffs that the falcons make their nest on are important as feeding areas for these birds. The site also hosts breeding Mediterranean Shags (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*), though not in great enough numbers to meet any qualifying criteria.



Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*
ALBERT STOECKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
✓	✓	✓	✓
First identified as an IBA	Updated	Updated	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY5000005' designated in 2005	51

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Falco eleonorae</i>	A4ii	177 i	M, B	40	75	p	B
	C2/B1iii	180 i or 60 p	M, B				
	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites					



Mediterranean Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Alectoris chukar*, *Galerida cristata*, *Oenanthe cypriaca*, *Sylvia melanothorax*

NON-BREEDING: *Alcedo atthis*, *Monticola solitarius*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza caesia*

LAND USE

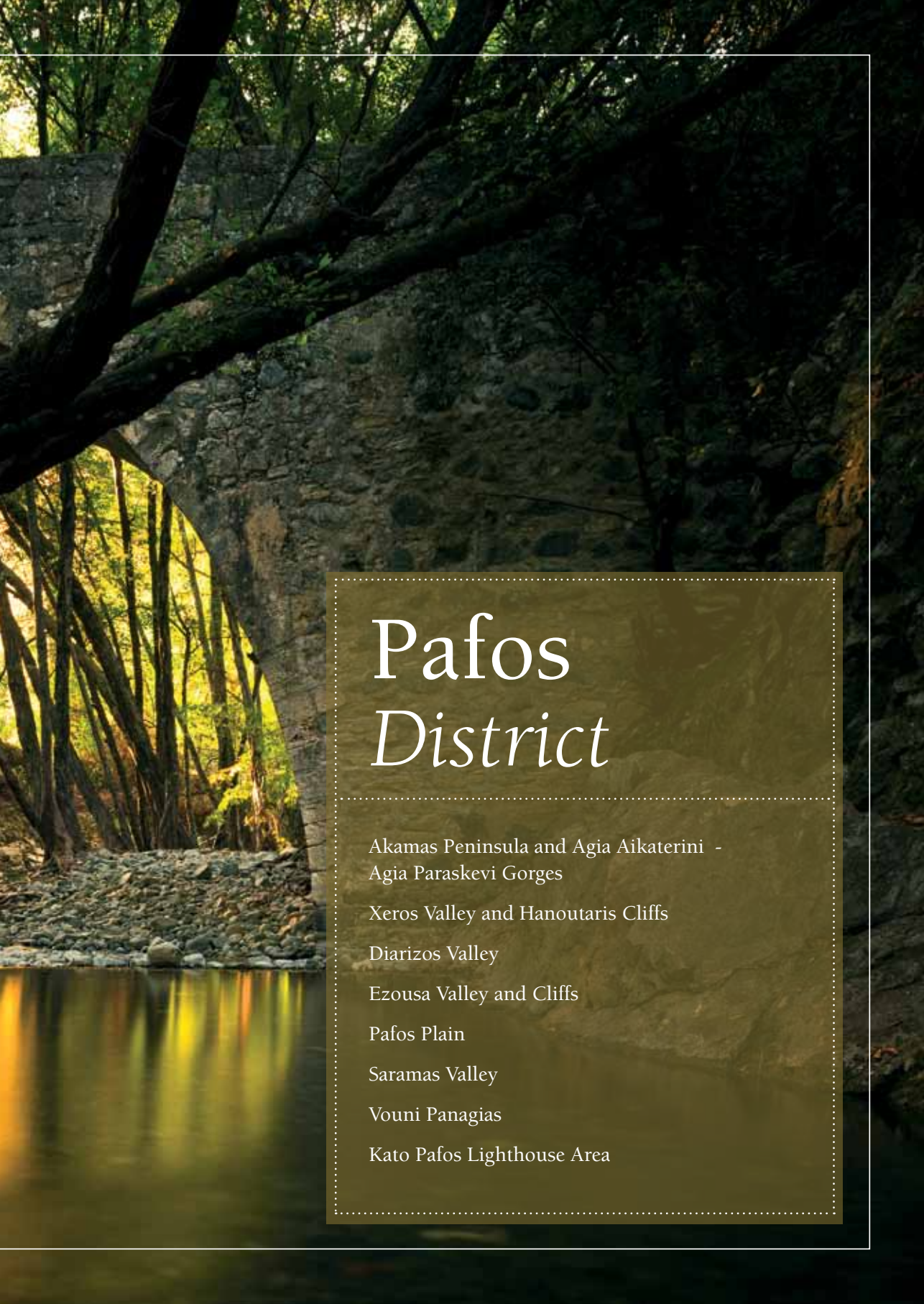
The site is dominated almost in its entirety by maquis scrubland, phrygana and low coastal garrigue. Olive Tree (*Olea europaea*) and Carob Tree (*Ceratonia siliqua*) forest are prominent at the site. Scattered Pine Trees (*Pinus brutia*) are found at the site which extends to the coast with pebble and shingle beaches.

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity in the majority of its extent, since the cliffs where the IBA qualifying Eleonora's Falcon breeds are inaccessible from land. The greatest threat to the Falcons at the site is disturbance from the sea created by leisure or fishing boats and a fishing shelter that exists near the site. Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for residential development including isolated housing and road infrastructure are threats to the site. Grazing pressure at the site is in need of assessment and management. Illegal use of poison baits also poses a potential threat.







Pafos *District*

Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini -
Agia Paraskevi Gorges

Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs

Diarizos Valley

Ezousa Valley and Cliffs

Pafos Plain

Saramas Valley

Vouni Panagias

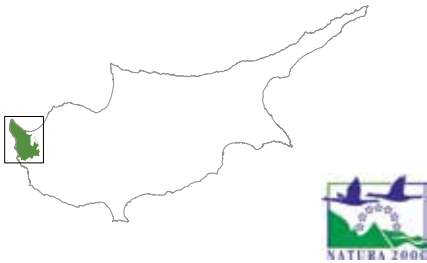
Kato Pafos Lighthouse Area



PAFOS District

12027

Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges



NATIONAL CODE: 12027

LOCATION: 34° 58.853'N 32° 21.629'E

DISTRICT: Pafos

IBA CRITERIA: A1, A3, B1i, B2, B3, C1, C2,
C3, C6

TOTAL AREA: 20772 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 20772 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

One of the larger, more distinctive and most rich-in-qualifying-species IBAs, 'Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini – Agia Paraskevi Gorges' is the top breeding site on the island for the European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*), a species of global conservation concern. This IBA is also a Mediterranean Biome Site, with its scrub vegetation hosting high breeding densities of the endemics, Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*) and Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*), Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*), Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*) and Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*). The coastline of the Akamas peninsula is important for waterbird passage, especially in the autumn, with Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) the most important species. Demoiselle Cranes (*Grus virgo*) also occur in passage. Other notable breeders (all in qualifying numbers) are Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Cyprus Scops Owl (*Otus scops cyprius*), Chukar Partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) and Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*).



European Roller *Coracias garrulus*
DAVE WALKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
✓	✓	✓	✓
First identified as an IBA	Updated	Updated	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Total coverage of IBA by Special Protection Area	55
Special Protection Area 'CY4000023' designated in 2009	49
Special Protection Area 'CY4000016' designated in 2007	6
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	21

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Coracias garrulus	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	200	800	i	M
	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		80	300	p	B
Emberiza caesia	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		(400)	(1000)	p	B
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites					
	B3	Among top 10 breeding sites					
Lanius nubicus	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		100	200	p	B
	B2	Among top 10 breeding sites					
Oenanthe cyprica	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		1000	1500	p	B
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
Sylvia melanothorax	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		500	1000	p	B
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
Sylvia melanocephala	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		(5000)	(10000)	p	B
Emberiza melanocephala	A3	Mediterranean Biome Site		400	900	p	B
	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites					
Egretta garzetta	C2/B1i	580 i	M	500	1000	i	M
Plegadis falcinellus	C2/B1i	570 i	M	300	1000	i	M
Grus virgo	C3/B1i	7 i	M	100	500	i	M
Aquila fasciata	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		1	3	p	B
Falco peregrinus	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		6	8	p	B
Caprimulgus europaeus	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		(150)	(250)	p	B
Francolinus francolinus	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		250	1000	p	B
Alectoris chukar	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(1500)	(2500)	p	B
Athene noctua	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		400	700	p	B
Otus scops cyprius	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		300	700	p	B

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Buteo rufinus* (1p), *Burhinus oedicnemus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

NON-BREEDING: *Calonectris diomedea diomedea*, *Puffinus yelkouan*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Ardea alba*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonorae*, *Porzana porzana*, *Porzana parva*, *Porzana pusilla*, *Crex crex*, *Grus grus*, *Charadrius leschenaultii*, *Larus genei*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Anthus campestris*, *Monticola solitarius*, *Sylvia rueppelli*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site boasts rugged, remote rocky coastlines forming sea cliffs, areas of wild Juniper scrub and Pine forest (*Pinus brutia*), open expanses of grazed phrygana and grasslands, dramatic limestone gorges and also expanses of low-intensity farmland mosaics, with the vineyards of the Laona plateau, which rises to over 600m, a characteristic feature.

THREATS

The greatest threats to the site are direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including tourism, isolated housing, road infrastructures and quarries. Birds at the site are increasingly subject to pressure and disturbance from recreation activities like uncontrolled camping and off-road driving, often in the form of tourist excursions in 4-wheel drive vehicles or quad bikes. Furthermore land use changes such as abandonment of agriculture or changes in grazing regimes and overgrazing pose threats especially to farmland birds. Pressure for land use change from agriculture to energy production developments and specifically the construction of solar parks also exists. Fire and fire prevention practices, the latter linked to direct habitat fragmentation as a result of the creation and maintenance of fire breaks, is also a threat to the site. This infrastructure significantly increases access, including for poachers, and increases the accidental fire risk. These threats are also linked to the high density of the road network within the site. Illegal shooting, illegal bird trapping with mist nets and limesticks and illegal use of poison baits pose potential threats, and training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season. Other threats to birds at the site include dumping of rubbish.





PAFOS District

12028

Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs



NATIONAL CODE: 12028

LOCATION: 34° 48.819'N 32° 37.635'E

DISTRICT: Pafos

IBA CRITERIA: A1, A2, B2, B3, C1, C6

TOTAL AREA: 9558 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 9558 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This extensive IBA is one of the four 'valley' IBAs carved by rivers flowing from the Troodos massif to the south-west coast, with the Xeros River being the creating force in this case. This is the most important of the four 'valley' IBAs, with a long catalogue of qualifying species including three species of global conservation concern: breeding European Rollers (*Coracias garrulus*), migrating Pallid Harriers (*Circus macrourus*) and Red-footed Falcons (*Falco vespertinus*). This site is also an Endemic Bird Area with both Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*) found here in very good numbers. The open landscape of the Xeros valley also hosts important breeding populations of Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – plus a pair of Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*). To this catalogue must be added important breeding numbers of Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedicephalus*), Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), Little Owl (*Athene noctua*), Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*), Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) and Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*). Finally, the site is also an important feeding area for the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) and an important site for autumn raptor passage.



Little Owl *Athene noctua*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
✓	✓	✓	✓
First identified as an IBA	Updated	Updated	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Total coverage of IBA by Special Protection Area	66
Special Protection Area 'CY4000007' designated in 2005	43
Special Protection Area 'CY4000017' designated in 2007	23
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	28

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	A1/C1	30 i	M	20	40	i	M
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A1/C1	30 i	M	50	250	i	M
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	30	100	p	B
	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites					
<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area		1500	2500	p	B
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites					
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area		1500	2500	p	B
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(<50)		p	B
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		3	5	p	B
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		5	7	p	B
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		50	250	p	B
<i>Athene noctua</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		200	300	p	B
<i>Galerida cristata</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(2000)	(3000)	p	B
<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	B2	Among top 10 breeding sites		100	300	p	B
<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	B3	Among top 10 breeding sites		(300)	(700)	p	B

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Aquila fasciata* (1p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Otus scops cyprius*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Sylvia conspicillata*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site is an even mix of phrygana dominated by *Sarcopoterium spinosum*, scrub and low-intensity farmland including vineyards and orchards. The site is dissected by the Xeros river and on the valley slopes Olive Tree (*Olea europaea*), Carob Tree (*Ceratonia siliqua*) and patches of Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia*) can be found.

THREATS

The greatest threat to the site is the modification of the natural riverine ecosystem caused by alterations to the river bed as well as the building of dams. Excessive abstraction of water is also an issue. In addition land use changes such as abandonment of agriculture or changes in grazing regimes also pose threats to the birds at the site. Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development especially for isolated housing, road infrastructure and renewable energy developments, more specifically solar parks, present additional threats. Illegal shooting and illegal bird trapping with mist nets and limesticks and illegal use of poison baits pose potential threats. Grazing pressure at the site is in need of assessment and management.





PAFOS District

12029

Diarizos Valley



NATIONAL CODE: 12029

LOCATION: 34° 47.882'N 32° 41.348'E

DISTRICT: Pafos, Limassol

IBA CRITERIA: A1, A2, B2, B3, C1, C6

TOTAL AREA: 8804 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 8804 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This is a relatively remote and undeveloped site in one of the four 'valley' IBAs carved by rivers flowing from the Troodos massif to the south-west coast. The Diarizos riverside extends from near the river's source in the Pafos forest to just before it spills into the Pafos plain, ranging in elevation from 800m to 50m. Diarizos Valley is an Endemic Bird Area site with good populations of Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cyprica*) and especially of Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*). It is also a top breeding site for European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) and Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*). Also of note are the local populations of Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*), Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) and Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*). The valley also witnesses a passage of raptors in the autumn. Finally, mention should be made of this site being an important feeding area for the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) that also hosts breeding Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*).



Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

ANASTASIOS P. LEVENTIS

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	✓	✓
		First identified as an IBA	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Total coverage of IBA by Special Protection Area	71
Special Protection Area 'CY4000020' designated in 2007	56
Special Protection Area 'CY5000010' designated in 2007	12
Special Protection Area 'CY4000017' designated in 2007	3
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	18

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	20	80	p	B
	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites					
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area		2000	4000	p	B
	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites					
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	A2	Endemic Bird Area		1000	1500	p	B
	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites					
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		5	7	p	B
	B2	The top breeding site					
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		50	250	p	B
<i>Athene noctua</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		150	250	p	B
<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	B3	Among top 10 breeding sites		(300)	(700)	p	B

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Falco peregrinus* (3p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Burhinus oedicnemus*, *Otus scops cyprius*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

NON-BREEDING: *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site is dominated by phrygana and scrub, with Coniferous forest (*Pinus brutia*) being found at the northern parts. The site, which is dissected by the Diarizos River, also combines complex, low-intensity agricultural systems, including grazing areas.

THREATS

The greatest threat the site faces is the modification of the natural riverine ecosystem caused by alterations to the river flow and the river bed, including pressure for the creation of dams. Land use change like the abandonment of agriculture is also a threat to birds at the site and especially IBA qualifying farmland birds like the European Roller. Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including isolated housing and road infrastructure are threats to the site. Disturbance as a result of the high density of the road network within the site can be an issue. This infrastructure significantly increases access, including for poachers. Spraying of insecticides in streams and pools and the use of agricultural pesticides and poison in general, are also potential threats to birds at the site. Excessive abstraction of water is also an issue. Grazing pressure at the site is in need of assessment and management. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season.





PAFOS District

12030

Ezousa Valley and Cliffs



NATIONAL CODE: 12030
LOCATION: 34° 49.934'N 32° 32.277'E
DISTRICT: Pafos
IBA CRITERIA: A1, B2, B3, C1, C6
TOTAL AREA: 7492 ha
TERRESTRIAL AREA: 7492 ha
MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This new IBA site covers the valley of the Ezousa River plus surrounding areas and hosts a variety of vegetation communities and a rich bird community. The main qualifying species are European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*), Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), which all have important breeding populations in this remote area. Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*) are also found in good numbers here, as are the qualifying game species Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*) and Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*). This site is also an important feeding area for the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) and hosts one breeding pair of Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*). The valley - the westernmost of the four 'valley' IBAs carved by rivers flowing from the Troodos massif to the south-west coast - is also important for raptor autumn passage.



European Roller *Coracias garrulus*
ALBERT STOECKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	✓
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Total coverage of IBA by Special Protection Area	83
Special Protection Area 'CY4000021' designated in 2007	62
Special Protection Area 'CY4000022' designated in 2008	21
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	23

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	20	80	p	B
	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites					
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		4	6	p	B
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	C6	Among top 5 breeding sites		3	5	p	B
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		50	250	p	B
<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(1000)	(1500)	p	B
<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites		500	1000	p	B
<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites		1000	2000	p	B



Black-headed Bunting
Emberiza melanocephala
DAVID NYE

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Aquila fasciata* (1p), *Burhinus oedipnemus*, *Otus scops cyprius*, *Athene noctua*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza caesia*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

NON-BREEDING: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Lullula arborea*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

Dissected by the Ezousa River, the site is evenly split between low-intensity farmland including vineyards and citrus orchards and grazed grasslands, phrygana and scrubby areas with Oak (*Quercus coccifera*), creating an attractive landscape mosaic. Toward the northern edge of the site stand steep cliffs.

THREATS

The greatest threats to the site are direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including isolated housing, tourism and road infrastructure. A large golf course with the accompanying residential development and roads is already in place at the site and pressures exist for its expansion, threatening the IBA qualifying Long-legged Buzzard and also the pair of Bonelli's Eagle. Proposals exist for the construction of a motorway across the site, which would pose a threat to birds and especially breeding Long-legged Buzzard, causing disturbance, direct habitat loss and serious fragmentation. Land use change caused by the abandonment of agriculture as well as the change of land use from agriculture to energy production developments, specifically the construction of solar parks, poses an additional threat to birds at the site, especially IBA qualifying farmland birds like the European Roller. Disturbance as a result of the high density of the road network within the site can be an issue. This infrastructure significantly increases access, including for poachers. Another great threat to birds at the site is the modification of the natural riverine ecosystem caused by alterations to the river bed, as well as excessive abstraction of water. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season. Spraying of insecticides in streams and pools is also a potential threat to birds at the site as is the use of agricultural pesticides and poison in general.





PAFOS District

12031

Pafos Plain



NATIONAL CODE: 12031

LOCATION: 34° 42.919'N 32° 30.925'E

DISTRICT: Pafos

IBA CRITERIA: A1, B1iii, B1iv, B2, C1, C2,
C5, C6

TOTAL AREA: 2286 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 2286 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

The flat coastal plain where the Ezousa, Xeros and Diarizos rivers have their deltas is dominated by intensive arable agriculture, but this is none-the-less one of the key migration areas in Cyprus. Pafos Plain is a “bottleneck” site for migrant raptors, with many hundreds coming through, especially in the autumn, with Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) and Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) prominent among these. The Red-footed Falcon is a qualifying species in its own right for this site, with up to 1,000 birds using the area in autumn. The site is also notable as one of the most important breeding areas for Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oediconemus*) and Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*). The coastal site is also one of the few breeding sites for the Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*) in Cyprus, though numbers are small.



Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*
ALBERT STOECKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
✓	✓	✓	✓
First identified as an IBA	Updated	Updated	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY4000018' designated in 2007	35
Total coverage of IBA by Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	99
Permanent Wildlife Conservation Area	97
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area	2

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A1/C1	30 i	M	500	1000	i	M
	C2/B1iii	975 i	M				
Raptor bottleneck*	C5/B1iv	3000 i	M	(1000)	(4000)	i	M
<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	C6/B2	Among top 5 breeding sites		(<50)		p	B
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		250	1000	p	B

* Main contributing species: *Pernis apivorus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Falco tinnunculus*, *Falco vespertinus*

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Alectoris chukar*, *Athene noctua*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Melanocorypha calandra*, *Oenanthe cypriaca*, *Sylvia melanothorax*

NON-BREEDING: *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Falco eleonora*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Grus grus*, *Grus virgo*, *Charadrius leschenaultii*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Melanocorypha calandra*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Emberiza caesia*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

LAND USE

The site is dominated by intensive arable agriculture, mainly cereal cultivation but also citrus groves and vegetables. Where the rivers meet the flat plain there are remnants of phrygana and maquis vegetation and small pools are created.

THREATS

The greatest threat to the birds at the site and especially the IBA qualifying Stone Curlew and Black Francolin is intensification of agriculture which would mean increased monocultures, fertilisers, pesticides and irrigation. Additionally direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for housing and road development and the development of the Pafos Airport, pose threats to the birds at the site. The latter is also linked to a further threat to birds and especially IBA qualifying raptors, as birds and aircraft share a common airspace over the site. Illegal shooting and illegal bird trapping with mist nets and limesticks are threats. Excessive abstraction of water is also an issue at the site. The status of almost the entire the site as a 'permanent wildlife conservation area' where hunting and hunting dog training is prohibited, is positive, reducing disturbance.





PAFOS District

12032

Saramas Valley



NATIONAL CODE: 12032

LOCATION: 34° 57.794'N 32° 30.812'E

DISTRICT: Pafos

IBA CRITERIA: A1, B2, B3, C1

TOTAL AREA: 1556 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 1556 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

The remote Saramas valley, a new Pafos IBA site, is principally important for breeding European Rollers (*Coracias garrulus*), though it also hosts good numbers of Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*).



Cyprus Scops Owl *Otus scops cyprius*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	X	✓
			First identified as an IBA

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY4000019' designated in 2008	100
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	32

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	10	40	p	B
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	B2	Among top 20 breeding sites		50	250	p	B
<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites		200	400	p	B



Little Owl *Athene noctua*
JAMES WILLSON

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Buteo rufinus*, *Alectoris chukar*, *Burhinus oedicnemus*, *Otus scops cyprius*, *Athene noctua*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Galerida cristata*, *Sylvia melanothorax*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza caesia*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

NON-BREEDING: *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Ardea alba*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Porzana porzana*, *Porzana parva*, *Porzana pusilla*, *Crex crex*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The open landscape of the valley is dissected by the Stavros tis Psokas River, which meets the Evretou dam at the western part of the site, and is dominated by low-intensity farmland and extensive areas of phrygana and maquis. At its side neighbouring Pafos Forest, Calabrian Pine woods (*Pinus brutia*) can be found.

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity in the majority of its extent. The greatest threats to the site are direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development, especially isolated housing, road infrastructure and quarrying developments. Training of hunting dogs can be an issue during the breeding season. Grazing pressure and agricultural practices at the site are in need of assessment and management. Excessive abstraction of water is also an issue. The status of part of the site as a 'temporary wildlife conservation area' where hunting is prohibited, is a positive, reducing disturbance in some parts.

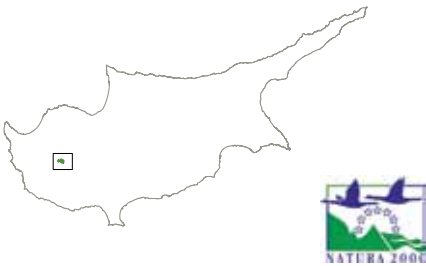




PAFOS District

12033

Vouni Panagias



NATIONAL CODE: 12033
 LOCATION: 34° 54.102'N 32° 38.023'E
 DISTRICT: Pafos
 IBA CRITERIA: B2, B3
 TOTAL AREA: 947 ha
 TERRESTRIAL AREA: 947 ha
 MARINE AREA: 0 ha

This is a distinctive IBA site, comprising the high limestone plateau of Vouni Panagias, at around 1,000m elevation. The area is dominated by vineyards and is of importance as a designated Special Protection Area (SPA), with good breeding populations of Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cretzschmar's Bunting (*Emberiza caesia*). Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) also nest here.



Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	√	√
		First identified as an IBA	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY4000004' designated in 2005	100
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	10

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	B2	Among top 10 breeding sites	40	80	p	B
<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	B3	Among top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	B3	Among top 10 breeding sites	(50)	(80)	p	B



Cyprus Coal Tit *Parus ater cyprites*
MICHAEL GORE

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Buteo rufinus* (1p), *Falco peregrinus* (1p), *Alectoris chukar*, *Otus scops cypricus*, *Athene noctua*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Lullula arborea*, *Monticola solitarius*, *Turdus merula*, *Sylvia melanothorax*, *Parus ater cyprites*, *Garrulus glandarius glaszneri*, *Emberiza melanocephala*

NON-BREEDING: *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*

LAND USE

The site, with its limestone plateau, is characterised by vineyards and other cultivated fields which stand in what used to be Oak (*Quercus infectoria*) woodland. Scattered Oaks are still found in the fields and phrygana cover some parts.

THREATS

The site is in relatively good condition, with little interference from human activity in the majority of its extent. The greatest threats to the IBA qualifying species and especially farmland birds like the Cretzschmar's Bunting at the site are land use change as a result of the abandonment of agriculture in some parts and the intensification of agriculture with increased monocultures, fertiliser and pesticide use, and loss of landscape features is an important threat. Direct habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of pressure for development including isolated housing and quarrying development are additional threats to the site.





PAFOS District

12034

Kato Pafos Lighthouse Area



NATIONAL CODE: 12034

LOCATION: 34° 45.577'N 32° 24.407'E

DISTRICT: Pafos

IBA CRITERIA: C7

TOTAL AREA: 88 ha

TERRESTRIAL AREA: 88 ha

MARINE AREA: 0 ha

In the south-west 'corner' of Cyprus, a small promontory is important principally for its rocky coastline, which hosts Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) on migration and in the winter. The site is designated as a Special Protection Area principally for the plover, but also regularly attracts herons, waders and various passerine species on migration.



Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

DAVE WALKER

HISTORY OF THE IBA

Bennett <i>in</i> Grimmett and Jones, 1989	Charalambides <i>in</i> Heath and Evans, 2000	Iezekiel <i>et al.</i> , 2004	Hellicar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
X	X	✓	✓
		First identified as an IBA	Updated

PROTECTION STATUS

Protection Status	% of IBA covered
Special Protection Area 'CY4000013' designated in 2005	100
Temporary Wildlife Conservation Area (hunting prohibited)	98

SPECIES

Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	C7	Designated SPA for importance for other ornithological criteria	10	20	i	M, W



Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
DAVE WALKER

Also recorded regularly at this site (but not in numbers sufficient to meet any criteria), are the following species:

BREEDING: *Francolinus francolinus*, *Alectoris chukar*, *Athene noctua*, *Galerida cristata*, *Oenanthe cypriaca*, *Sylvia conspicillata*, *Sylvia melanothorax*

NON-BREEDING: *Calonectris diomedea diomedea*, *Puffinus yelkouan*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Phoenicopterus roseus*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Cursorius cursor*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Vanellus spinosus*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Larus genei*, *Asio flammeus*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Lullula arborea*, *Anthus campestris*, *Sylvia rueppelli*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Emberiza caesia*

LAND USE

The site is dominated by a fenced archaeological site that includes both areas of rough grassland and some gardens. A lighthouse sits on top of a hill surrounded by small cliffs. Beyond the archaeological site, the coast is mostly rocky, with some sandy shores.

THREATS

The greatest threat to the only IBA qualifying species of the site, the Greater Sand Plover, is disturbance caused by visitors to the site, including dog walkers, especially on the coastal walkway. Pressure for development of the site also exists and poses an additional threat, as does the lack of sympathetic management of the areas of rough grassland and scrub within the site. Light pollution linked to the proximity of the site to the town of Pafos is an additional threat to birds. The status of the entire site as a 'temporary wildlife conservation area' where hunting is prohibited, is positive, reducing disturbance.



ANALYSIS BY IBA QUALIFYING SPECIES

The tables in the following pages detail, for each individual IBA qualifying species or group of IBA qualifying species:

- i. The criteria the species or species group qualify under
- ii. The IBA sites identified for each species or group of species
- iii. The estimated total populations for each qualifying species in all IBAs. The letter 'p' refers to pairs or 'i' refers to individuals. B refers to the breeding season, S to spring passage, M to migration and W to wintering.
- iv. Where uncertainties exist, population estimates are reported as provisional in brackets.
- v. The threshold numbers for each qualifying species to meet the IBA criteria. Threshold numbers should be met regularly and could be met cumulatively (over a season).

1. Breeding, migrant or wintering species of global conservation concern qualifying under criteria A1/C1

A1 CRITERION: Site regularly holds significant numbers of globally threatened species, or other species of global conservation concern.

C1 CRITERION (same as A1): The site regularly holds significant numbers of a globally threatened or near threatened species.

(Note that some species detailed in this section qualify under other criteria also, as indicated under the specific species entry. For example, *Falco vespertinus* qualifies at 'Akrotiri Peninsula – Episkopi Cliffs' IBA under A1/C1 but also under C2/B1iii.)

1.01. *Oxyura leucocephala* (White-headed Duck)

IBA criteria met: A1, C1						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Mia Milia Sewage Treatment Plant	A1/C1	Regular occurrence on migration/wintering irrespective of abundance	1	2	i	W
Larnaca Salt Lakes	A1/C1	Regular occurrence on migration/wintering irrespective of abundance	1	4	i	W

1.02. *Neophron percnopterus* (Egyptian Vulture)

IBA criteria met: A1, C1						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	A1/C1	Regular occurrence on migration irrespective of abundance	2	7	i	M

1.03. *Circus macrourus* (Pallid Harrier)

IBA criteria met: A1, C1							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	A1/C1	30 i	M	20	60	i	M
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	A1/C1	30 i	M	20	40	i	M
Cape Greco	A1/C1	30 i	M	20	60	i	M
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	A1/C1	30 i	M	20	60	i	M

1.04. *Falco vespertinus* (Red-footed Falcon)

IBA criteria met: A1, C1, C2, B1iii							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	A1/C1	30 i	M	500	2000	i	M
	C2/B1iii	975 i	M				
Pafos Plain	A1/C1	30 i	M	500	1000	i	M
	C2/B1iii	975 i	M				
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	A1/C1	30 i	M	50	500	i	M
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	A1/C1	30 i	M	50	250	i	M
Cape Greco	A1/C1	30 i	M	50	500	i	M
Paramali River and Plateau	A1/C1	30 i	M	50	450	i	M
Akhna Dam	A1/C1	30 i	M	40	250	i	M

1.05. *Falco cherrug* (Saker Falcon)

IBA criteria met: A1, C1							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	A1/C1	6 i	M	5	20	i	M

1.06. *Numenius arquata* (Eurasian Curlew)

IBA criteria met: C1							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C1	30 i	M, W	10	40	i	W
Larnaca Salt Lakes	C1	30 i	M, W	20	40	i	W

1.07. *Larus audouinii* (Audouin's Gull)

IBA criteria met: A1, C1, C6							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Karapasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	A1/C1	20 p	B	15	28	p	B
	C6	Top 5 breeding sites (only known breeding site)					

1.08. *Coracias garrulus* (European Roller)

IBA criteria met: A1, C1, C6, B2							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	200	800	i	M
	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites		80	300	p	B
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	250	1000	i	M
	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites		30	120	p	B
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	30	100	p	B
	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites					
Diarizos Valley	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	20	80	p	B
	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites					
Ezousa Valley and Cliffs	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	20	80	p	B
	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites					
Pentadaktylos Mountains	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	20	80	p	B
Cha Potami River	A1/C1	30i or 10 p	M, B	15	50	p	B
Pentashoinos River	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	10	40	p	B
Koshi - Pallourokampos and Troulloi Plain	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	10	50	p	B
Paramali River and Plateau	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	10	40	p	B
Saramas Valley	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	10	40	p	B
Panagia Stazousa River	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	10	30	p	B
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	A1/C1	30 i or 10 p	M, B	250	1000	i	M

2. Species that occur in numbers that regularly meet the threshold that corresponds to 1% of the total global (A4 i/ii) or flyway population (B1 i/ii/iii – C2/C3) of one or more species on a regular or predictable basis

A4i CRITERION: The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, $\geq 1\%$ of a biogeographic population of a congregatory waterbird species.

A4ii CRITERION: The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, $\geq 1\%$ of the global population of a congregatory seabird or terrestrial species.

B1 CRITERION: Applies only to those species whose populations are vulnerable by virtue of their congregatory behaviour. A site which satisfies any one of the following conditions can be identified as an IBA under this criterion. The site is:

B1i CRITERION: Site known to or thought to hold $\geq 1\%$ of a flyway population or other district population of a congregatory waterbird species.

B1ii CRITERION: Site known to or thought to hold $\geq 1\%$ of a district population of a congregatory seabird species.

B1iii CRITERION: Site known to or thought to hold $\geq 1\%$ of a flyway population or other district population of a congregatory species other than a waterbird or seabird.

C2 CRITERION (overlap with B1i/iii):
The site regularly holds $\geq 1\%$ of a flyway population, of a species considered to be threatened at the EU level.

C3 CRITERION (overlap with B1i/iii):
The site regularly holds $\geq 1\%$ of a flyway population of a migratory species that is not considered to be threatened at the EU level.

(Note that some species detailed in this section qualify under other criteria also, as indicated under the specific species entry. For example, Falco eleonorae at ‘Cape Aspro’ IBA qualifies under A4, C2/B1iii and C6/B2.)

2.01. Egretta garzetta (Little Egret)

IBA criteria met: C2, B1i							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	C2/B1i	580 i	M	500	1000	i	M
Kormakitis Peninsula	C2/B1i	580 i	M	400	800	i	M
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C2/B1i	580 i	M	100	750	i	M
Larnaca Salt Lakes	C2/B1i	580 i	M	100	600	i	M

2.02. *Plegadis falcinellus* (Glossy Ibis)

IBA criteria met: C2, C6, B1i							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	C2/B1i	570 i	M	300	1000	i	M
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C2/B1i	570 i	M	100	600	i	M
Famagusta Lakes	C6	Top 5 breeding sites (only breeding site known)		10	20	p	B

2.03. *Phoenicopterus roseus* (Greater Flamingo)

IBA criteria met: A4i, C2, B1i							
Qualifying	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	A4i	5500 i	M, W	2000	15000	i	M, W
	C2/B1i	600 i	M, W				
Larnaca Salt Lakes	A4i	5500 i	M, W	1000	9500	i	M, W
	C2/B1i	600 i	M, W				

2.04. *Tadorna tadorna* (Shelduck)

IBA criteria met: C3, B1i							
Qualifying species	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C3/B1i	750 i	W	400	1200	i	W
Larnaca Salt Lakes	C3/B1i	750 i	W	500	1500	i	W

2.05. *Falco eleonora* (Eleonora's Falcon)

IBA criteria met: A4ii, C2, C6, B1iii, B2							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Cape Aspro	A4ii	177 i	M, B	40	75	p	B
	C2/B1iii	180i or 60 p	M, B				
	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites (only 2 known)					
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	A4ii	177 i	M, B	50	70	p	B
	C2/B1iii	180 i or 60 p	M, B				
	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites (only 2 known)					

2.06. *Grus grus* (Common Crane)

IBA criteria met: C2, B1i							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C2/B1i	350 i	M	100	500	i	M
Larnaca Salt Lakes	C2/B1i	350 i	M	100	1000	i	M
Paramali River and Plateau	C2/B1i	350 i	M	(100)	(2000)	i	M

2.07. *Grus virgo* (Demoiselle Crane)

IBA criteria met: C3, B1i							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C3/B1i	7 i	M	200	800	i	M
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	C3/B1i	7 i	M	100	500	i	M
Paramali River and Plateau	C3/B1i	7 i	M	200	400	i	M
Larnaca Salt Lakes	C3/B1i	7 i	M	20	60	i	M

2.08. *Glareola pratincola* (Collared Pratincole)

IBA criteria met: C2, B1i							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C2/B1i	240 i	M	50	300	i	M
Larnaca Salt Lakes	C2/B1i	240 i	M	50	300	i	M

2.09. *Charadrius alexandrinus* (Kentish Plover)

IBA criteria met: C2, C6, B1i, B2							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C2/B1i	410 i	M, W	200	450	i	M, W
	C6	Top 5 breeding sites		12	125	p	B
	B2	Top breeding site					
Larnaca Salt Lakes	C2/B1i	410 i	M	150	500	i	M, W
	C6	Top 5 breeding sites		18	32	p	B

3. Congregatory species assemblages on migration or during winter, qualifying under the C4, C5 or A4iii, B1iv criteria.

A4iii CRITERION: The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, ≥ 20,000 waterbirds or ≥ 10,000 pairs of seabird of one or more species.

B1 CRITERION: Applies only to those species whose populations are vulnerable by virtue of their congregatory behaviour. A site which satisfies any one of the following conditions can be identified as an IBA under this criterion. The site is:

- iv. known to or thought to be a bottleneck site where ≥5,000 storks (Ciconiidae), or ≥3,000 raptors (Accipitriformes and Falconiformes), or ≥3,000 cranes (Gruidae) pass regularly during spring or autumn migration.

C4 CRITERION (same as A4iii): The site holds, on a regular or predictable basis, ≥20,000 migratory waterbirds, or ≥10,000 pairs of migratory seabird, of one or more species.

C5 CRITERION (same as B1iv):
The site is a 'bottleneck site' where ≥5,000 storks (Ciconiidae), ≥3,000 raptors (Accipitriformes and Falconiformes), ≥3,000 cranes (Gruidae) pass regularly during spring or autumn migration.

3.01. Raptor Bottleneck (various species)

IBA criteria met: C5, B1iv							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C5/B1iv	≥3,000 raptors	M	2000	6000	i	M
	Main contributing species: <i>Pernis apivorus</i> , <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> , <i>Falco vespertinus</i> Other contributing species (smaller numbers): <i>Milvus migrans</i> , <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> , <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> , <i>Circus macrourus</i> , <i>Circus pygargus</i> , <i>Accipiter nisus</i> , <i>Buteo buteo</i> , <i>Buteo rufinus</i> , <i>Aquila pomarina</i> , <i>Aquila heliaca</i> , <i>Aquila pennata</i> , <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> , <i>Falco naumanni</i> , <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> , <i>Falco columbarius</i> , <i>Falco subbuteo</i> , <i>Falco cherrug</i> , <i>Falco peregrinus</i>						
Pafos Plain	C5/B1iv	≥3,000 raptors	M	(1000)	(4000)	i	M
	Main contributing species: <i>Pernis apivorus</i> , <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> , <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> , <i>Falco vespertinus</i> Other contributing species (smaller numbers): <i>Circus pygargus</i> , <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> , <i>Falco naumanni</i> , <i>Falco subbuteo</i> , <i>Falco eleonora</i> , <i>Falco peregrinus</i>						
Cape Greco	C5/B1iv	≥3,000 raptors	M	(1000)	(4000)	i	M
	Main contributing species: <i>Pernis apivorus</i> , <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> , <i>Falco vespertinus</i> Other contributing species (smaller numbers): <i>Milvus migrans</i> , <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> , <i>Circus pygargus</i> , <i>Accipiter nisus</i> , <i>Falco subbuteo</i> , <i>Falco eleonora</i> , <i>Falco peregrinus</i>						

3.02. Waterbird Congregations (various species)

IBA criteria met: A4iii, C4							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	A4iii	20000 i	M, W	6000	22000	i	W, S
	C4	20000 i	M, W				
	Main contributing species (1000+ individuals): <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , <i>Anas crecca</i> , <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> , <i>Anas clypeata</i> , <i>Fulica atra</i> Other contributing species (smaller numbers): <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> , <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> , <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> , <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> , <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> , <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> , <i>Ixobrychus minutes</i> , <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> , <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> , <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> , <i>Egretta garzetta</i> , <i>Ardea alba</i> , <i>Ardea cinerea</i> , <i>Ardea purpurea</i> , <i>Ciconia nigra</i> , <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> , <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> , <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> , <i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> , <i>Anas Penelope</i> , <i>Anas strepera</i> , <i>Anas acuta</i> , <i>Anas querquedula</i> , <i>Netta rufina</i> , <i>Porzana porzana</i> , <i>Porzana parva</i> , <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> , <i>Grus grus</i> , <i>Grus virgo</i> , <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> , <i>Recurvirostra avoseta</i> , <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i> , <i>Glareola pratincola</i> , <i>Charadrius dubius</i> , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> , <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> , <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> , <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> , <i>Vanellus spinosus</i> , <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> , <i>Calidris alba</i> , <i>Calidris minuta</i> , <i>Calidris temminckii</i> , <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> , <i>Calidris alpina</i> , <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> , <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> , <i>Limosa limosa</i> , <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> , <i>Numenius arquata</i> , <i>Tringa erythropus</i> , <i>Tringa tetanus</i> , <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> , <i>Tringa nebularia</i> , <i>Tringa ochropus</i> , <i>Tringa glareola</i> , <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> , <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> , <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i> , <i>Larus ridibundus</i> , <i>Larus genei</i> , <i>Larus canus</i> , <i>Larus fuscus</i> , <i>Larus cachinnans</i> , <i>Larus armenicus</i> , <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> , <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> , <i>Sterna hirundo</i> , <i>Sterna albifrons</i> , <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i> , <i>Chlidonias niger</i> , <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						
Larnaca Salt Lakes	A4iii	20000 i	M, W	9000	20000	i	W, S
	C4	20000 i	M, W				
	Main contributing species (1,000+ individuals): <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , <i>Anas crecca</i> , <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> , <i>Anas clypeata</i> , <i>Fulica atra</i> Other contributing species (smaller numbers): <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> , <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> , <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> , <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> , <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> , <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> , <i>Ixobrychus minutes</i> , <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> , <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> , <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> , <i>Egretta garzetta</i> , <i>Ardea alba</i> , <i>Ardea cinerea</i> , <i>Ardea purpurea</i> , <i>Ciconia nigra</i> , <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> , <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> , <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> , <i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> , <i>Anas Penelope</i> , <i>Anas strepera</i> , <i>Anas acuta</i> , <i>Anas querquedula</i> , <i>Netta rufina</i> , <i>Aythya ferina</i> , <i>Aythya nyroca</i> , <i>Aythya fuligula</i> , <i>Porzana porzana</i> , <i>Porzana parva</i> , <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> , <i>Grus grus</i> , <i>Grus virgo</i> , <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> , <i>Recurvirostra avoseta</i> , <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i> , <i>Glareola pratincola</i> , <i>Charadrius dubius</i> , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> , <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> , <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> , <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> , <i>Vanellus spinosus</i> , <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> , <i>Calidris alba</i> , <i>Calidris minuta</i> , <i>Calidris temminckii</i> , <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> , <i>Calidris alpina</i> , <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> , <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> , <i>Limosa limosa</i> , <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> , <i>Numenius arquata</i> , <i>Tringa erythropus</i> , <i>Tringa totanus</i> , <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> , <i>Tringa nebularia</i> , <i>Tringa ochropus</i> , <i>Tringa glareola</i> , <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> , <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> , <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i> , <i>Larus ridibundus</i> , <i>Larus genei</i> , <i>Larus canus</i> , <i>Larus fuscus</i> , <i>Larus cachinnans</i> , <i>Larus armenicus</i> , <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> , <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> , <i>Sterna hirundo</i> , <i>Sterna albifrons</i> , <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i> , <i>Chlidonias niger</i> , <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						

4. Breeding species qualifying under the C6, B2 and B3 criteria, and C7 criterion for sites that have been designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) based on other ornithological criteria

C6 CRITERION: The site is one of the five most important in the European (NUTS or marine) region in question for a species or subspecies considered threatened at the EU level.

B2 CRITERION: The site is one of the 'n' most important sites in a country for a species with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe (SPEC 1, 2 or 3), and for which the site-protection approach is thought to be appropriate.

B3 CRITERION: The site is one of the 'n' most important sites in a country for a species with a favourable conservation status in Europe, but with its global range concentrated in Europe (Non-SPEC^E), and for which the site protection approach is thought to be appropriate.

C7 CRITERION: Sites that have been designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) based on other ornithological criteria (similar, but not equal to IBA criteria C1-C6) in recognised use for identifying SPAs.

(Note that some species detailed in this section qualify under other criteria also, as indicated under the specific species entry. For example, *Aquila fasciata* at 'Pafos Forest' IBA qualifies under C6/B2 but also under C2.)

4.01. *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii* (Mediterranean Shag)

IBA criteria met: C6						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	5	25	p	B

4.02. *Aythya nyroca* (Ferruginous Duck)

IBA criteria met: C6						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C6	Top 5 breeding sites (only breeding site known)	1	5	p	B

4.03. *Gyps fulvus* (Griffon Vulture)

IBA criteria met: C6						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C6	Top 5 breeding sites (only 2 known)	2	4	p	B
Limnatis Valley	C6	Top 5 breeding sites (only 2 known)	0	1	p	B

4.04. *Buteo rufinus* (Long-legged Buzzard)

IBA criteria met: C6, B2						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Diarizos Valley	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	5	7	p	B
	B2	Top breeding site				
Ezousa Valley and Cliffs	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	4	6	p	B
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	3	5	p	B
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsas	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	3	5	p	B
Cha Potami River	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	2	4	p	B

4.05. *Aquila fasciata* (Bonelli's Eagle)

IBA criteria met: C2, C6, B2							
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion		Population estimate			
				Min	Max	Unit	Season
Pafos Forest	C2	10 p	B	10	12	p	B
	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites					
Pentadaktylos Mountains	C2	10 p	B	10	12	p	B
	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites					
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsas	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites		2	4	p	B
Pentashoinos River	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites		2	4	p	B
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites		1	3	p	B

4.06. *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine Falcon)

IBA criteria met: C6						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	6	8	p	B
Pentadaktylos Mountains	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	5	7	p	B
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	5	7	p	B
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	4	5	p	B
Ezousa Valley and Cliffs	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	3	5	p	B

4.07. *Alectoris chukar* (Chukar Partridge)

IBA criteria met: B2						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Pentadaktylos Mountains	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(2000)	(8000)	p	B
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(1500)	(3000)	p	B
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(1500)	(2500)	p	B
Kormakitis Peninsula	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(1000)	(1500)	p	B
Ezousa Valley and Cliffs	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(1000)	(1500)	p	B

4.08. *Francolinus francolinus* (Black Francolin)

IBA criteria met: B2						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
Paralimni Lake	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	<50		p	B
Famagusta Lakes	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	250	1000	p	B
Kormakitis Peninsula	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	250	1000	p	B
Pafos Plain	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	250	1000	p	B
Saramas Valley	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
Ezousa Valley and Cliffs	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
Diarizos Valley	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
Cha Potami River	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
Oroklini Lake	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	<50		p	B
Pentashoinos River	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
Mesaoria Plain	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	250	1000	p	B
Koshi - Pallourokampos and Troulloi Plain	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
Panagia Stazousa River	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	<50		p	B
Larnaca Salt Lakes	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	<50		p	B
Cape Greco	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	<50		p	B
Atsas - Agios Theodoros Area	B2	Top 20 breeding sites	<50		p	B

4.09. *Himantopus himantopus* (Black-winged Stilt)

IBA criteria met: C6						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Oroklini Lake	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	20	75	p	B
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	2	55	p	B
Larnaca Salt Lakes	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	10	40	p	B
Mia Milia Sewage Treatment Plant	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	1	30	p	B
Famagusta Lakes	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	2	10	p	B

4.10. *Burhinus oedicephalus* (Stone Curlew)

IBA criteria met: C6, B2						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Mesaoria Plain	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(50)	(250)	p	B
Koshi - Pallourokampos and Troulloi Plain	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(50)	(250)	p	B
Pafos Plain	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(<50)		p	B
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(<50)		p	B
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(<50)		p	B

4.11. *Charadrius leschenaultii* (Greater Sand Plover)

IBA criteria met: C7						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Agia Thekla - Liopetri River	C7	Designated SPA for importance for other ornithological criteria	10	20	i	M, W
Kato Pafos Lighthouse Area	C7	Designated SPA for importance for other ornithological criteria	10	20	i	M, W

4.12. *Vanellus spinosus* (Spur-winged Lapwing)

IBA criteria met: C6, B2						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Oroklini Lake	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites	8	10	p	B
Paralimni Lake	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites	2	10	p	B
Larnaca Salt Lakes	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites	1	15	p	B
Mia Milia Sewage treatment Plant	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites	2	13	p	B
Famagusta Lakes	C6/B2	Top 5 breeding sites	2	10	p	B

4.13. *Otus scops cyprius* (Cyprus Scops Owl)

IBA criteria met: B2						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Pafos Forest	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	1200	3500	p	B
Pentadaktylos Mountains	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	300	700	p	B
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	300	700	p	B
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	300	600	p	B
Mahairas Forest - Tzonia	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	200	500	p	B

4.14. *Athene noctua* (Little Owl)

IBA criteria met: B2						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Pentadaktylos Mountains	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	400	700	p	B
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	400	700	p	B
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	300	400	p	B
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	200	300	p	B
Diarizos Valley	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	150	250	p	B

4.15. *Caprimulgus europaeus* (European Nightjar)

IBA criteria met: C6, B2						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Pafos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(500)	(900)	p	B
	B2	Top breeding site				
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(150)	(250)	p	B
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsia	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(100)	(250)	p	B
Mahairas Forest - Tzionia	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(50)	(150)	p	B
Kormakitis Peninsula	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(50)	(150)	p	B

4.16. *Melanocorypha calandra* (Calandra Lark)

IBA criteria met: C6						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Mesaoria Plain	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(250)	(1000)	p	B
Koshi - Pallourokampos and Troulloi Plain	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(50)	(250)	p	B
Larnaca Salt Lakes	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(<50)		p	B
Mia Milia Sewage Treatment Plant	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(<50)		p	B

4.17. *Galerida cristata* (Crested Lark)

IBA criteria met: B2						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Mesaoria Plain	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(2500)	(10000)	p	B
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(2000)	(4000)	p	B
Kormakitis Peninsula	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(2000)	(3000)	p	B
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(2000)	(3000)	p	B
Koshi - Pallourokampos and Troulloi Plain	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	(1000)	(2500)	p	B

4.18. *Lullula arborea* (Woodlark)

IBA criteria met: C6						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Pafos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	250	750	p	B
Troodos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	100	300	p	B
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsia	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	100	300	p	B
Xylourikos Valley	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	30	60	p	B
Atsas - Agios Theodoros Area	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	30	50	p	B

4.19. *Oenanthe cypriaca* (Cyprus Wheatear)

IBA criteria met: C6, B3 (note that the species also qualifies under A2 and A3)						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Pafos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	5000	8000	p	B
	B3	Top 20 breeding sites				
Pentadaktylos Mountains	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	2500	5000	p	B
	B3	Top 20 breeding sites				
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsas	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	2000	3000	p	B
	B3	Top 20 breeding sites				
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	1500	2500	p	B
	B3	Top 20 breeding sites				
Troodos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	750	1750	p	B
	B3	Top 20 breeding sites				
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	1500	2500	p	B
Diarizos Valley	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	1000	1500	p	B
Mahairas Forest - Tzonia	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	1000	1500	p	B
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	1000	1500	p	B
Kormakitis Peninsula	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	500	1500	p	B
Ezousa Valley and Cliffs	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	500	1000	p	B
Cha Potami River	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	500	750	p	B
Xylourikos Valley	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	300	500	p	B
Paramali River and Plateau	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	300	500	p	B
Pentashoinos River	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	300	500	p	B
Koshi - Pallourokampos and Troulli Plain	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	150	450	p	B
Saramas Valley	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	200	400	p	B
Cape Greco	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	100	250	p	B
Vouni Panagias	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B
Atsas - Agios Theodoros Area	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	50	250	p	B

4.20. *Sylvia melanothorax* (Cyprus Warbler)

IBA criteria met: C6, B3 (note that the species also qualifies under A2 and A3)						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	10000	15000	p	B
	B3	Top 20 breeding sites				
Pentadakylos Mountains	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	10000	15000	p	B
	B3	Top 20 breeding sites				
Pafos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	4000	7000	p	B
	B3	Top 20 breeding sites				
Diarizos Valley	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	2000	4000	p	B
	B3	Top 20 breeding sites				
Pentashoinos River	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	2000	3000	p	B
	B3	Top 20 breeding sites				
Mahairas Forest - Tzionia	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	2000	3000	p	B
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsas	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	2000	3000	p	B
Cha Potami River	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	1500	2500	p	B
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	1500	2500	p	B
Paramali River and Plateau	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	1000	2000	p	B
Kormakitis Peninsula	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	1000	2000	p	B
Ezousa Valley and Cliffs	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	1000	2000	p	B
Troodos Forest	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	500	1500	p	B
Xylourikos Valley	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	500	1500	p	B
Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	700	1000	p	B
Atsas - Agios Theodoros Area	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	500	1000	p	B
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	500	1000	p	B
Limnatis Valley	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	250	1000	p	B
Panagia Stazousa River	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	300	500	p	B
Cape Greco	B3	Top 20 breeding sites	250	500	p	B

4.21. *Parus ater cypriotes* (Cyprus Coal Tit)

IBA criteria met: C6						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Pafos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	15000	30000	p	B
Troodos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	3000	7000	p	B
Mahairas Forest - Tzonia	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	2000	6000	p	B
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsas	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	1000	2000	p	B
Xylourikos Valley	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	500	1000	p	B

4.22. *Certhia brachydactyla dorothea* (Short-toed Treecreeper)

IBA criteria met: C6						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Pafos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	2000	4000	p	B
Troodos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	1000	2000	p	B
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsas	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	200	500	p	B

4.23. *Lanius nubicus* (Masked Shrike)

IBA criteria met: C6, B2 (note that the species also qualifies under A3)						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Pafos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	500	2000	p	B
	B2	Top 10 breeding sites				
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsas	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	500	1500	p	B
	B2	Top 10 breeding sites				
Pentadaktylos Mountains	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	400	1200	p	B
	B2	Top 10 breeding sites				
Troodos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	300	1200	p	B
	B2	Top 10 breeding sites				
Mahairas Forest - Tzonia	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	300	1200	p	B
	B2	Top 10 breeding sites				
Xylourikos Valley	B2	Top 10 breeding sites	100	300	p	B
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	B2	Top 10 breeding sites	100	300	p	B
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	B2	Top 10 breeding sites	100	200	p	B
Atsas - Agios Theodoros Area	B2	Top 10 breeding sites	100	200	p	B
Vouni Panagias	B2	Top 10 breeding sites	40	80	p	B

4.24. *Emberiza caesia* (Cretzschmar's Bunting)

IBA criteria met: C6, B3 (note that the species also qualifies under A3)						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Pafos Forest	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(500)	(1500)	p	B
	B3	Top 10 breeding sites				
Pentadaktylos Mountains	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(500)	(1000)	p	B
	B3	Top 10 breeding sites				
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsia	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(400)	(1000)	p	B
	B3	Top 10 breeding sites				
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(400)	(1000)	p	B
	B3	Top 10 breeding sites				
Mahairas Forest - Tzonia	C6	Top 5 breeding sites	(400)	(900)	p	B
	B3	Top 10 breeding sites				
Diarizos Valley	B3	Top 10 breeding sites	(300)	(700)	p	B
Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs	B3	Top 10 breeding sites	(300)	(700)	p	B
Xylourikos Valley	B3	Top 10 breeding sites	(150)	(450)	p	B
Atsas - Agios Theodoros Area	B3	Top 10 breeding sites	(50)	(100)	p	B
Vouni Panagias	B3	Top 10 breeding sites	(50)	(80)	p	B

4.25. *Emberiza melanocephala* (Black-headed Bunting)

IBA criteria met: B2 (note that the species also qualifies under A3)						
Qualifying sites	Criterion	Threshold to meet criterion	Population estimate			
			Min	Max	Unit	Season
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsia	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	1500	2000	p	B
Mahairas Forest - Tzonia	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	800	1200	p	B
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	400	900	p	B
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	400	900	p	B
Xylourikos Valley	B2	Top 5 breeding sites	200	400	p	B

5. Endemics and Mediterranean biome species assemblages qualifying under criteria A2 and A3

A2 CRITERION: Site is known or thought to hold a significant component of a group of species whose breeding distribution defines an ENDEMIC BIRD AREA or Secondary Area. For Cyprus sites holding a significant component of the populations of the two endemic species that define Cyprus as an Endemic Bird Area.

A3 CRITERION: Site is known to or thought to hold a significant component of the group of species whose distributions are largely or wholly confined to one biome. For Cyprus sites that hold high breeding densities of four or more of a group of species largely or wholly confined to the Mediterranean scrub biome.

5.1. Endemic Bird Areas (A2)

Qualifying species: <i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i> , <i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>					
Qualifying sites	Population estimate				
	Species	Min	Max	Unit	Season
Pafos Forest	<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	5000	8000	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	4000	7000	p	B
Pentadaktylos Mountains	<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	2500	5000	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	10000	15000	p	B
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	1500	2500	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	10000	15000	p	B
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsas	<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	2000	3000	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	2000	3000	p	B
Mahairas Forest - Tzonia	<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	1000	1500	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	2000	3000	p	B
Diarizos Valley	<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	1000	1500	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	2000	4000	p	B
Xeros Valley and Hannoutaris Cliffs	<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	1500	2500	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	1500	2500	p	B
Cha Potami River	<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	500	750	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	1500	2500	p	B
Troodos Forest	<i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	750	1750	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	500	1500	p	B

5.2. Mediterranean Biome Sites (A3)

Qualifying species: <i>Falco eleonora</i> , <i>Oenanthe cyprica</i> , <i>Sylvia conspicillata</i> , <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> , <i>Sylvia melanothorax</i> , <i>Lanius nubicus</i> , <i>Emberiza caesia</i> , <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>					
Qualifying sites	Population estimate				
	Species	Min	Max	Unit	Season
Adelphoi Forest - Papoutsas	<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	2000	3000	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	2000	3000	p	B
	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	500	1500	p	B
	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	(400)	(1000)	p	B
	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1500	2000	p	B
Pentadaktylos Mountains	<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	2500	5000	p	B
	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	(1000)	(2000)	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	(1000)	(4000)	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	10000	15000	p	B
	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	400	1200	p	B
	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	(500)	(1000)	p	B
	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	(200)	(300)	p	B
Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands	<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	1500	2500	p	B
	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	(500)	(1000)	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	(4000)	(8000)	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	10000	15000	p	B
	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	(30)	(60)	p	B
	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	(40)	(60)	p	B
	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	400	900	p	B
Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini - Agia Paraskevi Gorges	<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>	1000	1500	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	(5000)	(10000)	p	B
	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	500	1000	p	B
	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	100	200	p	B
	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	(400)	(1000)	p	B
	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	400	900	p	B





Birdwatching Guide

*to the Important
Bird Areas of Cyprus*

by JANE STYLIANOU

INTRODUCTION

The position of Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean with Turkey to the north, Syria to the east and Egypt to the south, places it on one of the major migration routes across the Mediterranean and makes it a key stop off point for many species which travel between breeding grounds in Europe/Asia and wintering areas in Africa/Middle East in spring and autumn.

The birds that occur regularly on passage form a large percentage of the Cyprus 'list' that totals around 400 species. Of these only around 50 species are resident and around 40 are migrant breeders who regularly or occasionally breed. The number of birds passing over during the spring and autumn migration is impressive as literally millions pour through the island. Spring migration gets underway in earnest in the middle of March, depending how settled the weather is, and carries on until at least mid-May. Autumn passage starts in early August - even earlier for some wader species - and continues until early to mid-October. Some years there is a noticeable raptor passage. Cyprus has around ninety species which overwinter, the most famous being the Greater Flamingo. Others include many common north European passerines.

Several birds occur in Cyprus on the edge of their European range, such as the breeding Black Francolin and Spur-winged Lapwing and the overwintering Finsch's Wheatear. Some new additions to the breeding list rely on wetland habitats and may be taking advantage of several wetter than average winters recently e.g Glossy Ibis, Red-crested Pochard and Ferruginous Duck.

Considering how near Cyprus is to the mainland it has a high degree of endemism of both flora and fauna, especially reptiles and birds. There are two recognised full endemic species. The Cyprus Wheatear is a migrant breeder and was previously considered a sub-species of the Pied Wheatear. The partly-migratory Cyprus Warbler is the other endemic species while the Scops Owl, Coal Tit, Jay and Short-toed Treecreeper have endemic sub-species status.

There is something good on offer bird-wise in every season in Cyprus, but the autumn and especially the spring migration periods promise the greatest species diversity.

CLIMATE AND CONDITIONS

The climate of Cyprus is typically Mediterranean with long, very hot summers and cool, sometimes wet and occasionally even cold, winters. Spring and autumn can seem relatively short with temperatures often remaining high from late April until late October. Temperatures over 29°C are common and over 32°C expected from June until September with 38°C and over regularly reached in July and August. Rainfall is a possibility in spring with temperatures ranging from around 17°C to 25°C. Winter temperatures usually range between 13°C and 20°C but it can be colder. Snow falls most years on the Troodos mountains, mainly between December and late March.

Sun cream and/or block are a must. So too are insect repellent and bite creams, especially if visiting coastal and wetland locations. In spring and autumn it is best to be prepared for any eventuality weather-wise. Hats are essential for hot sunny days and good walking boots useful as some of the terrain is stony and rugged. If you are walking in hot weather ensure that you have plenty of water with you at all times. Walking in the summer heat is not recommended as it can be quite debilitating.

There are several species of snake in Cyprus. Three are poisonous but only one, the blunt nosed viper, is dangerous to humans. Boots and long trousers are vital in forest, scrub or close to water. Sandals and open toed shoes are not advisable, and always look where you place your feet and hands.

GETTING AROUND CYPRUS

Cyprus is a large island and its public transport system is not comprehensive, although it has improved. There are buses between major population areas and also a system of service taxis. However, to visit most of the Important Bird Areas a car, or at least a motor-cycle, is required. Four-wheel drive is not essential unless going off road provided drivers are cautious. Do not take risks. If you think a road looks difficult without four-wheeled drive then do not attempt it. Hire cars are readily available from all resorts and the capital Nicosia. Check around for competitive rates. In Cyprus cars are driven on the left hand side of the road.

MILITARY SENSITIVITY

There are several military camps in Cyprus, both National Guard and, on the Sovereign Bases, the British Army. Care and common sense should be used when birdwatching near them and near to airports. If there is a sign prohibiting the use of cameras, then binoculars and telescopes are included in this, so avoid the use of such equipment in such areas. Birdwatching is not yet a well understood pastime in Cyprus, but provided birders are sensible and friendly if faced with suspicious authorities, any misunderstandings can usually be smoothed over.



Serin Serinus serinus
ANASTASIOS P. LEVENTIS

BIRDLIFE CYPRUS BIRDWATCHING CODE OF PRACTICE

A growing number of people enjoy birdwatching in Cyprus – this code puts the interests of birds first and respects the countryside and other people, whether or not they are interested in birds.

Six basic rules:

1. Avoid disturbing birds and their habitats – the birds' interests should always come first. This applies to bird photography as well.
2. Be an ambassador for birdwatching
3. Respect the countryside
4. Send your sightings to the BirdLife Cyprus Bird Recorder (see the BirdLife Cyprus website for details) and share interesting sightings with other birdwatchers by phoning them to the BirdLine information service (25 934 076).

5. Think about the interests of wildlife and local people before passing on news of a rare bird, especially during the breeding season.
6. Report any incidents of poaching with guns, limesticks or nets to the relevant authorities or BirdLife Cyprus.

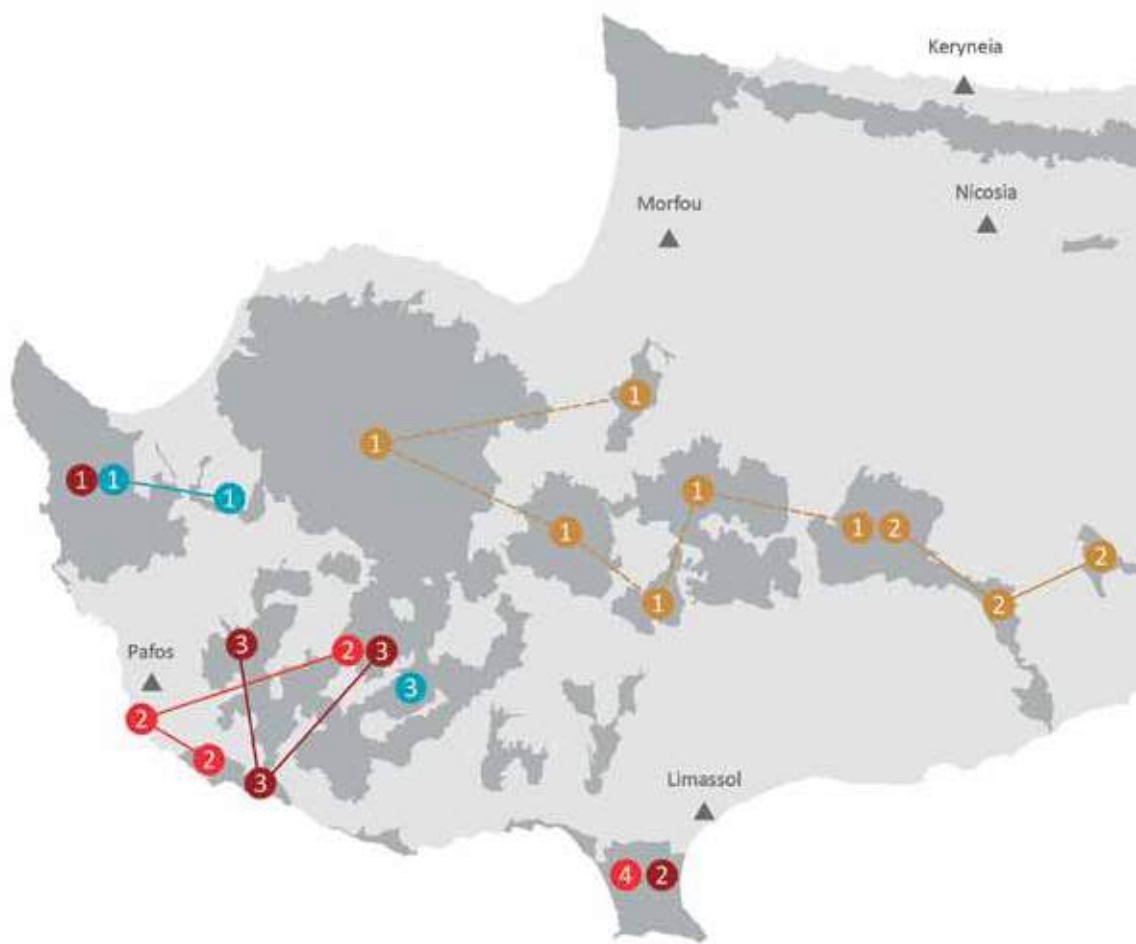
People who care about the protection of Cyprus' nature and want to have active role in the conservation of these 34 important sites for birds and biodiversity in general, can become IBA Caretakers and channel their concern about them in a dynamic, constructive and empowering way. The role of the IBA Caretaker is to:

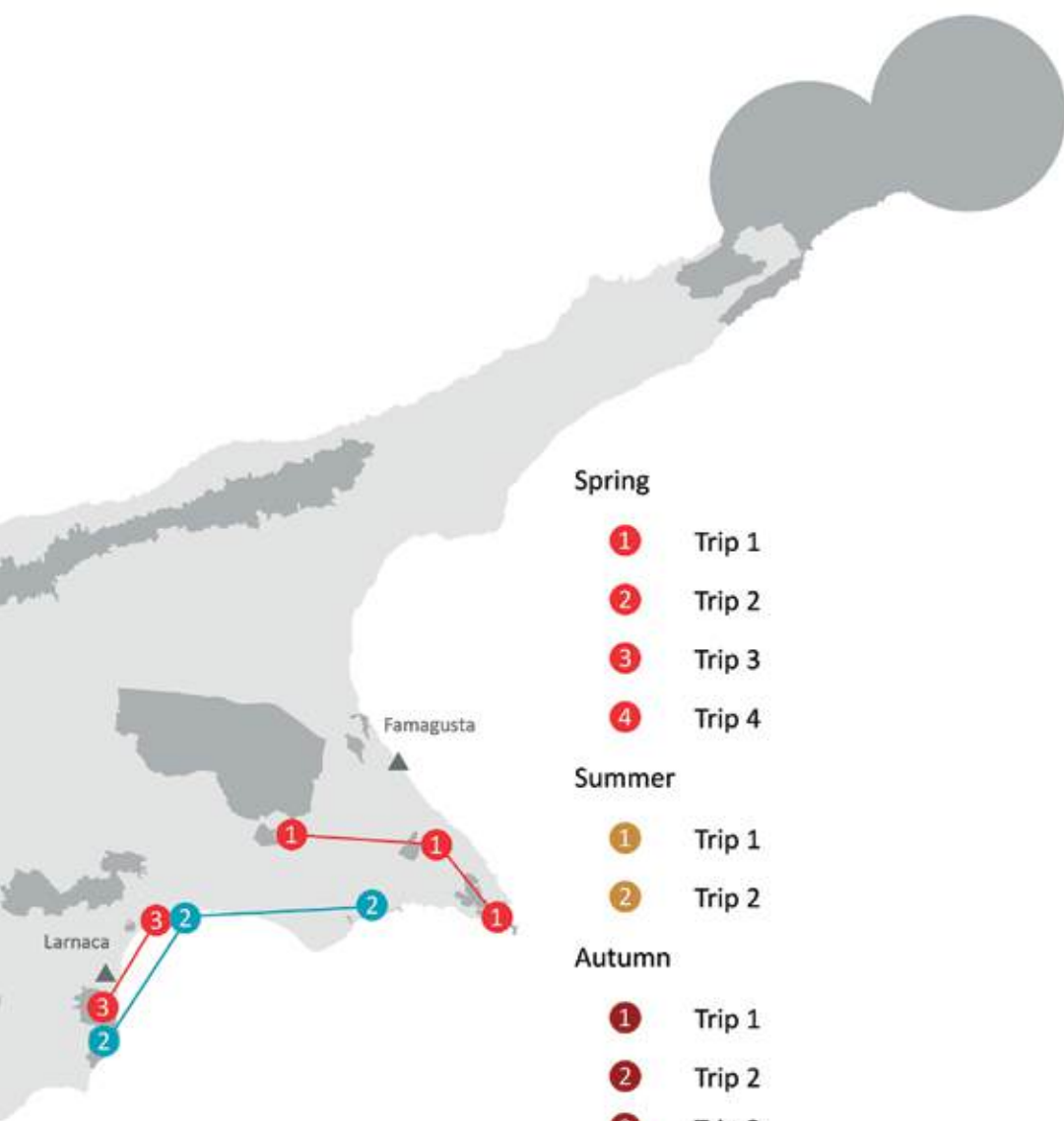
- Care about their IBA by making a commitment to visit the site at least three times a year and report on its state
- React on time in the event of immediate and serious threats to the site
- Promote the site and the importance of its protection

The establishment of a network of volunteers for the 34 IBAs of Cyprus is made possible through the IBACareCY Project for the "Development of a Network of Important Bird Area (IBA) Caretakers in Cyprus" (EEA/CY03/2.23 April 2014 – April 2015), funded by the EEA Grants. If you are interested in becoming part of the IBA Caretakers Network and become a steward of an IBA please contact BirdLife Cyprus at 22455072 or birdlifecyprus@birdlifecyprus.org.cy. To learn more about the project please visit this website: <http://www.birdlifecyprus.org/en/html-141-IBACareCY.html>.

The sections below offer ideas for birdwatching trips for each season, designed to allow a birder to get the best out of Cyprus, especially if time is limited. The itineraries are based on years of experience of birdwatching in Cyprus and hold the promise of great reward, though, as every birder knows, there are no guarantees! Every local or visiting birdwatcher has their favourite location or 'patch', but space limitations meant not everything could be included here. Each IBA on Cyprus merits a visit if the birdwatcher has the time, as do several other areas not incorporated into Important Bird Areas such as Anarita Park, which lies between the IBAs of Ezousa Valley & Cliffs and Xeros Valley & Hanoutaris Cliffs. Many areas are good for birdwatching and there are many dams, ports and harbours that are worth checking. Any coastal plain or hotel garden may be productive, however unlikely this may seem in some areas when the extent of development is considered.

SUGGESTED BIRDWATCHING TRIPS AND SITES TO VISIT





Spring

- ① Trip 1
- ② Trip 2
- ③ Trip 3
- ④ Trip 4

Summer

- ① Trip 1
- ② Trip 2

Autumn

- ① Trip 1
- ② Trip 2
- ③ Trip 3

Winter

- ① Trip 1
- ② Trip 2
- ③ Trip 3

— Day trips

- - - - - Suggested sites to visit



Montagu's Harrier *Circus pyrgus*

ALBERT STOECKER

SPRING BIRDWATCHING IN CYPRUS

Birdwatching in spring in Cyprus can give the opportunity to see not only many of the wide variety of passage migrants that pass through the island, but also the chance to see lingering winter visitors and the start of the breeding season for resident, endemic and migrant breeders. Spring migration usually gets underway in earnest around the middle of March, depending on how settled the weather is, and continues into May. A few early arrivals can be noted in February, especially the hirundines and swifts, some wheatears, the Great Spotted Cuckoo and Eurasian Hoopoe. Slender-billed Gull and heron species can be seen in flocks along the coastline. Each week seems to provide a different species to watch out for. The end of March brings Masked and Woodchat Shrike, Cretzschmar's Bunting, Cyprus and Isabelline Wheatear and different races of Yellow Wagtail; while on the wetlands Marsh Sandpiper, Collared Pratincole and Greater Sand Plover are among the likely species. Moving into April,

White-winged and Whiskered Terns feed at the wetlands and European Bee-eater and European Roller start to pass through. Ortolan Bunting, flycatchers including Semi-collared and warblers such as Eastern Orphee, Eastern Bonelli's, Barred and Icterine all occur in varying numbers. A late arrival that stays to breed is the Black-headed Bunting which arrives from its wintering grounds to the east in Asia. Some raptor passage occurs – Red-footed and Eleonora's Falcon, Lesser Kestrel, Osprey and Booted and Lesser Spotted Eagle are all possible.

TRIP ONE:

Cape Greco, Paralimni Lake and Akhna Dam

These three Important Bird Areas are located in the far east of the island and offer the birdwatcher a chance to see passerine, raptor and waterbird migrants as well as the possibility of coming across some of the rarer passage migrants and even the chance of a real rarity. A visit to all three can be combined in one day with Cape Greco providing enough scope for a full day visit on its own. Cape Greco has breeding Cyprus Warbler and Cyprus Wheatear.

Cape Greco

This lies between the holiday resorts of Agia Napa and Protaras, which are to the east of Larnaca. This region of Cyprus falls under a busy migration route between Africa and Europe/Asia and the area especially merits a visit during the migration periods. Leaving Agia Napa follow the signs to Protaras and Cape Greco. The coast line there is always worth checking out, as is the area around the Agia Napa Sewage Works which is inland off a track signposted to Agia Paraskevi before the Kermia Beach Hotel. A turning to the right further along the main road to Protaras is signposted to Cape Greco and this takes you towards the Cape itself. Drivable tracks and footpaths criss-cross the area and locations such as the Sea Caves, Agioi Anargyroi picnic site, the pine plantations and the Cava Viewpoint are worth exploring. Access to the tip of the Cape is prohibited and be aware of the photography and optics restrictions near to military areas.

Cape Greco is a passerine bottleneck, and hundreds of thousands of them pass through regularly during spring migration. It is a great place to check for the first spring migrants in mid-March – Isabelline and Cyprus Wheatear, Woodchat and Masked Shrike, Tawny Pipit, Greater Short-toed Lark, Cretzschmar's Bunting, Rüppell's and Subalpine Warbler, different Yellow Wagtail races and off shore Slender-billed, Baltic and possibly Great Black-headed Gull. During April Eurasian Wryneck, Common and Thrush Nightingale, European Pied, Collared and the less frequent Semi-collared Flycatcher, Wood and Eastern Bonelli's Warbler and possible Barred or Icterine Warbler can all turn up.

Western Marsh, Pallid and Montagu's Harrier all migrate northwards over the area as do Osprey, Booted Eagle, Eurasian Hobby, Red-footed Falcon and Lesser Kestrel in variable numbers. Saker Falcon is seen some years. One of the area's major rarities was a Bateleur

– new for both Cyprus and Europe: spotted in April 2007 flying over the Sea Caves area. Other Cyprus rarities seen at Cape Greco in the spring include Isabelline Shrike, Southern Grey Shrike, Trumpeter Finch, Rose-coloured Starling, White-throated Robin, Caspian and Siberian races of Common Stonechat, Hooded and Kurdish Wheatear, Cinereous Bunting, Olive-tree Warbler and Olive-backed Pipit. It is worth checking any Common Redstart for the *samamiscus* race (Ehrenberg's Redstart) and the flocks of larks for Bimaculated Lark.

Several pairs of Cyprus Warbler, Cyprus Wheatear and many Spectacled Warbler breed in the area and from late April it is possible to find singing male Black-headed Bunting setting up territories, especially near to the Agia Napa Sewage Works. Although they do not breed in the area, Audouin's Gull often pass around the coast and occasionally can be seen on beaches such as those near Kermia Beach Hotel and in Konnos Bay from late March till late April.

A minimum of one hour is needed to explore some of the area and to get a taster of the migrants that are using the area to 're-fuel' or passing overhead. In early April it is possible to spend a full day there driving and walking around the many tracks and even spending some time sea watching.

Paralimni Lake

Paralimni Lake is a seasonal salt lake and relies on heavy winter rainfall to ensure it holds any water. Before deciding to visit the area it may be advisable to check on its water levels with BirdLife Cyprus as this will affect the species to be found. After winters of heavy rainfall, Greater Flamingo use the Lake which is also home to the endangered (and harmless) Cypriot Grass Snake *Natrix natrix cypriaca*. Best access is from the western edge of Paralimni village and heading towards Sotira village, from where access to several semi-permanent pools is easier.

As this is an important area for Black Francolin, a spring visit means its call will be heard during time spent there and there is a good chance to see one calling from a raised post or hillock. Spur-winged Lapwing breed here and will also be calling and setting up territories, as may Kentish Plover. Heron and egret species use the pools on the edges which are surrounded by reeds and sedges. Glossy Ibis and Little Bittern are regular and so too are Little and Spotted Crake. Those two crakes and the less frequent Baillon's Crake have even been seen together in the same pool. Jack Snipe occur along with large flocks of the more common waders that pass through Cyprus on migration. Flocks of several thousand Ruff and hundreds of Green and Wood Sandpiper have been recorded after wet winters. Lesser Kestrel, Red-footed Falcon and Montagu's, Pallid and Western Marsh Harrier migrate over the Lake with the smaller falcons often seen hunting in small groups. Great Reed Warbler can be heard singing from the reeds and Citrine Wagtail are found there most springs. Cypriot rarities found at Paralimni Lake include White-tailed Lapwing, Caspian Plover, Eurasian Dotterel and 'Steppe' Grey Shrike.

The perimeter has been developed in places and motor cyclists intrude into the area. Despite the obvious disturbance and the rather unattractive look this has given the area, it is well worth a visit. It is best to drive to the perimeter where this is possible on both the Paralimni and Sotira sides and then explore on foot. Allow a minimum of an hour for a visit.

Akhna Dam

This artificial reservoir was built nearly thirty years ago and quickly established itself as one of the birding 'hotspots' of the island. It is fed water from the Pafos irrigation network and most springs holds water regardless of winter rainfall. It is situated approximately 25km north east of Larnaca, south of the Akhna bypass about 18km from the exit on the A3 motorway marked Akhna. It is possible to park and walk around many parts of the dam depending on water levels. Although the head of the dam is the most accessible end, the shallower southern end usually attracts a greater variety of species. As at Paralimni Lake, Spur-winged Lapwing now breed there, as may Black-winged Stilt and Kentish Plover if conditions allow. Cattle Egret from the nearby colony at Famagusta feed and roost there and migrating Little and Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Squacco Heron and Glossy Ibis rest and feed at the muddy edges. In late March overwintering Moustached Warbler and Bluethroat may still be present as may Jack Snipe. Savi's Warbler, Great Reed Warbler and Thrush Nightingale can be found skulking in the reeds and other vegetation along with more common migrants such as Sedge Warbler.

The water there makes it a great place to find migrating terns such as Gull-billed, Whiskered and White-winged Tern. The less frequent Black Tern also turns up at Akhna – usually in late spring - as does the even rarer Caspian Tern. Collared Pratincole are quite regular on migration as are most of the commoner wader species. It is a good location for Spotted Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper and Temminck's Stint and occasionally Broad-billed Sandpiper. Little, Spotted and Baillon's Crake can be found if the water levels are right and it is a good place to find many of the different races and hybrids of the Yellow Wagtail complex that pass through Cyprus – *flava*, *feldegg*, *thunbergii*, *drombrowski*, *superciliaris* and others. It is a favoured haunt of an uncommon Cyprus visitor - the Pied Kingfisher; and Blue-cheeked Bee-eater have been recorded there in the past so it is worth checking the flocks of European Bee-eater that fly over. Larger raptors such as harriers are often seen passing over or using the site which is also a favourite location of migrating Osprey. Booted and Bonelli's Eagle have been seen there in recent springs as well as the occasional Long-legged Buzzard.

Spectacled Warbler breed in the scrub vegetation surrounding the site and Calandra Lark can also be seen in the nearby cultivated fields. European Roller can also be seen on road side wires on the road towards the Dam. Please note that nearby Akhna village lies on the border of the UN-controlled buffer zone. There are UN camps to the north of the Dam and a strong Greek-Cypriot and Turkish military presence. Special caution is needed when using binoculars and cameras in the area and it is useful to carry identification. However, the site is now accepted as a regular haunt of birdwatchers and those using discretion should

have no problems at all, especially if sticking to the area immediately around the reservoir. The military presence nearby should under no circumstances put you off visiting the area.

Allow a minimum of an hour for a visit but for those with more time visiting when water levels allow and the weather conditions are favourable, a walk around the water's edge is well worth doing and could take twice as long.

TRIP TWO:

Kato Pafos Lighthouse Area, Pafos Plain and Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs

In contrast to the sites of trip one these three IBAs are on the west of the island. Again it is possible to combine a visit to all three in one day although the last two offer enough variety of locations to occupy a birdwatcher all day. Breeding Cyprus Warbler can be found in the Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris IBA and Cyprus Wheatear in all three.

Kato Pafos Lighthouse Area

Kato Pafos Lighthouse area with its rocky shoreline jutting out on the south-western corner of Cyprus and the archaeological site containing the Lighthouse, ancient amphitheatre and mosaics is well-known as one of the birding hotspots of the island. Located next to the harbour in Kato Pafos, it is one of the few birdwatching sites easily visited by public transport. If time permits it is best to walk around the coast line of the headland and then go into the archaeological site (entrance fee payable). If time is limited the coastal walk should be enough to get an overview of the area. During the winter Greater Sand Plover roost on the rocky shore and may still be there in early spring. The site is best for migrants from late March to mid-April.

The Lighthouse's location on the Pafos headland means that it attracts falls of migrants, especially during spring. Cretzschmar's and Ortolan Bunting, Cyprus, Isabelline, Black-eared and even the less usual Desert Wheatear, Tawny Pipit, Greater Short-toed Lark, Red-throated Pipit and Yellow Wagtail start to pass through from mid-March and all could be found on the coastal perimeter. Sea watching there can produce visible migration of Great Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, Garganey and other duck, Eurasian Spoonbill and most heron species. Yelkouan and Scopoli's Shearwater are sometimes seen.

Within the archaeological site, the ruins themselves, the small clumps of trees and bushes and the more open grassy expanses mean that there are plenty of places for different migrants to rest and feed. For the birdwatcher it means that there is a chance to search for and discover some of the more unusual or rare migrants. Some springs only small numbers of Subalpine and Rüppell's Warbler pass through the island, but the Kato Pafos Lighthouse area is always likely to have some skulking in the vegetation. Likewise it is a good place to look out for Eastern Bonelli's Warbler and Eurasian Wryneck. Common Nightingale can often be heard singing from deep in the bushes. Any Stonechats seen in spring in Cyprus should be looked at closely and both 'Siberian' and 'Caspian' have been



Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

ANASTASIOS P. LEVENTIS

seen there. The three black and white Flycatchers can be seen and Common Quail are often heard calling. Migrating raptors such as Pallid and Western Marsh can be seen over the open areas as can smaller ones like the European Hobby and Peregrine Falcon.

Blue Rock Thrush spend the winter at the site and may still be found in early spring – the attractive Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush also turns up and one or two Richard's Pipit are seen most years. More unusual migrants that have been found there include Cream-coloured Courser, Eurasian Dotterel, Rufous-tailed Bush Robin, Isabelline Shrike, Trumpeter Finch and Olive-tree Warbler. A walk visiting most of the corners and different habitats of the site requires at least two hours. Allow an extra hour to check out the rocky shore.

Pafos Plain

Pafos Plain is to the east of Pafos town covering mainly agricultural land from Acheleia to Kouklia. It includes Pafos Airport and the mouths of the Xeros and Ezousa rivers. The coast to the south of the village of Mandria is probably the best known bird watching

location in this IBA but it also contains other frequently visited sites such as Pafos Sewage Works which has breeding Spur-winged Lapwing and the olive groves around Acheleia where Eurasian Stone Curlew roost.

Guides to birding sites often include the phrase – ‘at this location anything can turn up’ – and that certainly applies to this IBA. During spring, harriers quarter the fields and Short-eared Owl is a possibility. Although the area is noted as a raptor bottleneck, raptors are less common in the spring than in autumn. The most accessible locations are Mandria, Timi Beach and Pafos Sewage Works. The coastal area at Mandria is a good place to check for Desert Wheatear while other wheatears, Cyprus, Black-eared, Isabelline, and Northern are common spring migrants throughout the area. Also using the grassy shores and cultivated areas of the IBA can be Greater and Lesser Short-toed Lark, Bimaculated and Calandra Lark, and Red-throated, Tawny and occasionally Richard’s Pipit. Eurasian Hoopoe, Common Quail and Common Pratincole are regular and most springs at least one of the rarer waders - Eurasian Dotterel, Caspian Plover and Greater Sand Plover occur. Black Francolin can be both heard and seen and flocks of Yellow Wagtail feed in the fields – *flava* and *feldegg* predominate but other races and hybrids occur.

Offshore migrating gulls such as Slender-billed and Lesser Black-backed can be seen coasting by with the occasional Great Black-headed Gull as well. Purple and Squacco Heron migrate over the area in flocks as do Little and Cattle Egret and sometimes Eurasian Spoonbill. Rafts of ducks – mainly Garganey – but also Northern Pintail and Northern Shoveler – sometimes float offshore and during windier weather Scopoli’s and Yelkouan Shearwater can be seen offshore. A few individuals of the *desmarestii* race of the Eurasian Shag are usually on the offshore rocks at Mandria.

After a wet winter there can be water in the Ezousa and Xeros river mouths. Little and Spotted Crake are then around and various heron and wader species including the occasional Great Snipe can be present. The small wooded areas of the IBA will have various warblers – Eastern Bonelli’s, Rüppell’s, Eastern Orphea and Subalpine, Great Reed, Eurasian Reed and Sedge Warbler. Masked and Woodchat Shrike are likely, and in late April and May Lesser Grey and Red-backed Shrike pass through.

Several hours are needed to birdwatch this IBA but for those short of time a drive around the coastal area and fields of Mandria can allow an overview of what is around in less than an hour.

Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs

Covering the Xeros river valley and heading inland north-eastwards from the area below Asprokremmos Dam, this IBA has a mixture of habitats – mainly agricultural but also scrub, natural grassland and forest.

Asprokremmos Dam is in the south of the IBA and well sign-posted heading east from Mandria. Although it is worth scanning the dam itself for possible late Caspian Gulls still among the Yellow-legged Gull often near the Dam head, and resting Garganey and heron

species, it is the area around the Dam that provides more interesting birdwatching. The wooded amenities area has recorded Great Spotted Cuckoo, Cretzschmar's and Ortolan Bunting, Collared, Pied and Semi-collared Flycatcher, Common Redstart and Eastern Bonelli's Warbler. Golden Oriole and European Bee-eater add colour to the area later in the spring – the latter staying to breed nearby in some years. Cyprus Warbler breed in the scrub behind the amenities area and on the track heading towards the mast Little Owl and Spectacled Warbler breed. Long-legged Buzzard, Bonelli's Eagle and Peregrine Falcon can be seen over the Dam and all three breed in the area.

European Roller can be seen near the Dam and, heading towards Nata and the ford at the shallow end of the dam, breeding pairs can be found from late April/ early May. After wet winters the mud of the shallow end is used by migrating waders including Curlew Sandpiper, and Eurasian Stone Curlew breed nearby. The unique call of the Black Francolin is common in the valley as is that of the endemic migrant breeder Cyprus Wheatear. Red-rumped Swallow are possible migrant breeders.

Heading further inland a glimpse of the rare island resident, the Griffon Vulture may occasionally be had as they cross the area to reach a feeding station higher up. Large raptors seen are more likely to be Long-legged Buzzard and Bonelli's Eagle though. In the forested areas to the west of Kelokedara breeding Masked Shrike, Cretzschmar's Bunting, Eurasian Hoopoe and Cyprus Wheatear can be found taking up territories in late spring.

At least an hour is needed to check the Asprokremmos Dam area and its surround. Extra time will be needed to explore the rest of the IBA inland away from the coast – a full day could be allocated to a trip around this IBA if time allows or it can be combined with a morning visit to Pafos Plain.

TRIP THREE:

Larnaca Salt Lakes and Oroklini Marsh

These two IBAs are close to Larnaca town with Larnaca Salt Lake IBA containing Larnaca Airport, its road infrastructure and also coastal residential properties. Both are subject to developmental encroachment but hold good populations of wetland and other species nearly all year and a spring visit, especially after a wet winter, should provide the visitor with a wide variety of species.

Larnaca Salt Lakes

Larnaca Salt Lakes are bisected by Larnaca International Airport and if time allows both the main Salt Lake to the north of the airport and the area nearer to the coast where the Larnaca Sewage Works pools are located should be visited. When the water levels are suitable during the winter, thousands of Greater Flamingo use the area. The numbers start to fall from February onwards but some years several hundred are still present into April. Migrating waders feed around the margins of pools – Green and Wood Sandpiper, Ruff, Curlew and Marsh Sandpiper, Eurasian Curlew, Dunlin and Little and Temminck's

Stint. Red-necked and Red Phalarope, Cream-coloured Courser, Red Knot and Caspian Plover are among the rarer waders recorded there, while Collared Pratincole, Pied Avocet, Broad-billed Sandpiper and Greater Sand Plover are seen most years. The reeded area on the eastern edge of the main Salt Lake is a good place to check for Water Rail and Little and Spotted Crake. Bluethroat and Moustached Warbler use that area in winter and may still be present in early spring.

Migrating heron species, especially Little Egret and Squacco Heron, pass over and rest on the Salt Lakes. Most of the wintering duck species will have left but migrating Garganey may be present on the pools of the Sewage Works to the south of the airport. Waders also feed around the edge of these pools and Black-winged Stilt and Spur-winged Lapwing will be found noisily setting up their breeding territories during spring. Black Francolin and Chukar breed in the arable land throughout the IBA and Eurasian Stone Curlew seem to favour the areas to the south of the airport. Kentish Plover breed throughout the IBA including the area known as Spiros Pool and Beach near the Desalination Plant. Little and Common Tern may breed in the area if the conditions are right and Whiskered, White-winged, Gull-billed and occasionally Black Tern migrate through the area, as do Slender-billed and Little Gull. Caspian Gull and the 'Baltic' and 'Heuglin's' races of Lesser Black-backed Gull as well as Audouin's Gull can be found in early spring. Western Marsh Harrier are regularly seen at this time of year and Pallid and Montagu's occur. Long-legged Buzzard sometimes hunt over the fields and larger migrants such as Common Crane and White Stork occasionally pass over.

Calandra Lark and Spectacled Warbler are resident breeders and males of both will be heard singing on their territories; the latter being more common than the former. Passerine migrants include Wryneck, Yellow Wagtail, Red-throated Pipit, wheatears including Cyprus, Greater Short-toed Lark and warblers - including Subalpine, Rüppell's, Eastern Bonelli's and Barred – and Woodchat, Lesser Grey and Red-backed Shrike. They often choose the small plantations of trees and shrubs which can be found, for example, near Tekke Mosque and near the track leading to the Sewage Pools. A few pairs of *feldegg* Yellow Wagtail stay to breed most years.

A couple of hours is the minimum time required to visit all the locations in this IBA; this can be reduced by choosing to visit either the main Salt Lake or the area nearer to the coast. The Sewage Pools always hold water and after a dry winter that location and its surrounds should produce a greater variety of species.

Oroklini Lake

Situated to the east of Larnaca just off the motorway to Agia Napa, Oroklini Lake – the subject of a LIFE+ project from 2012 to 2014 – is all that remains of a larger seasonal salt lake drained and developed during the 20th and early 21st centuries. The recent conservation work there has not only fenced off the area to prevent disturbance but also regulated the water levels where possible and produced infrastructure of observation platforms and hides.



Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

ALBERT STOECKER

The main species of interest for the area have always been Spur-winged Lapwing and Black-winged Stilt, both of which breed there with several of the former now present all year round. Kentish Plover and Little Tern also breed if conditions are suitable. The first Red-crested Pochard to nest in Cyprus bred there in 2009 and several pairs have bred most years since. In 2014 Cattle Egret bred there for the first time. Black Francolin and Eurasian Stone Curlew are in the surrounding fields.

Purple, Squacco and Black-crowned Night Heron rest there during migration as do Glossy Ibis, and Greater Flamingo are often at Oroklini through the spring into early summer. Eurasian Spoonbill can turn up and White-winged and Whiskered Tern feed over the water. All the usual waders can turn up – and good views can usually be had of these from the observation platform. Eurasian Reed Warblers can be heard in the reeds and late Bluethroat, Moustached Warbler and Penduline Tit may still be around in early spring. Little and Spotted Crakes may be seen moving through the reeds near the edge

of the water. Pied Kingfisher have spent several days there in the past.

There is easy access to the viewing facilities at Oroklini and a short visit of less than an hour can give a great taster of the species that are around if time is short.

TRIP FOUR:

Akrotiri Peninsula –Episkopi Cliffs

This extensive IBA is to the west of Limassol port and includes the cliffs of Episkopi where the remaining Cypriot population of the Griffon Vulture breeds. It is contained within the British Sovereign Base area and there are several parts that are out of bounds. Care must be taken in sensitive areas and signs forbidding stopping and photography should be respected. A vehicle is essential for travel between the different locations of this IBA. Cyprus Warbler and Cyprus Wheatear breed in the area.

Akrotiri Peninsula includes a large Salt Lake and marshes as well as areas of sclerophyllous vegetation, beaches and dunes. There are several agricultural areas (mostly groves) and an inland marsh. The area is worth a birdwatching visit at most times of the year. (See also the section on autumn trips) The variety and number of migrating raptors may be less in the spring than in the autumn but the chance of encountering many other species means that their absence will hardly be noticed. That said, migrating harriers should be encountered at this time of year and it is a good location to check for 'Steppe' Buzzard. Bonelli's Eagle, Osprey, Booted Eagle and Lesser Spotted Eagle have been recorded in spring as have Lesser Kestrel, Red-footed Falcon, Eurasian Hobby and Eleonora's Falcon. Eleonora's Falcon usually arrive in mid-April and from then onwards can be found hunting over Phassouri Reed-beds or flying around Episkopi Cliffs where they will breed later in the summer. Alpine Swift also breed at that location and are present from mid-March, while there is at least one resident pair of Peregrine Falcon on the cliffs. The *desmarestii* race of the European Shag breed near the cliffs and could be seen offshore.

The endemic Cyprus Warbler breeds in the scrub at the top of the cliffs. They also breed near the Agios Georgios Church which is found on the south side of the area known locally as either Akrotiri Meras or Akrotiri Gravel Pits. There are several tracks across this area and it is a great location for migrants – from wheatears to Great Spotted Cuckoo, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush and Eurasian Golden Oriole and rarer waders such as Cream-coloured Courser. The gardens around the church are good places to search for warblers such as Rüppell's, Subalpine, Eastern Bonelli's and Eastern Orphean and Common Redstart and Pied, Collared and Semi-collared are regular as is Eurasian Wryneck. Eurasian Hoopoe, Greater and Lesser Short-toed and Bimaculated Lark, Cretzschmar's and Ortolan Bunting are frequent in this area and Hooded Wheatear and Trumpeter Finch are among the rarities. Common Crane can be seen migrating overhead some springs and some years Demoiselle Crane are recorded, although they are more likely in early autumn.

On the main Salt Lake Greater Flamingo may still be around after a wet winter, although they are often on the northern edge where they are only visible through a telescope.

Gulls, terns and waders feed around the edge of the lake and may be more visible if visited from the tracks behind Lady's Mile and Zakaki Marsh where access is easier. But remember that the area is a protected wildlife area where disturbance should be avoided at all costs and also that it can be unforgiving to vehicles, even those with four-wheel drive. There are many sob stories of cars stuck in areas that looked dry but regrettably were not. Heron species including Great Egret and Squacco and Purple Heron, and Eurasian Spoonbill rest and feed during migration. Collared Pratincole fly over and Broad-billed Sandpiper are seen most springs.

If Lady's Mile has water many migrating waders will feed there including Marsh Sandpiper, Temminck's Stint and Greater Sand Plover. Kentish Plover breed both there and on the Akrotiri Merras. The shrubs on the track on the inland side of Lady's Mile are good for Lesser Grey, Red-backed and Woodchat Shrike, and Olive-tree Warbler is one of the area's rarities. The wooded area around the entrance to Bishop's Pool is good for warblers as well. Cyprus Warbler breed in this area and Eurasian Golden Oriole, flycatchers and Tree Pipit are reported most springs. Migrating European Bee-eater should be in the area from mid-April and the flocks may include the occasional Blue-cheeked Bee-eater. Access to Bishop's Pool is sometimes difficult but it is a regular breeding site for Ferruginous Duck and well worth a visit.

Ferruginous Duck first bred in Cyprus in 2005 at Phassouri Reed-beds and if there is water will be found there most springs. This area is good for Little, Spotted and the less frequent Baillon's Crake as well as Water Rail, Great Reed Warbler, Yellow Wagtail, feeding waders especially Wood Sandpiper and herons. A small population of Cattle Egret seems to be resident and Glossy Ibis stop on migration. Black Francolin, Cetti's Warbler and Zitting Cisticola are heard throughout the area. Western Marsh Harrier winter there and may be joined by migrating birds in the spring. Pallid, Hen and Montagu's Harrier are often seen quartering the area.

Zakaki Marsh – the area closest to Limassol Port - can be viewed from a hide. Spur-winged Lapwing and Black-winged Stilt breed there some years as do *feldegg* Yellow Wagtail and Ferruginous Duck. Citrine Wagtail are frequently seen there together with crakes, waders, herons, terns and the occasional Eurasian Spoonbill. White-throated and Pied Kingfisher are Cyprus rarities that can turn up there.

Other IBAs worth a visit during spring migration include: Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini-Agia Paraskevi Gorges, Ezousa Valley and Cliffs, Pentashoinos River and Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands.



Great-spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

ALBERT STOECKER

SUMMER BIRDWATCHING IN CYPRUS

Summer in Cyprus is not the easiest time of year for birdwatching as it can be extremely hot and often humid, with temperatures reaching 36°C at the coast and 40°C inland at times. This is a good time to visit the cooler mountainous regions where Pallid Swift, Red Crossbill, Eurasian Jay and Masked Shrike are among the breeding species. The endemic Cyprus Wheatear also breeds in considerable numbers in such areas, as does the Cyprus Warbler (especially in mid-altitudes) and the four endemic sub-species of Eurasian Jay, Short-toed Treecreeper, Coal Tit and Eurasian Scops Owl. Migrant breeders include Eurasian Hoopoe, Spotted Flycatcher, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, European Nightjar and even the elusive Golden Oriole.

The Troodos mountain range dominates the interior of Cyprus and is included in both the Troodos and Pafos Forest IBAs and other forest IBAs such as that of Adelphoi Forest

– Papoutsia and Mahairas Forest – Tzionia. All these areas offer birdwatching in cooler conditions, but it is still advisable to avoid being out in the middle of the day.

TRIP ONE:

A visit to any of the IBAs that cover mainly forested areas, as noted above is ideal for a summer visit to search for migrant breeders, Cyprus endemics and breeding raptors. Most of the forest IBAs cover large areas and are suitable for day trips, as they have picnic sites which usually offer facilities including running water. The decision as to which to visit will probably be related to your starting point.

From late April and through into the heat of August, IBAs such as that of Troodos Forest, Pafos Forest, Adelphoi Forest – Papoutsia, Atsas – Agios Theodoros Area, Xylourikos Valley and Mahairas Forest – Tzionia, have good numbers of breeding Cyprus Wheatear, Cyprus Warbler, Masked Shrike, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Coal Tit, Short-toed Treecreeper, Eurasian Jay, Spotted Flycatcher, Woodlark and Eurasian Hoopoe. Common Nightingale breed on the southern slopes of the Troodos Forest which is also the IBA to visit to catch up with Red Crossbill and Pallid Swift. Eurasian Scops Owl may be heard calling even during the day near Troodos Square. The trails leading from there are a good place to find many of the area's birds and offer easy walking conditions.

The large area of the Pafos Forest can be approached from Nicosia, Pafos or even the north west coast line to the east of Polis. This IBA includes Cedar Valley, Stavros tis Psokas and Kykkos Monastery. Several pairs of Bonelli's Eagle breed there and Northern Goshawk are also a possibility, with breeding Cretzschmar's Bunting and their family parties at the lower altitudes of the area. Cretzschmar's Bunting can also be found in the Adelphoi Forest – Papoutsia area where Long-legged Buzzard are also possible. European Nightjar breed there as well as in suitable habitat in the Pafos and Mahairas forests. Winter Wren, Common Chaffinch and European Serin are common in the Cyprus forests and have recently been joined by European Blackbird as a breeding species. The foothills of Mahairas and Adelphoi Forests and the Xylourikos Valley hold breeding Black-headed Bunting and singing males can be heard from the end of April into early summer although most have left by late July/ early August.

TRIP TWO:

Panagia Stazousa River, Pentashoinos River and Mahairas Forest – Tzionia

These three IBAs are in the south of the island, towards the interior, to the west of Larnaca town. Mahairas Forest borders onto the Pentashoinos River which is an easy drive from Panagia Stazousa meaning that these are three IBAs that can be combined together for an interesting day trip or visited individually if there are time constraints. All three have breeding Cyprus Warbler and Cyprus Wheatear with the endemic sub-species being found in Mahairas Forest – Tzionia.

Panagia Stazousa River

The area gets its name from a medieval monastery located there, which it is thought could date from the middle of the fourteenth century. It is a dry river valley located in the Larnaca district between Pyrga and Klavdia and is surrounded by cliffs which are used by breeding European Roller, Western Jackdaw, Little Owl and Long-legged Buzzard. A narrow, winding asphalted road allows you to drive straight through the area and there are a few places where it is safe to stop and birdwatch. An army firing range bars access to certain areas but it is well signposted and it is not really necessary to stray away from the main road to get a good idea of what is around.

There are at least ten pairs of breeding European Roller present most summers. They can be seen flying to their nest sites or sitting on carob, olive or pine trees and later in the season they are joined by the juvenile birds. The area is also noted as one of the top twenty breeding sites for Cyprus Warbler and in the summer family groups move through the undergrowth in the more vegetated areas. Spectacled Warbler are also present and Eastern Olivaceous Warbler can be heard in the wooded area and groves towards Pyrga.

Cyprus Wheatear and Masked Shrike breed in the valley and a drive through there during July will allow you to see family parties of these species as well. At least one pair of Cretzschmar's Bunting can often be seen from the road side and as well as breeding Long-legged Buzzard flying over the area and many Common Kestrel, a Peregrine Falcon is occasionally seen and one or two of the Bonelli's Eagles that breed nearby in the Stavrovouni area can float over. Great Spotted Cuckoos parasitise the many European Magpies that breed in the area meaning that in the summer months, noisy juveniles are around. Several pairs of Little Owl breed in the area with at least one pair usually on the roadside cliffs, while Black Francolin and Chukar are relatively common there.

The more forested areas towards Pyrga at the northern edge of the IBA are good places to look for Eurasian Hoopoe, more Masked Shrike, Red-rumped Swallow and at least one pair of European Bee-eater breed nearby most years. A location that is not usually included among the well-known Cyprus birding locations, a drive-through birdwatch from the car needs at least thirty minutes but it is possible to explore the area more thoroughly and spend a couple of hours there.

Pentashoinos River

Like Panagia Stazousa, this IBA is a dry river valley running from above Lefkara Dam in the north down to the coast to the south of Agios Theodoros. It is bisected by the Nicosia to Limassol motorway to the west of Kofinou. It also contains Dipotamos Dam and is almost completely covered by coniferous forest and sclerophyllous vegetation, with small pockets of agricultural land, groves and plantations.

Noted as a passerine bottleneck during the spring and autumn migration periods, it has several pairs of breeding European Roller and is a great place to come across breeding endemic Cyprus Warbler and Cyprus Wheatear as well as Black Francolin. Bonelli's Eagle breed at different locations and they can sometimes even be seen soaring over the motorway as can Long-legged Buzzard which also breed there. Cretzschmar's Bunting is a migrant breeder found in the area and the forested areas should also offer Masked Shrike, Eurasian Hoopoe and Eastern Olivaceous Warbler. A visit to the forested areas around the two dams at dusk and early evening should provide the opportunity to see displaying European Nightjar.

Mahairas Forest – Tzionia

One of the top breeding sites for the European Nightjar in Cyprus, this IBA borders the Pentashoinos River IBA along its southern edge and is north of the village of Vavatsinia. It can be approached from Nicosia to the west of Kapedes and Lythrodontas. It is on the far east of the Troodos range with the lowest part, at an altitude of 400m, being close to Lythrodontas village outside Nicosia, while the highest point is Tzionia peak, at 1423m. There are many areas to explore and as it is not an area that is birded regularly it provides the opportunity to find your own good spots. There is a picnic site in the Tzionia area that many of the area's records come from. Mahairas Monastery (Panagia tou Mahaira) is well visited by local and overseas tourists. Several pairs of Scops Owl, a Barn Owl and Long-eared Owl have been seen and heard near the Monastery itself. The Cypriot subspecies of the Eurasian Scops Owl is fairly common throughout the whole IBA.

Golden Oriole have been heard calling across the area in summer and may breed although they are very elusive – the European Blackbirds that breed there are much easier to hear and see. Bonelli's Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Northern Goshawk are occasionally seen flying over the tree tops. Masked Shrike is common during the summer as are Eastern Olivaceous Warbler and the resident Coal Tit. The two migrant buntings found in Cyprus breed there – Black-headed Bunting prefer the lower foothills with Cretzschmar's occurring both there and at slightly higher altitudes.

Also identified as an Endemic Bird Area, the Mahairas Forest -Tzionia IBA has good populations of both Cyprus Warbler and Cyprus Wheatear. There is a good road system through most of the area although some are narrow and winding but it is not necessary to go off road to reach places to park and then walk. As with most other forested areas there are several special designated picnic sites and walking trails which offer the opportunity to park in safety and explore the area on foot. An hour would be the minimum needed to visit a small area of this IBA and discover some of the target species. Getting a better idea of its habitats, species and scenery requires at least a couple of hours. An early evening visit will be needed to enjoy the call and maybe even the display flight of the European Nightjar.

Other IBAs worth a visit during the summer include: Cape Aspro (for breeding Eleonora's Falcon), Akrotiri Peninsula –Episkopi Cliffs, Ezousa Valley and Cliffs, Diarizos Valley



Eurasian Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

ALBERT STOECKER

AUTUMN BIRDWATCHING IN CYPRUS

The migration period gets underway in earnest from early August with herons, egrets and ducks cruising along the coastlines, especially along the north-west coast, and a considerable passage of raptors attracting attention in September and October. Honey Buzzard, Black Kite, Red-footed Falcon and harriers are regularly observed. Lesser Spotted Eagle, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Booted Eagle, Black Kite, Osprey and Egyptian Vulture all pass over the island in variable numbers. Variable numbers of Demoiselle Crane migrate over the island at the end of August/start of September.

Migrant passerines also start to appear from the end of July – Barred and Eastern Orphee Warbler among the first, quickly followed by shrikes, wheatears and wagtails. Migrating waders turn up wherever there is still water – Broad-billed Sandpiper and Collared Pratincole the most notable. Greater Sand Plover can be seen in the Kato Pafos Lighthouse

Area from mid-July. Sea-watching – especially on the north coast – gives the chance to spot both Yelkouan and Scopoli's Shearwater as well as migrating gulls and terns. Cyprus Wheatear start to move from their breeding grounds towards the coast and many juvenile birds can be seen. At this time of year Cyprus Warbler are skulking and usually difficult to observe.

It should be remembered that although August and September are noted as months of 'autumn' migration they are still hot. Temperatures can reach over 30°C even in October.

TRIP ONE:

Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini – Agia Paraskevi Gorges

The Akamas Peninsula covers over two hundred square kilometres and has a wide variety of bird species throughout the year. Resident birds of prey include Long-legged Buzzard, Bonelli's Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. Bonelli's Eagle and Long-legged Buzzard may be encountered as you drive along the roads leading to Polis. They both hunt over the valleys and breed within the Important Bird Area. A good view point to scan for these two species is at Theletra. Peregrine Falcon are also resident and are often seen around the Avakas Gorge as well as near the quarries towards Polis. A breeding colony of Yellow-legged Gull off the coast at Cape Drepano is hard to miss and the island of Yeronissos holds at least fifty pairs of this species every year. The area is also important for breeding Chukar, Black Francolin, Eurasian Scops Owl (an endemic sub-species) and Little Owl. Chukar can be seen on rocky slopes, the edge of forested areas, scrub as well as in groves and on fields planted with cereal. Black Francolin prefer the latter. Scops and Little Owl can often be found around the villages of the area as well as in the more isolated regions.

Raptor migration occurs over the Peninsula during both spring and autumn migration but is usually more noticeable during the autumn – from late August till early October. Larger raptors such as Western Marsh Harrier, Pallid and Montagu's Harrier and Honey Buzzard can be seen coming in off the northern coast and continuing their migration southwards overland. Sometimes ones or twos can be seen but occasionally hundreds of birds – especially Honey Buzzard - kettle up over the rising ground close to the coast. The area around the Baths of Aphrodite is a good observation point. At times migrating eagles such as Booted and Lesser Spotted Eagle occur. Smaller raptors such as Lesser Kestrel, Red-footed Falcon, Eurasian Hobby and Eleonora's Falcon also migrate over the area.

Coastal migration is also more noticeable in the autumn. Usually the first migrating Glossy Ibis can be seen flying westwards along the coast from the Baths of Aphrodite area from late July/early August, to be joined later in the month by flocks of Little Egret, Purple and Grey Heron and other egrets. They may rest on the rocky northern coast and then continue westwards, turning at Cape Arnaoutis and heading southwards towards Lara Beach and Cape Drepano. Demoiselle Cranes pass through Cyprus at the end of August and often spend the night on the southern IBA at Akrotiri but several flocks pass over the Akamas most years, often heading inland over Latsi. Offshore at this time of year

flocks of ducks – most commonly Garganey – congregate and can be seen floating in rafts on the northern coast. At dusk they too will often chose the inland route to continue their journey south. The area around the Baths of Aphrodite is a good place for sea watching to try and spot both the Scopoli's and Yelkouan Shearwaters. Cape Drepano on the west coast is another good location to scan offshore from.

The area around the Baths of Aphrodite and behind Neo Chorio near the Smygies picnic site may be busy with tourists during August and into September but it is worth checking the area for juvenile Cyprus Wheatear and migrating passerines. Willow Warbler are usually some of the first seen and they will be joined by Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, Eastern Orphean Warbler and the occasional Barred Warbler. Isabelline and Northern Wheatear, Yellow Wagtail and Greater Short-toed Lark are often seen resting on the fields and scrub behind the north coast, as well as on the west coast to the north of Cape Drepano. Lesser Grey and Red-backed Shrike are common throughout autumn migration as are Spotted Flycatcher. Hundreds of European Bee-eater head southwards during September over the area and Red-rumped Swallow will be among the flocks of hirundine species. Breeding Alpine Swift will have left their south coast breeding locations by this time but migrants can be spotted coming in off the sea until early October.

This IBA stands alone as a place to spend the day during autumn and although there are other locations nearby of interest, such as Evretou Dam in the Saramas Valley IBA, it is worth spending time there at the various viewpoints on the coast watching visible migration and searching for smaller migrants in the wooded and scrub habitats. A minimum of an hour can give just a taster of the wealth of species migrating over this area.

TRIP TWO:

Akrotiri Peninsula – Episkopi Cliffs

The Akrotiri Peninsula was a recommended location for a spring birdwatching trip but it is also an excellent location during the autumn migration. In autumn it is also possible to spend a full day birdwatching the area and during peak periods of raptor migration it may be worth remaining in a location such as Phassouri Reed-beds or near Bishop's Pool and watching the sky to see what passes over for as long as you can. Species such as Honey Buzzard may roost overnight in the area and, as the day warms up and thermals are created, the birds will start to rise over the area and move southwards. This usually happens around 9am. Birds that have roosted further north will start to move over the area from later in the day. A few birds are seen from late August onwards with the majority usually seen in the second and third week of September. Some years produce more migrant raptors than others, with peaks of several thousand in a single day in those years.

Honey Buzzard predominate but also seen are Black Kite, Western Marsh Harrier, Pallid, Hen and Montagu's Harrier, Common and 'Steppe' Buzzard, Booted, Lesser Spotted and occasionally Short-toed Snake Eagle and Osprey. A couple of juvenile Egyptian Vulture are seen most autumns and the only Cyprus record of a Crested Honey Buzzard to date

was seen over the Salt Lake during September. Most Pallid and Montagu's Harrier seen in the autumn are juvenile birds. Smaller migrating birds of prey usually include Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Lesser Kestrel and Red-footed Falcon as well as the occasional Merlin. Levant Sparrowhawk are another Cyprus rarity recorded there and Saker Falcon are regular but by no means common. Red-footed Falcon rest and feed in the area – often in the plantations around Phassouri – and some days hundreds are seen. They are most likely towards the end of September and in early October. Eleonora's Falcon are still present at Episkopi Cliffs at the start of autumn migration and can be seen feeding over the area. Later in autumn they too may be observed migrating south.

As in the spring, heron and egret species pass over the peninsula and if there is water in the Salt Lake many Little and Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Squacco, Grey and Purple Heron will rest and feed there. Others will use Phassouri Reed-beds and Zakaki Marsh. Great Egret, Eurasian Spoonbill and Little Bittern may also stop to rest on the wetlands of the peninsula. Few Great White Pelican and White Stork migrate over Cyprus but individuals and small groups do from time to time pass over and can be picked out along the edge of the Salt Lake. Larger flocks fly over from time to time, for example more than 2000 White Stork spent a couple of days on the main Salt Lake in August 2012.

The main Salt Lake is used by the migrating Demoiselle Crane that pass over Cyprus from mid-August to early September. The numbers are variable – some years less than one hundred in total, other years several flocks of more than a hundred – but they spend the evening on the Salt Lake, taking off once the air over the Lake heats up and the thermals created are warm enough to aid them over the sea to the south of the peninsula. They usually get ready to leave between 8.30 and 9.00am but can be seen feeding on the Salt Marsh before rising and continuing their journey. Common Crane migrate over the area later in the autumn – late September to mid-October – and most years singles will stay longer.

Migrating waders will stop and feed at Phassouri, Zakaki, Lady's Mile and around the main Salt Lake. Broad-billed Sandpiper are recorded late in August and early September most years and the rarer Eurasian Dotterel and Bar-tailed Godwit are possible. Post-breeding flocks of over 100 Kentish Plover usually roost on Lady's Mile. Little and Spotted Crake and Water Rail can sometimes be seen creeping in the reeds. Migrating ducks such as Garganey can be seen and ducks more usually associated with winter may be found on the Salt Lake if it has water – Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Teal and Northern Pintail. Greater Flamingo may also be present depending again on the water levels of the Salt Lake.

Many European Bee-eaters pass over the whole area from early September onwards and single Blue-cheeked Bee-eater can occur. Eurasian Hoopoe, European Roller and European Golden Oriole are other colourful migrants and also seen are Yellow Wagtail, Isabelline and Northern Wheatear, Lesser Grey, Red-backed and Masked Shrike, Whinchat and various warblers. Later on in October Moustached Warbler and Bluethroat may have arrived and be seen in the reeds where they will spend the winter. Races of the Southern Grey Shrike are also possible later in autumn.

The warnings relating to the IBAs military nature apply to this season as well. If time is limited then just an hour at Phassouri Reedbeds should give ample opportunity to see migrating raptors.

TRIP THREE:

Pafos Plain, Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs, and Ezousa Valley and Cliffs

Like the IBA in autumn's trip two above, both the Pafos Plain and Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs IBAs were suggested as places to visit in spring. Pafos Plain is a raptor bottleneck and birds migrating through the other nearby IBAs can filter over the Plain before heading eastwards to the Akrotiri Peninsula. All the above IBAs are close enough to mean it is possible to visit all three in one day although as with most other IBAs described, all three merit at least half a day each. Cyprus Wheatear should still be around till late September/mid-October but Cyprus Warbler will be harder to find than they were in the spring due to their skulking nature and the fact that they are partial migrants.

Pafos Plain

From early in the morning during September and early October migrating raptors pass over this area with Mandria being an ideal location to watch them from. It gives a good all round view of the countryside and of what may be flying or 'kettling' up in the distance. Honey Buzzards will be the most common raptors seen but with the four harrier species seen in Cyprus, Common Buzzard and Black Kite all likely, all birds should be checked carefully for their ID. Egyptian Vulture, Booted Eagle and Short-toed Snake Eagle also turn up and the area is especially noted for the number of Red-footed Falcon that roost on the wires and feed in the ploughed fields later in September and into October. Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Merlin and Lesser Kestrel are often present and Eurasian Hobby and migrating Eleonora's Falcon add to the number of birds of prey possible in the autumn.

Offshore, heron species will coast by and the fields are loved by Isabelline, Eastern Black-eared and Northern Wheatear, Red-throated and Tawny Pipit and Greater Short-toed Lark. Yellow Wagtails occur in their thousands, usually spending several days feeding up before heading south for the winter. They are especially fond of the alfalfa crops planted near to Pafos Sewage Works, although at times the height of the crop may make them difficult to see. Most are female and first year birds making their identification to race challenging. It is worth checking among them for the rarer migrant, Citrine Wagtail. Richard's Pipit, Lesser Short-toed and Calandra Lark have also been recorded in the autumn and from early October large flocks of migrating Spanish Sparrow can add to the spectacle of visible migration.

Gulls such as Armenian, Heuglin's, Caspian and Yellow-legged can be found at times on the beaches of the area or flying offshore. Eurasian Stone Curlew roost among the olive



Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*
STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

groves, especially at Acheleia, in post-breeding flocks. Greater Sand Plover and other migrating waders including Collared Pratincole are recorded most autumns and Great White Pelican, White Stork and Black Stork can occasionally be noted among the flocks of migrating raptors. The area has had its fair share of vagrants as well. Late autumn has seen 'Steppe' Grey Shrike, Blyth's Pipit and the island's first Eastern Black Redstart all in the Mandria area.

Early autumn rain can mean that the Xeros and Ezousa river mouths at the western and eastern borders of the IBA will host migrating waders and crakes. European Bee-eater pass over in numbers during the autumn and migrating warblers especially Willow and Blackcap will be numerous in the road-side vegetation especially in the Pafos Sewage Works area. Whinchat are plentiful and into October European Stonechat will become numerous. It is always worth checking the first arrivals to see if 'Siberian' or 'Caspian' races are among them.

A minimum of an hour is really needed at at least one of the locations in this IBA to catch up with the array of species around during autumn.

Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs

Covering the Xeros river valley and heading inland north-eastwards from the area below Asprokremmos Dam this IBA has a mixture of habitats – mainly agricultural but also scrub, natural grassland and forest. At this time of year, several hours can be spent just around the Asprokremmos Dam area with a view to spotting autumn migrants and especially raptors. Harriers – Marsh, Pallid, Montagu's and Hen can be spotted quartering the fields behind Asprokremmos Dam as can the resident Long-legged Buzzard and Bonelli's Eagle. Honey Buzzard pass through the valley heading towards the coastal plain and sometimes roost overnight in the wooded area near the car park at the head of the dam. Black Kite and Red-footed Falcon can also be seen and on a journey further inland up the valley Griffon Vulture can be seen.

The dam car park area is a great place to check for European Nightjar which is regularly seen there in the pine trees in early autumn. These trees often hold Common Redstart and Spotted Flycatcher as well as warblers and early in the autumn Cretzschmar's and Ortolan Bunting. Whiskered and White-winged Tern sometimes feed over the water at the dam head. Golden Oriole, Eurasian Hoopoe, European Bee-eater and European Roller are often reported in the area and migrating wheatears including Cyprus Wheatear, larks and pipits feed on the more open spaces behind the dam. Masked, Lesser Grey, Red-backed and Woodchat Shrike are often found as well. Further inland around Nata migrating heron species and waders may use the shallow end of the dam where, at the ford, as autumn progresses, a roost of European Stone Curlew is usually located. The resident Cyprus Warbler are harder to find than in the spring.

Late in autumn a visit to the deserted village of Foinikas on the western edge of the dam is a must as there is usually at least one wintering Finsch's Wheatear present from the end of October. Blue Rock Thrush can be there or on the Dam wall from October and resident Little Owl, Cyprus Warbler and Chukar should also be around.

Ezousa Valley and Cliffs

Covering the area to the north of Agia Varvara village just off the motorway above the Pafos Plain IBA, this extensive IBA covers the village of Episkopi and its cliffs as well the Ezousa river valley and goes to the west towards the village of Tsada. The area has spectacular scenery and in the autumn many migrating European Bee-eater pass through, and the resident pairs of Long-legged Buzzard and Bonelli's Eagle are joined by migrating Honey Buzzard and harriers heading south. A ridge to the west on a turning after the village of Marathounta and heading west towards Tsada gives great views in all directions and despite the fact that the area contains a golf course and associated development it remains a good place to explore. In late August, Demoiselle Crane pass over the area – often just heard calling late at night but sometimes seen in the early morning or at dusk.

Red-footed Falcon, Eurasian Hobby, Eleonora's and Peregrine Falcon are also seen there and post breeding Masked Shrike and migrating Woodchat, Red-backed and Lesser

Shrike are regular. A small, resident population of Spectacled Warbler breed on the ridge and Cyprus Wheatear can be common even into the October.

The cliffs near the village of Episkopi have resident Peregrine Falcon and the river valley runs below the village. It is possible to drive along the side of what is usually a dry river bed. This gives the chance to look for migrating warblers and later in the autumn the first winter flocks of finches such as European Serin can be found feeding there. Northern Goshawk are occasionally seen and European Sparrowhawk may spend the winter here and be seen from late October.

This IBA heads inland and, as noted above, commands some beautiful scenery. A minimum of an hour would be needed to visit the ridge near Tsada but with more time available the IBA can be explored fully.

Other IBAs worth a visit in autumn include Cape Greco, Saramas Valley, Larnaca Salt Lakes, Oroklini Lake, Akhna Dam, Paralimni Lake and Karpasia Peninsula - Kleides Islands.



Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

STAVROS CHRISTODOULIDES

WINTER BIRDWATCHING IN CYPRUS

Winter in Cyprus is also a great season to go birdwatching with around 90 species occurring as regular winter visitors. Probably the best known are the Greater Flamingo and wildfowl that congregate on the two salt lakes in Akrotiri and Larnaca in their thousands. Many other winter visitors to Cyprus are familiar to a visiting European birdwatcher – European Stonechat, Common Chiffchaff, European Robin, Song Thrush, White Wagtail, Meadow Pipit and Common Starling. Others include Wallcreepers in small numbers, Finsch's Wheatear, Bluethroat and Moustached Warbler. Penduline Tit are present at the wetlands most winter and some years the thousands of wintering ducks can include Ruddy Shelduck and even the rare White-headed Duck. Although a Cypriot winter can have many warm sunny days with temperatures reaching 20°C on occasions, it can also be wet and cool with snow at higher elevations. In mid-winter it can be dark by 17.00 meaning that the daylight hours

available for birdwatching are limited. Cyprus Wheatear leave Cyprus by the middle of October and the Cyprus Warbler is not easy to find although still present at many locations such as the Akrotiri Peninsula - Episkopi Cliffs IBA and the Cape Greco IBA. The endemic sub species – Coal Tit, Short-toed Treecreeper and Jay can be found in areas like the Troodos and Pafos Forest IBAs but the Scops Owl is hard to find in the winter until it starts calling again in mid to late February.

TRIP ONE:

Saramas Valley and Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini – Agia Paraskevi Gorges

Both of these IBAs are in the north west of the island, with Saramas Valley being inland and including Evretou Dam. Over-wintering thrushes and finches are numerous in both areas during the winter and both Long-legged Buzzard and Bonelli's Eagle hunt over the countryside.

Saramas Valley

Evretou Dam is probably the best known birdwatching location in this IBA, which in the summer hosts breeding European Roller and Cyprus Wheatear and also has a considerable resident population of Black Francolin. In the winter, the valleys can be full of flocks of wintering Common Chaffinch and European Serin and occasionally Eurasian Siskin and Hawfinch are found. A visit to the Dam can last several hours if both ends are visited. In extremely wet weather the road at the shallow end near to Skarfos Bridge may become impassable.

The northern or deep end of the Dam is one of many places on the island that wintering Western Black Redstart can be found. There are resident Chukar and Sardinian Warbler and Eurasian Crag Martin may be flying around if the weather is bad at higher altitudes. The dam does not hold large numbers of waterfowl, but Ferruginous Duck and Great Crested Grebe have been seen there in the winter. Common and Jack Snipe are often found in the mud of the shallower end and Water and Meadow Pipit feed in the grassy areas revealed when water levels are lower.

Great Egret and Pied Kingfisher have been recorded some winters while Finsch's Wheatear is present most years together with Blue Rock Thrush and Bluethroat. Good views of Bonelli's Eagle and Long-legged Buzzard gliding over the Dam can often be had and Northern Goshawk may occasionally be spotted.

Akamas Peninsula and Agia Aikaterini – Agia Paraskevi Gorges

The Akamas IBA is the other side of the Pafos to Polis road to the Saramas Valley so it is convenient to combine a winter visit to both these areas. Winter thrushes and finches are common throughout Akamas and hunting raptors include Peregrine Falcon and occasionally Merlin. But visitors to this IBA in the winter will usually head to the west

coast between Cape Drepano and Lara Beach, to Avakas Gorge. It is possible to walk some distance into the gorge although sturdy footwear is essential as the rocks may be wet and slippery and warnings about possible flash floods during winter rain should be heeded. But the reward could be a Wallcreeper. At least one is seen in the area most winters and at times can be spotted feeding in more accessible areas of the gorge. Some years a more obliging individual will use the cliff face in the area known as White River a few kilometres nearer to Cape Drepano than Avakas.

In the winter Avakas may have some of the rarer wintering thrushes such as Fieldfare and Mistle Thrush as well as Winter Wren and Grey Wagtail. Peregrine Falcon, Bonelli's Eagle and Long-legged Buzzard glide over the area on sunny days and a few pairs of Cyprus Warbler are in the scrub past the White River cliffs.

TRIP TWO:

Larnaca Salt Lakes, Oroklini Lake and Agia Thekla – Liopetri River

Both Larnaca and Akrotiri Salt Lake host large congregations of water birds during the winter months – Greater Flamingo, Northern Shoveler, Common Shelduck, Common Teal, Common Pochard are all present most years in variable numbers but often in their thousands. I have chosen to suggest a trip to Larnaca Salt Lakes and combine it with the nearby IBAs of Oroklini Lake and Agia Thekla – Liopetri River, at the expense of Akrotiri Salt Lake. If time permits Akrotiri should also be visited, but it is usually possible to get better and closer views of the Greater Flamingos and other wintering water birds at Larnaca.

Larnaca Salt Lakes

Larnaca Salt Lakes in the winter have a completely different aspect than would be met during the spring trip detailed above. The same areas can still be visited: the Sewage Works and Pools to the south of the airport and the main Lake and its surrounds including Tekke Mosque and the reed stands along the north eastern edge. After the first rains of autumn the Salt Lake starts to fill up and once the water levels are suitable Greater Flamingo will arrive and most years are present during December, January and February. Over ten thousand have been recorded and their calls can be heard throughout the area. Common Shelduck are mainly confined to the main Salt Lake but Northern Shoveler, Common Teal and Mallard as well as Gadwall, Northern Pintail and Common Pochard prefer the Sewage Works pools to the south of the airport. A group of around ten to fifteen Black-necked Grebe overwinter there as do a similar number of Greater White-fronted Geese. Ferruginous Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, Red-crested Pochard and some winters even White-headed Duck can also be found there.

Waders using the area include Eurasian Curlew, Eurasian Golden Plover, Common Redshank, Dunlin, Little Stint as well as the resident Kentish Plover. Pied Avocet are a rarer visitor and Common and Jack Snipe prefer the north eastern area of the main Salt Lake near the Kamares aqueduct. Water Rail are often in that area too, as are Bluethroat

and Moustached Warbler. Penduline Tit are heard if not seen most years in the reeds there. The winter roost of Eurasian Stone Curlew seems to have decreased in numbers, but they too can be seen on both sides of the airport.

Large numbers of Black-headed Gull remain in the area throughout the winter. Slender-billed Gull are present some years as are Heuglin's, Baltic, Caspian, Armenian, Yellow-legged, Great Black-headed and Mediterranean Gull in variable numbers. Little Gull are found some winters and Sandwich Tern fish offshore to the south of the airport.

Western Marsh Harrier are a common winter visitor and Hen Harrier can also be seen hunting over the salt marshes. At dusk and after dark both Barn Owl and Long-eared Owl can be glimpsed and at least one pair of Little Owl is resident near Tekke Mosque. Calandra, Eurasian Skylark and Lesser Short-toed Lark can be found in the arable fields close to the coast, as can Red-throated and Meadow Pipit. The bushes around the hide overlooking the Sewage Pools are a good place to look for the many Spectacled Warbler that are resident in the IBA. Several pairs of Black Francolin and Chukar use the fields in the same area.

This IBA is well suited for a short visit of an hour but a visit to all of its pools and habitats would need at least half a day.

Oroklini Lake

This site is well known as an important breeding site for Spur-winged Lapwing and Black-winged Stilt as well as the location chosen by Red-crested Pochard to breed for the first time in Cyprus. In the winter the Lake attracts wildfowl such as Northern Shoveler, Common Teal and Northern Pintail, waders such as Common Snipe, Jack Snipe and Common Redshank and a large flock of Black-headed Gull. Greater Flamingo often use the area when the water levels are right. Most winters Common Starling roost nearby and collect together at dusk over the reeds and Bluethroat can be seen feeding around the base of the same reeds – occasionally even coming out into the open to feed at the edge of the car park. Moustached Warbler have become more regular there in recent winters as have Reed Bunting and Penduline Tit.

The flock of Black-headed Gull should always be looked at closely, for possible Mediterranean Gull and single Little Gull may spend some time there as well. The dense reed beds provide cover for Eurasian Bittern some winters, together with Water Rail and the occasional unseasonal Little Crake. Pied Kingfisher have been recorded some winters, but Common Kingfisher is more likely. More unusual waders can include Temminck's Stint and Pied Avocet as well as Spotted Redshank and of course several Spur-winged Lapwing remain at Oroklini all year. Black Francolin can be found in the surrounding fields with Northern Lapwing and Eurasian Stone Curlew and at least one Western Marsh Harrier is present throughout the winter. The Cattle Egret is a recent new breeder on the Lake and a winter roost of over 100 individuals can be watched flying in as the sun sets.

It is an easily accessible site off the Larnaca to Agia Napa motorway with a good reputation for coming up with some of Cyprus' rarer winter visitors on a regular basis. With the renovation and restoration that has been carried out under the LIFE+ Project, and with future continued good site management, who knows what else will be seen there?

Agia Thekla – Liopetri River

This IBA covers the coastal strip between Agia Thekla and Liopetri River (Potamos Liopetri) and is located to the west of Agia Napa. The area has been much developed and although a marina is planned for the area it is still worth a visit to find the Greater Sand Plover that usually winter on the rocky coast. Most years a flock of over ten is present but numbers are sometimes smaller. Kentish and Grey Plover may also be present together with Common Sandpiper. Eurasian Golden Plover may be in the remaining undeveloped fields as can Chukar and Eurasian Skylark. Little Egret fish along the coast and offshore European Shag can be seen fishing. The river mouth has been winter home to several Red-breasted Merganser, a less than annual visitor to Cyprus.

TRIP THREE: *Diarizos Valley*

This is another IBA heading inland north above the Pafos Plain IBA. It is close to the Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs IBA written about in both spring and autumn sections of this publication. It also borders the Pafos Forest IBA in the north and the road north from Kidasi leads up into the Troodos Forest IBA. A day can be spent exploring this IBA or combined with a visit to one of the others. If intending to go on to explore some of the narrower mountain tracks of the Pafos Forest or head for the peaks of the Troodos range it is advisable to make sure your vehicle is fully equipped to deal with muddy, icy or snow covered roads.

One way to explore this IBA which extends as far as Salamiou and Kedares in the west and Oreites Forest to the east is to take the road heading inland from above Nikokleia village and head towards Kidasi. With the Diarizos river on your right as you drive inland the valley is a flyway for the endangered Cypriot population of Griffon Vulture as they glide over on their way to their feeding station in Agios Ioannis. Long-legged Buzzard also breed in the area and on warm winter days will be seen flying over the area. Wintering Hen Harrier, and Eurasian Sparrowhawk are also possible.

Just before Kidasi the road goes through a gap between two overhanging rocks. The river valley there is a good wintering site for Eurasian Siskin. The area to the left of the old road bridge a few kilometres on is a reliable winter haunt of Finsch's Wheatear. At least one individual should be present and this is a good place to stop and scan the sky for raptors as well. Woodlark and European Serin are also possible.

Heading further inland towards Kedares, Arminou Reservoir is visible. The area around Tzelefos Bridge at the head of the reservoir is another good spot to stop and explore. In the



Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

DAVE WALKER

summer this is full of migrant breeders such as Eurasian Hoopoe and Masked Shrike. During the winter it is a good place to search for the endemic sub-species such as the Eurasian Jay and Coal Tit. Eurasian Crag Martin may sometimes be seen over the reservoir and the area offers another opportunity to add to the variety of raptors seen by perhaps adding Northern Goshawk to the list.

Taking the return road from there back through Salamiou and its view point over the valley and back towards the coast gives another opportunity to scan the area for Griffon Vulture and Long-legged Buzzard.

Half a day is needed to visit the locations mentioned, especially if stopping to walk and explore the Kidasi and Tzelefos Bridge areas. If you do not intend to extend your trip into the Troodos range or Pafos Forest, then a visit to either the Xeros Valley and Hanoutaris Cliffs IBA or further west to the Ezousa Valley and Cliffs IBA gives the chance to add Blue Rock Thrush, Chukar and Black Francolin to the species seen as well as Bonelli's Eagle and more Long-legged Buzzard. Asprokremmos Dam does not usually have a large congregation of wildfowl but several hundred Caspian Gull are often present together with wintering Great Cormorant. Rarer visitors include Ruddy Shelduck and Great Crested Grebe, and Spectacled, Sardinian and Cyprus Warbler will be in the scrub area around the Dam.

Other IBAs worth a visit in winter include Troodos Forest, Pafos Forest, Cape Greco, Kato Pafos Lighthouse Area.

ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS & GLOSSARY

Acronyms

B: Breeding

ha: Hectares

i: Individuals

M: Migrating

p: Pairs

S: Spring passage

W: Wintering

Abbreviations

IBA: Important Bird Area

SAC: Special Area of Conservation

SCI: Site of Community Importance

SPA: Special Protection Area

Glossary

BirdLife International: A global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources.

Birds Directive: Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds which is a European Union directive adopted in 2009 replacing Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds. Foresees the designation (classification) of SPAs.

Habitats Directive: Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora which is a European Union directive adopted in 1992. Foresees the designation of SCIs that later become SACs.

IBA Qualifying Species: Species that meet the thresholds of IBA Criteria.

Natura 2000: An Ecological Network of Protected Areas in the European Union established under the Habitats Directive, which includes SPAs and SACs (or SCIs).

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A full list of all references used in compiling this Inventory is available on the BirdLife Cyprus website www.birdlifecyprus.org



Πτηνολογικός
Σύνδεσμος Κύπρου

BirdLife
Cyprus



The present BirdLife Cyprus publication provides the most comprehensive, geographically complete and up-to-date inventory of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of Cyprus. The thorough and exhaustive analyses carried out to arrive at the new inventory of 34 Cyprus IBAs allows BirdLife Cyprus to be satisfied that the most crucial sites for bird conservation on the island have been correctly identified and these are detailed in this book.

Approved by BirdLife International as being in keeping with their recognised criteria for identifying IBAs across the globe, this new inventory presents areas that should enjoy legal protection and sympathetic management under the provisions of the EU nature protection Directives. The majority of the 34 IBAs have been designated as Natura 2000 sites and thus included in the EU-wide network of protected wildlife sites, but many none-the-less face serious threats.

Published with the generous support of the EEA Grants under the IBACareCY Project for the development of a network of IBA Caretakers in Cyprus (2014 - 2015), this book aims to promote the conservation of these important sites in Cyprus by inviting the reader - expert or not - to learn the importance of each site for birds, the general characteristics of each site, and by listing the threats each site faces. There is also a section for the birdwatcher, suggesting seasonal itineraries for exploring and enjoying these special wildlife sites.

The publication is intended to be a crucial tool for IBA Caretakers in Cyprus.

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