

Cyprus – 1st - 8th of September 2006

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Introduction:

Our main target species for the trip were White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*, Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*, Cyprus Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe cypriaca* and Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax*.

Besides that we also wanted to connect with the six Cypriot endemic subspecies (Scops Owl *ssp. cyprius*, Wren *ssp. cypriotes*, Short-toed Treecreeper *ssp. dorothea*, Coal Tit *ssp. cypriotes*, Jay *ssp. glaszneri* and Common Crossbill *ssp. guillemardi*).

Except for the Scops Owl - which we didn't expect to find at this time of year - all species and subspecies mentioned above were either seen or heard during the trip.

Itinerary:

1st of September: Arrived late in the evening at Larnaca Airport.

2nd of September: Akrotiri Salt Lake, Lady's Mile Beach, Cape Kiti, Larnaca Salt Lake, Akhna Dam.

3rd of September: Akrotiri Salt Lake, Troodos Mountain, Akhna Dam.

4th of September: Cape Greco, Akhna Dam.

5th of September: Akrotiri Salt Lake, Akrotiri Reedbeds, Phasouri Reedbeds, Kensington Cliffs.

6th of September: Larnaca Sewage Works.

7th of September: Akhna Dam, Cape Greco, Larnaca Sewage Works.

8th of September: Akrotiri Salt Lake, Phasouri Reedbeds, Akrotiri Reedbeds.

Systematic species list:

1. **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Common.
2. **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*
6/9 1 Larnaca Sewage Works.
3. **European Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*
2/9 3 Cape Kiti.
4. **White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
3/9+4/9+7/9 1 immature Akhna Dam. This long-staying individual seems to have spent the summer at the reservoir according to local British birders.
5. **Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*
5/9+8/9 1 female Akrotiri Reedbeds.
6. **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*
7/9 1 Akhna Dam was the only sighting.
7. **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
5/9+8/9 1 Phasouri Reedbeds.
8. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
Common.
9. **Great White Egret** *Egretta alba*
5/9+8/9 1 Akrotiri Reedbeds. A long-staying individual.
10. **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
Common.
11. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*
4/9 21 migrating south in one flock in the early morning Cape Greco.
12. **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*
2/9+3/9 1 Akhna Dam, 5/9 5 Akrotiri Reedbeds.
13. **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*
6/9+7/9 1 2cy Larnaca Sewage Works, 8/9 1 2cy Akrotiri Reedbeds.
14. **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*
2/9 10+ Akrotiri Salt Lake, 3/9 24+38 trying to migrate Akrotiri Salt Lake, 6/9 at least 19 ad + 2 1cy Larnaca Sewage Works, 7/9 9 ad + 1 1cy Larnaca Sewage Works, 8/9 20+ Larnaca Sewage Works. The latter site was the only place, we encountered roosting Flamingos, because the salt lakes at this time of year are completely dried out.

15. **Common Teal** *Anas crecca*
Common.
16. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
Common.
17. **Garganey** *Anas querquedula*
Common.
18. **Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*
Common, especially at Larnaca Sewage Works.
19. **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*
5/9 1 and 8/9 2 Phasouri Reedbeds. A long-staying couple.
20. **European Honey-buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*
3/9 700 migr. Akrotiri Salt Lake counted from sunrise until 10:00 AM., 4/9 280 migr. Cape Greco counted until about 9:30 AM. This day the buzzards started surprisingly early, when about 100 birds migrated before sunset! 5/9 100 migr. Akrotiri Salt Lake, 8/9 1 migr. Akrotiri.
21. **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*
5 birds seen during the whole trip.
22. **Griffon Vulture** *Gyps fulvus*
5/9 3-4 seen around the area at Kensington Cliffs.
23. **Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*
A few roosting individuals, but on 8/9 8 migrating in the Akrotiri area.
24. **Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*
2/9+3/9 1 male Akrotiri Salt Lake, 3/9 1 male migr. Akrotiri Salt Lake, 5/9 1 1cy Akrotiri Salt Lake, 8/9 1 female Akrotiri Salt Lake.
25. **Levant Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter brevipes*
4/9 1 male crossing the road to the south, NE of Larnaca.
26. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
Common.
27. **Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*
3/9 1 probably 1cy Akrotiri Salt Lake. An early individual.
28. **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*
Only a few seen. 5/9 2 Akrotiri Reedbeds, 1 Phasouri Reedbeds, 8/9 3-4 Phasouri Reedbeds.
29. **Eleonora's Falcon** *Falco eleonorae*
5/9 10+ Kensington Cliffs. During the trip, we sometimes saw 1-2 birds from the breeding colony at KC foraging at Akrotiri Salt Lake and Phasouri Reedbeds.
30. **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*
2/9 1 Akrotiri Salt Lake, 1 Akhna Dam (cached and flew away with a Little Stint!), 8/9 1 Akrotiri Salt Lake.
31. **Chukar** *Alectoris chukar*
Common. Maximum were 50+ on the fields just south of Akrotiri Salt Lake on the 2/9.
32. **Black Francolin** *Francolinus francolinus*
5/9 1 male and 1 female Akrotiri Salt Lake, 7/9 1 male Akhna Dam.

33. **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*
5/9 2 heard Phasouri Reedbeds.
34. **Little Crane** *Porzana parva*
5/9+8/9 1 1cy Akrotiri Reedbeds.
35. **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*
Common.
36. **Common Coot** *Fulica atra*
Common.
37. **Demoiselle Crane** *Anthropoides virgo*
2/9 0 (sigh) Akrotiri Salt Lake. Later we were informed that no less than 132 birds had roosted just two days earlier!, 3/9 3 ad Akrotiri Salt Lake migr. south at 8:45am, when the Honey-buzzards started soaring, 5/9 17 ad and 3 1cy Akrotiri Salt Lake migr. south at 9:47am, 8/9 7 ad and 4 1cy Akrotiri Salt Lake. If this was a normal year, it seems that the first week of September is a reliable time to visit the salt lake for Demoiselle Cranes. The largest flocks however normally occur the last few days of August. Even though the salt lake is dried out at this time of year, the cranes arrive in the evening or night to roost there. Next day they normally take off at least a couple of hours after sunrise, when the thermal wind is sufficient for soaring birds. In addition to our own records, other birders had a couple of interesting observations during the week. On an unknown date 75 Demoiselles were seen migrating over Paphos, about 50 km WNW of the salt lake, and on 4/9 a flock of 42 birds were seen migrating along the coastline W of the Akrotiri Peninsula in the late morning hours. These two flocks seem to have roosted some other place along the west coast during the night. Perhaps there is a still unknown place, which the cranes regularly use for night roost, as the local birders have suspected for some time?



Part of the flock seen on the 8th of September Two adult and three juveniles.

38. **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*
At least 7 birds at Akhna Dam, seen on every visit.
39. **Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*
3/9 6 ad Akhna Dam, 4/9 3+ Akhna Dam, 5/9+8/9 1 1cy Phasouri Reedbeds.
40. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*
3+ seen at Akhna Dam.
41. **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*
Common.

42. **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Common. Max. count 6/9 19 along a short coastline east of Larnaca Airport.
43. **Spur-winged Plover** *Hoplopterus spinosus*
2/9 1 ad Akhna Dam, 5/9 1 ad Akrotiri Reedbeds.
44. **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*
The most common sandpiper. Around 50 birds were seen daily at Akhna Dam. Small numbers elsewhere.
45. **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*
3/9+4/9 4 Akhna Dam.
46. **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*
3/9+4/9+7/9 3-5 Akhna Dam, 5/9 2 Phasouri Reedbeds.
47. **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*
Rather common.
48. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*
3/9+4/9 1 Akhna Dam.
49. **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*
Common.
50. **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*
3/9+4/9+7/9 up to 2 Akhna Dam, 5/9 3 Phasouri Reedbeds.
51. **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*
3/9 1 Akhna Dam.
52. **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*
Max. 7/9 3 Akhna Dam.
53. **Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*
Rather common.
54. **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*
Rather common. At least 15 seen.
55. **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
Rather common.
56. **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*
Rather common.
57. **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*
Rather common.
58. **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*
Common.
59. **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*
6/9+7/9 1 1cy Larnaca Sewage Works.
60. **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*
6/9+7/9 About 10 Larnaca Sewage Works.

61. **Slender-billed Gull** *Larus genei*
3/9 1 2cy Lady's Mile Beach, 6/9+7/9 50 Larnaca Sewage Works.
62. **Audouin's Gull** *Larus audouinii*
4/9 1-2 Cape Greco.
63. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*
6/9 1 1cy Larnaca Sewage Works, 7/9 1 ad Larnaca Sewage Works.
64. **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*
Common.
65. **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*
6/9 2 Larnaca Sewage Works, 7/9 3 Larnaca sewage Works.
66. **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*
Common. By far the most numerous of the marsh terns during our trip.
67. **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*
3/9 3 migr. Akhna Dam.
68. **White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Not as numerous as Whiskered Tern.
69. **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*
Common.
70. **Common Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*
Locally common.
71. **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
Common.
72. **European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*
Rather common. 8/9 5 Phasouri Reedbeds.
73. **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*
7/9 1 Akhna Dam.
74. **European Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*
2/9 1 crossing the road near Limassol before dawn. Actually the first bird seen on the trip!
75. **Common Swift** *Apus apus*
Common.
76. **Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*
3/9 1 Akrotiri Salt Lake. Perhaps overlooked among the more common *Apus apus*.
77. **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
Common. About 20 birds seen.
78. **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*
2/9 2 females Akhna Dam. On later visits we only saw one, but according to British birders the two birds had been present for some time.
79. **European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*
Biggest flock was 8/9 40+ Phasouri Reedbeds. Perhaps the time was too early for bigger numbers?

80. **European Roller** *Coracias garrulus*
4/9 2 Cape Greco, 5/9 1 Phasouri Reedbeds.
81. **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
Some individuals scattered around.
82. **Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Recorded almost daily, but very small numbers.
83. **Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*
Very common indeed!
84. **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*
Common.
85. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
Common.
86. **Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*
Common.
87. **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*
Common.
88. **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*
3-4 migrating birds during the week.
89. **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*
Only few heard migrating.
90. **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*
Both subspecies *ssp. flava* and *ssp. feldegg* were rather common.
91. **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*
4/9 1 ad “female type” and 2-3 1cy Akhna Dam, 5/9 1 1cy Phasouri Reedbeds, 7/9 2 1cy Akhna Dam, 8/9 1 1cy Phasouri Reedbeds. It was a very pleasant surprise to obtain so many good views of this species during the trip!
92. **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
3/9 1 Pano Platres, 6/9 1 migr. Larnaca Sewage Works.
93. **Winter Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*
3/9 1 Kalidonia Falls, Troodos Mountain.
94. **Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*
3/9 1 ad Akrotiri Salt Lake.
95. **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*
Rather common. 15+ seen at various sites.
96. **Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*
Only about 5 were seen.
97. **Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Rather common. Max. 7/9 5 on a field near Larnaca Sewage Works.

98. **Cyprus Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe cypriaca*
Locally common. 20+ seen.
99. **Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica*
3/9 1 Polemidia Dam, Limassol.
100. **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*
Common.
101. **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*
Common.
102. **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Common in reedbeds.
103. **Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*
Common in reedbeds.
104. **Eurasian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
Common in reedbeds.
105. **Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
8/9 1 Akrotiri Reedbeds, 1 Phasouri Reedbeds.
106. **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*
Common.
107. **Spectacled Warbler** *Sylvia conspicillata*
Common in low vegetation.
108. **Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala*
7/9 3+ Akhna Dam.
109. **Cyprus Warbler** *Sylvia melanothorax*
Surprisingly few seen: 4/9 2-3 Cape Greco including at least 1 stunning male.
110. **Rüppell's Warbler** *Sylvia rueppelli*
7/9 1 ad male Akhna Dam.
111. **Eastern Orphean Warbler** *Sylvia crassirostris*
7/9 1 Akhna Dam.
112. **Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*
Rather common.
113. **Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*
Only 2/9 1 Larnaca Salt Lake, 7/9 1 Akhna Dam.
114. **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*
7/9 5+ Akhna Dam
115. **Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*
Only one noted on 3/9, but probably overlooked among the many Willow Warblers.
116. **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Common.

117. **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*
Common.
118. **Coal Tit** *Parus ater cypriotes*
Common in Troodos area.
119. **Great Tit** *Parus major*
Common.
120. **Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla dorothea*
Some were heard in the Troodos area.
121. **Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*
7/9 1 ad male seen and 1 bird heard at Akhna Dam.
122. **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*
Common.
123. **Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*
Rather common. 2/9 10+ at various sites and along the road.
124. **Masked Shrike** *Lanius nubicus*
Rather common. About 15 seen.
125. **Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius glaszneri*
Common in the Troodos area.
126. **Common Magpie** *Pica pica*
Common.
127. **Eurasian Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*
Only a few seen and heard at Akhna Dam.
128. **Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*
Very common.
129. **Common Raven** *Corvus corax*
3/9 2 Akrotiri Salt Lake.
130. **Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus*
2/9 1 1cy Akrotiri Salt Lake.
131. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
Very common.
132. **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*
A few seen in the Troodos area.
133. **European Serin** *Serinus serinus*
3/9 4 Mount Olympos.
134. **European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*
Rather common.
135. **European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*
Common.

136. **Common Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*
Rather common.

137. **Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra guillemardi*
3/9 a small flock heard Troodos Mountain

138. **Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*
4/9 50+ migr. and resting Cape Greco.

139. **Cretzschmar's Bunting** *Emberiza caesia*
Common.

140. **Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala*
4/9 3 (probably 1 female + 2 1cy) Cape Greco.

141. **Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*
Very common (200+) at Akhna Dam.

Number of species observed: 141