

CYPRUS

25th March – 1st April 2007



Cretzschmar's Bunting, male in full song

Dave Cottridge



Ophrys iricolor



Cyprus Wheatear, male just bathed



Avagas Gorge



Ophrys umbilicata



Ophrys levantina



Masked Shrike, male



Isabelline Wheatear

All photos this page, Keith Grant

Leaders / Guides:

Keith Grant (*Travelling Naturalist*)

David Cottridge (*Limosa*)

Drivers:

Sophocles (for most of the week)

Lena (for the airport run)

Daily Diary (by Dave Cottridge):

Sunday 25th March

Arrival

Cloudy & cool at Larnaca, clearing in Paphos

Most of us gathered at Heathrow for our morning flight to Larnaca, arriving at around 4pm. Hannah and Michael from Kalliope Travel met us outside Arrivals and we loaded the coach for the journey to Paphos. Gathering in the lounge before dinner, we met the final members of the group who had flown direct to Paphos from Manchester.

Monday 26th March

Paphos Headland

Bright and sunny, some cloud late afternoon

After a hearty breakfast there was much to enjoy during the day as we gently strolled around Paphos Headland finding some interesting wintering birds, plenty of migrants, occasional butterflies, many interesting plants and one enormous caterpillar. The day got off to the best of starts when a **Pied Kingfisher** (a write-in!) was spotted sitting on a 'no diving sign' (in the late afternoon joined by a second and a **European Kingfisher**). Wheatears were very much in evidence throughout the day with **Northern Wheatears** the most frequently seen but half a dozen **Black-eared** and two **Isabelline** were more keenly observed. Although small in numbers there was a good showing of *flava* wagtails with a mixture of **Blue-headed** and **Black-headed** with a couple of interesting variants of the latter in the form of *supercilliaris* with a broad white supercillium giving the bird a striking appearance.

As we progressed towards Paphos Harbour, two **Purple Herons** were seen circling overhead, a flock of nine **Black-crowned Night Herons** were seen flying in off the sea, a **Tawny Pipit** was found, lost and then found again and a **Greater Sandplover** was roosting at the shoreline. There were a few butterflies to enjoy with **Clouded Yellows** being most frequently spotted with a single female **Cleopatra** (a close relative of our more familiar Brimstone) and the star of the day a beautiful **Swallowtail**, freshly emerged was scrutinised through the telescope.

We had lunch at a very pleasant taverna by the harbour, during which a flock of six **Great Egrets** were seen, and after which we went to see the Roman mosaics which proved to be a most interesting and fascinating experience. The area also proved to be excellent for migrants and it was time for the *Sylvia* warblers to make an appearance. The star bird for some was a superb male **Rüppell's Warbler** that obligingly sat on tops of bushes, followed by a pair of **Cyprus Warblers**, a **Subalpine** and a couple of **Lesser Whitethroats** to add to one we had seen earlier. We finally managed to get good prolonged views of a **Black Francolin** and though a **Wryneck** proved a little elusive when first spotted, it eventually showed itself fairly well. A **Small Copper** butterfly was added to our butterfly list and as we strolled back to the hotel there many more plants to enjoy and of particular delight were some cyclamens growing along rock fissures. It had been a great first day and we hoped that it was a sign of things to come.

Tuesday 27th March**Along the South coast****Bright and sunny all day and noticeably warmer.**

Another beautiful morning and our bird watching was heralded by a **Hoopoe** that flew across the front of the hotel before we climbed on board our coach and met our driver Sophocles who proceeded to wax lyrical about the meaning of bird watching. Our first stop was at the Asprokremnos Pools where we were welcomed by the explosive song of **Cetti's Warbler** and a roost of **Cattle Egrets**. It wasn't long before we were watching a male **Cyprus Warbler** singing completely in the open, on the slopes above us a couple of **Chukars** were both heard and seen, a **Quail** was heard but not seen, a nice male **Woodchat Shrike** posed on the top of a bush and a **Great Spotted Cuckoo** flew past. A **Little Owl** was seen on a rock ledge beside the dam's spillway enjoying the warm sunshine, and high above a pair of **Kestrels** were soaring and calling to each other and were briefly joined by a **Lesser Kestrel**.

We moved on to Phassouri Reed Bed, via a coffee stop, and a short-cut which involved driving along some really narrow tracks and through a field. Sophocles had said "Trust me!" so we did, but he knew it was really OK because it was his land! From a birding point of view the drive along the coast was notable for one species, a **Griffon Vulture**, seen drifting past at close range, and with only a very small number left is an endangered species on the island. When we arrived at the reed bed we were pleased to see there was some water and some birds to look at. There was quite a good number of wildfowl with **Mallard**, about 30 **Northern Shoveler**, three **Northern Pintail**, half a dozen **Common Teal** and two very nice male **Garganey**. There was a handful of waders also present with a couple of **Little Ringed Plovers**, two **Common Snipe** and three **Ruff**, and as we walked onto our lunch stop a **Great Egret** was feeding in another pool. The star species for many were three **Blue-checked Bee-eaters**, a scarce passage migrant on the island, that were flying above us hawking insects and revealing the lovely bronze colour of the underwing. We enjoyed a very pleasant lunch that Sophocles had laid out for us before we moved on to Akrotiri Salt Lake where a distant flock of **Greater Flamingos** appeared as no more than a pink blob on the water but we fared much better along the quaintly named Lady's Mile. Here we added two new waders to our list with five **Kentish Plovers** and nine **Marsh Sandpipers**, and enjoyed an excellent selection of gulls with two **Slender-billed Gulls**, two **Mediterranean Gulls** (in full breeding plumage) and a couple of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** of the nominate group *L.f.fuscus* showing a uniform black back and wings. It was a great way to end the day and so we headed for home.

Wednesday 28th March**Akamas Peninsula and the Baths of Aphrodite****Sunny and warm – a very pleasant day**

A pre-breakfast walk along Kefalos beach, Paphos, going west produced fewer migrants than the previous two days, although a **Nightingale** was briefly heard in the hotel garden, and a **Common Sandpiper**, several **Northern Wheatears** and a **Meadow Pipit** were seen along the coast. After breakfast we headed north for the Baths of Aphrodite and the Akamas Peninsula. After fending off an aggressive orange seller we walked the nature trail through a woodland to an attractive little grotto and pool. En route we saw several **Sardinian Warblers**, three **Blackcaps** and at the pool itself a **Song Thrush**. We moved on up the slope where the trail opened out around the side of a hill that was decked with spring flowers and along the ridge were several raptors that included both **Common** and **Long-legged Buzzard** and a **Peregrine**. We spent most time looking at **Cyprus Wheatears** flying around in front of a not too distant cliff-face where several

males where vying for prominent song posts. One such male came close to the track but looked very dishevelled, as if it had just bathed. On the way back through the caravan park we saw several more **Sardinian Warblers**, a **Hoopoe** and a **Chiffchaff**.

After coffee, we headed off to our lunch spot which was to be at the strangely named Smygies Chapel just beyond the small village of Neo Chorio. Several **Subalpine Warblers** were singing in the surrounding bushes but only a female was briefly seen and after a walk a pair of **Cyprus Wheatears** was seen, bringing our day's total to seven birds. Our final stop of the day was at Evretou Reservoir that proved to be very quiet with just a couple of **Mallard**, a large flock of **Jackdaws** and a couple of **Spanish Sparrows'** nests beneath a **Hooded Crow's** nest. We returned to the hotel having enjoyed a very pleasant day despite migrants being thin on the ground.

Thursday 29th March

The Troodos Mountains

Bright and sunny all day, becoming cloudy as we neared the summit

A pre-breakfast walk along Kefalos beach, Paphos, by the hotel produced very few migrants but a flock of twenty gulls heading north that included five **Slender-billed Gulls** was some compensation plus the usual **Common Sandpiper** and **Kingfisher**. After breakfast we made a second visit to the Asprokremnos Pools where the usual male **Cyprus Warbler** was singing on the tops of bushes, on the hillsides and a **Quail** was calling on the valley floor but failed to put in an appearance. Shortly after our attention was diverted to birds of prey when a **Peregrine** drifted across the hill tops and a kestrel perched in the distance was thought to be a **Lesser Kestrel** and it wasn't until it took to flight that its identification was confirmed as such. We continued onto the Troodos Mountains stopping in the Dhiarizos Valley *en route* where we saw up to six **Great Spotted Cuckoos** and a stunning **Black-eared Wheatear** of the dark throated form.

We continued to climb up into the Troodos Mountains with Sophocles, our driver, negotiating his way through a 'closed road' sign to save us a long drive. Lunch was taken near to Agios Nikolaos after which we pushed on to Mount Olympus where some snow was laying in patches at the sides of the road and in the pine forest. A short walk in the pines at the ski lift produced two interesting Cypriot sub-species, the **Coal Tits** (ssp. *P.a.cypriotes*) with much more extensive black to the head and throat and a reduced white cheek patch, and the **Jay** (ssp. *G.g.glaszneri*) looking very similar to our bird in a region where the jay is normally much darker and with a more solid black cap. Other species added to our list was a single **Goldcrest**, two **Short-toed Treecreepers** (also an endemic sub-species *C.b.dorothea*) and a brief view perched and several fly-overs of **Crossbill**. We then set off on our long drive back to the hotel after what had been a fascinating day in the Troodos Mountains, the highest part of Cyprus.

Friday 30th March

Paphos Sewerage works and into the Troodos foothills

Bright & sunny all day

A pre-breakfast walk towards the headland produced a few migrants but notably a **Spur-winged Lapwing** on rocks along the shoreline. After breakfast we headed for Paphos Sewerage Works to look for more of the same. On arrival it wasn't long before four more **Spur-winged Lapwing** were seen (a total of five were eventually seen) along with four **Ruff** and a good selection of *flava* wagtails that included **Grey-headed Wagtail** (ssp. *M.f.thunbergi*). Moving on we headed into the hills for a stop in the Anarita Park that proved to be most rewarding. One of the first birds we found was a female **Rock Thrush** (our second write-in this trip!) and this was soon followed by two stunning males and a male **Blue Rock Thrush**. Other birds present were **Black-eared Wheatears**, **Woodchat Shrike**, **Tawny Pipit** and a **Hoopoe**.

We enjoyed a very pleasant picnic lunch alongside the Xeros Potamus River where **Cetti's Warbler** and **Cyprus Warblers** were singing and a **Goshawk** drifted over harassed some pigeons after which it passed over our heads again and disappeared into the distance. It was to prove a purple patch for raptors, as not long after we were moving on, we saw a **Bonelli's Eagle** and a **Long-legged Buzzard**, both of which were seen well from the roadside. Our journey into the hills ended at the Monashilakis Picnic spot just beyond the town of Pano Panageia where we went for a walk through some orchards surrounded by Pine woodlands. It proved to be a great spot for **Masked Shrike**, after initially seeing a male and a female, we watched four males chasing each other presumably for the rights to the territory and to the female. The shrike theme was continued when a male **Red-backed** was also seen. We gradually descended back down to the coast making a last birding stop at the Asprokremnos Pools which proved to be a good decision as we saw a stunning male **Collared Flycatcher** (that was to be our only flycatcher of the week) and one lucky member of our group was just in time to have a **Spectacled Warbler** pointed out to her, but this had disappeared by the time the rest of us got there!

Saturday 31st March

Cape Drepanum & Avagas Gorge

Overcast and cool with showers in the afternoon

The pre-breakfast walk provided us with a good number of wheatears (Northern, Isabelline and Cyprus), Kingfisher and two new birds for the week, a **Whinchat** along the rocky shore and a **Greenshank** flying north over the sea calling. After breakfast we headed northwards along the coast to Cape Depanum where a short walk was to prove most productive. Many wheatears were present, mostly Northerns, but there were also a couple of Isabellines and a Cyprus. There were also various *flava* wagtails, several Tawny Pipits, various *Sylvia* warblers and best of all two **Calandra Larks** that were carefully scrutinised from about 40 yards distance. Signs of migration were still happening when a flock of nineteen **Purple Herons** came in off the sea and whilst we were having coffee overlooking the small harbour a **Spur-winged Lapwing** was spotted along the shore. We had lunch at the entrance to the Avagas Gorge just a little further up the coast where more herons we seen migrating with nine **Black-crowned Night Herons** and a further twelve **Purple Herons**. After lunch we walked up the edge of the gorge looking down on to the orange and grapefruit orchards that ran along the valley floor where many migrants were heard calling, but they seemed reluctant to show themselves. Those we did see included **Lesser Whitethroats**, **Sardinian Warbler**, **Cyprus Warbler**, **Blackcap**, and **Chiffchaff**, and it was good to see four genuine **Rock Doves** which is really quite a handsome bird. During mid afternoon the rain showers came and we returned to our hotel to get ready for our evening out at Greek taverna.

Sunday 1st April

Larnaca Lagoons & departure

Overcast becoming sunny, though heavy rain then dampened our lunch somewhat!

A cool cloudy morning as we set off for our pre-breakfast walk towards the headland. There had been a lot of migrants during the afternoon yesterday and so we hoped it might be a fruitful walk but a strong northerly wind made bird watching a little difficult and the birds seemed reluctant to show themselves and then it was all too brief as they darted from one bush to another. There were still quite a few *flava* wagtails seen but no sign of any wheatears. After breakfast we all said goodbye to Ron and Sue who were flying to Manchester and then we set out for the airport – the plan was get there with enough time for some bird watching on the airport lagoons. We arrived in good time and immediately noticed about 170 **Greater Flamingos** on one of the pools but there were also some waders present with three **Kentish Plovers**, seven **Greenshank**, three **Marsh**

Sandpiper, two each of **Common** and **Spotted Redshanks**, one **Ruff** and, amongst the flamingos, one **Avocet**. In addition there were twelve **Slender-billed Gulls** and a single *fuscus* **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. Lunch was taken in a large taverna near to the airport which we decided to have *al fresco*, but just as our starters were arriving the heavens opened and after a few attempts to fend the rain off we had to retire indoors to finish our meal. We moved on to the airport, said goodbye to Frances who was picking up a car and staying on the island for a few more days and checked in for our flight home.

Species Lists (by Keith Grant):

The various species lists below use the following references:

Birds: We use the suggested worldwide English names and systematic order as found in *World Bird Species Checklist: with alternate English & scientific names* (Wells, M.G., 1998).

Also: *Collins Bird Guide* (Svensson, L., Grant, P.J., Mullarney, K. & Zetterström, D., 1999).

Mammals: We use the suggested worldwide English names and systematic order as found in *Mammals of the World, A Checklist* (Duff, A. & Lawson, A., 2004).

Also: *Collins Field Guide: Mammals of Britain & Europe* (Macdonald, D. & Barrett, P., 1993).

Amphibians and Reptiles: *Collins Field Guide: Reptiles & Amphibians of Britain & Europe [second edition]* (Arnold, E.N. & Oviden, D.W., 2002)

Also: *Amphibians and Reptiles of Northern Cyprus* (Atatür, M.K. & Göçmen, B., www.bornova.ege.edu.tr)

Snake Species in Cyprus (Antoniou, A.L., www.cosmosnet.net/cyprus/explore/3snake.htm)

Butterflies: *Butterflies of Europe, New Field Guide & Key* (Lafranchis, T., 2004)

Also: *Eddie John's Butterflies of Cyprus* (John, E., www.grayling.dircon.co.uk/index.html).

Plants: *Mediterranean Wild Flowers* (Blamey, M. & Grey-Wilson, C., 1993)

The Orchids of Cyprus (Christofides, Y., 2001)

Collins Photo Guide: Orchids of Britain & Europe (Delforge, P., 1995)

Alternate names are separated by '/' and optional names are enclosed by '[...]'.

BIRDS - AVES

GREBES - Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* : noted on 2 days with at least 20 Phassouri reedbed on 27th, 1 Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 30th.

HERONS & BITTERNS - Ardeidae

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* : noted on 3 days with 2 Paphos headland on 26th, 1 over hotel on 29th, 19 N past Cape Drepanum but then returned & a 2nd flock of 12 N later past Avagas Gorge on 31st.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* : 6 Asprokremnos Dam Pools & several Phassouri reedbed on 27th.

Great [White] Egret *Ardea alba* : noted on 2 days with 6 Paphos headland on 26th, singles at

Phassouri reedbed & Lady's Mile on 27th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* : noted on 3 days with singles at Akrotiri Saltlake & Lady's Mile on 27th, 3 on the island offshore from Cape Drepanum on 31st, 7 Larnaca lagoons on 1st.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* : noted on 2 days with 9 Paphos headland on 26th, 9 N Avagas Gorge on 31st.

FLAMINGOS - Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopus roseus* : noted on 3 days with small numbers at Larnaca lagoons on 25th as we landed, ca.200 Akrotiri Saltlake on 27th, ca.170 Larnaca lagoons on 1st.

GEESE, SWANS & DUCKS - Anatidae

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* : several Phassouri reedbed on 27th is our only record.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* : noted on 2 days with several Phassouri reedbed on 27th, several Evretou Resr. on 28th.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* : 3 Phassouri reedbed on 27th is our only record.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* : at least 2m Phassouri reedbed on 27th is our only record.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* : at least 30 Phassouri reedbed on 27th is our only record.

HAWKS, EAGLES & allies - Accipitridae

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* : noted on 2 days with 1 Episkopi on 27th, 1 Dhiarizos Valley on 29th.

[Western] Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* : noted on 2 days with 2 during day on 27th, 1m Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 29th.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* : 1 Xeros Potamus near Nata on 30th is our only record.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* : noted on 4 days with several during day on 27th, 1 Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite on 28th, 3 Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 29th, 1 en route on 30th.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* : noted on 2 days with 1 drifting north along the Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite on 28th, 1 between Nata & Pano Panagia on 30th.

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciatus* : 1 between Nata & Pano Panagia on 30th is our only record.

FALCONS & allies - Falconidae

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* : noted on 2 days with 1 Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 27th, 2 Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 29th.

Common/Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* : regularly noted each day including in the nest box on our hotel roof.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* : noted on 2 days with 2 over the old caravans, Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite on 28th, & 1 over Asprokremnos Dam on 29th.

GROUSE, PHEASANTS & allies - Phasianidae

Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar* : noted in small numbers most days.

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* : noted on 5 days with a calling male seen well Paphos headland on 26th, heard Evretou Resr. on 28th, 1 seen plus at least 4 calling Dhiarizos Valley on 29th, several heard & seen during day on 30th, heard Cape Drepanum plus 2 Paphos headland on 31st.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* : noted on 3 days with birds heard Paphos headland on 26th, Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 27th, & again here on 29th.

RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS - Rallidae

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* : noted on 3 days with several Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 27th, 29th & 30th.

Eurasian/Common Coot *Fulica atra* : noted on 4 days with at least 5 Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 27th, 29th & 30th, plus 2 Evretou Resr. on 28th.

STILTS & AVOCETS - Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* : ca.20 Phassouri reedbed on 27th is our only record.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* : 1 amongst the flamingos, Larnaca lagoons on 1st is our only record.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS - Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing/Plover *Vanellus spinosus* : noted on 2 days with 1 Paphos headland + 5 Paphos Sewage Works on 30th, 1 Cape Drepanum on 31st.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* : noted on 2 days with 2 Phassouri reedbed on 27th, heard along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 31st.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* : noted on 2 days with at least 5 Lady's Mile on 27th, several Larnaca lagoons on 1st.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* : 1 right at the point Paphos headland on 26th is our only record.

SANDPIPERS, SNIPES & allies - Scolopacidae

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* : 2 Larnaca lagoons on 1st is our only record.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* : 2 Larnaca lagoons on 1st is our only record.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* : noted on 2 days with 9 Lady's Mile on 27th, 3 Larnaca lagoons on 1st.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* : noted on 2 days with 1 along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 31st, 7 Larnaca lagoons on 1st.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* : noted on 4 days with up to 2 along Kefalos beach, Paphos,, 26th - 29th.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* : noted on 3 days with 2 along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on washed up weed on 26th, then at least 5 there on 27th & 29th.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* : 2 Phassouri reedbed on 27th is our only record.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* : noted on 3 days with 3 Phassouri reedbed on 27th, 4 Paphos Sewage Works on 30th, 1 Larnaca lagoons on 1st.

GULLS - Laridae

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* : regularly noted each day.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* : noted on 2 days with 2 Lady's Mile on 27th, 1 Larnaca lagoons on 1st. This is the Baltic race, *L.f.fuscus*, with the solid black mantle & wings, rather than the charcoal grey of 'our' birds.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* : 2 adults Lady's Mile on 27th is our only record.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* : noted only on 2 days with ca.30 Lady's Mile on 27th, & a mixed flock of 20 N along Kefalos beach, Paphos, (with Slender-billed Gulls) on 29th.

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* : noted on 3 days with at least 2 Lady's Mile on 27th, at least 6 N along Kefalos beach, Paphos, (with BHG's) on 29th, 12 Larnaca lagoons on 1st.

PIGEONS & DOVES - Columbidae

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* : noted each day, with 4 genuine Rock Doves Avagas Gorge

on 31st.

[Common] Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* : noted in small numbers on 5 days.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* : noted each day.

CUCKOOS - Cuculidae

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* : noted on 3 days with 1 Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 27th, ca.6 Dhiarizos Valley on 29th, at least 3 Xeros Potamus near Nata on 30th.

OWLS - Strigidae

Little Owl *Athene noctua* : noted on 3 days with 1 Asprokremnos Dam on 27th, 29th, & 30th.

SWIFTS - Apodidae

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* : 1 overhead during lunch at Phassouri on 27th is our only record.

Common Swift *Apus apus* : regularly noted in small numbers each day, max at least 20 during 31st.

KINGFISHERS - Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* : noted on 3 days with 1 along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 26th, 29th, & 31st.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* : 1 along Kefalos beach, Paphos, during the morning 26th, one lucky person then found it again, with a second bird, there during the same afternoon.

BEE-EATERS - Meropidae

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* : 3 Phassouri reedbed on 27th.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* : noted on 2 days, heard and seen en route and over hotel (leaders only) on 25th, heard Larnaca lagoons on 1st.

HOOPOES - Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* : noted most days, with 1 seen briefly Paphos headland on 26th, 1 outside hotel on 27th, 3 singles during day Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite & Smygies Chapel near Neo Chorio on 28th, 2 singles Dhiarizos Valley & Agios Nikolaos on 29th, 3 singles at Anarita Park, en route & over hotel on 30th, 3 singles Cape Drepanum, Avagas Gorge & en route on 31st, 1 again en route on 1st.

WOODPECKERS - Picidae

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* : excellent views of 1 Paphos headland on 26th.

LARKS - Alaudidae

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* : excellent views of 2 feeding in the grass Cape Drepanum on 31st.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* : 2 calling as they flew overhead Cape Drepanum on 31st.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* : noted each day.

Eurasian/Common Skylark *Alauda arvensis* : 1 along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 26th is our only record.

SWALLOWS & MARTINS - Hirundinidae

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* : noted each day.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* : noted most days with ca.6 near hotel & Paphos headland on 26th, several along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 27th, ca.10 Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite on 28th,

several seen both am & pm on 29th, several during day on 30th, several Cape Drepanum & Avagas Gorge on 31st, several on 1st.

[Common] **House Martin** *Delichon urbicum* : noted each day.

WAGTAILS & PIPITS - Motacillidae

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* : noted most days in small numbers except for a large fall of several hundreds (mainly *feldegg* see below) Paphos headland pm on 31st. Males of the nominate race **Blue-headed Wagtail** (*M.f.flava*) noted on 4 days with several at Paphos headland on 26th, 1 along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 29th, several on 30th, 1 Cape Drepanum on 31st. Single males of the Scandinavian-breeding race **Grey-headed Wagtail** (*M.f.thunbergi*) noted on 2 days, at Paphos Sewage Works on 30th, & Paphos headland on 31st.

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla [flava] feldegg* : separated from Yellow Wagtail (*M.flava*) by some authorities as a species in its own right, birds noted on 5 days with several nice males Paphos headland on 26th, 1 along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 29th, several at various sites on 30th, several Cape Drepanum during morning on 31st then with large numbers at Paphos headland during the same afternoon, but only a few still present on 1st.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* : noted each day.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* : noted on 3 days with 1 Paphos headland on 26th, 1 Anarita Park on 30th, 3 Cape Drepanum on 31st.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* : noted on 3 days with singles along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 28th, 30th, & 1st.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* : noted on 3 days with birds heard flying over during lunch on 27th, several heard & seen flying overhead Anarita Park on 30th, several Paphos headland on 31st.

SHRIKES - Laniidae

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* : a male briefly at Monashilakis Picnic Site near Pano Panagia on 30th is our only record. We were distracted by some very fine Masked Shrikes!!

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus* : 4 males plus 1 female at Monashilakis Picnic Site near Pano Panagia on 30th.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* : noted on 3 days with 1 Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 27th, 1 Anarita Park on 30th, 1 Avagas Gorge on 31st.

ACCENTORS - Prunellidae

Dunnock / Hedge Accentor *Prunella modularis* : 1 Avagas Gorge on 31st is our only record.

THRUSHES - Turdidae

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* : noted on 2 days with nice males at Anarita Park on 30th, & in the Paphos headland quarry on 1st.

[Rufous-tailed] **Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis* : 2 males 1 female at Anarita Park on 30th is our only record, and superb birds they were too!

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* : 1 Troodos on 29th is our only record.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* : noted on 2 days with 1 Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite on 28th, 1 Monashilakis Picnic Site near Pano Panagia on 30th.

OLD WORLD CHATS - Saxicolidae

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* : noted on 2 days with 1 heard briefly outside hotel early am on 28th, 1 heard Avagas Gorge and, very surprisingly, another seen on rocks close to the sea along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 31st.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* : noted on 2 days with several Paphos headland on 26th, 2 Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 30th.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* : 1 Paphos headland on 26th is our only record.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* : a fine male along Kefalos beach, Paphos, in the morning plus another pm on 31st.

European/Common Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* : 1 Paphos headland on 26th is our only record.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* : noted most days with good numbers Paphos headland & beach on 26th, numbers then dropped with only a few being noted on 27th - 30th, then good numbers again with at least 6 along Kefalos beach, Paphos, plus at least 15 Cape Drepanum during morning 31st increasing along Kefalos beach, Paphos, during the afternoon on 31st.

Cyprus Wheatear *Oenanthe cypriaca* : noted on 4 days with at least 7 including several excellent males Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite & Smygies Chapel near Neo Chorio on 28th, good numbers flushed along road en route on 29th, 1 Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 30th, several Cape Drepanum & Avagas Gorge on 31st.

Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca* : noted most days with several Paphos headland including nice males on 26th, ca.4 during day on 27th, 1 Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite on 28th, several on 29th, several during day on 30th, only a couple on 31st, 1 along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 1st.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* : noted on 4 days with several Paphos headland on 26th, 1 nice bird along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 27th, 1 along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 29th, 1 along Kefalos beach, Paphos, am 2 Cape Drepanum 1 Paphos headland pm on 31st.

CISTICOLAS & allies - Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* : noted most days, either heard or seen, or both.

OLD WORLD WARBLERS - Sylviidae

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* : noted on 5 days with 1 seen & several others heard Asprokremnos Dam Pools & Phassouri reedbed on 27th, regularly heard throughout the day on 28th, regularly heard on 29th, regularly heard & seen Anarita Park Xeros Potamus near Nata on 30th, heard & seen Avagas Gorge on 31st.

[Eurasian] Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* : noted on 2 days with birds heard singing Phassouri reedbed on 27th, 3 in stands of Giant Reed along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 29th.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* : noted on 5 days with several Paphos headland on 26th, heard calling on 27th, several noted on 28th, 1 along Kefalos beach, Paphos, on 29th, several Avagas Gorge on 31st.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* : noted on 5 days with birds heard calling on 27th, several Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite on 28th, several during day on 29th, regularly seen throughout day on 30th, several Cape Drepanum plus at least 30 Avagas Gorge on 31st.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* : noted on 4 days with several Paphos headland on 26th, 1 Smygies Chapel near Neo Chorio on 28th, several Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 30th, at least 15 Avagas Gorge on 31st.

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppelli* : noted on 2 days with a nice male Paphos headland on 26th, another male Cape Drepanum on 31st.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* : noted on 4 days with birds regularly seen Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite & Smygies Chapel near Neo Chorio on 28th, 1 above Agios Nikolaos on 29th, a female Monashilakis Picnic Site near Pano Panagia on 30th, several Cape Drepanum & Avagas Gorge on 31st.

Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax* : noted on 5 days with a pair Paphos headland on 26th, a singing

male Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 27th, 2 Asprokremnos Dam Pools plus several en route on 29th, Asprokremnos Dam Pools & en route on 30th, several Cape Drepanum & Avagas Gorge on 31st.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* : noted on 2 days with 1 Paphos headland on 26th, 1 Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite on 28th.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* : 1 seen briefly by one member Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 30th is our only record.

CRESTS & KINGLETS - Regulidae

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* : 1 Troodos on 29th is our only record.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS - Muscicapidae

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* : a stunning male Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 30th.

TITS & CHICKADEES - Paridae

Coal Tit (endemic ssp) *Periparus ater cypriotes* : noted on 2 days with several good views Troodos on 29th, several Monashilakis Picnic Site near Pano Panagia on 30th.

Great Tit *Parus major* : noted most days.

TREECREEPERS - Certhiidae

Short-toed Treecreeper (endemic ssp) *Certhia brachydactyla dorothea* : 2 good views, Mount Olympus, Troodos on 29th.

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES - Corvidae

Eurasian Jay (endemic ssp) *Garrulus glandarius glaszneri* : several good views Troodos on 29th.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* : noted each day.

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* : noted each day.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* : noted each day.

BUNTINGS, NEW WORLD SPARROWS & allies - Emberizidae

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* : noted most days.

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia* : noted on 4 days with excellent views Paphos headland on 26th, 2 Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 29th, an excellent male Paphos Sewage Works plus several Anarita Park on 30th, a male Cape Drepanum on 31st.

FINCHES & allies - Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* : noted on 3 days with several Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 27th, heard Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite on 28th, many Monashilakis Picnic Site near Pano Panagia on 30th.

European Serin *Serinus serinus* : noted on 2 days with many Monashilakis Picnic Site near Pano Panagia on 30th, heard singing Avagas Gorge on 31st.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* : noted most days.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* : noted most days including ca.40 Paphos headland on 26th.

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* : noted most days.

Common Crossbill (endemic ssp) *Loxia curvirostra guillemardi* : 2 flew over us several times, Troodos on 29th.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS & allies - Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* : noted each day.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* : noted on 4 days including around the hotel; also found

nesting under a Hooded Crow's nest Evretou Resr. on 28th, & several hundred at Cape Drepanum on 31st.

MAMMALS - MAMMALIA

Brown/European Hare *Lepus europaeus* : droppings found at Avagas Gorge on 31st is our only record.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* : 1 near Agios Nikolaos on 29th.

Eastern Hedgehog *Erinaceus concolor* : 1 dead on road on 27th.

AMPHIBIANS - AMPHIBIA

Savigny's/Green Tree Frog *Hyla savignyi* : heard Phassouri reedbed on 27th.

Levant Water Frog *Rana bedriagae* : heard Phassouri reedbed on 27th, heard Asprokremnos Dam Pools on 30th.

REPTILES - REPTILIA

Starred Agama (endemic ssp) *Laudakia stellio cypriaca* : noted most days.

Snake-eyed Lizard *Ophisops elegans* : noted most days.

Troodos [Rock] Lizard *Lacerta troodica* : Paphos headland on 26th is our only record, though probably overlooked.

BUTTERFLIES - LEPIDOPTERA

APOLLOS & SWALLOWTAILS - Papilionidae

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon* : noted most days.

WHITES, YELLOWS & SULPHURS - Pieridae

Large White *Pieris brassicae* : noted on 5 days.

Small White *Pieris rapae* : noted on 5 days.

Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines* : noted on 3 days with several on 28th - 30th.

Eastern Dappled White *Euchloe ausonia* : noted on 2 days with 1 on 28th, several on 30th.

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea* : noted on 5 days, often in good numbers.

Cleopatra *Gonepteryx cleopatra* : noted on 2 days with several on 26th & 30th.

HAIRSTREAKS, COPPERS & BLUES - Lycaenidae

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas* : 1 Paphos headland on 26th is our only record.

Paphos Blue *Glaucopsyche paphos* : noted on 3 days with several Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite & Evretou Resr. on 28th, 1 on 29th, several Avagas Gorge on 31st.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* : noted on 2 days with several Anarita Park on 30th, several Avagas Gorge on 31st.

BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES - Nymphalidae

Vanessids & smaller Fritillaries - subf: Nymphalinae

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* : noted on 3 days with 1 Paphos headland on 26th, 1 on 30th, 1 Avagas Gorge on 31st.

Painted Lady *Vanessa [=Cynthia] cardui* : noted on 4 days with 1 Phassouri reedbed on 27th, several on 28th & 29th, 1 Avagas Gorge on 31st.

Browns, Ringlets & Satyrs - subf: Satyrinae

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* : 1 Akamas near Baths of Aphrodite on 28th is our only record. This is the Southern European form with quite large orange spots (can be mistaken for a Wall, in fact was at the time but was reidentified from photographs).

Cyprus Meadow Brown *Maniola cypricola* : 1 Paphos headland on 26th is our only record.

ORCHIDS – Orchidaceae

Although various plants were noted during the trip, including the endemic Cyprus Gladiolus *Gladiolus triphyllus*, I will only list the orchids in full here, as they created particular interest.

Numbers down the right-hand side refer to *Mediterranean Wild Flowers* (Grey-Wilson & Blamey).

<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid	2393
<i>Orchis [morio] syriaca</i>	Syrian Orchid	2403c
<i>Orchis coriophora</i> spp. <i>fragrans</i>	Fragrant Bug Orchid	2405a
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Naked Man Orchid	2409
<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered Orchid	2420
<i>Ophrys sicula</i> (syn. <i>O. lutea</i> subsp. <i>galilaea</i>)	Small Yellow Bee-orchid	2423a
<i>Ophrys [fusca] funerea</i>	Funereal Bee-orchid	2424
<i>Ophrys [omegafera] israelitica</i> (syn. <i>O. [fusca] fleischmannii</i>)	Omega Bee-orchid	2424b
<i>Ophrys iricolor</i>	Rainbow Orchid	2425
<i>Ophrys bornmuelleri</i>	Bornmueller's Orchid	2427
<i>Ophrys [bornmuelleri] levantina</i>	'Levantine' Spider Orchid	2427a
<i>Ophrys [sphegodes] sintenisii</i>	-	2428g
<i>Ophrys umbilicata</i>	Umbilicate Woodcock Orchid	2435
<i>Ophrys [umbilicata] attica</i>	[Mount] Carmel Bee-orchid	2435a
<i>Ophrys lapethica</i>	Cyprus Woodcock Orchid	2436d
<i>Ophrys kotschyi</i>	Cyprus/Kotschy's Bee-orchid	2438
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	2443
<i>Barlia robertiana</i>	Giant Orchid	2446
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	2447
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Long-lipped/Ploughshare Serapias	2450
<i>Serapias [vomeracea] orientalis</i>	Eastern Serapias	2450a
<i>Serapias bergonii</i> (syn. <i>S. vomeracea</i> subsp. <i>laxiflora</i>)	Lax-flowered Tongue-orchid	2450b

We're sure you have all taken away your own particular memories from this trip, whether it be the Pied Kingfisher sitting on the 'No Diving' notice, the exquisite male Rock Thrushes and Blue Rock Thrush often in the same field of view, the male Masked Shrikes singing and chasing one another, or even the really excellent views of some of the commoner species such as the Black Francolin, the Cretzschmar's Buntings, Black-headed Wagtails and the various wheatears.

Particular thanks must go to Deborah, who behind the scenes has prepared our picnic lunches this year, and to Hannah for meeting & greeting us at the airport and seeing us off each morning with our picnics. Sophocles was excellent and did well driving us around, even when he did sometimes go 'off-piste'!

Well done to all of you who made this trip the success it was, and we hope to see you all on another trip, sometime in the not-too-distant future.

Keith Grant & Dave Cottridge, April 2007

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