

# Cyprus at Christmas

Naturetrek Tour Report

20th – 27th Christmas 2022

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Peregrine – *brookei* race by Sandra Neely



Black Redstart by Sandra Neely



Coal Tit – *Parus ater Cypriotes* by Sandra Neely



Bath White by Sandra Neely

Tour report by Andy Bunten



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Tour participants: Yiannis Christofides & Andy Bunten (leaders), Theodoros Theodorou (Doros) (driver) with fifteen Naturetrek clients

## Summary

A wonderful time was had by all in the warm and sunny Christmas we spent together.

The wildlife was magnificent with arrays of Anemones – whites, reds and purples – fabulous Cyclamens, beautiful red Crocuses and a number of lovely flowering orchids.

Giant or, Mediterranean banded, Centipedes lurked under rocks as did the elusive and tiny Kotschy's Geckos while the Snake-eyed Lizards used sunny banks on which to disport themselves.

It was delightful to have butterflies flitting in the sun over Christmas and we saw Clouded Yellows and Painted Ladies more or less every day with the odd Bath White and Long-tailed Blue as well.

Birds had their moments too with the Finsch's Wheatear behaving perfectly, a glimpse of a Bluethroat for a few of the group, great views of Water Rail, Black Redstarts, Blue Rock Thrush and particularly of two extremely beautiful Peregrine Falcons of the Mediterranean *brookei* race.

Best of all though was wonderful atmosphere generated by the group that made the whole trip an absolute delight.

## Day 1

## Tuesday 20th December

London Gatwick to Paphos. Weather: grey & wet in London - lovely warm sunshine in Cyprus!

Most of the group gradually caught up with each other in various parts of the departure lounge in Gatwick before boarding our flight to Paphos. The plane was a little late taking off but seemed to make up time.

We were through Paphos Airport customs by around 14.30 and met up with our guide Yiannis and our driver Doros.

We still had a few hours of glorious sunlight left so, rather than go straight back to the hotel, we headed off to Mandria Beach. Woodpigeons were flying around everywhere and, in the fields, their feral cousins were dotted about and perching on low buildings. Stonechats were popping up and some of the males were wonderfully illuminated by the low and quite strong sunshine.

On the beach the low vegetation was very attractive to various butterflies with lots of Painted Ladies, smatterings of Small and Large Whites, a few Long-tailed Blues as well as some spectacularly coloured Crimson Speckled Footmen moths. Crested Larks were calling overhead and darting around the low vegetation while the ubiquitous Sardinian Warblers were scolding from their hiding places before occasionally popping up and showing themselves. Of course, weren't neglecting the plants and those with their heads down rather than up were finding *Medicago sativa*, *Matthiola tricuspidata*, *Echium angustifolium*, *Glebionis coronaria*, *Arisarum vulgare*, *Eryngium maritimum*, *Paronychia argentea*

By now it was starting to approach dusk so we headed to our hotel in Paphos to give us time to get settled in our rooms and meet to do our list of sightings before walking down to our tavern for some typical Cypriot food.

## Day 2

## Wednesday 21st December

Today we were going to head to the famous Paphos Archaeological site in the morning so we made a quick trip to a bakery to collect our food for lunch before driving to the site.

By the time we got there the promised wet weather for the morning had arrived so we made our way to the shelter of the House of Aion where we saw the wonderful mosaics depicting various mythological scenes including Leda and the Swan, the Epiphany of Dionysus and the beauty contest between Cassiopeia and the Nereids. Those with telescopes peered out of the entrance to see Meadow and the odd Red-throated Pipits shuffling around on a distance path and European Stonechats inevitably perched up on top of various pieces of vegetation.

It was still a little wet so we moved next to the other covered site, the House of Dionysus, where once again we admired the amazing mosaics. Outside the building Black Redstarts flitted around the monuments and a beautiful male with its white wing flashes and ruddy tail put on a particularly good show. A distant Woodlark was picked out while Crested Larks were calling all around us.

The weather was clearing now and turning into a nice warm, dry day when David noticed a brown head and whiter cheeks on a bird in a distant flock of sparrows which, under closer observation, revealed themselves to be Spanish Sparrows with a few nicely marked males. Once again David's sharp eyes picked out a ring-tail Harrier floating along over the beach pursued by Hooded Crows. Distant and brief but a great bird to see.

We walked towards the Odeon Theatre with small groups of Common Starlings flying past and Zitting Cisticolas calling in their characteristic way as they bounced through the sky. Following the rain Sardinian Warblers seemed more vocal and we caught glimpses of them as they scuttled between bushes. Common Kestrels hunted over the grassland and Crested Larks crouched and shuffled along feeding in the low vegetation.

As we approached the exit of the site we saw a couple of Great Tits calling from olive bush, a nice if brief view of a Sardinian Warbler and a handful of close-by Spanish sparrows giving good views. We walked around the edge of the site to the fort area, where normally one can walk round the entire site, only to find it had been blocked off for future development of a park!

So, it was back to the bus for our lunch and then off east towards the airport area and to Agia Vavara. En route Yiannis gave us a fascinating insight into the lifestyle of Mediterranean plants and how they survive the extreme climate in this area with its long periods of aridity. Many non-annual plants, the annuals survive the dry periods as seeds, are geophytes which store energy and water in underground organs such as tubers or bulbs.

Arriving in the valley at Agia Vavara we were particularly looking for Finsch's Wheatear which Yiannis found almost immediately!

As is so often the case this much sought-after wheatear, which summers in difficult to visit parts of the world, was keeping its distance but perched nicely on a fence and allowing us excellent views through the telescopes. A very striking bird.

We then made our way up the hill to look for plants and in particular for a special crocus. Initially we had no joy but did find tiny little Adder's Tongue Ferns *Ophioglossum lusitanicum*. At first, they were tricky to find but once our eyes were in we found lots of these delicate bright green ferns in the sparsely vegetated area. Also in the area were the delightfully blue little squills *Hyacinthella millingenii* and, finally, David's sharp eyes spotted our pretty pink crocus *Romulea tempskyana*.

We returned to our bus with Adam showing us some fascinating fossils he'd found on our walk around – very interesting.

Our next visit was to a nearby area of settling ponds and reed fringed streams. Cetti's Warblers' song burst out from the low bushes, some Water Pipits were found in one pond area and a Great Crested Grebe glimpsed before it dived on another. Once again David picked out a Water Rail which gave us outstanding views in the low, angled sunshine.

A Bluethroat appeared briefly at the back of one of the ponds unfortunately only staying long enough for a couple of the group to see it. A Common Snipe twisted overhead as we made our way back to the bus attempting to remove the very claggy mud from our boots.

Then it was back to the hotel and allow time for a wash and brush up before once more heading to our friendly taverna for another excellent meal.

## Day 3

## Thursday 22nd December

Today was a beautiful warm and sunny one as we travelled east again -this time to the Akrotiri Peninsula.

We boarded the bus to start our trip and during the drive Yiannis gave us a fascinating talk about the geology of the island and the especial significance of the Troodos Mountain with its undisturbed ophiolite sequence. We heard how these mountains slowly rose from the sea due to the collision of the African and European tectonic plates, a process that eventually formed the island of Cyprus. The slowing and near-cessation of this process left the rock formations virtually intact, while subsequent erosion uncovered the magma chamber underneath the mountain, allowing a viewing of intact rocks and petrified pillow lava formed millions of years ago, an excellent example of ophiolite stratigraphy. We also learned about the two tree species that 'define' the Mediterranean area – the Olive and the Carob.

Collecting our lunch from a bakery in Limassol we then drove to our first stop at the Zakaki hide and pools.

There wasn't a great deal to see from the raised hide but there was a spectacular adult Oleander Hawk Moth on the steps leading up to the top.

At the pool a little further on we searched through the plentiful gulls to see if we could find anything out of the ordinary. They were almost exclusively Black-headed but one Slender-billed was found amongst them – very tricky to get on to though with the birds in constant motion and regularly flying up as military helicopters flew over.

A stop for toilets and coffee at the nearby café allowed us all to have great views of the Greater Flamingos and to examine some larger gulls which showed the bill markings and dark eyes of Armenian Gulls. It also allowed the botanists to find some saltmarsh species, among them *Suaeda vera*, *Salicornia* sp. and *Zygophyllum album*. Then it was down Lady's Mile Beach, where Yianni pointed out the seed heads of Sea Daffodils *Pancratium maritimum* and across the salt flats to arrive at Bishop's Pool.

We had our lunch at this spot in the strong sunshine while looking across the pool at Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Teal and plentiful Little Grebes while a Water Rail squealed at us from the poolside vegetation and a Western Marsh Harrier hunkered down on a low bush.

After lunch we drove to Akrotiki marsh where a nearby Common Snipe was demonstrating just how effective its camouflage was by eluding many of the group for quite some time. Cattle Egrets lived up to their name by perching on cattle and Marsh Harriers were almost plentiful drifting lazily over the reedbeds.

We stopped near the Akrotiri marsh hide where a group of some 40 European Serins were perching on fences and dashing into bushes and where pipits were stalking about in the grass. Some patient telescope work later revealed that a few at least of these pipits were Red-throated.

Our final stop of the day at Kensington Cliffs where we strode confidently through the Phoenician Juniper *Juniperus phoenicia* bushes to the cliff edge looking for Griffon Vultures and had immediate luck as six birds were circling over the cliffs. We watched as they gained height before dropping back down behind the peninsula. A very satisfying end to our day.

After this it was the usual evening of sorting out and recording the day's sightings and heading off for our final meal at the local tavern.

## Day 4

## Friday 23rd December

Today was our transfer day to another part of the island and the weather was once again warm and sunny as we headed initially for Episkopi.

We spent a happy hour here going through the exhibitions and being lead round the former school garden by Yiannis discussing the various plants that were neatly laid out and labelled and finding a Marsh Frog wallowing in the pond. We searched without joy for the Scops Owl which is often here but did notice the old nests of Spanish Sparrows in the Pepper tree, heard a Chiff-Chaff in full song and enjoyed the churring of the ubiquitous Sardinian Warblers.

We drove the short distance to the impressive cliffs of African reef limestone which we searched with hope, but no real expectation, for a potential wintering Wallcreeper. No luck there but we did find two beautiful Peregrines

– one perched in a prominent gash in the rocks and one a few feet above. We were able to get great views of these pink-chested dark-hooded birds which were of the Mediterranean race *brookei*.

A wander down the hill brought the discovery of various special plants too including Southern Polypody *Polypodium cambricum*, *Verbascum levanticum* and *Rosa x damascena*. We also found the endemic shrub *Bosea cypria* and we heard that this remarkable genus has three species – one found here in Cyprus, one in the Canaries and one in the Himalayas.

We continued our drive northwards to reach Agios Georgios where those who hadn't already eaten their lunch on the bus sat on the low cliffs overlooking the deep blue sea, eating their pastries and surveying the Yellow-legged and Armenian gulls on a nearby island.

After our delightful alfresco lunch we strolled down to the beach where we quickly found a fabulous Mandrake plant *Mandragora officinalis* with stunning purple flowers and a whole host of astonishing folklore stories about how to collect the root. Butterflies were in evidence too and Sandy captured a great image of an eastern Bath White.

The large off-shore island held a few European Shags and we were able to scope them and go through the differences between these species and their close relatives, Great Cormorants. A bird was seen on the rocks of the low cliffs and again the telescope clearly showed the clear blue colouration and distinctive shape of a Blue Rock Thrush.

The low bushes on the coast, so good for migrants on our March trips, this time only held the inevitable Sardinian Warblers and occasional Meadow Pipit but a more fruitful occupation was carefully overturning (and gently replacing) the various scattered rocks. A Snake-eyed Skink sped away very rapidly, a Kotschy's Gecko was a little more obliging and a beautiful Giant or Banded Centipede showed off his colours and markings perfectly.

Back to the bus and we continued north, jamming on the brakes at one stage to see a finely marked Long-legged Buzzard which had landed in a tree not too far from the road.

Then to Kritou Terra where looked for various plants among the twisted limestones rocks. We were hunting for the white Cyprus Crocus but although that eluded us we were successful in the equally pretty purple *Romulea tempskyana*.

A little further on we found some delightful Cyclamen *Cyclamen cyprium* also *Clematis cirrhosa* Maiden's Bower. While we were hunting around amongst the various oaks *Quercus infectoria*, *Quercus coccifera* a flock of around 50 Corn Buntings did a fly past rapidly chipping away in distinctive style. Finally, we found a wonderful array of Dutchman's Pipes *Aristolochia sempervirens* their Meerscham-like curved flowers looking extremely exotic.

Now it was time to make our way to our hotel where we were met by the delightful owners who made sure we were safely stowed away in the large and comfortable rooms.

Then, refreshed, we met again in the reception for a pre-dinner drink, completed our list of sightings and indulged in the delicious buffet meal.

## Day 5

## Sunday 24th December

It was a nice sunny morning a little after dawn as a group of us explored the local area and as Sue struck out, Aphrodite like, for a pre-breakfast swim in the sea before eventually returning to her room making the rest of us feel very idle. Sardinian warblers, of course, called harshly from various bushes and also calling were Chiff-Chaffs but not always in the characteristically up-slurred way we know at home. We were regularly hearing individuals calling with a 'straighter' call – sounding much more like the Siberian Chiffchaff *tristis*.

Contact with Colin Richardson, local expert and author of the book *Birds of Cyprus*, indicated that these birds were probably eastern Chiffchaffs from Turkey which also often have this straighter and not up-slurred call – so that was that mystery solved! More easily resolved were the Greenfinches wheezing from the tree tops and ubiquitous Stonechats perched obligingly high on low bushes and old grass stalks.

After a lovely buffet breakfast, we drove to collect our lunch from a bakery opposite the famous, huge and old Aleppo Oak *Quercus infectoria* before continuing up the low Chrysochou valley looking for Chukar and Black Francolin but shooting was happening which obviously meant birds were keeping their heads down – or off. Shooting normally takes place on Wednesdays and Sundays but as Christmas is on a Sunday this year the shooting was shifted to today.

After some twisty, turny uphill driving we arrived at the Peristerona or Aetofolies Gorge where we scoured the skies for Long-legged Buzzard but had to be content with calling Cetti's and Sardinian Warblers, Troodos lizards and Goats in caves. We continued moving uphill towards Stavros and after passing Lysos saw change in the vegetation as we hit pillow lava and associated soils as opposed to the previous limestone dominated geology. Now we were seeing ranks of Calabrian Pine *Pinus brutia*, an endemic conifer, the introduced but naturalised Aleppo Pine *Pinus halepensis* and the very attractive Strawberry tree *Arbutus andrachne*.

We stopped for a short uphill walk where we closer views of all these trees as well as examples of *Romulea tempskyana*, *Hyacinthella millingenii* and *Cistus salvifolius*. There were some interesting puffballs too and insects represented by an amorous pair of Green Tiger Beetles and a solo Pincer Grasshopper plus the distant calls of a Coal Tit.

After a quick geological stop to see the impressive sheeted-dyke rocks we continued to the Stavros area where we walked around the Mouflon enclosure. A few Mouflon that had been released from the enclosure made a brief appearance and all the while Coal Tits called, unfindable, from the pine trees. We found the lovely Golden Oak *Quercus alnifolia* and the leaf litter held quantities of Cypriot Sowbread *Cyclamen cyprium* and still the Coal Tits called.

We enjoyed our lunch at the small café accompanied by some strong Cypriot coffee before moving higher still to see the Cyprus Cedars *Cedrus brevifolia*, arrayed in grey like a Japanese print, on a distant ridge. While we were refreshing our souls with this wonderful regressive skyline view Doros was tending to more corporeal needs by collecting a very impressive haul of Saffron Milk Cap *Lactarius deliciosus*. Then finally three ladies from our group combined together to track down and take a fabulous photograph of a Coal Tit! We then all could clearly see how this bird, poised to become a separate species perhaps, was significantly darker and with a bigger bib than the Coal Tit we know at home.

It was time to make our way home now, but we called in to the Evretou Reservoir for a quick look around in the fading light. There were plenty of Feral Pigeons pretending to be other things plus two Common Kestrels disporting themselves on a fence line below us. There were also two bigger birds of prey perched on rocks whose identity we had difficulty in resolving – we were trying desperately to make them Bonelli's Eagles but though we can never be certain what they were after long consideration (and using Sandy's photos) I suspect they were juvenile Long-legged Buzzards.

So, with this mystery still in our minds we made our way back to the lovely Aphrodite Beach Hotel to freshen up, record and sightings and indulge in another delicious buffet meal.

## Day 6

## Sunday 25th December

First thing in the morning it was blue sky and sun but sadly that didn't last all day! However, it lasted long enough for those who wished to sit outside for breakfast and warm enough for three intrepid ladies to go for another morning swim in the sea.

After a really good breakfast, with Black Francolin calling in the distance, we headed off for a Christmas walk from the hotel. Our driver, Doros, was deservedly enjoying his Christmas with his family (and tucking in to those fungi) so our trip today was all going to be on foot.

We walked south from the hotel and up a gentle rise in the low hills to the accompaniment of our usual Sardinian and Cetti's Warblers, House Sparrows and wheezing Greenfinches. A low persistent warbling from the depth of a bush caused us to halt for a while. Try as we might though we couldn't get a glimpse of our mystery singer – a warbler that got away. We walked along to a low scrubby area that was obviously very attractive to a lot of small birds. A Eurasian Blackcap was chacking away and House Sparrows, European Goldfinches, Sardinian Warblers and even the odd European Serin would appear before diving back into the thick cover. We turned up a slight hill where the warm sunshine hit a bank and encouraged a few Snake-eyed Lizards to bask watchfully.

A Spindle tree with festive coloured red berries harboured a hunting Sardinian Warbler which shot off with a caterpillar in its beak while a little further on our walk we found some lovely *Cyclamen persicum* in flower. Sharp eyes spotted a Fan-lipped Orchid *Anacamptis collina* in bud – but later in our walk we found another of these beautiful plants in full and wondrous flower.

A shower of rain around 11.00 drove us into a church where Yiannis gave a fascinating talk about the icons, saints and religious practices of Cyprus while we studied the images on the walls. Carefully mopping up after our muddy feet we emerged post-shower to walk through the farmland and down to coast where there were some small freshwater rock pools and where we perched ourselves for our lunches.

Yiannis showed us a dramatic picture of a Blunt-nosed Viper lying in ambush by a pool he had found on an earlier trip. We hunted around but sadly neither lightning nor the viper was going to strike twice in this area. The weather was turning rather cool and damp now so we made a slow walk home for an early Christmas rest before delicious meal, list and a festive quiz.



## Day 7

## Monday 26th December

A small group of us gathered for an early walk but the weather had other ideas and the heavens were spectacular with flashes of lightning and distant rumbles of thunder – perhaps the Gods were suffering from post-Christmas indigestion.

However, the celestial irritation was soon over, and we had a sunny and warm day as breakfast approached and once again the Black Francolin was in fine voice in the fields just across from the hotel. A Chiffchaff was calling in its eastern way as we headed off in the bus the short distance to the Baths of Aphrodite and the small botanic garden.

The garden was bathed in sun and butterflies such as Red Admirals, Clouded Yellows and Painted Ladies flitted from plant to plant. A Myrtle bush *Myrtus communis* was laden with fruit and some of us tucked into this tasty treat. Over thousands of years, this plant has crept into mythology, history, culture, medicine, and the culinary arts in a wide variety of cultures across the world. Cetti's warblers, Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs called and a Common Blackbird was heard alarm calling from the bushes – a much more wary bird here than back home.

As we exited the garden there were, rather uniquely, some *nice-looking* feral pigeons lined up along the bank and a female Black Redstart on a tree top. We walked along the beautiful path along the Akamas Peninsula and found some delicate blue grape hyacinth type *Muscari inconstictum* nestled among the Phoenician Juniper. A Common Kestrel was perched out on a distant pine tree looking for all the world like an oversized pine cone and Northern Ravens croaked sepulchrally overhead.

The weather was beautiful and the sun picked out some lovely pink Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill *Erodium malacoides* as well as, star of the show, a fabulous Bunch-flowered Narcissus *Narcissus tazetta*. A wonderfully delicate narcissus. The array of Persian Sowbread *Cyclamen persicum* ran the narcissus close though, if only in the sheer profusion of these beautiful flowers. As we strolled in the sun on our gentle walk along the headland we heard more about the fascinating geology of the island and the origins of the mantle Serpentine and Pillow Lava rocks. Yiannis also explained that asbestos was also found in these rock bands. Sandy's quick eyes spotted a Hummingbird Hawk Moth hovering around the flowers as we finally got back to our bus, had a quick coffee and then headed off to the old Turkish village of Androlikou where in the past we've found great flocks of passerines. No joy this time though so we drove on to our picnic site dispersing a small flock of 8 Woodlarks as we did so.

The thoughtfully provided picnic tables were perfect for our lunch and an equally thoughtful Long-legged Buzzard flew past and then had the good manners to land in a tree and stay there long enough to allow everyone an excellent view through the telescope.

Our next spot was the woodland at Smigies with a soaring Eurasian Sparrowhawk en route. A small seemingly barren area of broken Serpentine produced one of the three endemics to be found here - *Thymus integer*. Soils derived from serpentine are toxic to many plants, because of high levels of nickel, chromium, and cobalt; growth of many plants is also inhibited by low levels of potassium and phosphorus and a low ratio of calcium/magnesium – hence the endemics.

We walked down the 'orchid mile' where our March trips turn up an unbelievable number of orchids. At this time of year these are mostly not in flower but we did find Autumn Ladies Tresses *Spiranthes spiralis* plus *Ophrys israelitica* in glorious flower - another endemic! Eurasian Blackcaps were alarm calling from the thickets and a few of caught a glimpse of the freshwater crab before it sidled away under a massive rock.

Our drive home was through agricultural areas where we hoped for Black Francolin but had to make do with scuttling Chukar.

Another brief view of a Long-legged Buzzard and then it was back to our hotel for our last lovely buffet dinner.

## Day 8

## Wednesday 27th December

Another beautiful day dawned -though sadly this was our going home day.

Once again, for the early risers, the Black Francolin was in good voice but remained in hiding. European Greenfinches and Goldfinches were calling vigorously and, of course, we found our usual European Stonechats and Sardinian Warblers.

Our walk took us past a low tree *Cordia myxa*, the Assyrian plum, an unremarkable tree at initial sight but Yianni explained how it has been used for making bird lime, the specific name meaning slime or mucus in some ancient languages.

Back to the hotel terrace for the glorious, final opportunity of a delicious breakfast outside on the terrace with the menagerie of cats, then it was packing the bus and a fond farewell to a most wonderful of hotels.

We paid a visit to the Evretou Dam again in the hope of re-finding our unsolved raptors. Here Chukar were calling, a flock of mixed European Goldfinches and Serins buzzed about and Sardinian Warblers called from low vegetation. We were literally leaving when Mark spotted a raptor and we leapt out of the bus to see a Long-legged Buzzard disappearing over the horizon.

Our final spot was at an area guaranteed to warm the cockles of a birder's heart - a sewage works. We found our hoped-for Spur-winged Plovers here, around 21 in total. There was also a couple of Cattle Egrets stalking around and a flitting Grey Wagtail – a new bird for the trip. A Sparrowhawk soared overhead and a Common Kestrel dashed by as we clambered into the bus and headed, via a supermarket, to the airport.

It had been a wonderful holiday with a truly wonderful group of people and, of course, the excellent and considerate driving of Doros and the marvellous overall knowledge of Yiannis.

Thanks to all in the group for making it such an enjoyable Christmas.

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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	December 2022							
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>			20					
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			40					
Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>		5	6	H	H	H		H
Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>						H	H	H
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			12					
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		1						
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		100 +						
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		2						2
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		10						
European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			10	1	1			
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	3			1				
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		6						
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>						?		
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>							1	1
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1	10						
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1							
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				1	2		2	1
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		1	H					
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>			2					21
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		1	1					
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓					
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			1					
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Armenian Gull	<i>Larus armenicus</i>			✓	✓				
Feral Pigeon - I	<i>Columba livia var. domestica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	December 2022							
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	8	3				4		
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	2	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				2			1	
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>							5	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>					✓			
Great Tit	<i>Parus major aphrodite</i>		4		✓	H	✓	✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		1					8	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	20	✓	H	✓		H		H
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	H	H	H	H	✓	H
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		4	H	H	✓	✓	✓	H
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		6		2				
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>						H	✓	H
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	3	✓	✓					
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>							H	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		1					✓	
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>		1						
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				H	2	H	1	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2					1	
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				1				
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Finsch's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>		✓						
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		✓			✓			
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>								1
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>		1	✓					
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		4						
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		1		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	6				✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		5						
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			40			1		✓
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				50				

## Others

Common name	Scientific name	December 2022							
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>BUTTERFLIES:</b>									
	<b>Pieridae</b>								
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>				1				
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Lycaenidae</b>								
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	✓							
Lang's Shor-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>								✓
Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	✓							
	<b>Nymphalidae</b>								
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓				✓	
	<b>Satyrinae</b>								
Speckled Wood	<i>Parage aegeria</i>							✓	
<b>MOTHS - MACROS:</b>									
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>							1	
Oleander Hawk-moth	<i>Daphnis nerii</i>			1					
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>			✓					
Crimson-speckled Footman		✓			✓				
<b>CRUSTACEA:</b>									
Cyprus Freshwater Crab*	<i>Potamius potamius</i>							✓	
<b>OTHER INVERTEBRATES:</b>									
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	✓						✓	
Migrant Hawker	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>		1						
Eurasian Pincer Grasshopper	<i>Calliptamus barbarus</i>				✓				
Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>	✓	✓	✓					
Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>				✓				
Giant Centipede	<i>Scolopendra cingulatus</i>				1				
Green Meadow Spider	<i>Micrommata virescens</i>						1		
Crab Spider sp	<i>Thomisidae sp</i>		1						
<b>* indicates that a species is endemic</b>									
<b>AMPHIBIANS &amp; REPTILES:</b>									
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>		H	✓					
Kotschy's Gecko	<i>Cyrtopodion kotschy</i>				1				
Snake-eyed Lizard	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>				✓		2		
Troodos Wall Lizard*	<i>Phoenicolacerta troodica</i>					1		1	
Budak's Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus budaki</i>				1		✓		

## Plants

Scientific name	Common name	Date first recorded
<b>N.B.</b>		
* indicates that a species is endemic		
<b>PTERIDOPHYTES</b>	<b>FERNS &amp; ALLIES</b>	
<b>Lycophytes</b>	<b>Clubmosses &amp; Quillworts</b>	
<b>Selaginellaceae</b>	<b>Lesser Clubmoss Family</b>	
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss	7
<b>Eusporangiate Ferns</b>	<b>Adder's-tongues &amp; Moonworts</b>	
<i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i>	Least Adder's-tongue	2
<b>Calamophytes</b>	<b>Horsetails</b>	
<b>Equisetaceae</b>	<b>Horsetail Family</b>	
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	Branched Horsetail	7
<b>Leptosporangiate Ferns</b>	<b>True Ferns</b>	
<b>Polypodiaceae</b>	<b>Polypody Family</b>	
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	4
<b>Pteridaceae</b>	<b>Ribbon Fern Family</b>	
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	6
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern	6
<b>GYMNOSPERMS</b>	<b>CONIFERS</b>	
<b>Cupressaceae</b>	<b>Juniper family</b>	
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress	7
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenicean Juniper	3
<b>Ephedraceae</b>	<b>Joint-pine Family</b>	3
<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	Joint-pine	
<b>Pinaceae</b>	<b>Pine Family</b>	
<i>Cedrus brevifolia</i>		4
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Calabrian Pine	4
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone Pine	
<b>ANGIOSPERMS</b>	<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>	
<b>Pre-Dicots</b>	<b>Primitive Angiosperms</b>	
<b>Aristolochiaceae</b>		
<i>Aristolochia sempervivens</i>		

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Date first recorded</b>
<b>Lauraceae</b>	<b>Laurel Family</b>	
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Bay Tree	
<b>Eu-Dicots</b>	<b>True Dicotyledons</b>	
<b>Aceraceae</b>		
<i>Acer obtusifolium</i>		5
<b>Amaranthaceae</b>	<b>Pigweed Family</b>	
<i>Bosea cypria</i> *	-	4
<i>Noaea mucronata</i>	-	2
<i>Suaeda maritima</i>	Annual Sea-blite	3
<i>Suaeda vera</i>		
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>	<b>Sumach Family</b>	
<i>Pistacia atlantica</i>	Mount Atlas Mastic Tree	4
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree	4
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Bush	3
<b>Apiaceae</b>	<b>Carrot Family</b>	
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel	4
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	7
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	<b>Borage Family</b>	1
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss	
<i>Lithodora hispidula</i>	-	4
<b>Brassicaceae</b>	<b>Cabbage Family</b>	
<i>Alyssum akamasicum</i> *	-	7
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	1
<i>Erucaria hispanica</i>	Spanish Mustard	1
<i>Sinapis alba</i>	White Mustard	7
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	<b>Pink Family</b>	
<i>Dianthus strictus</i> subsp. <i>troodi</i>		
<i>Paronychia argentea</i>	Algerian Tea	1
<b>Cistaceae</b>	<b>Cistus Family</b>	
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	-	4
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	4
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i> x <i>parviflorus</i>		5
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	4
<b>Compositae (Asteraceae)</b>	<b>Daisy Family</b>	
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	4
<i>Centaurea veneris</i>		7
<i>Echinops spinosissimus</i>		1
<i>Glebionis coronarium</i> agg.	Crown Daisy	2
<i>Inula chrithmoides</i>		6
<i>Leontodon tuberosum</i>	Tuberous Hawkbit	3
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>	Shrubby Ptilostemon	4
<i>Taraxacum aphrogenes</i> *	a Dandelion	4
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Spiny Cocklebur	4
<b>Cucurbitaceae</b>	<b>Gourd Family</b>	
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	4

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Date first recorded</b>
<b>Ericaceae</b>	<b>Heather Family</b>	
<i>Arbutus andrachne</i>	Eastern Strawberry Tree	5
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	<b>Spurge Family</b>	
<i>Euphorbia dimorphocaulon</i>	-	4
<i>Euphorbia veneris*</i>	-	3
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	3
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor-oil Plant	2
<i>Euphorbia pubescens</i>		3
<b>Fabaceae</b>	<b>Pea Family</b>	
<i>Calicotome (Calycotome) villosa</i>	Spiny Broom	5
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob	5
<i>Medicago maritima</i>		1
<b>Fagaceae</b>	<b>Oak Family</b>	
<i>Quercus alnifolia</i>	Golden oak	4
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	4
<i>Quercus infectoria</i>	Deciduous or Royal Oak	4
<b>Frankeniaceae</b>	<b>Sea-heath Family</b>	
<i>Frankenia hirsuta</i>	Sea-heath	
<b>Geraniaceae</b>	<b>Geranium Family</b>	
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	6
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	
<b>Lamiaceae</b>	<b>Dead-nettle Family</b>	
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle	4
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium	3
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	Greek Sage	6
<i>Teucrium creticum</i>	-	4
<i>Thymus capitatus</i>	Capitate Thyme	4
<i>Thymus integer*</i>	-	7
<b>Meliaceae</b>	<b>Persian Lilac Family</b>	
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian Bead Tree	2
<b>Myrtaceae</b>	<b>Myrtle Family</b>	
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Myrtle	7
<b>Oleaceae</b>	<b>Olive Family</b>	
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	4
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	<b>Sorrel Family</b>	
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	2
<b>Platanaceae</b>	<b>Plane Tree Family</b>	
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Plane Tree	5
<b>Plumbaginaceae</b>	<b>Thrift Family</b>	
<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	Winged Sea Lavender	1



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<b>Primulaceae</b>	<b>Primrose Family</b>	
<i>Cyclamen cypricum</i> *	Cypriot Sowbread	4
<i>Cyclamen persicum</i>	Persian Sowbread	6
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	<b>Buttercup Family</b>	
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown Anemone	3
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	Maiden's Bower	4
<i>Ranunculus bullatus</i>	-	2
<b>Rosaceae</b>	<b>Rose Family</b>	
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond	4
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	a Bramble	6
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny Burnet	2
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	<b>Bedstraw Family</b>	
<i>Rubia tenuifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Madder	6
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	<b>Figwort Family</b>	
<i>Verbascum levanticum</i>	-	4
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	-	1
<b>Solanaceae</b>	<b>Nightshade Family</b>	
<i>Mandragora officinalis</i> ( <i>Mandragora autumnalis</i> )	Mandrake	4
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	5
<b>Styracaceae</b>	<b>Storax Family</b>	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax	4
<b>Zygophyllaceae</b>	<b>Caltrop Family</b>	
<i>Fagonia cretica</i>	-	3
<i>Zygophyllum album</i>		3
<b>Monocots</b>	<b>Monocotyledons</b>	
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>	<b>Daffodil Family</b>	
<i>Narcissus serotinus</i>	-	6
<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>	Bunch-flowered Narcissus	7
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil	3
<b>Araceae</b>	<b>Arum Family</b>	
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl	1,2
<b>Asparagaceae</b>	<b>Asparagus Family</b>	
<i>Asparagus horridus</i> ( <i>A. stipularis</i> )		2
<i>Drimia maritima</i>	Sea Squill	2
<i>Hyacinthella millingenii</i> *	-	2
<i>Prospero autumnale</i> ( <i>Scilla autumnalis</i> )	Autumn Squill	4
<i>Pseudomuscari</i> ( <i>Muscari</i> ) <i>inconstrictum</i>		5
<b>Iridaceae</b>	<b>Iris Family</b>	

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Date first recorded</b>
<i>Romulea tempskyana</i>	-	2
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	<b>Orchid Family</b>	
<i>Anacamptis (Orchis) collina</i>	Fan-lipped Orchid	6
<i>Ophrys omegaifera</i> subsp. <i>israelitica</i>	-	7
<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>	Autumn Lady's Tresses	7
<b>Poaceae</b>	<b>Grass Family</b>	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	2
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>	Common Thatching Grass	2
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	2
<b>Smilacaceae</b>	<b>Smilax Family</b>	
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax	7
<b>Xanthorrhoeaceae</b>	<b>Asphodel Family</b>	
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-stemmed Asphodel	7
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Common Asphodel	6