

Cyprus at Christmas

Naturetrek Tour Report

20th – 27th December 2023



Bonelli's Eagle by Caroline Stevens



Greater Flamingo by Caroline Stevens



Crown Anemone



600 year old Olive Tree

Tour report by Pete Stevens



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Tour participants: Yiannis Christofides and Pete Stevens (Leaders) with 15 Naturetrek clients

Summary

The week started windy and threatening rain. However, after only one stormy night on the second day, the rest of the week was warm dry and mainly bright. We had an enjoyable week with a couple of easy walks punctuated by some exciting wildlife sightings. In addition, Yiannis provided a narrative on the geology, history and culture of the island. We looked at some of the finest archaeological sites in Southern Cyprus and Yiannis pointed out a number of the interesting and endemic plants while Pete was on the lookout for its wintering and resident birdlife. Highlights of the tour included superb views of the eagle-sized Long-legged Buzzard, Bonelli's Eagle, a flock of the scarce Spur-winged plover, a sighting of Black Francolin, a difficult bird to catch up, with and on Christmas day, a close view of a Peregrine of the Mediterranean race *brookei* on a kill!

Plants of great interest included the endemics: an oak (*Quercus alnifolia*), Cypriot Sowbread (*Cyclamen cyprium*), Cyprus Pellitory (*Parietaria cretica*), *Hyacinthella millingenii* a member of the Asparagaceae only found here and in Turkey, the Paphos Dandelion (*Taraxacum aphrogenes*), and the Bee Orchid *Ophrys omegaifera* subsp. *israelitica*.

In addition butterflies were on the wing most days with several Painted Ladies, Clouded Yellows and Lang's Short-tailed Blues with, in the last hour of the last day, two beautiful Swallowtail Butterflies.

The group gelled well and we had some great fun both in day and evening. There was also occasional excitement as a Troodos or Snake-eyed Lizard was spotted or even among dead leaves the scuttles of Kotschky's Geckos were detected.

Day 1

Wednesday 20th December

Most of the group gathered together at Paphos Airport where Yiannis our co-leader was awaiting our arrival with Yiannis the driver! We soon set off for an afternoon trip of sites near to the airport. On the way numerous Hooded Crows could be seen and Pete pointed out a Marsh Harrier hawking fields adjacent to the road. At the nearby Mandria Beach we soon saw the first Yellow-legged Gull and a Crested Lark among other birds. Also we saw the first one of several Troodos Wall Lizards sitting still on a sand-coloured rock. Meadow Pipits flew up from the rough meadow beside the beach and Great Cormorants flew over. A small bird flew up calling during a bouncy flight: a Zitting Cisticola, our only European representative of this mainly African group.

After the short coastal stroll we reboarded the coach for a short drive to the sewage works! Often a good stop for birds, this stop did not disappoint, with a flock of Spur-winged Plovers on the works' buildings plus White Wagtail and a single member of the Central European race of Yellow Wagtail.

We then moved on to our hotel in Paphos to get freshened up and relax before dinner, while our driver drove back to the airport to pick up the remaining few of the tour participants.

Day 2

Thursday 21st December

After a good breakfast, we made for a superb bakery to collect our lunches then drove directly to the Paphos Archaeological site. It was cloudy and overcast. However, as we strolled through the site the day still felt warm and in between examining the archaeology, including some spectacular Roman mosaics, we managed to find Sardinian Warblers, a single Spanish Sparrow and a pair of Laughing Doves. Common Asphodel (*Asphodelus ramosus*) was in flower.

After taking our lunch just outside the site, we took a walk along the wide coastal path that skirts the archaeological peninsula. Here we came across a flock of Golden Plover and two Little Egrets, and enjoyed a close-up view of Crested Lark.

Back on the coach we travelled inland to a site for the rare Finsch's Wheatears. Unfortunately unable to locate the bird today, we moved on to a nearby site with a number of small pools. As soon as we disembarked the coach a Kestrel was seen, closely followed by a distant Long-legged Buzzard and then a Peregrine. Moving on to the pools, a Common Sandpiper flew off. However, a Moorhen and a Little Grebe remained. In the reeds and bushes several Chiffchaffs sought out their insect prey. As the skies looked increasingly threatening, a bright shaft of light picked out the Long-legged Buzzard again and better views were obtained by the group. The storm held off until we were back at our hotel, before hitting dramatically with heavy rain, thunder and some impressive lightning.

Day 3

Friday 22nd December

The weather had cleared overnight and, with a bright day ahead, we made for the Akrotiri wetlands, stopping on the way at yet another fine Bakery to pick up our lunches.

We stopped first at Zakahi Pools where we crammed into the hide overlooking a shallow pool surrounded by Giant Reed. The pool and surrounding vegetation abounded with birds: Robin, Stonechat, White Wagtail, Grey Wagtail and Water Pipit, Coot and Little Grebe. Those outside of the hide picked up most of these plus more Chiffchaffs and four Purple Herons!

We moved on a little further to the edge of the Akrotiri Salt Lake. Black-headed Gulls soared high above us with one or two Slender-billed Gulls hard to pick out in the swirl of birds. But, on the lake and close to us were small groups of Greater Flamingo – rather easier to identify! Then a flock of small waders landed on the thin shore. Telescope at the ready, Pete soon identified them as Little Stint.

We drove along the track between the dune and beach and the Salt Lake. On the edge of the dune Sea Daffodils (*Pancratium maritimum*) were obvious with their flowers over and rusty coloured seed pods showing. On the edge of the lake we stopped for a lone Glossy Ibis.

Our picnic stop was at Bishop's Pool close to the lake. The pool had many duck plus at least a dozen Little Grebes. The duck flock comprised mainly Shoveler with some Teal, a few Mallard and a single diving Ferruginous Duck. After lunch we made for the Phasouri Reedbeds, heading on around the Salt Lake and excitingly, across the salt flats. We stopped to walk a little way to a hide, but before moving far, a shout of 'Snipe!' went up. Unusually, the bird was found and scoped in mud among cattle and Donkeys, along with a 'flock' of Moorhens. As we walked on a Little Egret was seen briefly, a Spur-winged Plover flew tantalisingly around, and Mark picked out a Marsh Harrier on the ground. Moving on, Pete shouted out 'Francolin!', our driver stopped, and there, running away across the rough grassland, was a Black Francolin. Just before it disappeared into cover it turned and looked back providing the view we wanted of head and neck. Then it was gone. Only a little further on, Mark again spotted something on the ground which on examination proved to be a flock of Spur-winged Plovers huddling among the long grass. Our next stop was at the Kensington Cliffs, an area of Garigue vegetation with an interesting ground flora among the clints and grykes of the Limestone pavement. There was a strong breeze now and birds were hunkered down. Plants suffered less from the wind and among interesting ones were: Phoenician Juniper (*Juniperus phoenicea*), Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), Autumn Buttercup (*Ranunculus bullatus*), Autumn-flowering Daffodil (*Narcissus serotinus*), a Meadow Saffron (*Colchicum pusillum*), Dhamasa (*Fagonia cretica*) and the strange Friar's Cowl (*Arisarum vulgare*).

Our last stop of the day was a photo opportunity at the famous Rocks of Aphrodite before travelling back to our hotel.

Day 4

Saturday 23rd December

A bright sunny day greeted us for our drive to Episkopi Environmental Visitor Centre and eventually to our next hotel by the sea in Polis. On the way to Episkopi Pete spotted a large raptor and we all stepped out of the coach for a brilliant view of a Long-legged Buzzard in the morning light.

At the centre we were offered a display providing an overview of the Episkopi Valley and Cypriot Wildlife – from rocks to mammals. We then drove just around the corner to a cliff face of an isolated rock. Here we soon spotted a Peregrine of the Mediterranean race '*brookei*' with its buff-coloured face neck and upper breast. It was calling and then we discovered why as its mate turned up on a perch close by.

Though much of the natural ground flora had been 'tidied up', in areas we could still find remnants of the natural flora including: *Verbascum levanticum*, one of the Mulleins found mainly across the Middle East, Southern Polypody (*Polypodium cambricum*) and Rusty-back Fern (*Asplenium ceterach*), the latter two familiar to botanists in the far west of

the UK. We also found the shrub *Bosea cypria* a plant with an unusual distribution in the Himalayas, Cyprus and the Canary Islands.

We then drove on northwards to Agios Georgios where we sat on a few seats and low rocks overlooking the sea for our picnic lunch, and a few of our members took the opportunity of a coffee in the adjacent taverna. On a rocky Islet we could see both Great Cormorant and a couple of European Shags and the occasional Yellow-legged Gull flew past.

After lunch we explored the shrubby area close to us with a Black Redstart showing briefly, several Chiffchaffs and after listening to a murmuring of birds deep in the undergrowth, in sub song, a couple of birds flipped out to be identified as wintering Blackcaps.

We then strolled down to the flat area of sandy ground next to the low rocky shoreline. There were some impressive waves breaking over the Islet and the nearby rocks and in dramatic light many members took shots to remember. Searching the sparse vegetation and under small rocks we found Kotschy's Gecko before we left heading towards our stay for the night.

We crossed the narrow plateau of the Akamas Peninsula where we stopped to search for plants. At our second stop we had much success. Plants included: Jerusalem Sage (*Phlomis cypria*), the rare Bastard Orpine (*Andrachne telephioides*), White Violet (*Viola alba*) and more Cyprus Sowbread (*Cyclamen cyprium*) in flower. We also found the large leaf rosette of the Mandrake plant (*Mandragora officinarum*), a plant of fable.

Here there were also some early instar Mantids found that may have just emerged. Then it was down the hill to Polis and our hotel for the next four nights.

Day 5

Sunday 24th December

Another bright warm day. One of our group took advantage of the still sea to take a dip in what she told us were surprisingly warm waters. Others joined Pete and Yiannis on a pre-breakfast stroll in nearby countryside.

After breakfast we travelled up into the foothills of the Troodos Mountains. Near our 'pastry shop' where we chose our lunches, stood an ancient Olive tree, reputed to be between 600 and 700 years old. Across the road stood one of the oldest Oaks in Cyprus at 170 years old and near this, in the browned leaves on the ground, we found Budak's Snake-eyed Skinks.

Then it was off to our second stop on the way to the Troodos. The viewpoint at the Peristerona Gorge provide some fine views and below us we could hear the call of the Chukar, a type of Partridge named for its call. Pete managed to get the telescope on the birds several times as they moved through the small fields below us. High above, two Long-legged Buzzards soared on a thermal.

A search of the adjacent shrubby area noted only Blackbird, Robin and the almost ever-present Sardinian warbler. Among plants were noted: Eastern Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus andrachne*), Narrow-leaved Cistus (*Cistus monspeliensis*), Wild Olive (*Olea europea*) and Syrian Maple (*Acer obtusifolium*).

We drove on up into the hills, stopping for a short walk along a narrow ridge with tree-covered slopes either side below and some stunning views. Sue was the first to spot something of interest as she found an African Praying Mantis that obligingly provided great views and shots. While we were marvelling at this strange invertebrate, Mark shouted out 'Raptor!' and in perfect light, a Bonelli's Eagle floated virtually over our heads. Pete next heard the call of Coal Tit and eventually we managed to locate the bird in one of the closer pines. The coal tit in Cyprus (*Parus ater cypricus*) is an endemic subspecies that differs from the western species in its extensive black bib and reduced area of white on the cheeks and nape stripe. Then Sue was to call us over again this time to a tiny plant that turned out to be Least Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum lusitanicum*), a great find in a new location for our local botanist, Yiannis.

On the way to our lunch stop, Yiannis told us about the unique geology of Cyprus and we stopped to see some of the near-vertical volcanic pipes. We then stopped for a short walk at the Mouflon enclosure. Here we got some closer views of the Cyprus Coal Tit.

At a small cafe near the Forestry Centre some of the group took coffee; some tried the Cypriot Coffee, not unlike a Turkish Coffee. While finishing lunch, a group of Coal Tits passed through near to us. Then Mark called out again as he spotted a Short-toed Treecreeper. This is another bird that is considered an endemic subspecies (*Certhia brachydactyla dorotheae*) and has been called Dorothy's Treecreeper.

Before leaving these steep slopes, we drove on up to a ridge from which we could see the remains of the Cedar Forest with its scarce Cyprus Cedar (*Cedrus brevifolia*) native to the Troodos Mountains. It was cold up at a height in excess of a 1000 metres and the group was glad to get back into the coach, driving back a different way down to the lowlands and our hotel in Polis.

Day 5

Monday 25th December

Our driver Yiannis had a well-earned day off today and after a hearty breakfast for most of us, we set off to walk from the hotel up into the nearby hills.

We started off walking along the quiet Christmas road where beside the road we found Wasp Spider (*Agiope bruennichi*) waving its web. There were several mantid egg cases in the bushes and a Cypriot Stick Grasshopper (*Pyrgomorpha cypria*). Plants included Musk Stork's-bill (*Erodium moschatum*).

Over the road we took a small lane and slowly made our way up the hill on another lovely warm day.

A Song Thrush was new to our trip list while Stonechat, as ever, was common, as were Sardinian Warblers. A few Common Darters were on the air again – the only dragonfly we saw on the trip.

Along the ridge we found some interesting plants: Cyprus Sowbread in flower and also the Bunch-flowered Narcissus (*Narcissus tazetta*), Crown or Poppy Anemone (*Anemone coronaria*) and Persian Cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum*).

Down the hill we found some rocks to sit on among the Limestone pavements and pools, being careful in case of a Blunt-nosed Viper sunning itself – no luck this trip. Here we had our picnic before walking a little way to the coast.

Down on the coast we came across a Peregrine Falcon on a kill. It stood tearing away at the hapless bird with odd feathers escaping on the wind. We watched the bird, that was quite unfazed by our presence, for some time, before leaving it to finish its meal. We then walked back to the hotel where some of us gathered for a beer on the terrace before getting ready for our Christmas dinner.

Day 6

Tuesday 26th December

There was a pre-breakfast stroll for some, then with our driver back with us today, we set off to The Baths of Aphrodite and Botanical Gardens, only a short drive away.

Yianis pointed out numerous plants in the gardens, many of which we had seen in the wild. Then we walked along the path to the Baths of Aphrodite, a natural bowl that the stream flowed into with steep cliff on three sides. On the way in a natural situation growing out of the rocks, Yiannis found Little Robin (*Geranium purpureum*), Jersey Fern (*Anogramma leptophylla*), and Mediterranean Clubmoss (*Selaginella denticulata*).

We strode out then, in the warm sun, along the wide cliff-side path with Chukar calling below us. Blackcaps were abundant, as well as Sardinian Warblers, and we added Chaffinch to our list. Plus the views were stunning.

We arrived back at the coach a bit before lunch so we all had an ice cream, one of our group trying the Cyprus speciality of Mastik (from the tree not a glue ice!).

We took a circuitous route back to Polis, looking for birds. Then we chose our lunches and headed up into some hills for lunch. Here while picnicking and admiring the views, we saw yet another Long-legged Buzzard then a flock of Woodlark flew up, only to fly over the ridge before the group could get onto them. When we drove on, Pete was determined to find the group – no luck, but, he did find one Woodlark in a ploughed field and the group all got good views of that.

Travelling on, we arrived on the far Peninsula at Smygies. We walked down the path through open pine woodland while the driver followed on at distance. First Yiannis pointed out Autumn Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*), a diminutive orchid, next *Centaurea veneris* a member of the Asteraceae family, an alyssum (*Alyssum akamasicum*) and then another orchid in flower (*Ophrys omegaifera subsp. israelitica*), while the banks were a bed for numerous Least Adder's-tongue.

The final highlight of the day was found in a small clean-flowing stream beside the track where, along with small unidentified fish was spotted a Cyprus Freshwater Crab (*Potamius potamius*), an attractive semi-terrestrial crab probably endemic to the island. What a way to end the day!

Day 7

Wednesday 27th December

On another fine warm day, our last day on Cyprus, we said our goodbyes to the lovely hotel staff before embarking on our coach with our careful and caring driver Yiannis. After dropping off some of the group staying on for a few days more, we made our way to a final short stop at the sewage works close to the airport.

Soon after parking the coach, we picked up Yellow Wagtail and White Wagtail plus obtained some close views of two Spur-winged Plovers on the works. Then another flew in even closer enabling a few great shots. We saw our only second Zitting Cisticola of the trip and two Meadow Pipits, plus the inevitable Stonechat.

Butterflies were on the wing in the warm midday sun, with Clouded Yellow, Painted Lady, a fine, possibly newly emerged, Lang's Short-tailed Blue, plus two Swallowtail butterflies, our only ones of the trip. A great end to the trip we made our way to the airport for our final goodbyes and the trips home.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

E= Endemic N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		December 2023							
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>			✓					
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓					
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓					
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>			1					
Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>			1					
Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			LO		✓		H	
Feral Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓	✓					
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			✓					
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓	12 +					
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>			✓					
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	20		15					3
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		40+						
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		17						
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			1					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1							
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			LO					
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓					
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>				2				
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		1						
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			3					
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		3						
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>							1	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		2	1					
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>					1			
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1		2					
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>		1		2	3	1	2	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		1	1					
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus brookei</i>		2		2		1		
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		150 +	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>					✓			
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>						8		
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	2							
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	1	2						

E= Endemic N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		December 2023							
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	H			H	H	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1							1
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>					LO	1		
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>						1		
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>					1			
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	25							
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>						1		
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		LO	H	✓	✓	✓		
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	1							
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		1						
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓					
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>			1			LO		
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		1				✓	H	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	20	✓				✓	✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	1							1

Others

		December 2023							
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Reptiles & Amphibians									
Cyprus Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax cypriensis</i>		✓						
Starred Agama	<i>Laudakia stellio</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Kotschy's Gecko	<i>Cyrtopodion kotschy</i>				✓				
Snake-eyed Lizard	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>						✓	✓	
Troodos Wall Lizard	<i>Phoenicolacerta troodica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Budak's Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus budaki</i>				✓	✓			
Butterflies									
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>								2
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>			✓			✓		✓
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>		✓						
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>								
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirthous</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓

Common name	Scientific name	December 2023							
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>						4	1	1
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Moths									
Pine Processionary Moth	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>					S	S		
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	✓			✓		✓		
Silver 'Y' moth							1		
Noctuid Sp.				1					
Other Fauna									
Cyprus Freshwater Crab	<i>Potamius potamius</i>							4	
Wasp Spider	<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>						5	2	1
African Mantis	<i>Sphodromantis viridis</i>					1			
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	

Plants (* indicates that a species is endemic)

Scientific name	Common name	Day
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES	
Lycophytes	Clubmosses & Quillworts	
Selaginellaceae	Lesser Clubmoss Family	
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss	day 7
Eusporangiate Ferns	Adder's-tongues & Moonworts	
<i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i>	Least Adder's-tongue	day 5
Calamophytes	Horsetails	
Equisetaceae	Horsetail Family	
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	Branched Horsetail	day 7
Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns	
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rusty-back Fern	day 4
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family	
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	day 4
Pteridaceae	Ribbon Fern Family	
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	day 7
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern	day 7
GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS	

Scientific name	Common name	Day
Cupressaceae	Juniper family	
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress	day 3
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenicean Juniper	day 3
Ephedraceae	Joint-pine Family	
<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	Joint-pine	day 5
Pinaceae	Pine Family	
<i>Cedrus brevifolia</i>		day 5
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Calabrian Pine	day 5
ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS	
Pre-Dicots	Primitive Angiosperms	
Lauraceae	Laurel Family	
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Bay Tree	day 6
Eu-Dicots	True Dicotyledons	
Aizoaceae		
<i>Aptenia cordifolia</i>		day 1
Amaranthaceae	Pigweed Family	
<i>Arthrocnemum</i>		day 3
<i>Bosea cypria*</i>	-	day 4
<i>Noaea mucronata</i>	-	day 2
<i>Suaeda vera</i>		day 3
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family	
<i>Pistacia atlantica</i>	Mount Atlas Mastic Tree	day 4
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree	day 2
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Bush	day 5
<i>Rhus coriaria</i>		day 5
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	day 4
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel	day 4
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	day 2
<i>Smyrniolus olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	day 4
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss	day 1
<i>Heliotropium hirsutissimum</i>	-	day 1
<i>Lithodora hispidula</i>	-	day 5
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Alyssum akamasicum*</i>	-	day 7
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	day 1
<i>Sinapis alba</i>	White Mustard	day 2

Scientific name	Common name	Day
Capparaceae	Caper Family	
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper Bush	day 2
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Dianthus strictus</i> subsp. <i>troodi</i>		day 6
<i>Paronychia argentea</i>	Algerian Tea	day 2
Cistaceae	Cistus Family	
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	-	day 5
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	day 5
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	day 5
Compositae (Asteraceae)	Daisy Family	
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	day 4
<i>Bidens</i> sp.	A Bur-marigold	day 3
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	day 4
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>		day 5
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Stink Aster	day 6
<i>Echinops spinosissimus</i>		day 2
<i>Glebionis coronarium</i> agg.	Crown Daisy	day 2
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i> subsp. <i>barrelieri</i> (conglobatum)	-	day 3
<i>Inula crithoides</i>		day 3
<i>Leontodon tuberosum</i>	Tuberous Hawkbit	day 2
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>	Phagnalon	day 1
<i>Taraxacum aphrogenes</i> *	a Dandelion	day 2
Cucurbitaceae	Gourd Family	
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	day 2
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
<i>Arbutus andrachne</i>	Eastern Strawberry Tree	day 5
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Andrachne telephioides</i>		day 5
<i>Euphorbia dimorphocaulon</i>	-	day 7
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	day 6
<i>Euphorbia pubescens</i>		day 3
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	day 2
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor-oil Plant	day 2
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Calicotome (Calycotome) villosa</i>	Spiny Broom	day 5
<i>Ceratonía siliqua</i>	Carob	day 5
<i>Genista fasselata</i> (sphacelata)	-	day 5
<i>Medicago maritima</i>		day 1
<i>Vicia cassia</i>		day 5
Fagaceae	Oak Family	

Scientific name	Common name	Day
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	day 4
<i>Quercus infectoria</i>	Deciduous or Royal Oak	day 4
<i>Quercus alnifolia</i>		day 5
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	Musk Stork's-bill	day 6
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	day 7
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill	day 6
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>		day 7
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle	day 6
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium	day 3
<i>Teucrium kotschyannum</i>		day 5
<i>Thymus capitatus</i>	Capitate Thyme	day 3
Myrtaceae	Myrtle Family	
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Myrtle	day 5
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	day 3
Oxalidaceae	Sorrel Family	
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	day 1
Platanaceae	Plane Tree Family	
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Plane Tree	day 5
Polygonaceae	Dock Family	
<i>Polygonum equisetiforme</i>	-	day 2
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
<i>Cyclamen cypricum</i> *	Cypriot Sowbread	day 4
<i>Cyclamen persicum</i>	Persian Sowbread	day 2
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown Anemone	day 2
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	Maiden's Bower	day 4
<i>Ranunculus bullatus</i>	-	day 2
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family	
<i>Rhamnus oleoides</i>	-	day 5
<i>Ziziphus lotus</i>	-	
Rosaceae	Rose Family	
<i>Crataegus azarolus</i>	Mediterranean Hawthorn	day 2
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat	
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond	day 4
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	a Bramble	day 4

Scientific name	Common name	Day
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny Burnet	day 5
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
<i>Rubia lauræ</i>	-	day 7
<i>Rubia tenuifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Madder	day 5
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
<i>Verbascum levanticum</i>	-	day 4
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	-	day 1
<i>Veronica polita</i>	Grey Field-speedwell	day 7
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family	
<i>Lycium schweinfurthii</i>	-	day 2
<i>Withania somnifera</i>	Indian Ginseng	day 2
Styracaceae	Storax Family	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax	day 4
Thymelaceae		
<i>Thymelae hirsuta</i>		day 3
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-Wall	day 7
<i>Parietaria cretica</i>		day 7
Verbenaceae	Verbena Family	
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	day 4
Zygophyllaceae	Caltrop Family	
<i>Fagonia cretica</i>	-	day 3
<i>Zygophyllum album</i>		day 3
Monocots	Monocotyledons	
Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family	
<i>Narcissus serotinus</i>	-	day 3
<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>	Bunch-flowered Narcissus	day 6
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil	day 1
Araceae	Arum Family	
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl	day 3
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
<i>Asparagus horridus</i> (A. stipularis)		day 2
<i>Drimia maritima</i>	Sea Squill	day 2
<i>Hyacinthella millingenii</i> *	-	day 7
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
<i>Ophrys omegaifera</i> subsp. israelitica	-	day 7

Scientific name	Common name	Day
Poaceae	Grass Family	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	day 2
<i>Arundo micranthus</i>		day 2
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>	Common Thatching Grass	day 2
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	day 2
Smilacaceae	Smilax Family	
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax	day 6
Xanthorrhoeaceae	Asphodel Family	
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-stemmed Asphodel	day 7
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Common Asphodel	day 2