



CYPRUS

TRIP REPORT

April 18 – April 25, 2026



A flock of flying Greater Flamingos at Spiros Pool was something to behold!



CYPRUS

SUMMARY

Our inaugural spring tour to the island of Cyprus was split into two areas which makes so much sense and saves on long travel days. After everyone had arrived at Larnaca, we made visits to the nearby hotspot, Spiros Pool, an area of coastal marsh and ponds that attract a wealth of migrants. We visited this spot on several occasions. We also went to another major hotspot, Cape Grecco, quite a different habitat consisting of a coastal rocky headland with a different variety of sought after birds and other wildlife. Just these two areas found us two of the island endemics, the Cyprus Warbler and Cyprus Pied Wheatear. The other endemic the Cyprus Scops Owl had to wait until we moved to Paphos, the second base for this tour. From Paphos, we visited coastal fields, ponds, scrubland and the Troodos Mountains. Highlight birds found during our tour included rarities such as Cream-colored Courser, Namaqua Dove, and Blue-cheeked Bee-eater. We also had superb views of birds such as Great Spotted Cuckoo, Little and Spotted Crakes, Bonelli's Eagle, flocks of Collared Pratincoles, and a wonderful time watching Eleanora's Falcons and huge Griffon Vultures. The handsome Black Francolin gave us the runaround until we found one singing from the top of a tree. We also saw several distinct Cyprus subspecies including the Coal Tit and Short-toed Treecreeper and to top it all we enjoyed some wonderful orchids and fantastic meals with a taverna lunch in the mountains being the most memorable. Cyprus is exciting and has a lot to offer with fun and surprises.



Here we are looking cool at the Cape Grecco Headland

Our first visit to Spiros Pool was a delight with so many birds. Here we watched Greater Flamingos while Collared Pratincoles circled over their heads.



Other shorebirds here included showy Spur-winged Lapwings and lots of elegant Black-winged Stilts.



Among the numerous Ruff and Wood Sandpipers, we found this Marsh Sandpiper and several smart looking Kentish Plovers.



Here is a closer view of just one from the flock of Collared Pratincoles.



At the rocky headland of Cape Greco, we found the endemic Cyprus Warbler as well as a smart Rüppell's Warbler.



Sardinian Warblers were our commonest warbler, but a real surprise was seeing hundreds of Crimson-speckled Moths



These Slender-billed Gulls gave us a nice flyby !!



We got great looks at the endemic Cyprus Pied Wheatear, and then a big surprise and rarity for the island were these three Great White Pelicans that flew over.



Other shorebirds included showy Little Ringed Plovers and plenty of Wood Sandpipers.



And to see the Greater Flamingos in flight was fantastic!



We found two species of reptile, namely the endemic Cyprus Rock Agama and the more common Snake-eyed Lizard.



The next morning a quick look from a hide near to our hotel got us good views of Red-crested Pochard.



We then left the Larnaca area and headed west towards Paphos. A stop at the Kensington Cliffs allowed superb views of Griffon Vultures and Eleanora's Falcons.



After even better views of both Griffon Vulture, Eleanora's Falcon and Alpine Swifts. We moved to Bishops Pool where a rare Namaqua Dove was found and seen well.



In Paphos, we found one of our main targets - our last full endemic the Cyprus Scops Owl! What was really enjoyable was showing the local ladies this bird through our scopes, they were so excited!



Next day we were on a twitch, as a Cream-colored Courser had just been found right in an area we were visiting. It was a bit far away for good photos at the back of a field.



We moved on to an area of ponds and soon found a showy Squacco Heron and Zitting Cisticola.



And then in the same area we had fantastic views of this Great Spotted Cuckoo.



Here is another shot of the Great Spotted Cuckoo plus a smart looking Whinchat.



One day we went up into the Troodos Mountains where we found the endemic subspecies of Coal Tit and Short-toed Treecreeper.



A lovely example of a Long-legged Buzzard flew over us and the sought after and smart looking Masked Shrike performed well.



Finally after hearing this noisy bird, we found one singing from a treetop. Black Francolin seen at last!

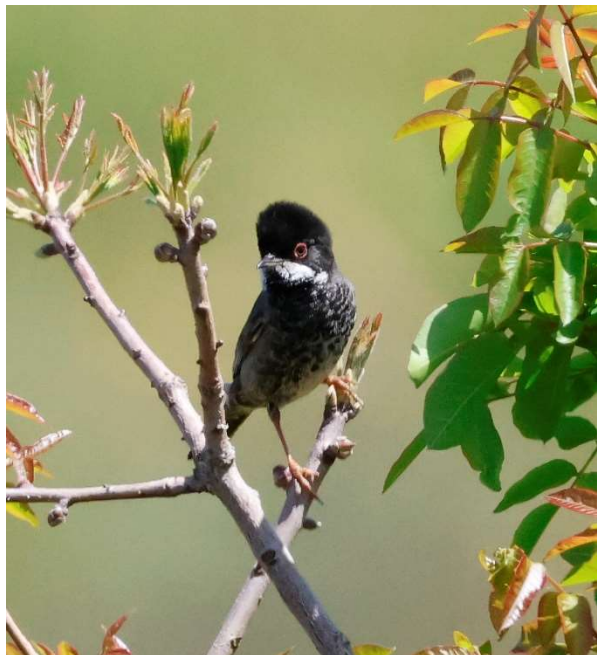


Time to revisit the ponds. And this time we managed to find both a female Little Crake as well as a smart looking Spotted Crake.



Here we have 2 shots of the Spotted Crake and a shot of the female Little Crake.

And to finish off in this wonderful area, we found a showy Little Owl and our last look at a Cyprus Warbler.



And a final shot of a Black-crowned Night Heron being photo-bombed by a Common House Martin!



WILDLIFE LIST for Cyprus 2026

A = Number of species recorded on tour

B = Number of days out of 07 recorded C = Highest daily count

H = Heard Only N/C = No Count C=Common E=Endemic (in bold)

This list is in line with the new AviLIST and as such names may be different than some of the field guides and other taxonomy's – any additional notes see appendix *

| A | BIRD SPECIES | SCIENTIFIC NAME | B | C |
|-----|---------------------------|---|--------|-------|
| 1. | Chukar | <i>Alectoris chukar cypristes</i> | 3 | 3 |
| 2. | Black Francolin | <i>Francolinus francolinus francolinus</i> | 1 + 4H | 1 |
| 3. | Red-crested Pochard | <i>Netta rufina</i> | 1 | 6 |
| 4. | Ferruginous Duck | <i>Aythya nyroca</i> | 2 | 10 |
| 5. | Garganey | <i>Spatula querquedula</i> | 1 | 4 |
| 6. | Northern Shoveler | <i>Spatula clypeata</i> | 2 | 10 |
| 7. | Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | 3 | 6 |
| 8. | Green-winged Teal | <i>Anas crecca crecca</i> | 2 | 6 |
| 9. | Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | 4 | 8 |
| 10. | Greater Flamingo | <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> | 3 | 200 |
| 11. | Rock Dove | <i>Columba livia var_ domestica</i> | 7 | N/C |
| 12. | Common Woodpigeon | <i>Columba palumbus palumbus</i> | 7 | 60 |
| 13. | Eurasian Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | 7 | 25 |
| 14. | Laughing Dove | <i>Spilopelia senegalensis senegalensis</i> | 7 | 6 |
| 15. | Namaqua Dove | <i>Oena capensis</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 16. | Alpine Swift | <i>Tachymarptis melba melba</i> | 1 | 6 |
| 17. | Common Swift | <i>Apus apus apus</i> | 7 | 400 |
| 18. | Great Spotted Cuckoo | <i>Clamator glandarius</i> | 2 | 1 |
| 19. | Common Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus canorus bangsi</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 20. | Spotted Crake | <i>Porzana porzana</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 21. | Little Crake | <i>Zapornia parva</i> | 2 | 2 |
| 22. | Common Coot | <i>Fulica atra atra</i> | 3 | 6 |
| 23. | White Stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia ciconia</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 24. | Eurasian Spoonbill | <i>Platalea leucorodia leucorodia</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 25. | Glossy Ibis | <i>Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus</i> | 2 | 1,000 |
| 26. | Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | 2 | 5 |
| 27. | Squacco Heron | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | 4 | 4 |
| 28. | Western Cattle Egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | 5 | 8 |
| 29. | Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | 1 | 2 |
| 30. | Purple Heron | <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | 4 | 4 |
| 31. | Great Egret | <i>Ardea alba</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 32. | Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | 3 | 3 |
| 33. | Great White Pelican | <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> | 1 | 3 |
| 34. | European Shag | <i>Gulosus aristotelis desmarestii</i> | 2 | 5 |
| 35. | Great Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 36. | Eurasian Thick-knee | <i>Burhinus oediconemus</i> | 3 | 4 |
| 37. | Black-winged Stilt | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | 5 | 120 |
| 38. | Grey Plover | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 39. | Common Ringed Plover | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | 1 | 20 |

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|-----|--------------------------|---|-------|-----|
| 40. | Little Ringed Plover | <i>Charadrius dubius</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 41. | Kentish Plover | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> | 1 | 10 |
| 42. | Spur-winged Lapwing | <i>Vanellus spinosus</i> | 3 | 10 |
| 43. | Black-tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa limosa</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 44. | Ruff | <i>Calidris pugnax</i> | 4 | 400 |
| 45. | Curlew Sandpiper | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | 1 | 2 |
| 46. | Temminck's Stint | <i>Calidris temminckii</i> | 1 | 2 |
| 47. | Little Stint | <i>Calidris minuta</i> | 1 | 60 |
| 48. | Common Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | 5 | 4 |
| 49. | Green Sandpiper | <i>Tringa ochropus</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 50. | Spotted Redshank | <i>Tringa erythropus</i> | 1 | 2 |
| 51. | Wood Sandpiper | <i>Tringa glareola</i> | 2 | 100 |
| 52. | Marsh Sandpiper | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 53. | Cream-coloured Courser | <i>Cursorius cursor</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 54. | Collared Pratincole | <i>Glareola pratincola</i> | 3 | 25 |
| 55. | Slender-billed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i> | 2 | 20 |
| 56. | Black-headed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> | 1 | 12 |
| 57. | Lesser Black-backed Gull | <i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i> | 2 | 12 |
| 58. | Yellow-legged Gull | <i>Larus michahellis</i> | 4 | 8 |
| 59. | Little Tern | <i>Sternula albifrons albifrons</i> | 1 | 20 |
| 60. | Whiskered Tern | <i>Chlidonias hybrida hybrida</i> | 1 | 2 |
| 61. | White-winged Tern | <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> | 1 | 2 |
| 62. | Common Tern | <i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i> | 1 | 3 |
| 63. | Little Owl | <i>Athene noctua indigena</i> | 1 | 4 |
| 64. | Cyprus Scops Owl | E <i>Otus cyprius</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 65. | Eurasian Scops Owl | <i>Otus scops scops</i> | 1 - H | 1 |
| 66. | Griffon Vulture | <i>Gyps fulvus fulvus</i> | 2 | 5 |
| 67. | Bonelli's Eagle | <i>Aquila fasciata fasciata</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 68. | Western Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus</i> | 3 | 5 |
| 69. | Pallid Harrier | <i>Circus macrourus</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 70. | Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo buteo</i> | 4 | 1 |
| 71. | Long-legged Buzzard | <i>Buteo rufinus rufinus</i> | 3 | 3 |
| 72. | Common Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops epops</i> | 3 | 2 |
| 73. | Blue-cheeked Bee-eater | <i>Merops persicus persicus</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 74. | European Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster apiaster</i> | 3 | 15 |
| 75. | European Roller | <i>Coracias garrulus garrulus</i> | 2 | 2 |
| 76. | Common Kingfisher | <i>Alcedo atthis atthis</i> | 2 | 1 |
| 77. | Eurasian Wryneck | <i>Jynx torquilla torquilla</i> | 2 - H | 1 |
| 78. | Lesser Kestrel | <i>Falco naumanni</i> | 1 | 15 |
| 79. | Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus</i> | 5 | 4 |
| 80. | Eleonora's Falcon | <i>Falco eleonorae</i> | 1 | 8 |
| 81. | Eurasian Hobby | <i>Falco subbuteo subbuteo</i> | 3 | 1 |
| 82. | Peregrine Falcon | <i>Falco peregrinus brookei</i> | 2 | 1 |
| 83. | Eurasian Golden Oriole | <i>Oriolus oriolus oriolus</i> | 3 | 10 |
| 84. | Woodchat Shrike | <i>Lanius senator senator</i> | 3 | 3 |
| 85. | Masked Shrike | <i>Lanius nubicus</i> | 1 | 5 |
| 86. | Eurasian Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius atricapillus</i> | 1 | 2 |

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|------|------------------------------|--|-------|-----|
| 87. | Eurasian Magpie | <i>Pica pica melanotos</i> | 5 | 10 |
| 88. | Western Jackdaw | <i>Coloeus monedula soemmerringii</i> | 4 | 30 |
| 89. | Hooded Crow | <i>Corvus cornix cornix</i> | 7 | 10+ |
| 90. | Coal Tit | <i>Periparus ater cypriotes</i> | 1 | 4 |
| 91. | Great Tit | <i>Parus major aphrodite</i> | 4 | 3 |
| 92. | Greater Short-toed Lark | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla brachydactyla</i> | 1 | 4 |
| 93. | Woodlark | <i>Lullula arborea arborea</i> | 1 - H | 1 |
| 94. | Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata cypriaca</i> | 7 | 10 |
| 95. | Zitting Cisticola | <i>Cisticola juncidis juncidis</i> | 3 | 2 |
| 96. | Eastern Olivaceous Warbler | <i>Iduna pallida elaeica</i> | 2 | 1 |
| 97. | Sedge Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> | 2 | 3 |
| 98. | Eurasian Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus</i> | 3 | 2 |
| 99. | Great Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus arundinaceus</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 100. | Western House Martin | <i>Delichon urbicum urbicum</i> | 5 | 8 |
| 101. | European Red-rumped Swallow | <i>Cecropis daurica daurica</i> | 6 | 4 |
| 102. | Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica rustica</i> | 7 | 20+ |
| 103. | Eurasian Crag Martin | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris rupestris</i> | 1 | 4 |
| 104. | Sand Martin | <i>Riparia riparia riparia</i> | 4 | 30 |
| 105. | Wood Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> | 2 | 1 |
| 106. | Common Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i> | 2 | 1 |
| 107. | Cetti's Warbler | <i>Cettia cetti orientalis</i> | 1 +4H | 1 |
| 108. | Eurasian Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla</i> | 4 | 2 |
| 109. | Lesser Whitethroat | <i>Curruca curruca curruca</i> | 3 | 2 |
| 110. | Common Whitethroat | <i>Curruca communis communis</i> | 4 | 2 |
| 111. | Cyprus Warbler | E <i>Curruca melanothorax</i> | 2 | 6 |
| 112. | Sardinian Warbler | <i>Curruca sardoa momus</i> | 5 | 8 |
| 113. | Short-toed Treecreeper | <i>Certhia brachydactyla dorotheae</i> | 1 | 3 |
| 114. | Spotted Flycatcher | <i>Muscicapa striata striata</i> | 2 | 1 |
| 115. | European Pied Flycatcher | <i>Ficedula hypoleuca hypoleuca</i> | 2 | 2 |
| 116. | Blue Rock Thrush | <i>Monticola solitarius solitarius</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 117. | Whinchat | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | 5 | 5 |
| 118. | Northern Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i> | 4 | 3 |
| 119. | Isabelline Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i> | 6 | 3 |
| 120. | Eastern Black-eared Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i> | 3 | 2 |
| 121. | Cyprus Wheatear | E <i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i> | 4 | 4 |
| 122. | House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus domesticus</i> | 7 | N/C |
| 123. | Spanish Sparrow | <i>Passer hispaniolensis hispaniolensis</i> | 2 | 2 |
| 124. | Tree Pipit | <i>Anthus trivialis trivialis</i> | 3 | 2 |
| 125. | Red-throated Pipit | <i>Anthus cervinus</i> | 1 | 3 |
| 126. | Tawny Pipit | <i>Anthus campestris campestris</i> | 2 | 6 |
| 127. | Western Yellow Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava (unidentified subspecies)</i> | 6 | N/C |
| 128. | Blue-headed Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava flava</i> | 5 | 6 |
| 129. | Black-headed Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i> | 5 | 4 |
| 130. | Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea cinerea</i> | 1 | 2 |
| 131. | White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba alba</i> | 1 | 2 |
| 132. | Eurasian Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs coelebs</i> | 1 | 3 |
| 133. | European Greenfinch | <i>Chloris chloris chloris</i> | 5 | 4 |

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|------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|---|
| 134. | European Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis carduelis</i> | 5 | 4 |
| 135. | Corn Bunting | <i>Emberiza calandra calandra</i> | 2 | 2 |
| 136. | European Serin | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | 1 - H | 1 |
| 137. | Ortolan Bunting | <i>Emberiza hortulana hortulana</i> | 1 | 3 |
| 138. | Cretzschmar's Bunting | <i>Emberiza caesia caesia</i> | 2 | 2 |

| A | Reptiles & Amphibian | SCIENTIFIC NAME | B | C |
|----|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Blunt-nose Viper | <i>Macrovipera lebetina lebetina</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 2. | Snake-eyed Lizard | <i>Ophisops elegans</i> | 3 | 2 |
| 3. | Cyprus Agama E | <i>Laudakia cypriaca</i> | 4 | 5 |
| 4. | Grass Snake | <i>Natrix natrix</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 5. | Cyprus Marsh Frog | <i>Pelophylax cypriensis</i> | | |

| A | Butterflies | SCIENTIFIC NAME | B | C |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Old World Swallowtail | <i>Papilio machaon</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 2. | Red Admiral | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> | 2 | 1 |
| 3. | Painted Lady | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> | 3 | 1 |
| 4. | Large White | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> | 4 | 6 |
| 5. | Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias crocea</i> | 2 | 2 |
| 6. | Pale Small-branded Swift | <i>Pelopidas thrax</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 7. | African Babel Blue | <i>Azanus jesous</i> | 1 | 1 |

| A | Moths | SCIENTIFIC NAME | B | C |
|----|------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----|
| 1. | (No English Name) | <i>Cucullia calendulae</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 2. | The Adulatrix | <i>Eutelia adulatrix</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 3. | Silver Y | <i>Autographa gamma</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 4. | Large Yellow Underwing | <i>Noctua pronuba</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 5. | The Vestal | <i>Rhodometra sacraria</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 6. | Pale-shouldered Cloud | <i>Chloantha hyperici</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 7. | Crimson-speckled Moth | <i>Utetheisa pulchella</i> | 4 | 200 |

| A | Dragonflies | SCIENTIFIC NAME | B | C |
|----|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Vagrant Emperor | <i>Anax ephippiger</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 2. | Black Percher | <i>Diplacodes lefebvreii</i> | 2 | 4 |
| 3. | Red-veined Darter | <i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i> | 2 | 6 |

| A | Flora | SCIENTIFIC NAME | B | C |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-----|
| 1. | Pyramidal Orchid | <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> | 2 | 10 |
| 2. | Holy Orchid | <i>Anacamptis sancta</i> | 2 | 50 |
| 3. | Bug Orchid | <i>Anacamptis coriophora</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 4. | Cyprus Bee Orchid | <i>Ophrys kotschyi</i> | 1 | 1 |
| 5. | Lesser Tongue Orchid | <i>Serapias parviflora</i> | 1 | 100 |
| 6. | Three-leaved Gladiolus | <i>Gladiolus triphyllus</i> | 2 | N/C |