

# WILDLIFE TRAVEL



## CYPRUS

20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023



## Cyprus 2023: trip report and species lists

### Leaders

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Check [www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72177720313992799](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72177720313992799) for a gallery of photos from our trip.

Front cover: *Narcissus tazetta* on the hillsides above the hotel.

Back cover: Mediterranean Shag digital sketch by Karen L.

Above: a suitable spot for Christmas lunch.

### Day One: 20<sup>th</sup> December. Arrival in Cyprus

An early start had us on our way, flying across the snowy Alps and then down the coastline of the Adriatic before cutting across to the Aegean and down to Cyprus. Paphos airport was quick and efficient, and we were soon out and on our way to the Akamas peninsula, and our home for the next week where, after settling into our rooms, we headed out for a short wander around the area of the hotel, enjoying a lovely patch of the characterful Friar's Cowl *Arisarum vulgare* in fresh flower, before the early sunset had us heading back to the hotel, not entirely certain what time zone or meal time we were in.

### Day Two: 21<sup>st</sup> December. Baths of Aphrodite and Fontana Amorosa

After our first hearty Cypriot breakfast, picnics packed and waterproofs stashed away in our rucksacks (just in case), we set off for our first introduction to the countryside and flora of Cyprus, walking along the coast road to the Baths of Aphrodite and from there along the coastal track towards Fontana Amorosa.

The road verges and field edges seemed designed to distract the passing botanist, with some particularly interesting South American 'weeds' attracting our attention: the delicate, red trumpets of *Ipomoea hederifolia*, and a couple of spurges: the fine-stemmed Graceful Spurge *Euphorbia hypericifolia* and the broad-leaved Wild Poinsettia *Euphorbia heterophylla*.

After a stop for a scenic coffee, we headed through the botanic gardens, where we admired plenty of flowering *Cyclamen persicum*, the delicately fragrant Myrtle *Myrtus communis*, holly-leaved Kermes Oak *Quercus coccifera* and the lovely red stems of Eastern Strawberry Tree *Arbutus andrachne*. We paid our obligatory visit to the shady, fern-fringed 'baths', before pushing on along the coast, finding the delicate *Narcissus tazetta*, tall Autumn Daisies *Bellis perennis*, and the autumn-flowering buttercup *Ranunculus cytheraeus*, while a pair of Peregrines put in an appearance overhead.

### Day Three: 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Paphos

The day started with breakfast out on the terrace, overlooking the sweep of Chrysochou Bay and the first of the day's rainbows...

And so, to our history lessons.

We started at the cave church and modern monastery of Agios Neophytos, where we paid homage to the beatified hermit and man of letters, in his various resting places, while a Long-legged Buzzard appeared overhead carrying its still-wriggling breakfast.

Next stop was the Tombs of the Kings, part of the Paphos World Heritage Site, where the Ptolemaic rulers of the island were (perhaps) buried in tombs carved from the soft sandstone, and where we found some splashes of colour in the form of the salmon-coloured berries of the Joint Pine *Ephedra fragilis*, pale lilac Crown Anemones *Anemone coronaria* and the delicate flowers of 'the other' Narcissus *Narcissus obsoletus*.

After our picnic lunch, we headed to Paphos Headland, and the spectacular mosaicked 'houses', with their illustrations of Greek gods, mythical sea monsters and hunting parties with their quarry, including Cyprus Mouflon, Persian Leopard, Anatolian Bear, Caspian Tiger and Barbary Lion.

Amongst the spectacular archaeology, we also found some botanical interest, notably the delicate blue spikes of *Muscari parviflora*, some very thorny *Asparagus horridus* and *Zizyphus lotus*, and three interesting members of the poisonous Solanaceae family: broad rosettes of Mandrake *Mandragora officinarum*, the purple flowers of *Lycium schweinfurthii* and the sleep-inducing *Withania somnifera*.

Birds included Stonechats aplenty, a large flock of wintering Starlings, busy Spanish Sparrows and a couple of Black Redstarts shivering their tails amongst the ruins.

Out on the rocky shore, a couple of Little Egrets were fishing, while nearby we found one of the headland's real winter specialties, a little group of roosting Greater Sand Plover, that come here from their breeding grounds on the Anatolian plateau, to spend the winter amongst the sea spray.

Back to the bus, and back across the Akamas peninsula to return to the hotel, where it looked like we had missed some more heavy rain showers: a day of successful rain-dodging.

### **Day Four: 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Agios Georgios and Pegeia Forest**

Today we headed off across to the other side of the Akamas peninsula, down to the pretty little harbour of Agios Georgios, where we paid a visit to the archaeological site, the overlapping ruins of several ancient churches, including yet more impressive mosaics and a deep baptismal well. A female Black Redstart shivered from the ruins, and a real surprise came in the form of two soaring White Storks: not misplaced migrants, but free-flying individuals from the nearby Paphos Zoo.

Having had our fill of ancient Christianity, we walked down the winding road to Cape Drepanum and the harbour. Most notable amongst the interesting coastal vegetation was the autumn-flowering dandelion *Taraxacum aphrogenes*, an endemic to a very narrow strip of rocky coastline around the Paphos district.

Out to sea, a good sized colony of Yellow-legged Gulls could be seen out on the offshore island of Geronissos, along with a handful of Shags. A single Common Sandpiper was bobbing about the rocky shore, and a Blue Rock Thrush posed nicely, flycatching from the harbour wall.

After sampling the local ice creams, and testing out the rejuvenating properties of the local mud, we climbed back up to Pegeia Forest, an area of Turkish Pine and juniper woodland on shallow (but very sticky) soils over the limestone.

Just a few steps from the road, once we were in the forest, the rosettes of various spring-flowering orchid species were immediately obvious, not long followed by the flowering spikes of Autumn Ladies-Tresses *Spiranthes spiralis*, amongst carpets of the winter-flowering buttercup *Ranunculus cythareus* with its broad leaves flat to the ground.

Not far away, we had our picnics on benches amongst the pine trees, where we found the beautiful velvety-purple stars of *Romulea tempskyana*.

Another interesting winter-flowering bulb came in the form of the delicate *Hyacinthella millingenii*, another Cypriot endemic growing at the trackside further into the trees. An area of limestone outcrops, with a series of vernal rock pools, was home to its own special suite of scarce plants. The rock pools themselves were home to the fine-leaved Pond Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus* with a couple of fried-egg flowers, and the green 'hair' of Horned Pondweed *Zannichellia palustris*.

The fine-leaved and red-stemmed little succulent *Sedum microcarpum* was obvious on the edge of the mossy-covered thin soils, along with the greyer rosettes of *Sedum eriocarpum*, while amongst the abundant broad leaves of *Ranunculus cythareus* we found the tiny fronds of Small Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum lusitanicum*, a tiny, winter-'flowering' fern which loves this particular micro-habitat.

Snake-eyed Lacertids skittered off amongst the pine needles, a couple of larger Troodos Wall Lizards were sunning themselves on a rock, and some turning of rocks revealed a lovely little Eastern Bent-toed Gecko and a glossy Mediterranean Black Widow Spider *Latrodectus tredecimguttatus*.

A walk along the broad track took us to the edge of the escarpment, giving us great views down towards the coast, with Paphos in the distance, as well as enabling us to find another tiny winter-flowering bulb, the small white flowers of *Colchicum pusillum*, before we headed back to Aphrodite Beach.

#### **Day Five: 24<sup>th</sup> December. Agia Varvara and Mandria**

After another breakfast on the terrace, we were back on the bus and heading south again.

Our first stop of the day gave us the chance to commune with the stately Royal Oak *Quercus infectoria* subsp *veneris*, with the 'magic oak' of Polis a particularly impressive, long-lived example of this endemic tree, forests of which once cloaked the lowlands of the island.

After a short stop at the bakery in Polis, to restock on pastries, we headed towards the south coast, and the outskirts of the quiet village of Agia Varvara. Along the river valley, we checked out a series of agricultural water storage ponds: alas, they were all but devoid of bird life, with a single Moorhen and a shy Little Grebe all we could muster. From the reedy waters, we could hear plenty of croaking coming from the (apparently) abundant Cyprus Water Frogs: despite the numbers of animals at home in the ponds, it took us quite a while to be able to catch sight of a couple, resting on the banks.

From the ponds, we headed up into the dry hills, with birds on our mind. A family group of Chukar disappeared over a ridge, and small groups of Meadow Pipits and various finches flitted amongst the fields. A little higher up, some scanning of the rocky hillside revealed the bird we were hoping to find: a male Finsch's Wheatear, smartly attired in black and white, with a creamy back. This is something of a local speciality, with small numbers wintering in the hills of Cyprus, from their breeding grounds in the mountains of Turkey. A second male popped up as we headed down the

hill, and turning some discarded rubbish revealed a couple of Cyprus Green Toads, dozing the day away.

And so to Mandria beach, where we had our picnic lunch at the deserted beach bar, and scratched our retail itch with the sweet, jelly-and-nuts sausages of 'sujuk', something of a local delicacy.

For the more botanically-minded, the sandy upper beach was home to some interesting coastal plants: the stroke-able Sea Medick *Medicago maritima*, some big clumps of Yellow Horned Poppy *Glaucium flavum*, and the fleshy leaves of Sea Rocket *Cakile maritima*, along with plenty of washed up balls of Neptune Grass *Posidonia oceanica*. Under a piece of board on the edge of the sand, we found an Ocellated Skink, while a large Cyprus Starred Agama was sunbathing on some rocks behind the beach, two very welcome additions to our ever-growing reptile list.

#### **Day Six: 25<sup>th</sup> December. Latchi**

A gentle day today, walking the lanes and paths over the hillsides up behind the hotel, with blue skies, warm sun and superb views down over Chrysochou Bay and out towards the Troodos.

Amongst the numerous rosettes of orchids, preparing themselves for their spring flowering, we found a couple of budding spikes of the early-flowering Fan-lipped Orchid *Anacamptis collina*, just a few days away from opening. Crown Anemones were in flower, along with Virgin's Bower *Clematis cirrhosa* draped over the thorny bushes, and plenty more *Narcissus tazetta*.

Coming back downhill, we headed towards the coast, where another area of exposed limestone with ephemeral rock pools, as well as the rocky coastline itself, proved distracting, with many of the same plants as in the pools at Pegeia, the large caterpillars of Silver-striped Hawkmoth chomping their way through *Arisarum* leaves, a young Shag joining us for lunch, and a brief sighting of a Large Whip Snake for Daphne.

Back at the hotel, our evening entertainment, came in the form of one or two Egyptian Rousettes, taking their pick of the ripe bananas on offer. And not a Christmas cracker in sight.

#### **Day Seven: 26<sup>th</sup> December. Smygies and Neo Chorio**

Back on board Pierre's bus, we started our day up on the ridge of the Akamas, above the Smygies picnic site, from where we spent the rest of our day walking gently back down hill all the way to the coast, pausing en route for a tavern lunch in the sleepy 'new' (yet clearly old) village of Neo Chorio.

At the top of the ridge, we first checked the serpentine rocks for a suite of endemic plants, with the grey rosettes of *Centaurea akamantis* and the woody *Thymus integer* both present.

Walking on a little, we paid attention to the *Genista* and *Juniper* scrub on the slopes below us, where the scratchy song and inquisitive rattle drew our attention to a male Cyprus Warbler.

After soaking up the spectacular view across to the undeveloped western side of the Akamas, including the lovely sandy Lara beach, home to a large nesting colony of Loggerhead Turtles, we turned round and began our walk back down hill.

Amongst the pine trees we heard singing Serin, found a good population of the powder blue *Hyacinthella millingeni*, and a single flowering spike of the first of the 'spring' orchids, *Ophrys omegaifera* subsp *israelitca*, while John tracked down a mystery succulent first seen on the same rocks in March 2014, which revealed themselves as the endemic *Sedum cyprium*.

A surprisingly large Levant Freshwater Crab *Potamon potamios* scuttled out from its hiding place in the spring-fed stream, some very photogenic donkeys added a festive touch, and numerous Troodos Wall Lizards and Snake-eyed Lacertids sunbathed at the trackside as we continued our way down to Neo Chorio, and a delicious meze lunch.

#### Day Eight: 27<sup>th</sup> December. Departure

One last breakfast on the terrace, and then it was time to bid farewell to Aphrodite Beach, and make our way back to Paphos.

Philip Precey, Wildlife Travel. December 2023



Above (left to right): *Hyacinthella millingenii* at Smygies; *Colchicum pusillum* at Pegeia; *Narcissus obsoletus* at the Tombs of the Kings

## PLANTS

This checklist follows the taxonomy published by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew **Plants of the World Online** as updated by <https://powo.science.kew.org>

Most plant species do not have English names and even when they do, these vary according to author. A common name is given as a guide to help those who are not familiar with the scientific name. Plant families are in alphabetical order, for simplicity: the English name of a family member is also given so you can relate the family to plants you may know.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	
<b>FERNS AND ALLIES</b>		
<b>Aspleniaceae (spleenwort family)</b>		
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	<b>Rusty-back Fern</b>	Smygies
<b>Ophioglossaceae (adder's-tongue family)</b>		
<i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i>	<b>Small Adder's Tongue</b>	Pegeia
<b>Pteridaceae (maidenhair fern family)</b>		
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	<b>Maidenhair Fern</b>	Around Baths of Aphrodite
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	<b>Annual Fern</b>	Smygies
<b>Selaginellaceae (spikemoss family)</b>		
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	<b>Mediterranean Clubmoss</b>	Fontana Amorosa: on damp rocks
<b>CONIFERS</b>		
<b>Cupressaceae (cypress family)</b>		
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	<b>Mediterranean Cypress</b>	roadside tree, eg Baths of Aphrodite
<i>Juniperus turbinata</i>		eg Fontana Amorosa, Pegeia
<b>Ephedraceae (joint-pine family)</b>		
<i>Ephedra foeminea</i>	<b>Jointed Pine</b>	Fontana Amorosa
<b>Pinaceae (pine family)</b>		
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	<b>Turkish Pine</b>	Pegeia
<b>DICOTYLEDONS</b>		
<b>Amaranthaceae (amaranth family) (includes former Chenopodiaceae)</b>		
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	<b>Sea Beet</b>	Cape Drepanum
<i>Bosea cypria</i>		Baths of Aphrodite: endemic privet-like shrub
<i>Chenopodium murale</i>	<b>Nettle-leaved Goosefoot</b>	Roadside weed
<i>Salsola kali</i>	<b>Prickly Saltwort</b>	Cape Drepanum & Mandria beach
<b>Anacardiaceae (sumac family)</b>		
<i>Pistacia atlantica</i>		Agios Neophytos
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	<b>Mastic Tree</b>	Common coastal shrub
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	<b>Turpentine Tree</b>	Deciduous tree
<b>Apiaceae (carrot family)</b>		
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	<b>Rock Samphire</b>	Cape Drepanum
<i>Daucus carota</i>	<b>Wild Carrot</b>	very tall compared to 'home'

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	<b>Sea Holly</b>	Mandria beach
<i>Ferula communis</i>	<b>Giant Fennel</b>	Common roadside plant: young feathery shoots
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	<b>Shepherd's Needle</b>	Common roadside plant
<i>Smyrniolus olusatrum</i>	<b>Alexanders</b>	Common roadside plant
<b>Apocynaceae (dogbane family) (includes former Asclepiadaceae)</b>		
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	<b>Oleander</b>	Planted
<b>Aristolochiaceae (birthwort family)</b>		
<i>Aristolochia sempervirens</i>	<b>Dutchman's Pipe</b>	Neo Chorio
<b>Asteraceae (daisy family)</b>		
<i>Anthemis tomentosa</i>		Mandria beach
<i>Atractylis cancellata</i>		Cage seed head: Pegeia
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	<b>Autumn Daisy</b>	Tall, large-flowered daisy: eg Fontana Amorosa
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	<b>Field Marigold</b>	Eg Pegeia, Agia Varvara
<i>Centaurea akamantis</i>		Smygies
<i>Crocodilium creticum</i>		Bluey green rosettes, Mandria beach
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>		Common roadside plant: finer, darker foliage, smaller groundsel-like flowers
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>		Common roadside plant: broader, paler foliage, larger yellow flowers
<i>Echinops spinosissimus</i>		Agia Varvara
<i>Glebionis coronaria</i>	<b>Crown Daisy</b>	Agia Varvara: big yellow daisy
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	<b>Syrian Thistle</b>	Dead stems: very thorny, Agia Varvara
<i>Onopordum cyprium</i>		Dead stems: 'artichoke' head, Agia Varvara
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>		Smygies
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	<b>Milk Thistle</b>	White-veined leaves, Agia Varvara
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	<b>Smooth Sow-thistle</b>	Roadside weed
<i>Taraxacum aphrogenes</i>	<b>Aphrodite's Dandelion</b>	Cape Drepanum: endemic to Paphos district
<b>Boraginaceae (forget-me-not family)</b>		
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	<b>Narrow-leaved Bugloss</b>	Paphos headland
<i>Heliotropium hirsutissimum</i>	<b>Hairy Heliotrope</b>	Roadside plant
<b>Brassicaceae (cabbage family)</b>		
<i>Cakile maritimum</i>	<b>Sea Rocket</b>	Cape Drepanum, Mandria
<b>Cactaceae (cactus family)</b>		
<i>Austrocylindropuntia cylindrica</i>		Neo Chorio
<i>Opuntia maxima</i>	<b>Prickly Pear</b>	Roadside plant

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	
<b>Caryophyllaceae (carnation family)</b>		
<i>Paronychia argentea</i>		Mandria beach
<i>Dianthus strictus</i>		Fontana Amorosa
<b>Cistaceae (rock-rose family)</b>		
<i>Cistus creticus</i>		Pegeia
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	<b>Narrow-leaved Cistus</b>	Pegeia
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	<b>Sage-leaved Cistus</b>	Pegeia
<b>Convolvulaceae (bindweed family)</b>		
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	<b>Mallow-leaved Bindweed</b>	Common roadside weed
<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	<b>Blue Morning Glory</b>	purple bind weed, in the garden. Originally from tropical S America
<i>Ipomoea hederifolia</i>	<b>Scarlet Morning Glory</b>	red 'bind weed', originally from tropical S America
<b>Crassulaceae (stonecrop family)</b>		
<i>Sedum microcarpum</i>		Red stems: Pegeia
<i>Sedum eriocarpum</i>		Greyish rosettes: Pegeia
<i>Sedum cyprium</i>		Smygies
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	<b>Navelwort</b>	Common on walls
<b>Cucurbitaceae (gourd family)</b>		
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	<b>Squirting Cucumber</b>	Baths of Aphrodite, Agia Varvara
<b>Ericaceae (heather family)</b>		
<i>Arbutus andrachne</i>	<b>Eastern Strawberry Tree</b>	Baths of Aphrodite
<b>Euphorbiaceae (spurge family)</b>		
<i>Euphorbia dimorphocaulon</i>		Pegeia
<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i>	<b>Wild Poinsettia</b>	Roadside weed, near the hotel. Originally from tropical S America
<i>Euphorbia hypericifolia</i>	<b>Graceful Spurge</b>	Roadside weed, near the hotel. Originally from tropical S America
<i>Euphorbia cf serpens</i>	<b>Creeping Spurge</b>	In hotel gardens. Originally from tropical S America.
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	<b>Annual Mercury</b>	Common roadside plant
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	<b>Castor Oil Plant</b>	Common roadside plant
<b>Fabaceae (pea family)</b>		
<i>Calycotome villosa</i>	<b>Spiny Broom</b>	Common spiny shrub, eg Pegeia
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	<b>Carob</b>	Common roadside tree
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	<b>Judas Tree</b>	Neo Chorio
<i>Lathyrus ochrus</i>		Neo Chorio
<i>Medicago marina</i>	<b>Sea Medick</b>	Cape Drepanum, Mandria
<b>Fagaceae (beech family)</b>		
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	<b>Kermes Oak</b>	Evergreen shrub with holly leaves
<i>Quercus infectoria</i> subsp <i>veneris</i>	<b>Deciduous or Royal Oak</b>	Large deciduous tree

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	
Frankeniaceae (sea heath family)		
Frankenia hirsuta		Cape Drepanum
Geraniaceae (geranium family)		
Erodium malacoides	Soft Stork's-bill	Agia Varvara
Erodium moschatum	Musk Stork's-bill	Roadside plant, nr hotel
Lamiaceae (mint family)		
Lamium amplexicaule	Henbit	Roadside plant
Prasium majus		Paphos headland
Salvia verbenaca	Wild Clary	hillsides behind hotel
Thymus capitatus		Smygies
Vitex agnus-castus	Chaste Bush	Common roadside bush
Linaceae (flax family)		
Linum bienne	Pale Flax	Pegeia
Malvaceae (mallow family)		
Malva parviflora		Pegeia
Meliaceae (mahogany family)		
Melia azedarach	Persian Lilac	Paphos headland
Moraceae (fig family)		
Ficus carica	Fig	Common roadside bush
Myrtaceae (myrtle family)		
Myrtus communis	Myrtle	Baths of Aphrodite
Oleaceae (olive family)		
Olea europaea	Olive	Common
Oxalidaceae (wood-sorrel family)		
Oxalis pes-caprae	Bermuda Buttercup	Common 'weed' around olive groves/citrus orchards
Papaveraceae (poppy family)		
Glaucium flavum	Yellow Horned Poppy	Mandria beach
Plantaginaceae (plantain family)		
Misopates orontium	Weasel Snout	Pink-flowered mini 'snap dragon'
Plumbaginaceae (leadwort family)		
Limonium sinuatum		Cape Drepanum
Limonium virgatum		Cape Drepanum
Polygonaceae (dock family)		
Rumex spinosus	Spiny Dock	Common roadside weed
Primulaceae (primrose family)		
Cyclamen persicum	Persian Sowbread	In flower eg Fontana Amorosa, Tombs of the Kings
Samolus valerandi	Brookweed	Baths of Aphrodite
Ranunculaceae (buttercup family)		
Anemone coronaria	Crown Anemone	Tombs of the Kings, Mandria
Clematis cirrhosa	Virgin's Bower	hillsides behind hotel

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	
<i>Ranunculus cytheraeus</i>		Autumn-flowering buttercup, eg Fontana Amorosa, Pegeia Forest
<i>Ranunculus peltatus</i>	<b>Pond Water Crowfoot</b>	Pegeia
<b>Rhamnaceae (buckthorn family)</b>		
<i>Zizyphus lotus</i>	<b>Jujube</b>	Paphos headland
<b>Rosaceae (rose family)</b>		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	<b>Common Hawthorn</b>	Cyprus's 'tree of the year' 2023
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	<b>Loquat</b>	Eg hotel gardens
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	<b>Almond</b>	Smygies
<i>Pyrus syriacus</i>	<b>Syrian Pear</b>	Smygies
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	<b>Holy Bramble</b>	Pink flowered, eg Baths of Aphrodite
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	<b>Thorny Burnet</b>	'chicken wire bush'
<b>Rubiaceae (madder family)</b>		
<i>Theligonum cynocrambe</i>	<b>Dogs Cabbage</b>	Common on walls and rocks
<b>Scrophulariaceae (figwort family)</b>		
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	<b>Wavy-leaved Mullein</b>	Smygies
<b>Solanaceae (nightshade family)</b>		
<i>Lycium schweinfurthii</i>		purple flowers: Paphos headland
<i>Mandragora officinarum</i>	<b>Mandrake</b>	Paphos headland
<i>Withania somnifera</i>		Paphos headland
<b>Tamaricaceae (tamarisk family)</b>		
<i>Tamarix tetragyna</i>		Agia Varvara
<b>Urticaceae (nettle family)</b>		
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	<b>Roman Nettle</b>	Eg Baths of Aphrodite
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	<b>Pellitory-of-the-Wall</b>	Common on walls/rocks

<b>MONOCOTYLEDONS</b>		
<b>Amaryllidaceae (daffodil family)</b>		
<i>Narcissus obsoletus</i>	sometimes called <i>N. miniatus</i>	Tombs of the Kings
<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>	<b>Bunch-flowered Narcissus</b>	eg Fontana Amorosa, Agia Varvara
<b>Araceae (arum family)</b>		
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	<b>Friar's Cowl</b>	Common roadside plant
<b>Asparagaceae (asparagus family)</b>		
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	<b>Wild Asparagus</b>	Common roadside plant
<i>Asparagus horridus</i>		Paphos headland
<i>Drimia maritima</i>	<b>Sea Squill</b>	Very broad leaves
<i>Hyacinthella millingenii</i>		Pegeia
<i>Muscari parviflorum</i>	<b>Autumn Grape Hyacinth</b>	Paphos headland
<i>Prospero autumnale</i>	<b>Autumn Squill</b>	Abundant seed heads, eg hillsides behind hotel
<b>Asphodelaceae (asphodel family)</b>		
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	<b>Hollow-stemmed Asphodel</b>	Fine leaves

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	<b>Branched Asphodel</b>	Broader leaves
<b>Colchicaceae (colchicum family)</b>		
<i>Colchicum pusillum</i>		Pegeia
<b>Iridaceae (iris family)</b>		
<i>Romulea tempskyana</i>		Pegeia
<b>Orchidaceae (orchid family))</b>		
<i>Anacamptis collina</i>	<b>Fan-lipped Orchid</b>	Budding spikes, hillsides behind hotel
<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	<b>Giant Orchid</b>	Budding spikes, nr the hotel
<i>Ophrys omegaifera</i> subsp. <i>israelitica</i>	= <i>Ophrys israelitica</i>	Smygies
<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>	<b>Autumn Lady's Tresses</b>	Pegeia
<b>Poaceae (grass family)</b>		
<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>	<b>Hairy Finger-grass</b>	Roadside weed
<i>Cenchrus cf setaceus</i>	<b>Fountain Grass</b>	Roadside weed nr hotel, originally from North Africa & Middle East
<b>Posidoniaceae (seagrass family)</b>		
<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	<b>Mediterranean Seagrass</b>	Washed up on the shore
<b>Smilacaceae (greenbriar family)</b>		
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	<b>Smilax</b>	scrambling through roadside shrubs



(Above): *Romulea tempskyana* at Pegeia Forest; Aphrodite's Dandelion *Taraxacum aphrogenes* at Cape Drepanum.

## BIRDS

This checklist follows the taxonomy published in the **HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World**, as updated by [www.birdsoftheworld.org](http://www.birdsoftheworld.org)

English names follow those used in the **Collins Bird Guide** (3<sup>rd</sup> edition).

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Family Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse and allies)</b>										
Black Francolin	<i>Fraancolinus francolinus</i>			1				1		
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			H		X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)</b>										
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						1			
<b>Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)</b>										
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>				X			X	X	X
<b>Family Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules and Coots)</b>										
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						1			
<b>Family Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)</b>										
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				4					
Greater Sand-plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>				3					
<b>Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and allies)</b>										
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					1	1			
<b>Family Laridae (Gulls, Terns and Skimmers)</b>										
Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyiaetus audouinii</i>						1			
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sanduicensis</i>					1				
<b>Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)</b>										
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		X		X		X	X	X	
Mediterranean Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis desmarestii</i>			X		X		X	X	X
<b>Family Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets and Bitterns)</b>										
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				2					
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>						2			
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>								2	
<b>Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Kites)</b>										
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				1	3	1			X
<b>Family Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)</b>										
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			2			1	1		
<b>Family Corvidae (Crows, Jays and Magpies)</b>										
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## Cyprus 2023: trip report and species lists

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Paridae ( Tits )</b>										
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Alaudidae ( Larks )</b>										
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>						X			
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata riggenbachi</i>				X		X	X	X	
<b>Family Cisticolidae ( Cisticolas and allies )</b>										
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			X			X	X		
<b>Family Phylloscopidae ( Leaf Warblers )</b>										
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Scotoceridae ( Bush Warblers and allies )</b>										
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			X	X		X	X	X	
<b>Family Sylviidae ( Sylviid Warblers and allies )</b>										
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cyprus Warbler	<i>Curruca melanothorax</i>								X	
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Sturnidae ( Starlings )</b>										
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				X					
<b>Family Turdidae ( Thrushes and allies )</b>										
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			X			X	X	X	X
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			X				X	X	
<b>Family Muscicapidae ( Old World Flycatchers )</b>										
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			X	X		X	X	X	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			X	X	X	X		X	
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					X				
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Finsch's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>						2			
<b>Family Passeridae ( Old World Sparrows )</b>										
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>				X					
<b>Family Motacillidae ( Wagtails and Pipits )</b>										
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			X	X			X	X	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>				X	X	X			
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			X	X	X	X			
<b>Family Fringillidae ( Finches and allies )</b>										
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			X	X		X	X	X	
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				X	X	X	X	X	
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			X			X		X	

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

## AMPHIBIANS

Cyprus Green Toad	<i>Bufo (viridis) cypriensis</i>	H				2			
Savigny's Tree Frog	<i>Hyla savignyi</i>					H			
Cyprus Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax cypriensis</i>					X			

## REPTILES

## Family Agamidae (Agamids)

Starred Agama	<i>Laudakia stellio</i>					1		1	
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## Family Gekkonidae (Geckos)

Eastern Bent-toed Gecko	<i>Mediodactylus orientalis</i>				1		1		
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## Family Lacertidae (Lizards)

Snake-eyed Lacertid	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>				X		X	X	
Troodos Wall Lizard	<i>Lacerta troodica</i>				2		X	X	

## Family Scincidae (Skinks)

Budak's Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus budaki</i>		1				1		
Ocellated Skink	<i>Chalcides ocellatus</i>					1			

## Family Colubridae (Colubrid Snakes)

Large Whip-snake	<i>Coluber jugularis</i>		D				1		
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## MAMMALS

Egyptian Rousette	<i>Rousettus aegyptiacus</i>					X	X	X	
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes indutus</i>					D			

## BUTTERFLIES

## Family Pieridae (Whites)

Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>					X	X	X	X
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>							X	
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>			X		X	X	X	

## Family Nymphalidae (Admirals and Fritillaries)

Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				X		X	X	

## Family Hesperidae (Skippers)

Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alcaea</i>					X	X		
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## MISCELLANEOUS

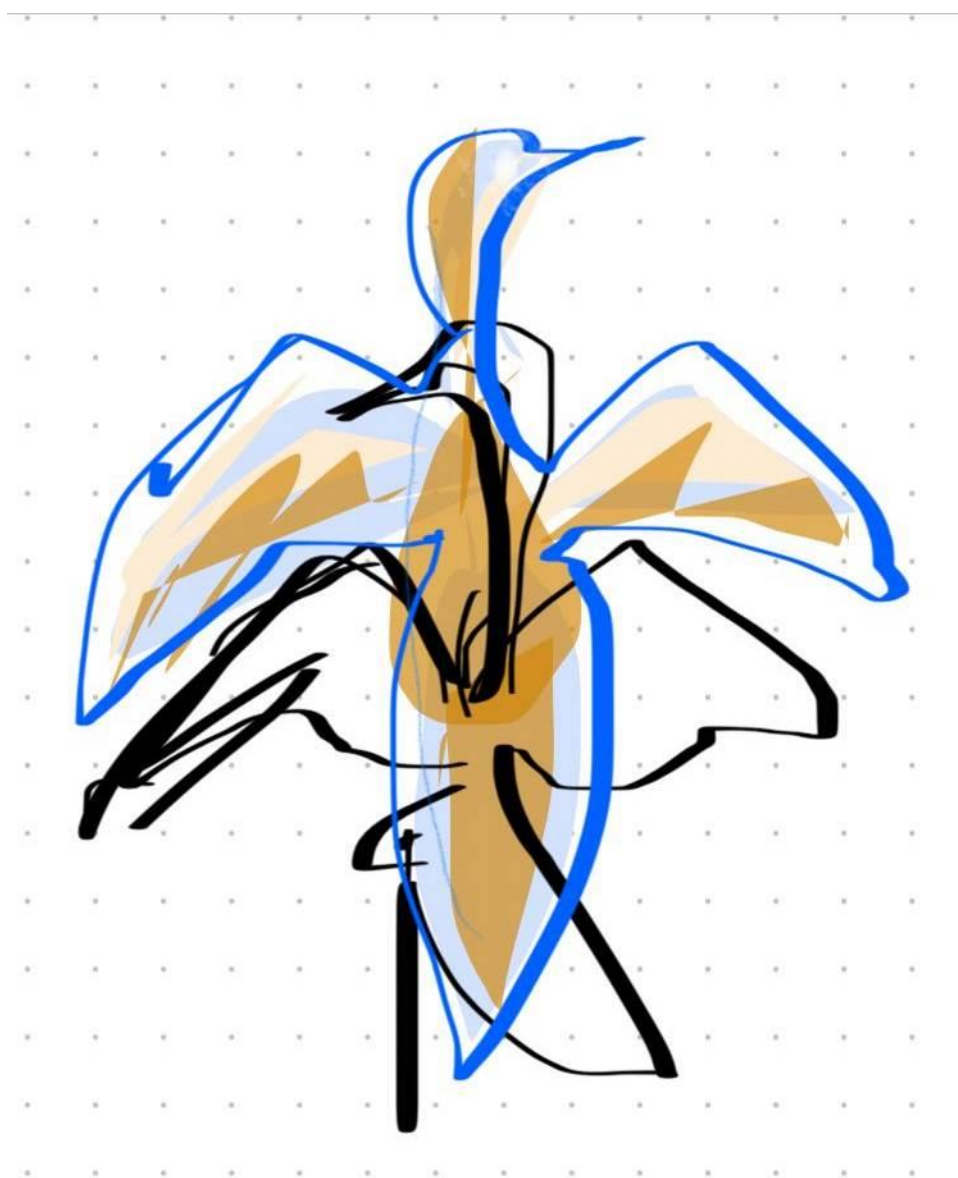
ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Beet Webworm Moth	<i>Spoladea recurvalis</i>		X						
Scarce Bordered Straw	<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>		X						
Hummingbird Hawk Moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>		X				X	X	
Silver-striped Hawk Moth	<i>Hippotion celerio</i>						X		
Praying Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>			X					
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>				X	X	X	X	
Vagrant Emperor	<i>Anax ephippiger</i>			X					
Autumn Cone-head Grasshopper	<i>Acrida hungarica</i>				X			X	
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa sp</i>		X						
Square-spotted Mourning Bee	<i>Melecta luctuosa</i>							X	
Oleander Seed Bug	<i>Caenocoris nerii</i>							X	
European Fire Bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>					X		X	
Oil Beetle	<i>Meloe sp.</i>						X		
Red Palm Weevil	<i>Rhynchophorus ferrugineus</i>				X				
Levant Freshwater Crab	<i>Potamon potamios</i>							X	
Megarian Centipede	<i>Scolopendra cingulata</i>							X	
Banded Wasp Spider	<i>Argiope trifasciata</i>						X		
Mediterranean Black Widow Spider	<i>Latrodectus tredecimguttatus</i>				X				



(Above): *Acrida hungarica* and *Melecta luctuosa*, both at Neo Chorio on 26<sup>th</sup> December



(clockwise, from top left): Crown Anemone *Anemone coronaria* at Latchi; Autumn Lady's Tresses *Spiranthes spiralis* at Pegeia; *Ophrys omegaifera* subsp *israelitica* at Smygies; *Cyclamen persicum* at the Baths of Aphrodite.



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