

Cyprus 22nd to 29th August 2012

A report by Colin Manville

A late decision to have a short beach break without our pretty much grown up children focussed my attention on Cyprus. Not too far, but hot enough to pass muster with Mrs M. We would still have to go in the school holidays but it would be a very rare thing for me, a country tick! We would stay in Amathus about 10km east of Limmasol at a highly rated hotel on the sea front with potentially good habitat surrounding it. Amathus is close to the motorway linking Larnaca to Paphos and importantly about 30 minutes drive from Akritiri and Souni. The Google satellite view confirmed a small hamlet surrounded by scrub – perfect.

A modicum of research led me to hope for 2 must see lifers (Cyprus Warbler and Wheatear) and the very remotest possibility of Demoiselle Crane. Some years ago Richard Bonser did some research on Demoiselle Crane occurrences which pointed to late August early September being the optimum time to go. However, in order to return in time for the new school year, the last week of August was targeted but the Saturday to Saturday cost £400 more than a similar Wednesday to Wednesday cost. That was too much of a premium to pay for the Cranes so I chose the earlier 22nd to 29th August date. Combining Richard's research with the recent data available from Birdlife Cyprus (www.birdlifecyprus.org) suggested that my highest chances of connecting were either 26 or 29th August – still worth a go.

Mrs M declared that without the children for company she would prefer it if I didn't disappear for long periods on this holiday. This was very reasonable so I carefully planned my excursions using the information available on the Birdlife Cyprus website. I would hire a car from the hotel Sunday morning returning it on the Wednesday morning of our departure. That way we could have a day out in the mountains on the Sunday together, and I could have two mornings out (Monday and Tuesday). Souni seemed to offer the best chance of a connection with both endemics so I targeted Monday 27th for Akrotiri Salt Lake then on to Souni and Tuesday for the Salt lake (if necessary) and Kensington Cliffs. Alternatively back to Souni if I had not connected with the Cyprus endemics which were most important to me. I had reasoned that other than the "trips" I would not do much bird watching as it would be just before the migration period and the breeding birds would be inconspicuous in the heat.

Gatwick was quiet and the journey went like clockwork. We arrived at the hotel late afternoon. Despite a precautionary location and habitat check with Google, the hotel had been surrounded by new built apartments, very nice but not what I expected. A quick walk round the local environs confirmed my worst fears that I would see absolutely nothing in and around the hotel.

After a couple of hours around the pool the following morning I realised that this was going to be purgatory for a week. I picked up my bins and slipped off for a quick stroll along the seafront. I walked west towards Limmasol, apparently the coastal path extends all the way there. After about 10 minutes I came across the Amathus ruins which being a historic monument clearly would not be built on. I had seen nothing along the shore so I wandered inland. Behind the ruins was an area of scrub and cultivated land up to an escarpment. I thought I would give it a few minutes to see if it would produce anything. I immediately come across a pair of Lesser Grey Shrikes and a Masked

Strike. It was difficult to get close as the birds seemed very wary. Eventually after some skulking around I managed some decent close views I decided to return that evening with a camera and scope. When I returned to the pool it appeared I had been away a couple of hours – not good. The day wore on with only a couple of Barn Swallows over the pool. In the late afternoon I returned to the area of the ruins budgeting two hours. With a fifteen minute walk either way that would give me 90 minutes on site. This should be plenty of time to re-find the shrikes and get some record shots.



In a few minutes of tramping around I happened across Red-backed, Lesser Grey and Masked Shrikes. I flushed a covey of Chukar and on the way back I had a flock of Yellow Wagtails. This was clearly going to be my local patch for the week. I considered that this habitat had the potential for either Cyprus or Sardinian Warbler one of which I had a distant flight view of. Although I spent some time searching, I was not able to re-find it.

In the cool (34c) of the early morning, a visit to my new patch was on the cards. I strode confidently to the area where I thought the Sylvia Warbler would be. Sure enough, two male Cyprus Warblers were perching in the open, a bit distant but photographable and tickable. My attention was soon drawn to an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler calling and feeding vigorously and a Willow Warbler in the same area. A pair of Alpine Swift flew over before I returned to the hotel.

Returning in the evening I found two Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, 30 Chukar, 4 Lesser Grey and 1



Red-backed Shrike.

Strolling back to the main road I flushed 3 Crested Lark and had brief views of a juvenile Greater Spotted Cuckoo in flight then briefly perched before it disappeared into a densely foliated tree. (This is a very late date for GSC) I was unable to approach it, as the tree was at the entrance to a private olive grove guarded by a pack of barking dogs. And they did not like me!

An early visit to the patch Saturday morning produced two male and one immature Cyprus Warblers in a new area, EO Warbler and a juvenile Masked Shrike. I also found a Nightingale which was giving a higher pitched contact call than I am used to. I was looking against the light so visual ID was out of the question, but I “felt” that it could have been a Thrush Nightingale. However, this was one that got away.



Later in the day whilst lazing around sea watching (sea watching at Amathus really is sea watching – no birds) a Common Kingfisher flew in off the sea. A genuine migrant heading north.

On Sunday the hire car arrived at 09:30 (ish). The local rep for Europcar wanted the car back Tuesday evening, but we objected stating that as we were paying for 3 days we wanted 3 days. We objected on a matter of principal but it was on my mind that I could do an emergency run to the salt lake prior to leaving for the airport if necessary. We set off for the cool mountain of Troodos which had been recommended as a decent place to visit. I was hoping to pick up a couple of local races, Coal Tit, Treecreeper, Jay and Crossbill. We stopped every now and again for scenic views and just shy of Troodos I spotted a couple of Cyprus Wheatear but nowhere useful to stop. Eventually I happened across a male of the species with an adjacent lay by. Great views with bins but no picture obtained before it flew off. Troodos was alright, we had a not very good lunch (avoid the Hotel Cafe) and mooched down the Persephone Trail. I wanted this trail because it is little used compared to the others (on a busy Sunday) in fact we had it to ourselves. I thought the Crossbills would be hard, but I picked them up immediately, then Jay and Coal Tit. Appalling record shots were taken of each, but no Treecreeper.

We eventually left and I suggested an evening meal in Paphos. We departed after having a cracking Ice Cream but soon had to stop as there was a forest fire down the road. We identified an alternative route along the Dharios Valley and set off again. As we travelled down the valley we were treated to some spectacular views of a fire fighting helicopter dropping water on the forest fire. We also had to stop for a female Cyprus Wheatear and Masked Shrike on wires – more appalling pictures but now both of the must see lifers were in the bag. We enjoyed driving down the (almost birdless) valley and reached the outskirts of Paphos a little early so Mrs M kindly and patiently map read me to Mandria Fields for Larks. She had to be patient as the massive amount of building around the town of Mandria rendered all my maps and books out of date. I wandered around the field for a bit but other than a few Crested Larks the fields were not particularly lively.



Having exhausted Mrs M's patience we headed to Paphos for our evening meal. However I could not resist a quick stroll to the headland in search of Greater Sand Plover. All I noted was a single Shag, an adult Yellow Legged Gull and a pair of Crested Lark at the historic site. Returning to the harbour we had an appalling meal and were grateful to be in the car heading back to the relative sophistication of Amathus. Mrs M hated the Castle and the harbour and frankly so did I, clearly Pathos was definitely not for us!

I set my phone alarm for 5:15 with a view to being on the road by 5:45. As usual I work up early and after putting towels on the beach sunbeds ☺ I was at Akrotiri Salt Lake by 06:30. I soon found the watch point but after careful scanning it was clear that no Demoiselle Cranes were present. I scanned again this time noting Black Stork, White Stork and several hundred Greater Flamingo. OK, I half expected this so I pressed on to Phassouri Reed Beds. The avifauna was interesting (Lesser Grey, Red-backed Shrike and Reed Warbler in a single bush) but not spectacular so I moved on to the "Gravel Pits". Even less to be seen here, so after a brief hello to the nice (yes they really were) military chaps in a 4x4 I set off back for breakfast. Just as I was passing the observation area at Phassouri Reed Beds I spotted a male Black Francolin in the road. It strutted around for a bit before a short flight and a run to some cover by the reeds. I had the choice of squishing around the marsh looking for it again or doing the decent thing. On the basis that I would clearly need all the brownie points I could muster with Mrs M I returned for breakfast.

Having been a good boy and returned in time for a late breakfast I decided that my evening walk would be a drive to the "Desal" fields at Larnaca Airport. I had reasoned that a 30 minute drive each way would leave me a minimum of an hour in the fields. Just prior to the field are Meneou Pools. Some waders caught my eye close to a parking spot. I pulled over and unlimbered the scope. Ringed Plover, Kentish Plover, Spur-winged Plover and whoa woo, 2 Greater Sand Plover! These were not a lifer but it made me unreasonably happy to stumble across them. Record shots duly taken I headed



off to the fields. A large flock of Yellow legged Gulls diverted my attention and I finally come to the fields. They were alive with Larks, mainly Crested, but I did manage to photograph

some Short-toed as well. I returned for dinner later than planned but I was supremely happy with my evening's effort. I would have been happy with the larks but the waders were real bonus birds.

Tuesday dawned and I was up early again for Akrotiri. I found a quicker way to the viewpoint and by



6:15 I realised that I would not be seeing Demoiselle Cranes! Still, birding is not supposed to be easy so I moved to phase two of Tuesdays plan. Obtain pictures of Eleonora's Falcon at Kensington Cliffs. It was still early when I arrived and I soon had the scope out watching the birds on the cliffs, albeit distantly. I took a couple of record shots of nesting birds (a distant pixel) then a light and a dark morph falcon flew round for better pictures. Ironically the best pictures I obtained were of a Hobby. Anyway, I am never too far from being bored so I decided to press on up the road to Souni to try

for better views of male Cyprus Wheatear. I had obtained some directions of how to get to the better birding areas and 20 minutes later I was getting out of the car. Like all of Cyprus, Souni is one gigantic building site. For a country that is well beyond bankrupt the amount of high quality accommodation being built is unbelievable. Unfortunately this is reducing the available good wildlife habitat, but fortunately sufficient currently remains intact. A large area at Souni is marked "Wildlife Protection Area – no Hunting", however I wandered around knee deep in spent shotgun cartridges. I quite quickly managed to get some good views and dodgy pictures of male and female Cyprus Wheatear which were plentiful as were Masked Shrike. I actually got some decent pictures of adult male Red-backed Shrike and female Cyprus Warbler which I was really pleased with and a surprise find of Sardinian Warbler. A Hobby flew through and as the heat rose, the birds went quiet so I pushed on back to the hotel for a cheeky late breakfast.



My evening walk around the ruins produced very little apart from another bunch of Cyprus Warbler in a different area and another brief glimpse of what I was by now convinced was a juvenile Greater Spotted Cuckoo but those damned dogs chased me off again. It was very hot so an early return to the hotel was required, and anyway I needed a mirror to practice my sad puppy-dog look!

Over dinner we discussed what a fantastic time we had had and that we would certainly consider returning to the Atlantica Bay Hotel in Amathus. Despite the fact that I had missed the Cranes I had really enjoyed it – honest....cue sad puppy dog face! Permission was duly granted for a quick trip to the Akrotiri in the morning! Well tomorrow was the 29th and that is the day according to my analysis that has the highest hit rate for the Cranes. To be fair, I had hoped to see them but the sensible part of me said I wouldn't. I had a fitful nights sleep and slipped off early. At 06:00, I pulled up at the mound overlooking salt lake. This was my third morning at Akrotiri and with the sun starting to rise I scanned the Lake. I had recently seen a really atmospheric photo of the Demoiselle Cranes with the cranes of Akrotiri harbour in the background. So I always start scanning at that point. As I tracked left passed the pelicans a grey mass came into view. No flamin' way....way! 55, no, 65 Demoiselle Cranes.



What a result! I watched for a bit, then as the sun rose sufficiently I set up my camera for some pictures. A few record shots later and another count using my travel scope (how I wish I had my full size Swaro with me) which revealed at least 76 Cranes, I was ready to leave. I returned to the hotel and was sublimely happy at breakfast. A couple of hours dozing round the pool and we were off to the airport, mission accomplished. I left a message for Birdlife Cyprus re the Cranes and they were kind enough to email me confirming the sighting and advising me of my good fortune. Up to 3rd September these were the only Cranes noted at Akrotiri in 2012.

In summary Cyprus was a far better holiday destination than I would have imagined. During August the climate is very hot during the day (ignore the brochures, it is over 40c during the day) but pleasantly cool at night. Amathus was great and although we didn't like Paphos we would and are considering going back possibly for 10 days. The birding was a lot better than I had anticipated; however, sea watchers will be bored rigid with 1 Slender-billed, 3 Yellow-legged Gulls and 1 Kingfisher in a week. When I left England I had the possibility of 3 lifers and got them all. I had read that Cyprus Warbler was difficult out of breeding season but I found them to be abundant and photographable especially at Amathus. I did find it difficult to get close to the birds, particularly with a tripod over my shoulder and I suspect that hunting has something to do with this. None the less I enjoyed the week so much I am thinking of planning a winter trip which hopefully will get me Finsch's Wheatear if I can swing it!

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Annex A – Lat/Longs

	N	W
Amathus Hill	34:42.857	033:08.535
Troodos, Persephone Trail	34:55.024	032:53.089
Mandria, Lark Field	34:41.991	032:31.919
Akrotiri Salt Lake	34:36.343	032:57.049
Passouri Reed Bed	34:37.718	033:56.445
Akrotiri Gravel Pits	34:37.604	032:55.493
Meneou Pools	34:50.691	033:36.926
Larnaca Desal Fields	34:51.143	033:38.261
Kensington Cliffs	34:39.990	032:51.704
Souni Hills	34:44.718	033:53.415

Cyprus 2012

Event period: 22-Aug-2012 to 29-Aug-2012

Participants:

Beach holiday - no kids

Amathus (Lemesos, Cyprus)

22/08/2012 16:30 to 22/08/2012 17:30

34c, 10Sw, sunny

Hotel Garden, Pool Area and Beach

Hooded Crow [sp] (Corvus cornix)	4
European Greenfinch [sp] (Chloris chloris)	2
House Sparrow [sp] (Passer domesticus)	c.50

Amathus (Lemesos, Cyprus)

23/08/2012 09:30

35c, 5Sw sunny

hotel

Common Swift [sp] (Apus apus)	1
Barn Swallow [sp] (Hirundo rustica)	1
Red-rumped Swallow [sp] (Cecropis daurica)	1

Amathus Hill (Lemesos, Cyprus)

23/08/2012 10:30 to 23/08/2012 18:30

39c, 9SW, sunny

Area bordered by "Ancient Amathus Bypass" featuring several ruins including the main site and the "acropolis". Scrub with long grass, thistles and thorns. Isolated bushes of olive and blackthorn with some tall pines along the southern border.

Chukar [sp] (Alectoris chukar)	c.12
Eurasian Sparrowhawk [sp] (Accipiter nisus)	1
Common Kestrel [sp] (Falco tinnunculus)	1
Eurasian Collared Dove [sp] (Streptopelia decaocto)	1
Red-backed Shrike (Lanius collurio)	2
Lesser Grey Shrike (Lanius minor)	3
Masked Shrike (Lanius nubicus)	1
Hooded Crow [sp] (Corvus cornix)	3
Barn Swallow [sp] (Hirundo rustica)	1
Great Tit [sp] (Parus major)	2
Zitting Cisticola [sp] (Cisticola juncidis)	1
Western Yellow Wagtail [sp] (Motacilla flava)	c.10
European Greenfinch [sp] (Chloris chloris)	c.10
House Sparrow [sp] (Passer domesticus)	c.200

Amathus Hill (Lemesos, Cyprus)

24/08/2012 06:45 to 24/08/2012 19:00

34c, 3SSE - 20WSW, sunny

06:45-08:15 then 17:45-19:00

Chukar [sp] (Alectoris chukar)	c.30
Common Kestrel [sp] (Falco tinnunculus)	1
Slender-billed Gull (Chroicocephalus genei)	1
Eurasian Collared Dove [sp] (Streptopelia decaocto)	1
Great Spotted Cuckoo (Clamator glandarius)	1
Alpine Swift [sp] (Apus melba)	2
Common Swift [sp] (Apus apus)	2
Red-backed Shrike (Lanius collurio)	1

16/10/2012 23:09:23

Lesser Grey Shrike (Lanius minor)	4
Hooded Crow [sp] (Corvus cornix)	4
Crested Lark [sp] (Galerida cristata)	4
Great Tit [sp] (Parus major)	1
Willow Warbler [sp] (Phylloscopus trochilus)	1
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler [sp] (Hippolais pallida)	1
Cyprus Warbler (Sylvia melanothorax)	2(2)
European Greenfinch [sp] (Chloris chloris)	c.20
House Sparrow [sp] (Passer domesticus)	c.200

Amathus Hill (Lemesos, Cyprus)

25/08/2012 06:45 to 25/08/2012 08:00

34-39c, E5, sunny

Chukar [sp] (Alectoris chukar)	4
Common Swift [sp] (Apus apus)	2
Common Kingfisher [sp] (Alcedo atthis)	1
Masked Shrike (Lanius nubicus)	1
Hooded Crow [sp] (Corvus cornix)	2
Great Tit [sp] (Parus major)	7
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler [sp] (Hippolais pallida)	1
Cyprus Warbler (Sylvia melanothorax)	3
Thrush Nightingale (Luscinia luscinia)	1

Amathus (Lemesos, Cyprus)

26/08/2012 09:30

39c, sunny

Pallid Swift [sp] (Apus pallidus)	2
Red-rumped Swallow [sp] (Cecropis daurica)	2

Alassa (Lemesos, Cyprus)

26/08/2012 10:30

39c, sunny

B8 road to Troodos, field overlooking Kouris Reservoir

Eurasian Magpie [sp] (Pica pica)	1
Hooded Crow [sp] (Corvus cornix)	1

Monagri (Lemesos, Cyprus)

26/08/2012 11:00

35c, sunny

B8 road to Troodos, roadside tick

Masked Shrike (Lanius nubicus)	1
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Moniatis (Lemesos, Cyprus)

26/08/2012 11:15

32c sunny

B8 road to Troodos.

Cyprus Wheatear (Oenanthe cyprica)	2
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Plano Plantres (Lemesos, Cyprus)

26/08/2012 12:00

30c, sunny

B8 road to Troodos

Cyprus Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>)	1
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Troodos (Lemesos, Cyprus)

26/08/2012 12:15

30c, sunny

Persephone/Pouziouris Trail. Very quiet trail through pine forest.

Pallid Swift [sp] (<i>Apus pallidus</i>)	2
Eurasian Jay [sp] (<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>)	5
Eurasian Crag Martin (<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>)	c.4
Red-rumped Swallow [sp] (<i>Cecropis daurica</i>)	4
Northern House Martin [sp] (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>)	c.50
Coal Tit [sp] (<i>Parus ater</i>)	3
Great Tit [sp] (<i>Parus major</i>)	3
Willow Warbler [sp] (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>)	1
Chaffinch [sp] (<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>)	4
European Greenfinch [sp] (<i>Chloris chloris</i>)	2
Common Crossbill [sp] (<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>)	c.7
House Sparrow [sp] (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	c.20

Arminou Reservoir (Lemesos, Cyprus)

26/08/2012 15:30

41c, sunny

On roadside wires

Masked Shrike (<i>Lanius nubicus</i>)	1
Cyprus Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>)	1

Mandria (Pafos, Cyprus)

26/08/2012 17:00

41c, sunny

Mandria "Lark" fields. Mix of crop and fallow fields

Crested Lark [sp] (<i>Galerida cristata</i>)	c.10
Zitting Cisticola [sp] (<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>)	1

Paphos Headland (Pafos, Cyprus)

26/08/2012 19:00

40c, sunny

European Shag [sp] (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)	1
Yellow-legged Gull [sp] (<i>Larus michahellis</i>)	1
Hooded Crow [sp] (<i>Corvus cornix</i>)	1
Crested Lark [sp] (<i>Galerida cristata</i>)	2

Akrotiri Salt Lake (Akrotiri, Lemesos, Cyprus)

27/08/2012 06:15 to 27/08/2012 06:30

28c, sunny, no wind

Greater Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>)	c.600
Black Stork (<i>Ciconia nigra</i>)	2
Eurasian White Stork [sp] (<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>)	3
Black-winged Stilt (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>)	c.100
Hooded Crow [sp] (<i>Corvus cornix</i>)	4
House Sparrow [sp] (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	8

Phassouri Reed Bed (Akrotiri, Lemesos, Cyprus)

27/08/2012 07:00

28c, sunny

Edge of extensive reed bed.

Mallard [sp] (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	12
Black Francolin [sp] (<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>)	1
Grey Heron [sp] (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	3
Cattle Egret [sp] (<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>)	7
Eurasian Common Moorhen [sp] (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>)	4
Red-backed Shrike (<i>Lanius collurio</i>)	1
Lesser Grey Shrike (<i>Lanius minor</i>)	1
Barn Swallow [sp] (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	c.30
Red-rumped Swallow [sp] (<i>Cecropis daurica</i>)	c.10
Northern House Martin [sp] (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>)	c.20
Eurasian Reed Warbler [sp] (<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>)	1
Zitting Cisticola [sp] (<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>)	1

Akrotiri "Gravel Pits" (Akrotiri, Lemesos, Cyprus)

27/08/2012 08:00 to 27/08/2012 08:30

28c, sunny

Gravel and scrub (no pits)

Common Wood Pigeon [sp] (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	c.50
Zitting Cisticola [sp] (<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>)	3
European Goldfinch [sp] (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>)	c.60

Amathus (Lemesos, Cyprus)

27/08/2012 14:15

35c, 15WSW, sunny

Yellow-legged Gull [sp] (<i>Larus michahellis</i>)	3
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Meneou Pools (Larnaka, Cyprus)

27/08/2012 17:00 to 27/08/2012 17:15

35c, 15WSW, Sunny

Salt Lake, still with water

Spur-winged Lapwing (<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>)	3
Greater Sand Plover [sp] (<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>)	2
Kentish Plover [sp] (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>)	10
Ringed Plover [sp] (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)	4

Larnaca Desalination Plant Fields (Larnaka, Cyprus)

27/08/2012 17:30 to 27/08/2012 18:30

33c, 15WSW, sunny

Yellow-legged Gull [sp] (<i>Larus michahellis</i>)	c.60
Greater Short-toed Lark [sp] (<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>)	2

Crested Lark [sp] (<i>Galerida cristata</i>)	c.30
Barn Swallow [sp] (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	c.20
Northern House Martin [sp] (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>)	c.10
House Sparrow [sp] (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	c.25

Akrotiri Salt Lake (Akrotiri, Lemesos, Cyprus)

28/08/2012 06:15 to 28/08/2012 07:00

25c, sunny

Greater Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>)	c.550
Grey Heron [sp] (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	2
Great Egret [sp] (<i>Ardea alba</i>)	1

16/10/2012 23:09:24

Black-winged Stilt (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>)	c.100
White-winged Tern (<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>)	2

Kensington Cliffs (Akrotiri, Lemesos, Cyprus)

28/08/2012 07:15 to 28/08/2012 07:45

28c, 5w, Sunny

Chalk cliffs

Eleonora's Falcon (<i>Falco eleonora</i>)	c.10
Eurasian Hobby [sp] (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>)	1
Eurasian Jackdaw [sp] (<i>Corvus monedula</i>)	4

Souni Hills (Lemesos, Cyprus)

28/08/2012 08:10 to 28/08/2012 09:15

35c, 5w, sunny

Olive scrub on hillside

Eurasian Hobby [sp] (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>)	1
Red-backed Shrike (<i>Lanius collurio</i>)	1
Masked Shrike (<i>Lanius nubicus</i>)	3
Cyprus Warbler (<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>)	3
Sardinian Warbler [sp] (<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>)	1
Cyprus Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe cyprica</i>)	5
European Goldfinch [sp] (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>)	1
House Sparrow [sp] (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	1

Amathus Hill (Lemesos, Cyprus)

28/08/2012 17:30 to 28/08/2012 18:45

33c, 10SW, sunny

Chukar [sp] (<i>Alectoris chukar</i>)	c.12
Common Kestrel [sp] (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)	1
Eurasian Collared Dove [sp] (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>)	1
Great Spotted Cuckoo (<i>Clamator glandarius</i>)	1
Hooded Crow [sp] (<i>Corvus cornix</i>)	4
Crested Lark [sp] (<i>Galerida cristata</i>)	3
Barn Swallow [sp] (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	c.20
Great Tit [sp] (<i>Parus major</i>)	4
Cyprus Warbler (<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>)	3

Akrotiri Salt Lake (Akrotiri, Lemesos, Cyprus)

29/08/2012 06:10 to 29/08/2012 07:00

30c, 5NW, sunny

Greater Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>)	c.500
Eurasian White Stork [sp] (<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>)	3
Grey Heron [sp] (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	3
Great Egret [sp] (<i>Ardea alba</i>)	5
Cattle Egret [sp] (<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>)	c.45
Glossy Ibis (<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>)	2
Demoiselle Crane (<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>)	c.75
Black-winged Stilt (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>)	c.110
Slender-billed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>)	c.200
White-winged Tern (<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>)	2

