

Cyprus at Christmas

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 - 28 December 2015



Finsch's Wheatear by Roger Newton



Romulea tempskyana by Sean d'Rozario



Savigny's Tree Frog by Sean d'Rozario



Sardinian Warbler by Roger Newton

Report compiled by Rob Mileto
Images courtesy of Roger Newton and Sean d'Rozario



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Tour participants: Yiannis Christofides & Rob Mileto (leaders), Theodoros Theodorou (Doros) (driver)
With a group of sixteen Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Monday 21st December

London Gatwick to Paphos

Weather: grey & dreary to sunny & warm

We all met up, mostly at the gate, for the four-hour flight to Paphos, where we met up with our local leader Yiannis and our driver Doros. We were soon aboard our little coach that was to be our transport for the trip.

On our way to the hotel, we stopped at the dry river valley known as Achelia. Here we caught sight of our first bird for the trip - which was either White Wagtail, Wood Pigeon or Hooded Crow... depending on which way you were looking! This was also our first chance to see what was on offer botanically, and the most striking plants were the two metre tall globe thistle *Echinops spinosissimus*. Even though they were largely brown and well past flowering, they were still an impressive sight. Fennel was to be found in profusion and worthy of a nibble, but not so the Castor Oil plant that was also abundant – that contains the deadly toxic ricin! There were just a few flowers left on plants like Narrow-leaved Bugloss and *Comiza bonariensis*, but some of the leaves were so distinctive, such as on Milk Thistle, that we managed to identify these vegetatively. On the power lines above our heads a couple of Common Kestrels perched obligingly, as did a Stonechat. As we strolled back to the coach, a small flock of sparrows turned out to be Spanish Sparrows, and a male perched for just long enough for most to get a reasonable view.

As the sun set we headed to our hotel in Paphos where we freshened up before a welcome meeting and trip list over a drink. It was then a short walk to a local taverna for food and more liquid refreshment, before heading back to our hotel for some much needed sleep.

Day 2

Tuesday 22nd December

Paphos

Weather: warm & sunny

After a relaxed breakfast we boarded the coach for the short drive to the Tomb of the Kings. This impressive coastal necropolis was built during the Hellenistic period (3rd century BC) to satisfy the needs of the newly founded Nea Paphos. Despite its name, it is not connected with the burial of kings, but rather with the grandeur character of its burial monuments. As well as soaking up the archaeology and history, it also proved a great place to see drifts of Joint Pine, Persian Sowbread and Crown Anemone in full flower, along with smaller numbers of the dinky little 'daffodil' *Narcissus serotinus*, *Thymus capitatus*, *Medicago marina*, Mandrake and the endemic dandelion *Taraxacum aphrogenes*. Not to be outdone, the bird life was also putting on a show, with a fair few Sardinian Warblers around, some deigning even to show themselves quite well. Black Redstarts were also frequent, along with Crested Lark, Meadow Pipit, House Sparrow and Chiffchaff. There were even some reptiles on show, of which the Starred Agama was probably the most impressive, but it was also good to see Troodos Wall Lizard and Budak's Snake-eyed Skink. Last but not least, there were many Clouded Yellow butterflies flitting around, the odd Painted Lady and just single Red Admiral and Humming-bird Hawk-moth.

We then ventured on to the area of the Paphos Archaeological Site, home of the Paphos Mosaics. These very beautiful and rare Roman mosaics were discovered by accident when the land was being ploughed in 1962. Over

40 mosaics have now been found, containing many interesting geometrical patterns usually surrounding a central mythological scene. The mosaics, most of which date from around the 3rd century AD, are situated in four main houses which we freely strolled around. Here too, there was a good mix of plant and animal life. At the entrance we saw a Carob tree and tasted its pod, and just within the gate were Field Marigold and Bermuda Buttercup in flower. Here too was a tiny blue butterfly – the African Grass Blue.

Most of us had our packed lunches in a shelter overlooking the sea where a local feral cat appreciated our offerings. We then strolled, via more mosaics, to the Odeon (amphitheatre) where a flock of ‘little brown jobs’ turned out to be a confusing mix of Woodlark, Crested Lark and Meadow Pipit. A rock harboured a new reptile for us – the Snake-eyed Lizard. Nearby a spiky plant with dainty purple bracts revelled in the name of *Noaea mucronata*, and nearby was the dainty *Polygonum equisetiforme* in full flower. As we strolled back towards the coach, Stonechat, Chiffchaff, Great Tit and Black Redstart were sharing the same small bush. Since the archaeological site is on the harbour-side lined with cafes, we sat and enjoyed a little café culture before returning to our hotel, to a fantastic red sunset, a freshen up, a ticking of the checklist, and off to dinner.

Day 3

Wednesday 23rd December

Asprokremmos Reservoir, St. Barbara, Mandria Beach and Paphos Sewage Works

Today the weather was warm and sunny. After breakfast and a quick supermarket stop to stock up on liquid refreshment, our first stop was the base of the Asprokremmos reservoir dam. This is a top spot to see any overwintering (endemic) Cyprus Warblers and we were not disappointed... the first was spotted after only a few minutes... although it did take us a touch longer to confirm the identification of this rather skulking bird that looks rather like the much commoner Sardinian Warbler. It transpired that throughout the course of our hour or so stroll we saw some six of these little darlings. There were also some choice plants to see. The yellow Stink Aster was festooned with Painted Ladies. Nearby, some rather showy purple blooms turned out to be *Fagonia cretica*; the broom-like *Genista fasselata* had a few early yellow and pea like flowers dotted over it; and the Pradium growing up through it was sporting just a few of its white flowers. The elegant grass *Oryzopsis miliacea* was also a welcome site.

We then drove round and onto the road at the top of the dam. From here we spotted two Kestrels precariously perched on *Echinops* stems that looked too shrivelled and fragile to hold them. On the waterside were a few Great Cormorants, a Little Egret and a Grey Heron. As we strolled across the dam, Serin, Black Redstart and Stonechat made an appearance, and we flushed a Chukar.

From here we moved on to an area of hilly and rocky ground known as St. Barbara. As we approached, a perching Little Owl was expertly spotted atop a large boulder and it quite happily allowed us great views and photographs. A little further on, we parked and picnicked and partook of some local wine whilst a Long-legged Buzzard circled and hovered lazily overhead. Lunch over, we took a short walk past some Spiny Broom and, after a touch of searching, found not only the very smart Finsch's Wheatear, but also a host of very smart plants including Friar's Cowl, *Crocus veneris*, *Dianthus stricta* (ssp. *troodii*) and the diminutive buttercup *Ranunculus bullatus*. Into the bargain, here too was a rather bizarre looking Snouted Grasshopper (*Acrida ungarica*)

Leaving behind this lovely spot, we went down to the beach at Mandria where some rather specialist strandline plants awaited us. Yellow-horned Poppy was frequent, but just one flower was open, whereas Sea Samphire and

Sea Rocket was flowering in profusion. The *Verbascum sinuatum* had a few flowers, and the *Euphorbia peplis*? - well, it's difficult to be sure as its flowers are so tiny. A few incessantly moving blue butterflies took some patience to pin down as Lang's Short-tailed Blue, and as our beach walk came to an end a ridiculously well camouflaged Kentish Plover was picked out from amongst the cobbles.

As the sun began to set we headed for the sewage works which initially appeared to be inhabited by little more than Spanish Sparrows, but then we chanced upon a flock of Spur-winged Lapwing roosting with a few Western Cattle Egrets as a fine finale to a fine day.

It was then back to our hotel for checklists and dinner at our now usual taverna.

Day 4

Thursday 24th December

Field in Paphos, Georgios Beach and the Pegia Forest

Weather: warm & sunny

Today, breakfast was followed by our farewell to our Paphos hotel, as we were moving on to pastures new. Whilst one of our party sought minor medical attention, we took the opportunity to visit a 'ruderal' area in Paphos. Here, a few scattered Royal Oaks stood sentinel-like over the shorter 'maquis' vegetation composed of dense shrubs like Turpentine Bush and Thorny Burnet (aka the Chicken Wire Plant). They also stood sentinel over a wealth of fly-tipped detritus which was somewhat ugly, but provided great refuges for reptiles and invertebrates, and so we were able to find Kotschy's Gecko and Ocellated Skink under some, and a recently deceased (endemic) Cyprus Tarantula nearby.

Next it was off for coffee/beer/tea/hot chocolate at a seaside café overlooking patches of the endemic dandelion *Taraxacum aphyrogenes* and the equally lovely but not endemic *T. hellenicum*. Here too was a single plant of Woody Catchfly in flower, and as we drank a Peregrine zipped by and was seen by some.

Refreshments over, we drove a short distance up the coast to Georgios beach. Prominent here were the large bushes of Phoenician Juniper, laden with aromatic berries and many sheltering Sardinian Warblers that we could hear but not often see! We had come to this particular spot to find the diminutive crocus-like flowers of *Colchicum pusillum* and, after some searching, we found many, but each no more than an inch from the bare ground from whence it sprouted.

Leaving the lovely crystal clear waters behind, we headed for the hills; these particular ones clothed in trees and known as the Pegia Forest. We had earlier bought ourselves a variety of pasties, rolls, quiches and other bakery goods and these were now enjoyed in the shade of the many Calabrian Pines and washed down with a little wine or juice. Then it was time to walk off some of those calories via a perambulation through the forest. There were few plants in flower, but we did manage to spot some Southern Daisies, Tuberous Hawkbit and the diminutive *Euphorbia dimorphocaulon*. Sadly we were just too late for the Autumn Lady's Tresses flowers, though only just - the brown petal remnants still hinting at a touch of white. Other plants we managed to identify vegetatively included Narrow-leaved Cistus and the rough hairy *Lithodora hispidula*. Birdlife was evident in sound but annoyingly difficult to see. A Long-legged Buzzard was seen briefly at distance and the odd Sardinian Warbler flitted into, and then almost immediately out of view. A Robin was a bird for the season, and on the plant side were the tiny green lances poking less than half an inch out of the ground, aptly named Least Adder's-tongue.

As we drove to our beachside hotel, a couple of us saw what was most probably a female Black Francolin fly over. On arrival, we made ourselves comfy, ticked the checklist for the day and enjoyed a rather fine buffet dinner.

Day 5

Friday 25th December

Hotel - Baths of Aphrodite - coastal path (the Akamas Peninsular)

The weather today was, again, warm and sunny. A pre-breakfast walk turned up the usual suspects: Chaffinch, Stonechat, Jackdaw and Collared Dove etc. However, it was a fine morning for a stroll to help us work up an appetite for a fine Christmas breakfast under clear blue skies. It was then off along a quiet road towards the Baths of Aphrodite. For those that were still a touch peckish, there were Mandoras under a roadside tree... ok, we also had to be told what a Mandora is... though there is a big clue in the name... it's a cross between a **mandarin** and an **orange** (and also known as an Ortanique). Those who did not fancy these had the choice of Carob pods or the local Bramble fruit, which was too tart for most. Luckily, coffee/tea/lager/hot chocolate was also available at the bar we reached near the Baths. However, before this, we did come across some of the local clematis (Maiden's Bower) in flower, and large mantid was another treat. Birds were a bit thin on the ground (or should that be 'thin in the air?') – a distant Peregrine being perhaps the only one of note. Some Troodos Wall Lizards were left to fill the interest on the vertebrate front.

In the botanic gardens there were lots of indigenous (native to Cyprus) and endemic (found only on Cyprus) flora on show, but we did not add most of these to our checklist. A hedge of *Bosea cypria* provided Yiannis with the opportunity to talk about this important endemic species found on Cyprus. We also found another plant to nibble – a cultivated Myrtle, which most liked, despite its rather medicinal taste. Here too were some fine Snake-eyed Lizards, and a Savigny's Tree Frog was caught and it settled down to allow photographs to be taken. The 'baths' held some nice Maidenhair Fern. We continued by strolling around the headland and Yiannis gave us an open-air talk on the complex geology of the island, including the origins of the Serpentine and Pillow Lava rocks that were evident along the track.

By now it was lunchtime and most had this in the company of the graceful Bunch-flowered Narcissus' that lined our route. Here too was home for the Mediterranean Clubmoss – so beloved of bottle gardeners, and the most lovely *Romulea tempskyana*.

Some then decided to return to our hotel by bus; some of those that decided to walk were treated to the sight of a couple of Serin and a couple of very smart Brambling.

The checklist was followed by a nod to the festive season by way of crackers with an ornithological twist – birdsong 'cards' that we listened to and tried to guess the singer - some were decidedly easier than others.

Day 6

Saturday 26th December

Hills above the hotel and the nearby coast

Weather: warm & sunny

Today's pre-breakfast walk again turned up the usual sightings, but it was a fine morning for a stroll. Post breakfast, we saw another Savigny's Tree Frog and a fat caterpillar of the Oleander Hawk-moth in the hotel grounds. Here too were flowering Weasel Snout and Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill.

We then strolled up a track onto the hillside, but sadly the field usually sporting a host of Fan-lipped Orchids had been ploughed. Despite some serious searching, all we could find were rosettes of orchid species yet to flower. A few Crown Anemones and Tuberous Hawkbit did add some colour to the sward, and a little further on we found little pockets of showy Persian Sowbread and Bunch-flowered Narcissus.

On the creature side of things, the birds were proving vocal but well hidden, so we amused ourselves with a very smart but rather scary-looking Wasp Spider, *Argiope bruennichi*, whose bite is harmless, and an even scarier looking Giant Centipede – whose bite is, apparently, seriously painful.

Still on the lookout for orchids, we spooked a large dark snake in the middle of trying to swallow an unfortunate lizard. Rather than making off immediately, it simply slithered up the nearest tree and finished off its lizard before making off into nearby undergrowth. This gave us plenty of time to admire it and identify it as the endemic Cyprus Whip Snake.

We had lunch on the coastal limestone amongst the stunted-looking Kermes Oaks and a scattering of *Romulea tempskyana*. Yiannis treated us to Melomakarona - a Cypriot festive cake made with semolina and syrup, which went down a treat. We then made our way down to the sea shore, where a Common or Green Sandpiper flew past too quickly to be sure which of the two it was.

Some then chose to return along the simple route, via the road; others the trickier route along the coastal rocks. This latter group were rewarded with a young but lovely Blunt-nosed Viper amongst the rocks. Adults of this species often lie motionless near to pools in the rock, awaiting the approach of the (thirsty) birds they prey on.

We were back at our hotel for an afternoon coffee, and then some chose to partake of another little walk down the roadside, where we ‘appropriated’ a pomelo (some had never heard of it) and later we prepared and ate it. The consensus was that the taste was like a not bitter grapefruit). We also feasted on fallen Pecan nuts, and on the wildlife front had good sightings of Serin and Brambling through the telescope.

The evening checklist was followed by another fine dinner.

Day 7

Sunday 27th December

Smiyes to Neochorio to our hotel

Weather: warm & sunny

Today, the pre-breakfast bird walk yielded a rare decent view of not one - but three Sardinian Warblers. They even kept still in the open long enough for some decent photographs to be taken. Some Chiffchaffs were equally obliging, but less colourful.

After breakfast, we met up with Doros and our coach again, and headed off the eight or so kilometres to just above the Smiyes car park. From a vantage point we had excellent panoramic views of the peninsular and the azure blue waters of the Eastern Mediterranean, under the clear blue skies that we had enjoyed virtually all week.

Nearby, an outcrop of serpentine rock supported its own specialised flora. Soils derived from serpentine are toxic to many plants, because of high levels of nickel, chromium, and cobalt; growth of many plants is also

inhibited by low levels of potassium and phosphorus and a low ratio of calcium/magnesium. Hence, here were to be found a number of endemics including *Alyssum akamasicum*, *Centaurea veneris* and *Thymus integer*, all of which we saw, but sadly only vegetatively due to the unseasonably dry weather (although we did see the latter in flower later).

As we strolled on through the open forest, there were a few other little flowery gems to admire – the white or red trumpets of the *Lithodora hispidula*, the tiny white ‘bells’ of the endemic *Hyacinthella millingenii*, the nodding pink endemic cyclamen/sowbread *Cyclamen cyprium*, but top spot would probably have to go to the beautiful endemic bee/fly orchid *Ophrys omegaifera* ssp. *israelitica*.

On the bird front, perhaps the only sighting of note was a soaring Long-legged Buzzard that glided lazily over our heads. There were other creatures to entertain us though; including a lovely lilac (and endemic) Cyprus Freshwater Crab and the endemic and wonderfully stripy yellow flat-backed Millipede *Melaphe cypria*.

Lunch was in a village taverna and included a great meze (mix) of traditional Cypriot fayre, such as lemon and herb marinated olives, grilled halloumi cheese, oregano bread, spinach and egg stir fry, and cannellini bean stew (Fasolada).

From here we had the option of the three or so kilometre walk back down the hill to the hotel, or a lift back that same way in the coach. Either way, there were refreshing hot or cold drinks on offer on our arrival.

After the checklist, we swapped emails to keep in touch, and enjoyed a final dinner at our lovely beachside hotel.

Day 8

Monday 28th December

Hotel to Paphos to London Gatwick

Weather: warm & sunny

Our pre-breakfast walk was earlier today in order to accommodate other activities before our departure. There was quite a lot of bird activity and we were soon seeing the familiar Stonechat, Black Redstart and Goldfinch. One particular tree seemed to harbour most of the birdlife and it was here we spotted a new bird for the trip – a Blackcap – not earth shattering, but good to see. Then, finally, we spotted a small covey of Chukar. We had been searching for this elusive partridge every morning and now here they were, a group of six in easy view, resting in the shade of a large olive tree. That seemed like a good place to stop while we were ahead, so we headed back for some breakfast.

All packed up, we said our goodbyes to our hosts and headed off just a short way to a local supermarket, where some of us stocked up on goodies for friends and relatives back home. Shopping done, we headed for Paphos and frustratingly, due to the narrow busy road, we could not stop for what appeared to be a couple of Long-legged Buzzards perched near the roadside. Our final bit of culture and history was a visit to the Monastery of St. Neophytos. Here, in a hilly area above Paphos, the saint found a cave that had been used by a previous hermit. He enlarged the space, eventually creating three caves known today as the Cell, the Bema and the Naos.

Neophytos's life as a hermit attracted the religious in the area who brought him food and gifts. His air of sanctity brought many to visit him, and in 1170 Vasilios (Basil) Kinnamos, the Bishop of Paphos, ordained him as a

priest and required him to take a disciple, which started the monastery which now bears his name. The caves now contain some of the finest Byzantine frescoes on the island.

From here we visited the sewage works and the smart Spur-winged Lapwings were still present and showing nicely under a clear blue sky – just a shame about the smell!

All too soon it was time to get to the airport where we bade fond farewells to Yiannis and Doros, boarded our flight to Gatwick, and four hours later, in the grey and damp, it was time to bid each other farewell and return to our homes with the fond memories of an island in the sunshine.

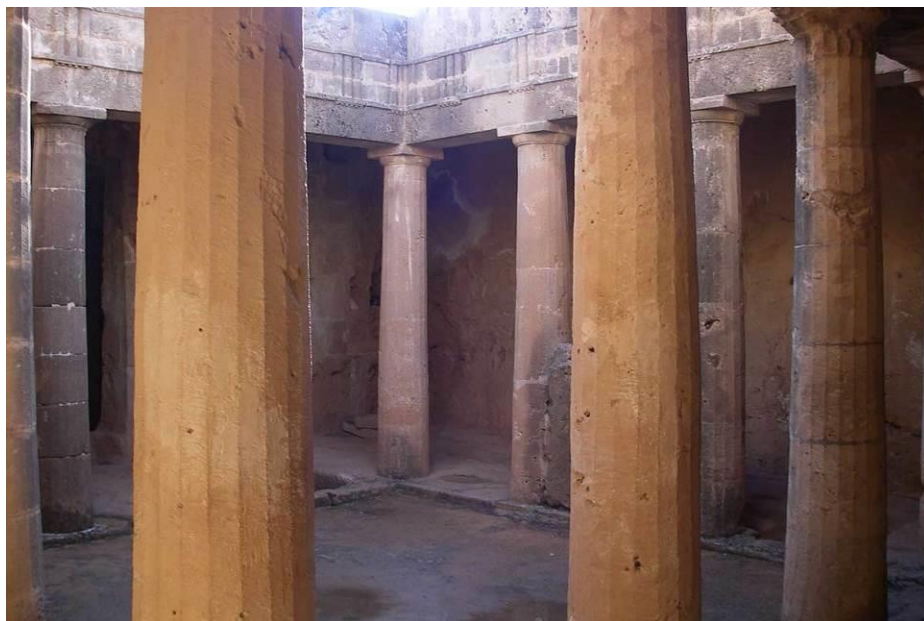
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Tomb of the Kings by Sean d'Rozario

Species List

Plants (* denotes endemic)

Please Note: Nomenclature contained within this list follows the taxonomic amendments, based on DNA analysis, made by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Missouri Botanic Garden, and following The Plant List, an internationally accepted list of vascular plant families, published and maintained by these two Institutions.

Scientific name

Common name

PTERIDOPHYTES

FERNS & ALLIES

Lycophytes

Clubmosses & Quillworts

Selaginellaceae

Selaginella denticulata

Lesser Clubmoss Family

Mediterranean Clubmoss

Eusporangiate Ferns

Ophioglossum lusitanicum

Adder's-tongues & Moonworts

Least Adder's-tongue

Calamophytes

Horsetails

Equisetaceae

Equisetum ramosissimum

Horsetail Family

Branched Horsetail

Leptosporangiate Ferns

True Ferns

Pteridaceae

Adiantum capillus-veneris

Ribbon Fern Family

Maidenhair Fern

GYMNOSPERMS

CONIFERS

Cupressaceae

Cupressus sempervirens

Juniperus phoenicea

Juniper family

Italian Cypress

Phoenicean Juniper

Ephedraceae

Ephedra fragilis

Joint-pine Family

Joint-pine

Pinaceae

Pinus brutia

Pinus pinea

Pine Family

Calabrian Pine

Stone Pine

ANGIOSPERMS

FLOWERING PLANTS

Eu-Dicots

True Dicotyledons

Amaranthaceae

*Bosea cypria**

Noaea mucronata

Pigweed Family

-

-

Anacardiaceae

Pistacia atlantica

Pistacia lentiscus

Pistacia terebinthus

Sumach Family

Mount Atlas Mastic Tree

Mastic Tree

Turpentine Bush

Scientific name	Common name
Apiaceae	Carrot Family
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Sea Samphire
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders
Boraginaceae	Borage Family
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss
<i>Heliotropium hirsutissimum</i>	-
<i>Lithodora hispidula</i>	-
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family
<i>Alyssum akamasicum</i> *	-
<i>Brassica hilarionis</i> *	-
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket
<i>Sinapis alba</i>	White Mustard
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family
<i>Dianthus strictus ssp troodi</i>	-
<i>Paronychia argentea</i>	Algerian Tea
<i>Silene fruticosa</i>	Woody Catchfly
Cistaceae	Cistus Family
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus
Compositae (Asteraceae)	Daisy Family
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy
<i>Bidens sp.</i>	A Bur-marigold
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold
<i>Carlina pygmaea</i>	-
<i>Centaurea aegialophila</i>	-
<i>Centaurea veneris</i> *	-
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Stink Aster
<i>Echinops spinosissimus</i>	-
<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i>	-
<i>Leontodon tuberosum</i>	Tuberous Hawkbit
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>	Phagnalon
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle
<i>Taraxacum aphrogenes</i> *	a Dandelion
<i>Taraxacum hellenicum</i>	-
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Spiny Cocklebur
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed
Cucurbitaceae	Gourd Family
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber
Ericaceae	Heather Family
<i>Arbutus andrachne</i>	Eastern Strawberry Tree
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family
<i>Euphorbia dimorphocaulon</i>	-

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	-
<i>Euphorbia peplis</i>	Purple Spurge
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor-oil Plant
Fabaceae	Pea Family
<i>Calicotome (Calycotome) villosa</i>	Spiny Broom
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob
<i>Genista fasselata (sphacelata)</i>	-
Fagaceae	Oak Family
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak
<i>Quercus infectoria</i>	Deciduous or Royal Oak
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill
<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	Musk Stork's-bill
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family
<i>Micromeria cristata</i>	
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary
<i>Thymus capitatus</i>	Capitate Thyme
<i>Thymus integer*</i>	-
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste Tree
Linaceae	
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax
Malvaceae	Mallow Family
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
Meliaceae	Persian Lilac Family
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian Bead Tree
Myrtaceae	Myrtle Family
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Myrtle
Oleaceae	Olive Family
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive
Oxalidaceae	Sorrel Family
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family
<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	Winged Sea Lavender
Polygonaceae	Dock Family
<i>Polygonum equisetiforme</i>	-
<i>Polygonum lanigera</i>	African Persicaria

Scientific name**Common name****Primulaceae**

*Cyclamen cyprium**
Cyclamen persicum
Samolus valerandi

Primrose Family

Cypriot Sowbread
 Persian Sowbread
 Brookweed

Ranunculaceae

Anemone coronaria
Clematis cirrhosa
Ranunculus bullatus

Buttercup Family

Crown Anemone
 Maiden's Bower
 -

Resedaceae

Reseda orientalis

Mignonette Family

-

Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus oleoides
Ziziphus lotus

Buckthorn Family

-

-

Rosaceae

Pyrus syriaca
Rubus sanctus
Sarcopoterium spinosum

Rose Family

Syrian Pear
 a Bramble
 Thorny Burnet

Rubiaceae

Galium canum
Rubia tenuifolia

Bedstraw Family

-

Narrow-leaved Madder

Scrophulariaceae

Misopates orontium
Verbascum sinuatum
Veronica polita

Figwort Family

Weasel Snout
 -
 Grey Field-speedwell

Solanaceae

Mandragora officinalis (*Mandragora autumnalis*)
Solanum nigrum

Nightshade Family

Mandrake
 Black Nightshade

Zygophyllaceae

Fagonia cretica

Caltrop Family

-

Monocots**Monocotyledons****Amaryllidaceae**

Narcissus serotinus
Narcissus tazetta
Pancratium maritimum

Daffodil Family

-

Bunch-flowered Narcissus
 Sea Daffodil

Araceae

Arisarum vulgare

Arum Family

Friar's Cowl

Asparagaceae

Asparagus horridus (*A. stipularis*)
Drimia maritima
*Hyacinthella millingenii**

Asparagus Family

Sea Squill

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Scientific name	Common name
Colchicaceae <i>Colchicum pusillum</i>	Meadow Saffron Family -
Iridaceae <i>Crocus veneris*</i> <i>Romulea tempskyana</i>	Iris Family Cyprus Crocus -
Orchidaceae <i>Ophrys omegaifera</i> subsp. <i>israelitica</i> <i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>	Orchid Family - Autumn Lady's Tresses
Poaceae <i>Arundo donax</i> <i>Oryzopsis miliacea</i> <i>Phragmites australis</i> <i>Setaria verticillata</i>	Grass Family Giant Reed - Common Reed Rough Bristle-grass
Smilacaceae <i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax Family Smilax
Xanthorrhoeaceae <i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i> <i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Asphodel Family Hollow-stemmed Asphodel Common Asphodel
LICHENS: <i>Cladonia covoluta</i>	-

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	December							
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			1					6
2	Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>				1				
3	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			1					
4	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			6					
5	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>				1				
6	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		2	4					1
7	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>			1	1			1	2?
8	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>			12					10
9	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>		1						
10	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>			1					
11	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		2		12	6			4
12	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	40	✓	✓			✓	✓	
14	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
15	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			1					
16	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
17	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				1	1			1
18	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	2		4	✓				2
19	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>			40+	✓	✓	✓		
20	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Great Tit	<i>Parus major aphrodite</i>		6		1	4	✓	✓	
22	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		9						

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			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		10	3					
24	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			H		1	H	H	H
25	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		4	1	1	2	✓	✓	
26	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		4						
27	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>								1
28	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		6	1	3	3	1	H	1
29	Cyprus Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>			6					
30	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		2					H	
31	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>					H			
32	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		60+						
33	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>					H		H	
34	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				1	2			
35	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		12	8		✓	✓	✓	✓
36	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	6	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Finsch's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>			1					
38	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	4	1	6			2		
40	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>							1	
41	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	4	14	6	✓		✓		✓
42	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		10	13					
43	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	6	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>					2	1		
45	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		2			1	2	4	2
46	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				2	2			
47	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		2	10		✓	✓	✓	✓
48	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			3		2	3	2	1

Amphibians & Reptiles

1	Savigny's Tree Frog	<i>Hyla savignyi</i>					✓	✓		
2	Starred Agama	<i>Laudakia stellio</i>		✓			✓		✓	
3	Kotschy's Gecko	<i>Cyrtopodion kotschy</i>				✓				
4	Snake-eyed Lizard	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>		✓			✓		✓	
5	Troodos Wall Lizard*	<i>Phoenicolacerta troodica</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
6	Budak's Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus budaki</i>		✓					✓	
7	Ocellated Skink	<i>Chalcides ocellatus</i>				✓				
8	Cyprus Whip Snake	<i>Hierophis cypriensis</i>						✓		
9	Blunt-nosed Viper	<i>Macrovipera lebetina</i>						✓		

Butterflies

1	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>			✓				✓	
3	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>		✓						
5	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>			✓					
6	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓			✓	✓		✓	
7	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Macro Moths

1	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	✓							✓
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			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
2	Oleander Hawk-moth	<i>Daphnis nerii</i>				✓		✓		

Other invertebrates (* denotes endemic)

1	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>							✓	
2	Epaulet Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysostigma</i>					✓		✓	
3	Eastern Cone-headed Grasshopper	<i>Truxalis eximia</i>					✓			
4	Common Cone-headed Grasshopper	<i>Acrida ungarica</i>			✓					
5	An endemic millepede	<i>Melaphe cypria</i>							✓	
6	Giant Centipede	<i>Scolopendra cingulatus</i>						✓		
7	African Mantis	<i>Sphodromantis viridis</i>					✓			
8	Wasp Spider	<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>						✓		
9	Cyprus Freshwater Crab*	<i>Potamius potamius</i>							✓	



Spur-winged Plover by Roger Newton