

Cyprus

25th June - 3rd July 2007



Male Cyprus Wheatear Cape Greco 26th June

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Itinerary

A family holiday with some birding to Proterias on Eastern Cyprus. I was travelling with wife Natasha and children Alexander 15 and Nina 12. We departure 30 min late from Copenhagen airport 7.00 pm and landed on schedule on Larnaca airport 11.40 pm local time. Had to wait almost one hour for our luggage on the very hot airport. A pree-booked car category E with AC was also delayed for one hour. We then drove on excellent motorways on the left side E to Protaras which took 45 min. Protaras is situated about 10 km SE of Famagusta on the SE Greek Cypriote part. Except from swimming, shopping and eating we took on almost daily excursions with birding. The weather was warm, about 35-40 °C and settled for the whole trip. We stayed at the four star hotel Louis Nausica Beach in the southern part of Protaras. On the hotel also stayed friend Irene with daughter Lina. My main goals was to see Cyprus Wheatear, Cyprus Warbler and as many as possible of the endemic subspecies. We used Freytag & Berndt Cipro map 1:200 000 bought in advance in Sweden.



Our routes on Cyprus in red.

Diary

25th June

Larnaca airport 11:40-13:15

Barn Swallow 2

Feral Pigeon 5

Larnaca-Protaras 13:15-14:00

Feral Pigeon 5

House Sparrow 10

Yellow-legged Gull 1 adult

Protaras 14:00-22:30

Barn Swallow 75

Common House Martin 2

Common Swift 3
Common Kestrel 1
Collared Dove 1

26th June

A morning tour with birding and digiscoping at this famous watch point. Parked at the entrance and walked the area around. Rest of day at the hotel.

Cape Greco 05:40-07:40

European Goldfinch 10
Common Kestrel 1 male + 3
Chukar 3 singing + 6
European Greenfinch 5
House Sparrow 20
Spectacled Warbler 5
Barn Swallow 20
Alpine Swift 6
Pallid Swift 2
Common Swift 1
Common Linnet 1
Rock Dove 5
Crested Lark 3
Cyprus Wheatear 3 males



Cape Greco 26th June with view to the west.

Protaras 09:00-23:00

Pallid Swift 2
Yellow-legged Gull 1 adult
House Sparrow 15
Collared Dove 1
Barn Swallow 10
Audouin's Gull 1 adult - flying S over the beach

27th June

The whole day at and near the hotel

Protaras 09:00-22:00

Audouin's Gull 1 adult - flying S over the beach

28th June

A visit to the very good birding spot the Achna reservoir in the morning. A short stop before dawn just N Ormedia.

Ormedia 04:15

Stone-curlew 1 singing

Achna reservoir 04:55-07:03

Common Quail 2 singing
Black Francolin 1 singing
Stone-curlew 1 singing
Common Kestrel 1
Cetti's Warbler 1 singing
Spur-winged Lapwing 11
Little Grebe 4
Common Moorhen 2
Black-crowned Night Heron 4 adults + 3 2nd years + 1 juvenile
Common Magpie 1
Collared Dove 1 singing
Eurasian Coot 6
Common Swift 4
Barn Swallow 26
European Greenfinch 2
Little Egret 1
Hooded Crow 7
Isabelline Warbler 3
European Goldfinch 2
House Sparrow 1
Zitting Cisticola 5 singing
Cattle Egret 10 passing by
Green Sandpiper 5
Eurasian Spoonbill 1 adult
Stilt Sandpiper 1 adult
Little Ringed Plover 1 adult
Feral Pigeon 3
Peregrine Falcon 1 juvenile
Wood Sandpiper 2
Great Tit 1
Spanish Sparrow 15
Eurasian Hoopoe 1
Spectacled Warbler 1
European Roller 2

29th June

A day tour to the Troodos mountains area with Mount Olympus. On the back home we stopped at Episkopi and Kensington Cliffs at Episkopi with extreme heat well over 40 °C.

Xylofagu 09:45

Cattle Egret 2

Pyla 09:50

Western Jackdaw 3

Pond S of motorway 1 km before turning to Troulloi 10:12

European Roller 2

Platres 11:35-11:47

House Sparrow 5

Common Wood Pigeon 1

Common House Martin 6

Barn Swallow 4

European Serin 1 singing

Cyprus Wheatear 1 male

Coal Tit 1

Common Chaffinch 1

Common Swift 1

Troodhitissa picnic area 12:05-12:35

Coal Tit 2 + 1 singing

Common Chaffinch 5

Grey Wagtail 2 in a pair

Spotted Flycatcher 2

Common Blackbird 1 singing

House Sparrow 5

European Serin 2

Eurasian Jay 2

Winter Wren 1

Short-toed Tree-creeper 1 adult feeding 2 youngs



Troodhitissa picnic area, Trodos mountains 29th June.

Lay-by between Troodhitissa and Mt Olympos 12:54-12:56

Common Blackbird 1 singing

Red-rumped Swallow 1

Mt Olympos 13:25-13:55

Isabelline Warbler 1

Common House Martin 10

Barn Swallow 5

Cyprus Wheatear 1 male

Eurasian Jay 1

Coal Tit 1

European Serin 1 singing

House Sparrow 4



Troodos mountains, near Mt Olympos 29th June.

Sanctuary of Apollo, Episkopi 15:30-16:10

Eleonora's Falcon 2

Cyprus Warbler 1 singing and seen shortly

Cyprus Wheatear 1 male



Sanctuary of Apollo, Episkopi 29th June. Wood fire in background.

Kensington Cliffs 16:15-16:30

Eleonora's Falcon 15

Alpine Swift 1



Kensington Cliffs, Episkopi 29th June.

30th June

The hotel area. Not the same heat as previous days but around 34 °C.

Protaras

Long-eared hedgehog 1 near the beach in the evening

Unidentified bat several quite small with not very long ears

European Goldfinch 1

Barn Swallow 200 gathering just before sunset sleeping in Palm trees at the hotel

Common House Martin 1 visiting nest at the hotel

1st July

A short tour to Agia Napa.

Protaras

Barn Swallow 200 coming in to sleep in same Palm trees as the day before

2nd July

A short stop.

Reservoir at Larnaca airport 09:05-09:10

Greater Flamingo 165

Redshank 1

Kentish Plover 2

Common Kestrel 1

Crested Lark 1

Barn Swallow 10

3rd July

Larnaca-Nicosia

Due to problems with a generator on the aircraft we had to make an emergency landing after been circling over the sea to pump out fuel. Transport to Nicosia and a delicious dinner and sleep at hotel Hilton. After reparation we departure in the morning of 3rd July.

Species list

Birds

1. **Chukar** Berghöna *Alectoris chukar cypriotes*
3 singing + 6 Cape Greco 26th June.
2. **Black Francolin** Svart frankolin *Francolinus francolinus*
1 singing Achna reservoir 28th June.
3. **Common Quail** Vaktel *Coturnix coturnix*
2 singing Achna reservoir 28th June.
4. **Little Grebe** Smådopping *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
4 Achna reservoir 28th June.
5. **Black-crowned Night Heron** Natthäger *Nycticorax nycticorax*
4 adults + 3 2nd years + 1 juvenile Achna reservoir 28th June.
6. **Cattle Egret** Kohäger *Bubulcus ibis*
2 Xylofagu 29th July.
7. **Little Egret** Silkesäger *Egretta garzetta*
1 Achna reservoir 28th June.
8. **Eurasian Spoonbill** Skedstork *Platalea leucorodia*
1 adult Achna reservoir 28th June.



Eurasian Spoonbill, Spur-winged Plover and Wood Sandpiper Achna reservoir 28th June.

9. **Greater Flamingo** Större flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*
165 Reservoir at Larnaca airport 2nd July.
10. **Common Kestrel** Tornfalk *Falco tinnunculus*
1 Protaras 25th June, 1 male + 3 Cape Greco 26th June, 1 Achna reservoir 28th June and 1 Reservoir at Larnaca airport 2nd July.
11. **Eleonora's Falcon** Eleonorafalk *Falco eleonora*
2 Sanctuary of Apollo, Episkopi 29th July and 15 Kensington Cliffs 29th July.
12. **Peregrine Falcon** Pilgrimsfalk *Falco peregrinus*
1 juvenile Achna reservoir 28th June.
13. **Common Moorhen** Rörhöna *Gallinula chloropus*
2 Achna reservoir 28th June.
14. **Eurasian Coot** Sothöna *Fulica atra* 6 Achna reservoir 28th June.
15. **Stilt Sandpiper** Stytlöpare *Himantopus himantopus*
1 adult Achna reservoir 28th June.
16. **Stone-curlew** Tjockfot *Burhinus oedichnemus saharae*
1 singing Ormedia 28th June and 1 singing Achna reservoir 28th June.
17. **Little Ringed Plover** Mindre strandpipare *Charadrius dubius coronius*
1 adult Achna reservoir 28th June.

18. **Kentish Plover** Svartbent strandpipare *Charadrius alexandrinus*
2 Reservoir at Larnaca airport 2nd July
19. **Spur-winged Lapwing** Sporrvipa *Vanellus spinosus*
11 Achna reservoir 28th June.



Spur-winged Lapwing Achna reservoir 28th June.

20. **Redshank** Rödbena *Tringa tetanus*
1 Reservoir at Larnaca airport 2nd July.
21. **Green Sandpiper** Skogssnäppa *Tringa ochropus*
5 Achna reservoir 28th June.
22. **Wood Sandpiper** Grönbena *Tringa glareola*
2 Achna reservoir 28th June
23. **Audouin's Gull** Rödnäbbad trut *Larus audouinii*
1 adult flying S over the beach Protaras 27th June.
24. **Yellow-legged Gull** Medelhavstrut *Larus michahellis*
1 adult Larnaca-Protaras 25th June and 1 adult Protaras 26th June.
25. **Rock Dove** Klippduva *Columba livia gaddi*
5 Cape Greco 26th June.
- Feral Pigeon** Tamduva *Columba livia domesticus*
5 Larnaca airport 25th June, 5 Larnaca-Protaras 25th June and 3 Achna reservoir 28th June.

26. **Common Wood Pigeon** Ringduva *Columba palumbus*
1 Platres 29th July.
27. **Collared Dove** Turkduva *Streptopelia decaocto*
1 Protaras 25th- 26th June and 1 singing Achna reservoir 28th June.
28. **Common Swift** Tornseglare *Apus apus*
3 Protaras 25th June, 1 Cape Greco 26th June, 4 Achna reservoir 28th June and 1 Platres 29th July.
29. **Pallid Swift** Blek tornseglare *Apus pallidus*
2 Cape Greco 26th June and 2 mating in the air when quivering quite differently from Common Swifts Protaras 26th June.
30. **Alpine Swift** Alpseglare *Apus melba*
6 Cape Greco 26th June and 1 Kensington Cliffs 29th July.
31. **European Roller** Blåkråka *Coracias garrulous*
2 passing by and calling "kerae-kerae-kerae" Achna reservoir 28th June and 2 Pond S of motorway 1 km before turning to Troulloi 29th July.
32. **Eurasian Hoopoe** Härfågel *Upupa epops*
1 Achna reservoir 28th June.
33. **Crested Lark** Tofslärka *Galerida cristata cypriaca*
3 Cape Greco 26th June and 1 Reservoir at Larnaca airport 2nd July.
34. **Barn Swallow** Ladusvala *Hirundo rustica*
200 coming in to sleep in same Palm trees as the day before Protaras 1st July, 2 Larnaca airport 25th June, 75 Protaras 25th June, 20 Cape Greco 26th June, 10 Protaras 26th June, 26 Achna reservoir 28th June, 4 Platres 29th July, 5 Mt Olympos 29th July, 10 Reservoir at Larnaca airport 2nd July and 200 gathering just before sunset sleeping in Palm trees at the hotel Protaras 30th June.
35. **Red-rumped Swallow** Rostgumpssvala *Cecropis daurica*
1 Lay-by between Troodhitissa and Mt Olympos 29th July.
36. **Common House Martin** Hussvala *Delichon urbicum*
2 Protaras 25th June, 6 Platres 29th July, 10 Mt Olympos 29th July and 1 visiting nest at the hotel Protaras 30th June.
37. **Grey Wagtail** Forsärla *Motacilla cinerea*
2 in a pair Troodhitissa picnic area 29th July.
38. **Winter Wren** Gärdsmyg *Troglodytes troglodytes cypriotes*
1 Troodhitissa picnic area 29th July.
39. **Cyprus Wheatear** Cypernstenskvätta *Oenanthe cypriaca*
3 males Cape Greco 26th June, 1 male Platres 29th July, 1 male Mt Olympos 29th July and 1 male Sanctuary of Apollo, Episkopi 29th July
40. **Common Blackbird** Koltrast *Turdus merula*
1 singing Troodhitissa picnic area 29th July and 1 singing at lay-by between Troodhitissa and Mt Olympos 29th July.
41. **Cetti's Warbler** Cettisångare *Cettia cetti*
1 singing Achna reservoir 28th June.
42. **Zitting Cisticola** Grässångare *Cisticola juncidis*
5 singing Achna reservoir 28th June.
43. **Olivaceous Warbler** Eksångare *Hippolais pallida*
3 Achna reservoir 28th June and 1 Mt Olympos 29th July.
44. **Spectacled Warbler** Glasögonsångare *Sylvia conspicillata*
5 Cape Greco 26th June and 1 Achna reservoir 28th June.
45. **Cyprus Warbler** Cypernsångare *Sylvia melanothorax*
1 singing and seen shortly Sanctuary of Apollo, Episkopi 29th July.

46. **Spotted Flycatcher** Grå flugsnappare *Muscicapa striata neumanni*
2 Troodhitissa picnic area 29th July.
47. **Coal Tit** Svartmes *Parus ater cypriotes*
1 Platres 29th July, 2 + 1 singing Troodhitissa picnic area 29th July and 1 Mt Olympos 29th July.
48. **Great Tit** Talgoxe *Parus major*
1 Achna reservoir 28th June.
49. **Short-toed Tree-creeper** Trädgårdsträdskrypare *Certhia brachydactyla dorotheae*
1 adult feeding 2 youngs Troodhitissa picnic area 29th July.
50. **Eurasian Jay** Nötskrika *Garrulus glandarius glaszneri*
1 Mt Olympos 29th July and 2 Troodhitissa picnic area 29th July.
51. **Common Magpie** Skata *Pica pica*
1 Achna reservoir 28th June
52. **Western Jackdaw** Kaja *Corvus monedula soemmerringii*
3 Pyla 29th July
53. **Hooded Crow** Kråka *Corvus corone sardonius*
7 Achna reservoir 28th June
54. **House Sparrow** Gråsparv *Passer domesticus biblicus*
10 Larnaca-Protaras 25th June, 20 Cape Greco 26th June, 15 Protaras 26th June, 1 Achna reservoir 28th June, 5 Platres 29th July, 5 Troodhitissa picnic area 29th July and 4 Mt Olympos 29th July.
55. **Spanish Sparrow** Spansk sparv *Passer hispaniolensis*
15 Achna reservoir 28th June
56. **Common Chaffinch** Bofink *Fringilla coelebs*
1 Platres 29th July and 5 Troodhitissa picnic area 29th July.
57. **European Serin** Gulhämpling *Serinus serinus*
1 singing Platres 29th July, 2 Troodhitissa picnic area 29th July and 1 singing Mt Olympos 29th July.
58. **European Greenfinch** Grönfink *Carduelis chloris*
5 Cape Greco 26th June and 2 Achna reservoir 28th June.
59. **European Goldfinch** Steglits *Carduelis carduelis niediecki*
10 Cape Greco 26th June, 2 Achna reservoir 28th June and 1 Protaras 30th June.
60. **Common Linnet** Hämpling *Carduelis cannabina*
1 Cape Greco 26th June.

Mammals

1. **Unidentified bat** Ob. fladdermus *Chiroptera* several quite small with not very long ears
Protaras 30th June
2. **Long-eared hedgehog** Långörad igelkott *Hemiechinus auritus* 1 near the beach in the evening Protaras 30th June

Literature

Stagg, A & Hearl G. A. Birdwatching Guide to Cyprus. Arlequin. First published 1998. Reprinted 2001.