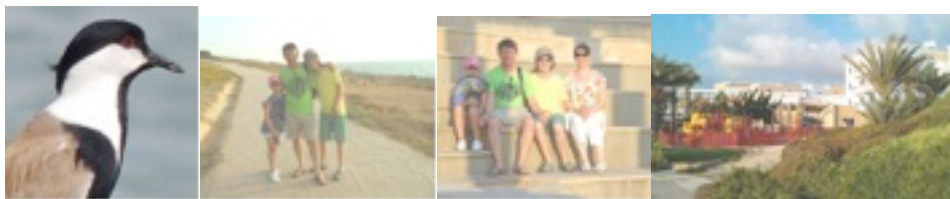


CYPRUS (Paphos area)

7th to 14th August 2013

Mike & Emma Cram and family



This was an all-inclusive family holiday with First Choice to **St. George's Gardens in Paphos, Cyprus**. Our direct flight to Paphos and back was from Bristol. From start to finish we cannot recommend the experience highly enough. No cooking, cleaning, just chilling out all of the time, a complete break! Mike could not keep still all the time and arranged two morning's guiding (9th and 12th) with **Jane Stylianou** from **Cyprus Birding tours** <http://cyprusbirdingtours.com/> to catch up with the main endemic / speciality species.

The weather was very hot and sunny all week with temperatures mainly 35 to 37 degrees Celsius. There was some partial cloud cover and haze on a couple of days and was very humid as a result. A few days experienced a most pleasant and relieving warm westerly breeze. Believe me, warm is better than hot!

Birdwatching was generally quiet at the resort only a passing Glossy Ibis (flew north at dusk on 8th), up to 3 Common Sandpiper on the rocky beach, a passing Whimbrel (13th), Yellow-legged Gull, 2 Tern sp (unidentified 13th), Rock dove / Feral Pigeon, Swallow, House Sparrow, Spanish Sparrow, Greenfinch, Goldfinch and Hooded Crow. The highlight was a Pallid Swift (am 14th) which lingered long enough for some photos.

To Holly's delight there were moths and butterflies - including Swallow-tail and Eastern Festoon, lizards, crickets, cicadas and a Praying Mantis. Mike's 2 guided mornings ([approx 43sp](#)) with Jane are summarised below:-

Friday August 9th 2013 (0700-1200)

[Meletis/White River area, Akamas](#)

Common Kestrel, 9 Chukar, 2 Yellow-legged Gull, Common Woodpigeon, Crested Lark (hd), **Cyprus Wheatear**, Zitting Cisticola, Sardinian Warbler, Masked Shrike (1fem), Western Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, House Sparrow.

[Kathikas](#)

On the roadside outside the village we saw a European Roller on wires.

[Arodes](#)

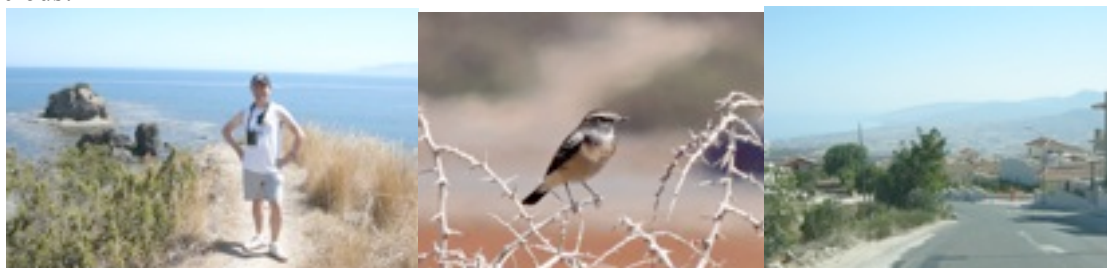
In the valley outside the village we saw 3+ Common Kestrel, 2 Eurasian Turtle Dove, 2 European Roller, Zitting Cisticola, Sardinian Warbler, 1 Woodchat Shrike, 4+ juv Masked Shrike, Eurasian Magpie, Western Jackdaw, European Goldfinch, Common Linnet.

[Area behind Neo Chorio village/Smygies area, Akamas](#)

Long-legged Buzzard, Common Kestrel, Chukar (c20), Common Woodpigeon, Eurasian Collared Dove, Eurasian 2 Turtle Dove, 1 Red-rumped Swallow, 2 juv and 1 fem **Cyprus Wheatear**, 1+ Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (hd), Sardinian Warbler (2+hd and 2 seen), Great Tit, Lesser Grey Shrike, 2 juv Masked Shrike, 20+ European Greenfinch. Finally as we left the area it was pleasing to find a male Cretzschmar's Bunting.

[Baths of Aphrodite, Polis Chrysochou Bay](#)

We finished the day with c40 Glossy Ibis migrating west over bay and an Isabelline Wheatear in between the farm field clods!



[Cyprus Pied Wheatear](#)

Monday August 12th 2013 (0700-1200)

[Paphos Headland](#)

The heat was already oppressive early as we picked out 5 Greater Sand Plover (1 in partial breeding plumage) on the rock shore together with 1 Common Sandpiper, 1 Common Kingfisher and 4 Crested Lark.

[Paphos Sewage Works](#)

We drove the tracks around the works and noted 2+ Common Kestrel, 3 **Black Francolin** including close views of a fine male, 8+ Spur-winged Lapwing, 1 Gull-billed Tern, 1 White-winged Black Tern, Common Woodpigeon, Eurasian Collared Dove, 2 Eurasian Turtle Dove, 20+ Barn Swallow, 5+ Yellow Wagtail, 1 Black-headed Wagtail, 4+ Zitting Cisticola, 3 Sardinian Warbler, Great Tit, Masked Shrike (1 juv), 20+ Western Jackdaw, 50+ Hooded Crow, 30+ House Sparrow. Also numerous Long-tailed blue and Clouded Yellow butterflies

[Asprokremmos Dam](#) including car park and utility area and [former Aspro Pools area](#)

We enjoyed a coffee in the shade at the dams and also watched the manoeuvres of a helicopter attempting practicing runs scooping up water in a cradle, presumably in readiness for fire fighting. Unsurprisingly birds were a bit harder to come by as a result! We did however briefly see a female **Cyprus Warbler**, 4 Eurasian Hoopoe and several Sardinian Warblers. We then moved to the area known as [Aspro Pools](#) which was unfortunately dry, but saw a Long-legged Buzzard fly over ignoring 2 chasing Common Kestrel, 2 Chukar, Eurasian Stone Curlew (1 hd), 10+ Barn Swallow, 2 Spectacled Warbler, 8+ Sardinian Warbler, Great Tit, 2 Masked Shrike, European Greenfinch and European Goldfinch. Several other **Cyprus Warbler** including a male were only briefly seen and 2 others heard and most frustrating to locate in the vicinity of the pumping station. It was worth running the gauntlet of the local bee hives though!

[Motorway near Agia Varvara exit](#)

A Eurasian Hobby flew over.

[Paphos near Debenham's Roundabout](#)

We finished the morning off with 2 Common Swift flew over and thanks to Jane for a most enjoyable 2 sessions!



[Spur-winged Lapwing](#)



[Greater Sand Plover](#)



[Black Francolin](#)



[Asprokremmos Dam](#)



[Pallid Swift](#)



[Praying Mantis](#)

Full list of species seen or heard (49 no. in total for the holiday):-

Glossy Ibis	Long-legged Buzzard	Common Kestrel
Eurasian Hobby	Chukar	Black Francolin
Common Quail (heard 9 th)	Eurasian Stone Curlew	Greater Sand Plover
Spur-winged Lapwing	Common Sandpiper	Yellow-legged Gull
Gull-billed Tern	White-winged Black Tern	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon
Common Woodpigeon	Eurasian Collared Dove	Eurasian Turtle Dove
Common Kingfisher	Common Swift	Pallid Swift
European Roller	Eurasian Hoopoe	Crested Lark
Barn Swallow	Red-rumped Swallow	Yellow Wagtail
Black-headed Wagtail	Isabelline Wheatear	Cyprus Pied Wheatear
Blue Rock Thrush	Zitting Cisticola	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler
Spectacled Warbler	Sardinian Warbler	Cyprus Warbler
Great Tit	Lesser Grey Shrike	Woodchat Shrike
Masked Shrike	Eurasian Magpie	Western Jackdaw
Hooded Crow	House Sparrow	Spanish Sparrow
European Goldfinch	European Greenfinch	Common Linnet
Cretzschmar's Bunting		

Mike enjoyed 3 lifers plus Greater Sand Plover making it 4 Western Palearctic lifers (had seen GSP before in Oman).

Butterflies

Swallow-tail, Eastern Festoon, Small White, Clouded Yellow, Long-tailed Blue, Common Blue, Painted Lady

Moths

A tiny Agdisti species was on the wall near our apartment.

Reptiles

Troodos Lizard and Sling-tailed Agama for sure. Anyone know what the stripy one in the middle is?!

Insects

Praying Mantis, Cricket, Cicada.



Sling-tailed Agama

?

Troodos Lizard

Grateful thanks are expressed to Arsenal loving Jane Stylianou for 2 very enjoyable mornings, including the football chat and her kind permission to use the Cyprus Wheatear and Spur-winged Lapwing photos.

Mike Cram - 16th September 2013

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See also <http://www.birdlifecyprus.org/>