

Cyprus Bird Watching Tours - BIRD is the WORD - Paphos, Limassol, Troodos, Larnaca, Famagusta, Nicosia, Agia Napa 12-16/02/2018

On the 12th I had the pleasure of Guiding Aladdin for a 4 day tour island wide (originally for 3 days but Aladdin opted for a 4th) for a more photography focused tour. We started the first day at the Akrotiri sites arriving first at Zakaki Marsh. The Moustached Warblers were flitting about the bottom of the reeds and the Common Kingfisher made a few appearances. Eurasian Penduline Tit, Reed Bunting and Water Rail were all heard but sadly not seen. We heard the call of a Black Francolin nearby and with a little scoping I shortly found one on a nearby mound which was shortly joined by another. We moved the car in for some photography.

After having little luck with anything else showing at Zakaki marsh mostly due to the shockingly bad site maintenance we moved on to Lady's Mile where the large flock of gulls had all been scared off by an abandoned hunting dog, we found a few black-headed gull behind the restaurant along with a Mediterranean Gull and some Armenian. Along the strip we found a Little Stint. Heading onto the outskirts of the Salt Lake we tracked down a few Isabelline wheatears, newly arrived migrants. We also found a group of Ruff joined by some Kentish Plover on the salt flats.

We then moved onto Bishops Pool which was extremely quiet. The 3 Black-necked Grebes were still present though and a young male Marsh Harrier was hunting over the water. A Gadwall and Wigeon were also present as well as many Ferruginous duck which were our target species here.



Black Francolin - Cyprus Bird Watching Tours Bird is the Word © Matt Smith All Rights Reserved

The Salt Lake held the usual, Greater Flamingo and Common Shelduck. We stopped for a meal (traditional Sheftalia) at the Kollossi Restaurant and then ventured to Kensington Cliffs where the Griffon Vultures were sadly no-where to be seen. We wasted little time and headed to Germasogeia Dam mainly for Cyprus Warbler. We located the Cyprus Warblers relatively quickly though we didn't manage any Crag Martin which are frequently seen at this site in winter. We were treated to many finches coming down for water in the feeder stream, mostly Serin and Goldfinch. There wasn't anything on the water of the dam which was disturbing, though on the way out we saw 2 Peregrines hunting on the big hill and also a Long-legged Buzzard flyby and several flocks of newly arrived Barn Swallow. Great way to end the first day clocking 61 Species.



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