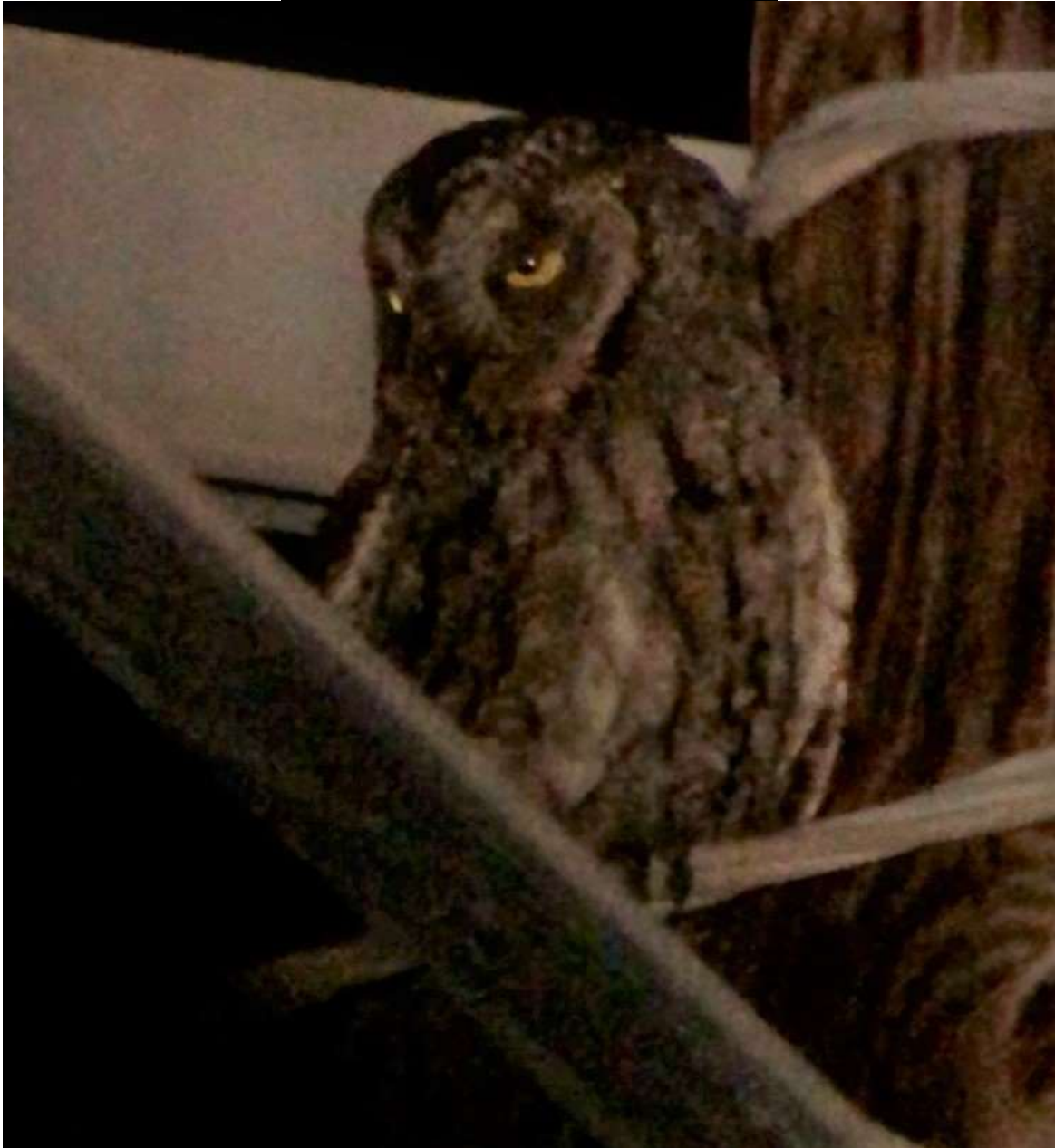


**Cyprus**  
**A scops owl quest**  
**12 UNTIL 15-05-2021**



**Legenda:**

**\*AAAA** = New (Holarctic) Species (**1** according to IOC 10/21)

**AAAAA** = Good species for the trip or for me (because not often seen)

*The list order is conformed the WP checklist with the recent changes on the splitting and lumping issue mainly based on publications in the “important magazines”. Subspecies is only mentioned when thought to be important and really visible in the field. The totals of birds per species are just a total of the birds I saw to give an idea how many of a species you encounter during a trip. Only species seen are mentioned, and heard when, no lifer.*

On this trip the weather quite pleasant and hot on all the visited days.

### **Itinerary**

**12-05** Flew via Vienna to Larnaca and drove to Coral Beach (Paphos) (1.5 hours) and tried in the evening for the owl (heard it).

**13-05** Birded with Matt Smith of [CYPRUS BIRD WATCHING TOURS - Home \(birdingtours-cyprus-bitw.com\)](http://birdingtours-cyprus-bitw.com) at Akrotiri and the Trodos Mountains. In the evening saw my first owls quite well.

**14-05** Birded all day with Matt (and Colin Richardson for a while) again at different places in the south-west of Cyprus. In the evening saw great scops owls!

**15-05** Birded in the morning at Nikoklia and the Larnaca Sewage Works and surroundings. In the evening flew back to Munich.

### **THE BIRD SPECIES**

01. **Mallard – *Anas platyrhynchos***

About 40 birds seen spread over the days.

02. **Black Francolin – *Francolinus francolinus***

About 7 birds seen and heard spread over the days. Nice to see again after so many years.



03. **Chukar - *Alectoris chukar***

Common throughout the trip

04. **Little Grebe – *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

15-05

1 ex. at the sewage works.

05. **Greater Flamingo – *Phoenicopterus ruber***

Common along the coast.

06. **Glossy Ibis – *Plegadis falcinellus***

Quite common in the visited wetlands.

07. **Little Bittern – *Ixobrychus minutus***

13-05

5 ex at a few small ponds visited.



08. **Night Heron – *Nycticorax nycticorax***  
A total of 6 birds seen spread over the trip.
09. **Squacco Heron – *Ardeola ralloides***  
Common in all wet habitats.
10. **(Western) Cattle Egret – *Bubulcus ibis***  
About 20 birds seen spread over the day's .
11. **Little Egret – *Egretta garzetta***  
About 10 birds seen spread over the day's.
12. **Purple Heron – *Ardea purpurea***  
13-05 1 nice adult at a few small ponds visited
13. **European Shag – *Phalacrocorax aristotelis ssp: desmarestii***  
14-05 2 ex. on an island along the south coast see also:  
[https://www.instagram.com/tv/CPfYnYmAkI9/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CPfYnYmAkI9/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)
14. **Great Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax carbo***  
15-05 1 ex. at the Sewage Ponds.
15. **Marsh Harrier – *Circus aeruginosus***  
A total of 2 birds seen spread over the days.
16. **Long-Legged Buzzard – *Buteo rufinus***  
14-05 1 ex. while birding the south-western part.
17. **Stone Curlew – *Burhinus oedicephalus***  
13-05 1 ex. sitting in a plantation in the shade. Nice to see.
18. **Moorhen – *Gallinula chloropus***  
Common throughout the trip.
19. **Eurasian Coot – *Fulica atra***  
15-05 10 ex. at the Sewage Ponds.
20. **Black-winged Stilt – *Himantopus himantopus***  
Common on all the visited wet places.
21. **Spur-winged Lapwing – *Vanellus spinosus***  
Common in the wet area's this species really increased in the recent years since I did not see them in 2003.



22. **Grey Plover – *Pluvialis squatarola***  
13-05 3 ex at the visited mudflats.
23. **Common ringed Plover – *Charadrius hiaticula***  
Common at the mudflats visited.
24. **Kentish Plover – *Charadrius alexandrinus***  
Common at the mudflats visited.
25. **Marsh Sandpiper – *Tringa stagnatilis***  
13-05 1 nice adult at a few small ponds visited.
26. **Common Greenshank – *Tringa nebularia***  
A total of 5 seen spread over the days.
27. **Wood Sandpiper – *Tringa glareola***  
A total of 20 seen spread over the days.
28. **Common Sandpiper – *Actitis hypoleucos***  
A total of 3 seen spread over the days
29. **Curlew sandpiper – *Calidris ferruginea***  
A total of 10 seen at the visited suitable habitats
30. **Little Stint – *Calidris minuta***  
Common in the visited suitable places.
31. **Ruff – *Calidris pugnax***  
A total of 30 seen spread over the days.
32. **Collared Pratincole – *Glareola pratincole***  
14-05 1 ex. in summer plumage seen well in the visited fields.  
See also: [https://www.instagram.com/p/CO2tyXggZfm/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CO2tyXggZfm/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)
33. **Yellow-legged Gull – *Larus michahellis***  
Common throughout the trip along the coast.
34. **Common Tern – *Sterna hirundo***  
15-05 1 ex. at the Sewage Ponds.
35. **Little Tern – *Sternula albifrons***  
Common along the coast with displaying pairs giving nice views.
36. **White-winged Black Tern – *Chlidonias leucopterus***  
15-05 5 ex. in breeding plumage at the Sewage Ponds.
37. **Wood Pigeon – *Columba palumbus***  
Very common in the hills and mountains.



38. **European Turtle Dove – Streptopelia turtur**

Common in the hills and mountains, good to see this still.

39. **Rock Dove – Columba livia**

14-05

5 ex. seen in the mountains, in a little flock showing no feral signs.

40. **Eurasian Collared Dove - Streptopelia decaocto**

Common throughout the trip.

41. **Laughing Dove – Spilopelia senegalensis**

About 30 birds seen in the visited villages, a recent colonizer of Cyprus

42. **Great Spotted Cuckoo – Clamator glandarius**

14-05

1 ex seen well in flight and heard calling (chattering) along the way while birding.

43. **(Western) Barn Owl - Tyto alba**

13-05

1 ex. giving very nice views at

44. **\*CYPRUS SCOPS OWL – Otus cyprius**

12-05

1 ex. heard well with the obvious two toned call.

13-05

2 ex. seen well on the telegraph wires, seen well.

14-05

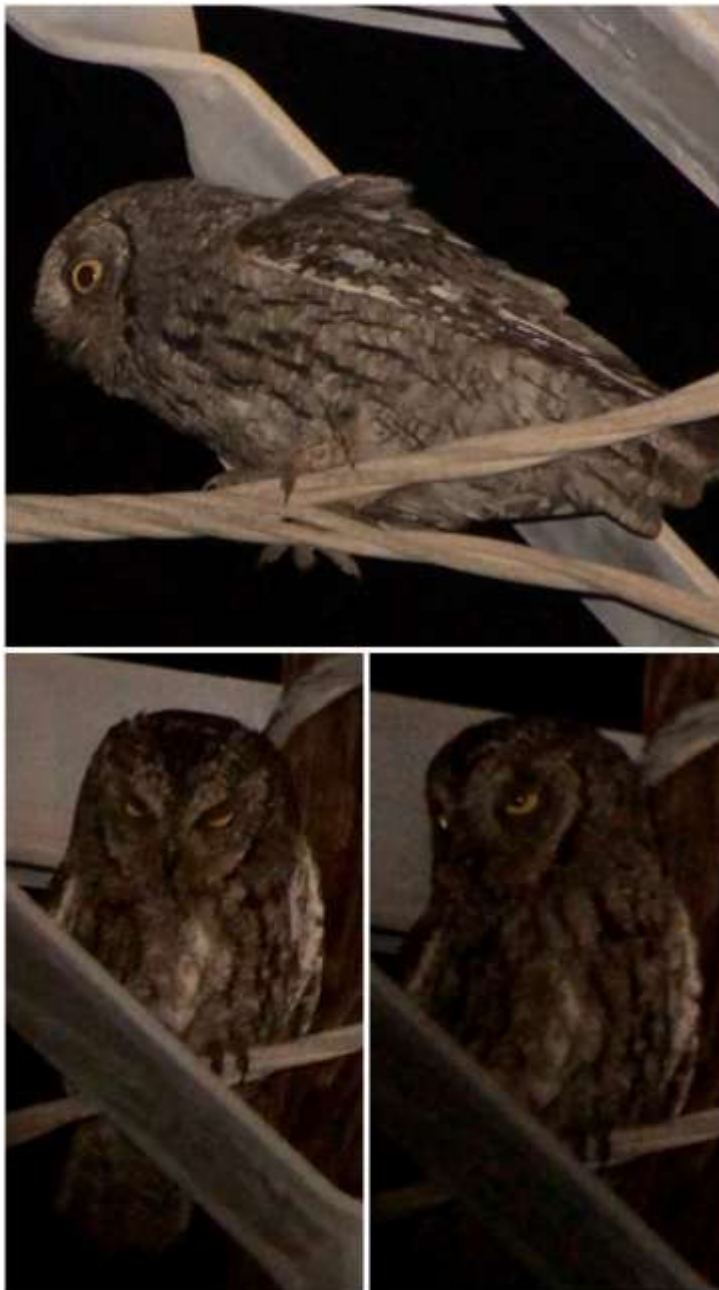
3 ex. seen well on the telegraph wires. All at this

<https://observation.org/observation/213929283/>. The birds hunted on insects and gave very good views. Also heard 2 birds calling during the day close down the wall of the Episkopi Pafos Environmental information Centre, but despite a lot of effort, we could not find the birds in the closed of garden. See also:

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CO4dQDZgXZt/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CO4dQDZgXZt/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)



*Lilith (Little) Owl, also a nice addition to the trip list*



Mission accomplished, Cyprus Scops Owl on the list.

45. **Lilith Little Owl – *Athene noctua* ssp: *lilith***

About 10 birds seen at several places, also in the dusk on the wires at the Cyprus Scops Owl site so be prepared.

46. **Alpine Swift – *Tachymarptis melba***

14-05

1 ex. seen in the mountains

47. **Common Swift – *Apus apus***

Common throughout the trip.

48. **Pallid Swift – *Apus pallidus***

14-05

20 ex. seen in the mountains at a known colony

49. **European Roller – *Coracias garrulus***

A common bird during my stay with many nice views.

50. **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater – Merops persicus**

13-05

7 nice adults perched and later flew over at visited gravel pits east of Paphos. Also heard the call (quite different from Common). Quite late for the species.



51. **Common Bee-eater – Merops apiaster**

Common throughout the trip, often migrating flocks seen.

52. **Hoopoe – Upupa epops**

About 5 birds seen spread over the days.

53. **Common Kestrel – Falco tinnunculus**

Common throughout the trip.

54. **Peregrine – Falco peregrinus**

14-05

1 ex. at Episkopi Paphos Environmental information Centre.

55. **Eleonora's Falcon – Falco eleonora**

A total of 25 of these cracking birds seen very well hunting in the evening, mainly at the Scopsowl place. Pale and dark morphs included.

56. **Masked Shrike – Lanius nubicus**

A total of 4 birds seen, nice views in the mountains.

57. **Lesser Grey Shrike – Lanius minor**

A total of 3 migrants seen spread over the days.



58. **Golden Oriole – *Oriolus oriolus***

A total of 5 seen spread over the days, all migrants.

59. **Eurasian Jay – *Garrulus glandarius* ssp: *glaszneri***

About 10 birds seen in the mountains

60. **Eurasian Magpie – *Pica pica***

Common throughout the trip.

61. **Western Jackdaw – *Corvus monedula***

Common throughout the stay.

62. **Hooded Crow – *Corvus cornix***

Common throughout the stay.

63. **Coal Tit – *Periparus ater* ssp: *cypriotes***

13-05

5 ex. seen well in the Trodos Mountains giving good views,  
very yellowish on the underparts and a less white cheek.

64. **Great Tit – *Parus major***

A total of 5 spread over the days.

65. **Greater Short-toed Lark – *Calandrella brachydactyla***

14-05

2 ex. seen well (one in the same field at the pratincole).  
Nothing different morphological seen on these birds than I know from this species.

66. **Crested Lark - *Galerida cristata***

Common during the whole stay.

67. **Sand Martin – *Riparia riparia***

A total of 3 recorded in the (migrating?) swallow flocks over the days.

68. **Barn Swallow – *Hirundo rustica***

Common throughout the trip.

69. **House Martin – *Delichon urbicum***

Common throughout the trip.

70. **Red-rumped Swallow – *Cecropis daurica***

About 10 recorded during the few days.

71. **Cetti's Warbler – *Cettia cetti***

Common throughout the trip.

72. **Zitting Cisticola – *Cisticola juncidis***

Common throughout the trip.

73. **Great Reed Warbler - *Acrocephalus arundinaceus***

14-05

1 ex seen at some small ponds visited.



74. **Sedge Warbler – *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***  
14-05 1 ex heard singing at the same ponds with the Great Reed.
75. **Eurasian Reed Warbler – *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* ssp: *fuscus***  
A total of 5 birds seen at visited reed beds, some looking very grey, but also less obvious (more brown) birds were seen.
76. **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler – *Iduna pallida***  
A total of 5 birds seen spread over the days, nicely in song (a bit like Eurasian Reed Warbler)
77. **Spectacled Warbler – *Sylvia conspicillata***  
15-05 3 nice males close to the airport, seen in song in the low scrub.
78. **Sardinian Warbler – *Sylvia melanocephala***  
Common throughout the trip.
79. **Cyprus Warbler – *Sylvia melanothorax***  
A total of (only) 6 birds seen with some nice summer males (2) seen and heard singing well. It looks if Sardinian is taking over
80. **Eurasian Wren – *Troglodytes troglodytes***  
Common in the Trodos Mountains, often singing.
81. **Dorothy's (Short-toed) Treecreeper – *Certhia brachydactyla* ssp: *dorotheae***  
13-05 2 ex. seen well at a parking lot in the Trodos Mountains, at a place called Livadi tou passia: [Boomkruiper - Certhia brachydactyla - Observation.org](http://Boomkruiper - Certhia brachydactyla - Observation.org) . White belly with less smudge brown rear flanks than our birds. Also quite grey (like Treecreeper). Call and song ST Treecreepers like but different.
82. **Common Starling - *Sturnus vulgaris***  
14-05 1 ex in flight along the way.
83. **Eurasian Blackbird – *Turdus merula***  
2 birds seen spread over the days.
84. **Spotted Flycatcher – *Muscicapa striata***  
A total of 3 birds seen spread over the trip.
85. **Northern Wheatear – *Oenanthe Oenanthe***  
A total of 3 birds seen spread over the trip, migrants.
86. **Cyprus Wheatear – *Oenanthe cyprica***  
Very common, mostly in the visited rocky hillsides. Most birds were already in pairs and all in cracking summer plumage.
87. **House Sparrow – *Passer domesticus***  
Common throughout the trip.
88. **Spanish Sparrow – *Passer hispaniolensis***  
About 40 birds seen spread over the trip.
89. **Western Yellow Wagtail – *Motacilla flava* ssp: *thunbergi***  
13-05 2 nice adults at visited gravel pits of Paphos.
90. **Grey Wagtail – *Motacilla cinerea***  
13-05 1 bird in the Mountains.
91. **Grey Wagtail – *Motacilla alba***  
14-05 1 bird at the entrance of the scops owl place.
92. **Red Crossbill – *Loxia curvirostra* ssp: *guillemardi***  
13-05 5 ex., a family of a pair and two immatures (with streaks) seen very well at a parking place in the Trodos Mountains called Livadi tou passia:

[Kruisbek ssp guillemardi - Loxia curvirostra guillemardi - Observation.org](#) . The male was rather palish red. The immatures were being fed.



The male at this site by Matt Smith.

93. **European Greenfinch – Carduelis chloris**

Common throughout the trip.

94. **Common Linnet – Linaria cannabina**

Common throughout the trip.

95. **European Goldfinch – Carduelis carduelis**

Common throughout the trip.

96. **European Serin – Serinus serinus**

About 10 birds seen spread over the days.

97. **Corn Bunting – Emberiza calandra**

About 30 birds seen spread over the trip.

98. **Black-headed Bunting – Emberiza melanocephala**

13-05

1 ex seen singing at a known visited place for it

99. **Cretzschmar's Bunting – Emberiza caesia**

14-05

2 birds heard in song in the hills but we were unable to find them and did not pay enough time.



The only BH Bunting of the trip



and the famous Colin Richardson met after 27 years again.

Max Berlijn, Epen, The Netherlands, [maxberlijn@gmail.com](mailto:maxberlijn@gmail.com)