

## Summer Visitors



Most of the summer visitors to Cyprus come to breed. One of the most striking summer visitors is the beautifully coloured Roller, these can be seen sitting on telephone wires as you drive along the road. One of the best places to see this bird is in Karpaz. Almost as striking are the Hoopoe and Bee-eaters, normally you hear the Bee-eater before you see them, as they fly high in the sky. Spur-winged Plovers and Black-winged Stilts can be seen at many of the wetland sites in northern Cyprus. Other notable summer visitors include Eleanoras Falcon, Hobby, Nightjar, Alpine Swift, Cyprus Wheatear, Masked Shrike, Red-rumped Swallow, Cretzschmar's Bunting, Reed warbler, Great Reed Warbler and the noisy Great Spotted Cuckoo.



## Resident Species

These are species that are present in Cyprus the whole year through. The Audouins Gull, which at one time was the rarest gull species in the world can be seen all year long, but the best time is probably the summer when they nest on the Klidhes Islands at the tip of Karpaz.



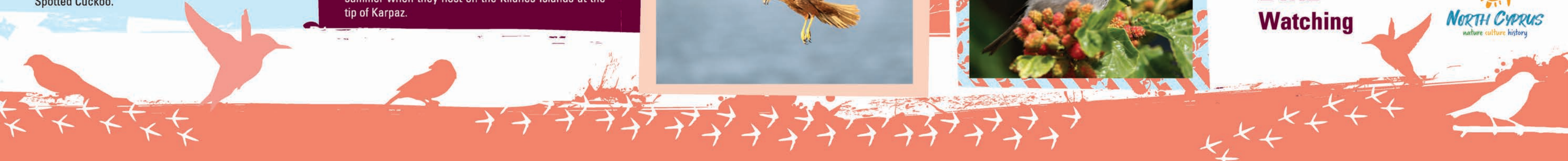
During the spring and summer evenings you will hear the distinctive calls Scops and Little owls. Two of the most popular game species Chukar and Black Francolin are also residents. Other interesting resident species include: Peregrine Falcon, Crested Lark, Wood Lark, Corn Bunting and the Bonellis Eagle. The latter can be seen at various sites along the Kyrenia Mountain range.



# North Cyprus



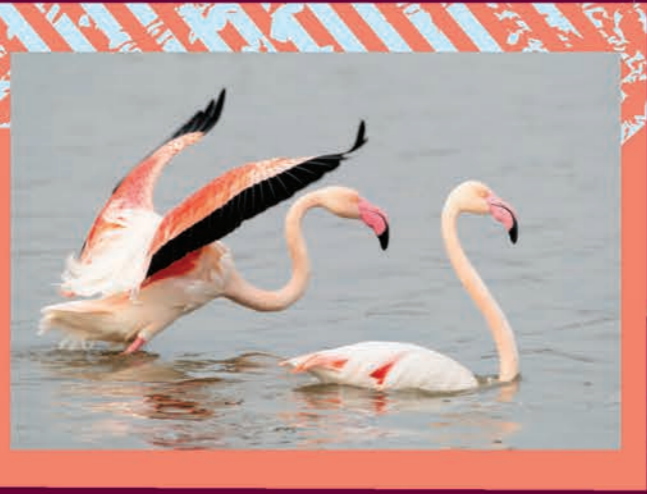
**BIRD  
Watching**



# WHEN TO WATCH BIRDS IN NORTH CYPRUS

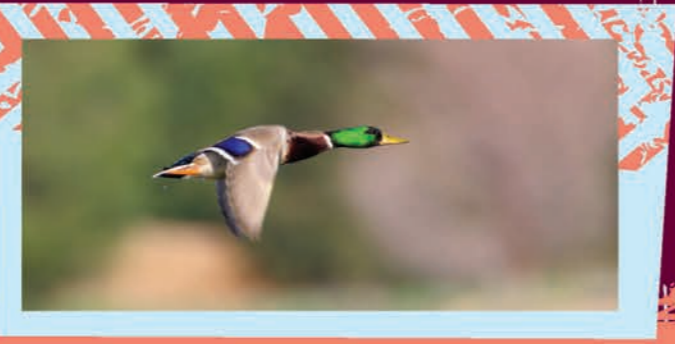
Cyprus is a great place to watch birds!

The primary reason for this is that Cyprus lies on one of the main migratory flyways for birds passing between Africa and Europe. These migration events happen during spring and autumn every year, when millions of birds flyover or stop off on their journey between the two continents. Currently there have been 380 different species recorded for Cyprus. Most of these species are migrant species which are only passage visitors. Of the 380 species approximately 50 are resident species and about 40 are migrant breeders (only coming to Cyprus to breed). So it is clear from this information that the best time for bird watching in Cyprus is during the spring and autumn migrations, however this does not mean you won't see anything interesting during other times of the year. Cyprus has two endemic bird species (Cyprus Warbler & Cyprus Wheatear) and 5 endemic sub-species (Scops Owl, Coal tit, Short-toed Treecreeper, Jay and Crossbill).



## Spring & Autumn Passage Migrants

Spring migration generally starts in March and finishes around the end of May, with the autumn migrations starting as early as mid August. The common spring migrants include: martins, swifts, wheatears (Northern, Black-eared and Isabelline), Shrikes (Woodchat, Lesser grey and Red-backed), Ortolan Bunting and Red-footed Falcon. Also seen, but more commonly in Autumn, particularly along the north coast are large numbers of herons (Grey, Purple, Night and Squacco), ducks (Garganey) and egrets (Little, Great White, Cattle), Spoonbills, Glossy Ibis, Cranes and Storks (Black and White) can be seen.



During September and October is the best time to see large numbers of raptors as they circle on thermals. Honey Buzzards are a common sight during this time and can be seen in groups up to a few hundred strong. Other species to watch out for at this time include Harriers (Marsh, Pallid, Hen and Montagu) Lesser Spotted Eagle, Booted Eagle, Black Kites and sometimes the odd Osprey.



## Winter Visitors

Winter is also a great time for birds in Cyprus. Wetlands are particularly good places to watch birds, Famagusta wetland complex and the many man-made reservoirs host good numbers of waders, ducks (Teal, Shoveler, Pintail, Pochard, Wigeon) plovers (Golden, Grey, Ringed and Lapwing) and herons. Also Greater Flamingos can sometimes be seen at Gulseren Lake in Famagusta. Winter visitors are not only restricted to wetland species, there are also large numbers of passerine species which over winter in Cyprus. Some of these include Blackbird, Song Thrush, Robin, Stonechat, Bluethroat, Skylark, Meadow Pipit and Black Redstart.



# NORTH CYPRUS



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