

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

36 Thunder Lane Thorpe St Andrew Norwich NR7 OPX
Telephone and Fax 0603 300552 Evenings and weekends

Cyprus
Wild flowers, wildlife and walking
5-12 April 1994



Norfolk Naturalists Trust and Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays

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List of participants

Elizabeth Ashwin
Christine Cordner
William Howard & Jennifer Hayward
Elizabeth Holman
Robert and Ethel Lyndon
Douglas and Jennie Le Huquer
Robin McKeown
Jim and Pat Pollok-Morris
Anne Sommerville
Sophie Summerfield
Mr and Mrs Guy Lewis
Norman Sunderland
Hazel Wells
Jill Paine & Delphine Dickson

Leaders: Chris Gibson and Anne Cryer

Cover illustration: Cyprus pied wheatear by Rob Hume

CYPRUS

5 - 12 APRIL 1994

Tuesday 5 April : Arrival

A day of travelling for everyone, converging on Heathrow Airport for a mid-afternoon check-in. For my part, the train journey was enlivened by the sight of Brent Geese feeding on the mudflats of the Stour Estuary; given the wet, windy and very cold weather, Arctic birds seemed very appropriate and, I hoped, a distinct contrast with what was to come.

Passing through Liverpool Street station, I bumped into a friend who told me that the ban on shooting of spring migrant birds in Cyprus had been reimposed. Last year's trip had been somewhat marred by the announcement (an election ploy, as it turned out) that shooting of migrant birds was going to be permitted, from just after our departure. This year, welcome news indeed, and all the more satisfying as 'international pressure' was cited as a reason for the U-turn. It seems that 'green tourism' really does have a voice.

Musing over such issues during the next leg of the journey, by tube, kept me from worrying too much about meeting up with the group. Every time, I think it will be this time when somebody doesn't arrive, or goes to the wrong airport. My concerns were greater than usual this time; the fact that people were travelling from as far away as Scotland and Guernsey seemed a recipe for problems. But it wasn't to be - all present and correct, and on time, as was the departure. The flight was somewhat turbulent, but as we neared our destination we were greeted with the news that the ground temperature was 26°C. Considering this was approaching midnight, we shared the pilot's amazement.

Descending the aircraft steps at Paphos, we were hit by a wall of heat and dust. It later became clear that we had arrived during a Saharan sand storm, carried to Cyprus on strong southerly winds. In the airport, we successfully made contact with our agent Roula, and the final member of the party, Robin from Australia, travelling independently.

And so onto the coach, for the final weary hour to the Droushia Heights Hotel. Most people slept; those who didn't caught a glimpse of an unidentified owl and an Eared Hedgehog, scuttling across the road in the manner of its more familiar relatives at home. At Droushia, 600m up, the air was a little cooler, though still thick with dust. The heat and the lateness of the hour (it was 02.15 by now) kept me awake, to savour the soon to be familiar 'poo' calls of several Scops Owls, with the distant accompaniment of a barking dog. Bliss - almost total silence after the hustle and bustle of a day on the move.

Wednesday 6 April : Droushia local walk

The day dawned dull and breezy, with a strange brownish light cast by the dust in the atmosphere. And on every plant and tree. And, later on, permeating every nook and cranny of our cameras and binoculars, clothing and hair.

A leisurely breakfast was called for, in view of the late arrival last night, so we didn't assemble for a group introduction and general briefing until 09.30. By this time, it had warmed up enough to get my shorts on, although the sun was barely out - indeed, we did not see the sun properly all day. Then it was up to the supermarket to get provisions, and away on our first walk by 11.00.

As always, progress was very slow for the first couple of hours, as I introduced everyone to the common plants and birds. Pausing just outside the hotel, there were plenty of familiar plants: Alexanders, Hoary Cress (Thanet Weed) and vast stands of White Mustard helped to curb the fears that I would have forgotten everything since last year. Swallows were flying all around, and the songs of Corn Bunting and Cetti's Warbler drifted from seemingly every piece of cover.

Passing through the quiet streets of Droushia, we paused to examine the old walls, in particular the lovely white-flowered speedwell *Veronica cymbalaria*. We took the old road towards Androlikou, passing patches of White Henbane and Naples Garlic, and a Nightingale in full song from one of the gardens.

Once outside the village, the verge plants just got more and more spectacular. Carpets of Yellow Vetch, Asparagus Pea and the blue form of Scarlet Pimpernel surrounded the fearsome Spiny Burnet, with its relatively insignificant leaves and flowers expanding within a protective meshwork of spines. Early summer was in full swing: we later learned that it had been an early spring, by some 2 or 3 weeks, following yet another drought winter. Whilst we had missed out on some of the early plants - the orchids and asphodels were virtually over - the rewards in terms of the overall mass of colour were wonderful.

As soon as we had left the village, we started to hear the distant crowing of male Black Francolins, a once-endangered game bird which survived on the island only as a result of protection within the Sovereign bases. Recolonisation has taken place and the population around Droushia seems to be growing every year. I was just telling everyone how difficult they are to see, that their best chance was at first light, when one perched on a rock just a hundred metres in front of us, giving excellent views all round.

A Great Spotted Cuckoo flew briefly along the skyline, characteristically being chased by Magpies, its host for breeding, and uttering its distinctive chattering call. Also seen only in flight were Clouded Yellow and Eastern Festoon butterflies, the latter in its endemic Cypriot form.

A feature of the landscape around Droushia is the scattering of large, mostly rounded rock outcrops, just one piece of evidence of the geological complexity of the Akamas Peninsula, and indeed of the whole of the island. We had intended to look briefly at the largest rock, before heading on for lunch, but our slow progress meant that we took lunch in the lee of the rock. The surrounding meadows were covered in the smaller, starry onion *Allium trifoliatum*, interspersed with yellow *Leontodon tuberosum*, but the Maiden's Bower I had come across on previous visits had completely finished flowering. The two endemic bird species of the island put in their first appearances: Cyprus Pied Wheatears, which soon became one of the most familiar birds, found in every habitat from town centre to coniferous woodland, and the delightfully stripy Cyprus Warbler. There were at least three of each close to the lunch stop. Whilst we were taking our break, at around 13.30, the Barbary Nut iris flowers had been busy opening, just as the *Tragopogon sinuatum*, a kind of Salsify and a relative of Jack-go-to-bed-at-Noon were drawing their curtains on the business of the day.

Another manifestation of the complex geology is the number of springs and seepages in what is generally a dry, parched landscape. It was in such areas that we came upon a few late orchids, including Yellow Bee, Tongue, Lax-flowered and the eastern form of Green-winged. In the more rocky areas, the sparse grass

was almost obscured under drifts of white *Gagea graeca*, and the major scrub plant was *Lithodora hispidula* ssp. *versicolor*. This is predominantly an eastern Mediterranean species, which has very beautiful tubular flowers in assorted shades of white, pink and blue. Everyone soon got the idea that this is one of my all-time favourite plants! Here we also found our first Cypriot endemic plant (according to some books at least), *Ornithogalum pedicellare*. Even the cultivated areas were productive botanically - masses of pink Tuberous Crane's-bill or purple Fodder Vetch around the base of newly-sprouting vines, dotted in places with the intense scarlet of Turban Buttercups.

The webs of funnel-web spiders showed up well with their coating of airborne dust; with a bit of persuasion (gentle vibration of the web) the occupants could be enticed out into the open. A Quail called from a grassy field, two more Great Spotted Cuckoos flew over, and a male Cretzschmar's Bunting showed itself well beside the path. The most unexpected bird of the day saved itself for the final stretch into Inia. A 'funny male Cyprus Pied Wheatear' eventually proved to be a Finsch's Wheatear; this Middle Eastern bird is a scarce winter visitor, especially to the south and east of the island, and they have generally departed by the middle of March. Perhaps our bird was a victim of the unusual weather conditions?

At Inia, a Hoopoe flew out of a garden, giving a fleeting view to just a couple of the party, and then most people dropped into the coffee shop for a rest and an authentic taste of Cyprus. William and Strawberry got more than they bargained for: they were whisked away by the local professional naturalist/guide Christos for a short excursion. They eventually got back just as we were starting our evening review session in the bar, apparently exhausted but elated at the various specialities they had been shown. Chicken casserole at the hotel for most of the group tonight, where we were joined by Joy and Leslie Maidstone, two members of last year's holiday group who were so entranced with the place that they have returned as volunteers with the Laona Project, and now run the new tea-shop in Kritou Terra. Despite the dust, I think most of this year's group could already have been tempted to join them.

Thursday 7 April : Baths of Aphrodite

The day dawned much clearer, and cooler, at last revealing the wonderful view from the hotel down to the sea. I had a quick look out before breakfast, but there was little evidence of bird migration. A scattering of Blackcaps and just one Redstart seemed, unfortunately, to confirm the less-than-hopeful message from an Ornitholidays group we passed yesterday. A lovely male Spanish Sparrow showed well near the tennis court; in previous years, we have seen these only right down by the coast. Another indication of the early spring was that the daffodils in the spring-line meadows were well over, and the 'tulips' from last year were sufficiently well advanced to re-identify them as large onions.

After breakfast, we embarked upon the 'new' village bus to travel the 15km or so down to the sea. As we descended the hill, the sun came out, and it got hotter and hotter. The lower slopes, ablaze with yellow gorse-like species *Calycotome villosa* and *Genista sphacelata*, contrasted with the cultivated coastal plain, and especially the mass-tourism developments at Latchi. All that this had to offer was the sea, with a sprinkling of Yellow-legged Gulls, and sandy beaches covered in Sea Medick.

We passed rapidly on to the Baths of Aphrodite, and set off for a walk, only to stop almost immediately to scan the aerial flock of insect-eating birds: Swallows, House Martins, at least 6 Red-rumped Swallows (typically flying a little lower down than the other species), and Common Swifts with at least one Pallid. And then again when I noticed a snake peering at us at head height from a hole in a Carob Tree. Perhaps a metre or more long, with blackish diamonds down its back, this would appear to have been a Ravergier's Whip Snake; unfortunately, it was not too keen on being photographed.

After negotiating our way past the orange-sellers, we found a lovely patch of the large-flowered stork's-bill *Erodium gruinum*; we had to enjoy this now as previous experience has shown it to have very ephemeral flowers, usually dropping its petals by mid-morning. And then under the shade of a few trees, remnants of the earlier spring flora, in the form of a few poor Friar's Cowl and Cyclamen flowers - the carpets of both from previous years unfortunately were long gone. A very confiding male Sardinian Warbler was some compensation though, as, for me at least, were the two species of parasitic plant we found - a broomrape *Orobanche ramosa* and a bartsia *Parentucellia latifolia*.

At the Baths themselves, a grotto where water issues from the hillside, the damp conditions were suitable for Maidenhair Fern, forming lush, filmy carpets over the damp rocks; Wild Fig, in its native habitat, clinging to the rock faces; and Giant Reed, at least 5m tall. On the sunlit rocks above, two large, prehistoric-looking Agamas basked unobtrusively, oblivious to the binoculars trained upon them.

We then left the cool, leafy shade, and headed along the coastal path, towards Fontana Amorosa. By now it was extremely hot, and several people remarked how exhausted we would have been, had the first day been so fierce. As it was, decided to withdraw the afternoon option of walking up the mountain - it would simply have been too much for most, if not all, of the party.

But the lower route had so much of interest that nobody felt let down. Open *Pinus brutia* woodland was filled with the resinous Mediterranean scents, and other trees or large shrubs included Eastern Strawberry-tree. Its smooth, silky, orange-pink bark, so tactile as to be positively erotic, completely overshadowed its sprays of bell flowers, for me if not for the swarms of insects gathering its nectar. The *Cistus* bushes were in full flower - white *C. salvifolius* and pink *C. incanus* and *C. parviflorus*. Between the bushes, there were carpets of Turban Buttercup, in pale and deep yellow forms, and a scattering of one of the most delectable of Cypriot plants, the small, endemic *Gladiolus triphyllus*. We also admired another wonderful endemic, the Shrubby Golden-drops, low bushes with silvery leaves, and cascades of drooping yellow flowers, turning orange with age.

The riot of wonderful plants kept our eyes firmly downwards, so we saw rather few birds apart from the ubiquitous Cyprus Pied Wheatears, Sardinian Warblers, and a Kestrel. There were plenty of butterflies too, most notably several examples of the endemic Paphos Blue.

For lunch, everyone dispersed to their preferred habitat, some to the cliff edge, others to the shade of the Carob trees. From every direction came reports of interest: a Hoopoe, several migrant Tree Pipits, a Northern Wheatear, patches of Tongue and Pyramidal Orchids, and carpets of the endemic *Thymus integer*, its

remarkable flower tubes extended to a length of 2cm. After lunch, we drifted back at our own paces, some in a hurry to visit the taverna for coffee and shade, others preferring to explore. Again all were well rewarded; those who ventured up the hill found a pair of Peregrines and a male Siskin, whilst the taverna proved an ideal vantage point to compare Common and Pallid Swifts.

The return journey was on the old bus, a vehicle which will for ever be etched on our minds, and our backsides! Actually, for its age, it was remarkably comfortable, and the long slog up the hill to Droushia caused its engine few problems. We made one brief stop so that everyone could see a particularly photogenic clump of *Thymus integer*.

Roula, our Cypriot agent, came to visit in the evening, to check everything was going according to plan. She also brought a present, of a couple of wild tulip flowers, and instructions about where to find them tomorrow. As if there wasn't anything to look forward to....! Another visitor was Vivian, an expatriate Englishwoman who has set up home in Droushia. She leads SAGA and other groups on local walks, including the one we did yesterday; the main difference is that they manage it in 2 hours, whereas we took nearer six. Vivian also introduced us to the delights of the Kapselos taverna, the venue for our meal tonight. Savvas and his family put on the most wonderful, traditional Cypriot *mezze*, consisting of perhaps 15 different dishes, produced sporadically through the evening, with copious amounts of good local wine. The meals are fascinating botanically, with a diverse array of vegetable matter, including 'pickled weed', which changes from year to year, and between establishments. This year, it was Rock Samphire, a scarce plant on the island, but its Cypriot name *Kritamo* confirmed its identity. Of the numerous tricks to eating a *mezze*, most important is not to fill yourself up on the bread and salad, as the barbecued meat almost at the end is a treat to savour. At least one of the party may have a different opinion though: as she lost a tooth in the process. Finally, it was oranges, brandy and/or firewater, and so to bed, accompanied as usual by the local Scops Owls.

Friday 8 April : Paphos

Cool, cloudy, windy conditions overnight still failed to produce many migrants - a short pre-breakfast walk turned up a female Ruppell's Warbler (an archetypal 'little brown job'), sharing a tree with a Cetti's Warbler and a Nightingale, all showing themselves to advantage. Otherwise it was very quiet.

As we boarded the coach, it started to rain quite heavily, but as we lost height, the outlook improved. Hoopoes and Chukars were noted in the roadside fields between Droushia and Kathikas, and the huge yellow umbels, up to 3m tall, of Giant Fennel became a dominant feature of the verges and field margins. From Kathikas, we took the western route to the coast, heading for Peyia, to pass through one of the few forested parts of the Akamas. The open woodland is composed mainly of *Pinus brutia*, with an understorey of *Pistachia lentiscus* and *Cistus monspeliensis*, all on an eroded limestone pavement-like plateau. The bare rocks were pitted with holes and depressions, some filled with soil, providing an anchorage for rock gardens in miniature, others filled with water. The pools are very ephemeral in nature, and this year they were almost dry; the only truly aquatic plant was a variety of the Pond Water-crowfoot. There was a noticeable absence of birds and birdsong; one of the only birds seen was a male Ruppell's Warbler, and that by only one of our group. The sheets or orchids which had

been a feature of this site in previous years were mostly finished, apart from a few scrappy *Orchis morio* ssp. *libani* and in deeper shade, some spikes of Mt. Carmel Orchids still bearing recognisable flowers. Despite this, most agreed that this site would warrant a lot longer than the 20 minutes we could devote to it.

Continuing downhill, spectacular gorge scenery vied for our attention with the views down to Paphos and the coast. The roadside plants continued to change: halfway down, *Ruta chalepensis* was in full bloom, and below this, dramatic pink splashes of various bindweeds, especially *Convolvulus althaeoides*. A large raptor which I missed sounded rather like a Short-toed Eagle from Guy's description.

The crowds were already gathering by the time we drew up at the Tombs of the Kings, around 11.00. By now, there was an unbroken blue sky and hot sunshine, but the westerly wind was still brisk. Trying not to look or act like a group with a leader (only Cyprus Tourist Organisation registered guides are allowed to lead around the archaeological sites), we probably stood out like sore thumbs by concentrating not on the tombs, but on the plants growing in the sand. Vast carpets of yellow Crown Daisy, pink bindweed and red *Echium angustifolium* formed the backcloth; the detail was provided by low-growing sand lovers: silvery Sea Medick with clusters of yellow pea flowers, the papery flower heads of *Paronychia argentea*, gold-studded mats of *Anthemis rigida* and the incongruous *Centaurea aegialophila*, with flowerheads appearing to grow out of bare sand. The tombs themselves still had a few Cyclamen in flower, and there were lizards everywhere on the rocks, including several Agamas. There was also a scattering of migrant birds, including a couple of Woodchat Shrikes, several Blue-headed Wagtails and Northern Wheatears, with a single Isabelline Wheatear.

The party then divided, half going with Anne to Paphos Town, for the mosaics, tavernas, shops and tourists, the remainder staying with me to walk to town, via the lighthouse and round the headland. In previous years, this has proved very interesting, with large falls of migrant birds. Indeed, it is regarded as one of the premier migration sites on the island. Alas not when we were there; unusual birds were few and far between. However, we could not really complain with three species of wheatear, perhaps more than a hundred assorted Blue- and Black-headed Wagtails, with at least one Ashy-headed, plenty of Tawny Pipits, allowing very good views, a displaying Short-toed Lark, a few Tree Pipits, a Redstart and a Whinchat. Most unexpected were a couple of Ruff, pecking around a completely dry sheep field, presumably taking insects disturbed (or attracted) by the stock.

There were just a few plants of interest on this walk. The low cliffs were dotted yellow with the large flowers of the endemic rock-rose *Helianthemum obtusifolium*, whilst the upper shore zone was a mass of colour: purple and white *Limonium sinuatum* and pink Three-horned Stock. One plant we recorded, but did not give due regard to was a small patch of Sand Cat's-tail. Although we are very familiar with this species in Britain, it later transpired that this may be the first record of this grass from the whole of the island. Just another example of the benefits of green tourism.

And so back to civilisation. The sea-front crowds were horrendous after the quiet of the past few days, but I was impressed that I was able to walk into the first shop I came to and buy exactly the right batteries I needed for my camera - a potential disaster averted. I certainly could not have done that in Greece, and I doubt whether it would have been possible in Britain.

When we boarded the coach again, the driver, hearing we wanted to visit the tulip site, told us he would like to take a further short diversion to show us his village. We must presume this was a magnanimous gesture, born from a sense of pride, although he did happen to pass and pick up about twenty, mostly elderly villagers who had been to Paphos shopping. Still, we all enjoyed seeing the village, divided by the road into a Greek sector and a Turkish (abandoned) sector. My only concern was time. Would the tulips still be open, and more importantly, would I have time to prepare my talk for tonight?

The answer to the first question was 'just about'. With a little persuasion, the scarlet petals could be opened up to see the black centre, bordered with bright yellow. The name of the species is now *Tulipa agenensis*; in many ways, its old name *T. oculus-solis* ('the sun-eyed tulip') seems more apt. We found them in their classic locality, vineyards and agricultural fields between Stroumbi and Polemi. Not suprisingly, given the nature of their habitat, there is some considerable doubt as to whether it is a native plant to Cyprus. What is more certain, however, is that they are in decline as a result of more intensive agricultural techniques. It seems they are able to survive shallow ploughing by the bulbs gradually burying themselves deeper into the soil, sometimes to a depth of a metre. But modern ploughs kill a larger proportion of the bulbs, and the tulips are no longer the sight they were, as significant a loss to Cypriot landscapes as poppies are to ours.

We eventually arrived back just in time for a bath before dinner. Phillipos had advertised the wild flower talk to everyone in the hotel, so that by 21.00, about eighty people had gathered in the conference room. Christos arrived dead on time, similarly not having had the chance to prepare. It didn't bode well for a coherent evening of information and enjoyment. But it turned into one of those occasions that was simply meant to be. I talked about the richness of the flora, resulting from the position of Cyprus at the crossroads of three continents, and from its isolation as an island, leading to the evolution of local endemics. Christos went on to add geological complexity to the factors influencing the diversity of plants, and then looked at some of the reptiles, birds and other wildlife of the Akamas. With no prior discussion, and precious little preparation, we had managed not to overlap at all. A big sigh of relief (from me, at least), and then an impromptu collection, which raised the magnificent sum of Cy£36, to be donated to the Laona Project.

Saturday 9 April : Kritou Terra and Terra

Before breakfast, Anne took Jill to the hospital in Paphos, following her accident in the hotel yesterday. The X-ray proved inconclusive, but it was clear that she would have to rest for the remainder of the trip; this she did with remarkable good humour and resilience.

It was rather cool at first, with a fresh westerly wind, but under clear blue skies it soon started to warm up, and eventually turned into the hottest day so far. There was a slight suggestion of an influx of migrants, with an Icterine Warbler seen in the hotel garden. As we walked down to the road towards Kritou Terra, we saw many Blackcaps, a superb male Redstart, at least three Great Spotted Cuckoos terrorising the Magpies, and heard a Quail calling close by the road.

A number of trees have been planted along this roadside, none more striking than the Judas Tree. It was in full flower, clusters of pink pea flowers borne on the old wood, and pale green, heart-shaped leaves springing from the new growth. The flowers were being visited by *Xylocopa violacea*, a fearsome-looking large black bee, which is apparently quite harmless. Further down the road, towards the crossroads, we came upon a field margin and grass verge absolutely covered in orchids of at least four species: *Barlia robertiana*, *Orchis italica*, *Ophrys fusca* ssp. *iricolor* and *O. sphegodes* ssp. *mammosa*. Why I have never noticed this verge before, I cannot say, although it may be because in previous years the opposite verge has proved too much of an attraction with beautiful displays of *Anemone coronaria*. This year the anemones were finished.

Although it is a minor road in a rural area, the traffic was unpleasantly heavy, so it was a relief to cross the main road, and strike off on the old track to Kritou Terra, a delightful, stone-walled route amidst almond groves and enclosed, rocky meadows. Blackcaps again were everywhere, Eastern Festoons were flying all around, and we found a lovely patch of a birthwort *Aristolochia sempervirens* scrambling over the wall, between clumps of a madder *Rubia tenuifolia*. Both plants were in bloom, the madder with dense clusters of tiny, lime-green flowers, a contrast to the large, tubular, curved, pendulous birthwort flowers. Both have long associations with Man: madder roots are the source of a red dye, whilst birthworts have been accorded medicinal properties, by association with the gynaecological appearance of their flowers.

Kritou Terra is nestled in a fairly steep-sided valley. On the final descent, we were passing through cultivated terraces, and looking around we could see whole hillsides terraced in this way. Agriculture in such a drought-prone area with thin soils is always likely to be marginal; the terracing helps to reduce soil erosion and promote moisture retention. What is most remarkable is that the terraces may have first been carved out of the hillsides several thousand years ago. Once in the village, we partook of the delights of the tea-room, shaded by the branches of a massive plane tree, and handed over to Joy and Leslie the spoils from last night.

Joy then led us on an informal tour round the village, a quiet insight into rural Cypriot life, from the old communal washing area, to the turfed roofs and magnificent ovens, and even the casino that King Faroukh once visited. Lunch was taken in the exotic shade of a palm tree, a noble vestige of a rich Turkish merchant's estate on the outskirts of the village. Characteristically, I disappeared into the surrounding almond groves, and enjoyed a few minutes of solitude. Except I wasn't alone - my neighbouring tree was occupied by an Icterine Warbler, assiduously scouring the new leaves for food, and a cracking male Semi-collared Flycatcher gave a virtuoso performance from the tips of the boughs. This turned out to be my only 'new' bird of the holiday.

After gently breaking the news of my lunchtime exploits to the rest, we set off once again, this time cutting down into the lush shade of the valley. More *Aristolochia*, this time in association with the superficially similar climbing lily relative *Smilax aspera*, and bold splashes of yellow in the form of the shrubby *Phlomis lunariifolia* were seen by all, but only the back markers (William and Strawberry, who else?) saw the Large Whip Snake by the pump house. The books say this is the longest European snake, sometimes longer than two metres, but I suspect the dimensions of this specimen grew in the telling.

Soon we arrived at the village of Terra, a forlorn sight in its crumbling state: this is one of the Turkish villages which were abandoned in 1974. A few families have subsequently moved in, paying rent to a bank account in the name of the original owner; a lonely existence perhaps, but sufficient to ensure historical continuity - the village is renowned as having a continuous record of occupation since Roman times, hence its distinctly Latin name. More recent influences are also apparent, with British insignia on the bridge and water fountains, rather crude attempts at keeping the natives happy during the troubled 1950s. Perhaps the most splendid sight in the village is the magnificent, whorled Norfolk Island Pine tree at its former heart.

The return walk to Kritou Terra proved rather tiring, along a dusty road and largely uphill in the intense mid-afternoon heat. In the shade of a few trees, there were good numbers of grounded migrants: about 20 Tree Pipits with a few Red-throated Pipits, and at least 10 Cretzschmar's Buntings. One male of the latter performed admirably at a distance of only 10m, for nearly a quarter of an hour, its immaculate, fresh colours of a vibrancy that no artist could ever hope to capture. A pair of Cyprus Warblers then put on an equally good show. In the distance, we saw for the first time the summit of Chionistra (Mt Olympus), the peak of the Troodos Mountains, and indeed the highest point of the island; the summit was still covered by patchy snow beds, but in the heat we were experiencing, it was difficult to imagine the patches of *Crocus cyprius* which were undoubtedly springing from the turf as we watched.

A small group elected to head cross-country back to the hotel, and were rewarded with three Great Spotted Cuckoos in one bush, and a rare view of a calling Quail. The rest continued on to the comfort of the tea room. In passing, we looked at an area of limestone pavement by the road, and found large orchid colonies, although only *Ophrys fuciflora* ssp. *bornmuelleri* and Naked-man Orchid (pink man-shaped flowers, with that vital third appendage between its 'legs') were still in flower. From Kritou Terra, most chose to wait for the bus, but some keen souls retraced our steps up the long hill back to Droushia.

Dinner was in the Christos taverna: another meal, another pickled weed. We were initially baffled by the paired, curved spines at the base of the leaf stalks, but eventually the penny dropped that they must have been Caper shoots. Anyway, we trusted that they were edible, despite the slightly odd sensation of eating the spines; only later did we learn that trust in such matters could be fatal. Robin, a toxicologist, noticed that a book about the local plants suggested that saffron could be obtained from *Colchicum* species!

Back at the hotel, being the weekend, it was very busy, especially as the hotel was hosting a display, ultimately participatory, of Cypriot and Greek dancing. Afterwards, I was privileged to be introduced to one of the authors of the new book on Cypriot endemic plants, Takis Papachristophorou, a botanist working for the Forest Department. I was suprised, and indeed appalled to learn he had never received any records of plants from groups such as ours. This will be rectified this year, so that our green tourism can be seen to bear fruit in a tangible way.

Sunday 10 April : 'Free' day

Today was billed as the free day, but it turned out as busy as any of the others; happily, it was also very hot and calm.

After an early breakfast, I decided to explore the tracks beyond Inia, towards Lara. The whole of this area is criss-crossed by tracks, and during the course of the morning, I covered six miles or so of them. None of the available maps show the tracks with any accuracy, so I was navigating by the sun and the local hill, and at one point I had to improvise a path up a hill in order to turn it into a round trip.

Was it worth it? Well, the views were spectacular, down to the coast, and especially over the turtle nesting beaches at Lara - given another six hours or so, I reckon I could have made it down there, but it would have been an exceptionally tiring walk. Goats were my only companions: the solitude was most welcome. But the plants were unremarkable, the most significant feature being a large stand of *Cistus monspeliensis* on the northern flanks of Ayios Yeoryios. The birds were a little better: the ubiquitous Great Spotted Cuckoos; Isabelline Wheatear, Wood Warbler and Woodchat Shrike near Inia; Spectacled Warbler and Ortolan Bunting between Phasli and Droushia; and Little Owl in the middle of nowhere.

As I walked through the villages, the wildlife took second place to my reflections on the local way of life. I was charmed by the eagerness of small children wanting to practice their English, and struck by how they clearly perceive no danger from a stranger. I was also very aware of incongruities within the Cypriot culture. Poverty is a way of life for the elderly, in particular, even if in some cases it is more apparent than real; contrast that with the ubiquity of mobile phones and satellite dishes, even in remote villages.

Meanwhile, almost everyone else went with Phillipos on a tour of Droushia, his native village. By all accounts it was a fascinating couple of hours; his desire to save the village from depopulation is carried out with enthusiasm, and his frustration at not having the unqualified support of the villagers is all too apparent. On a practical note, the tour probably saved the lives of two old villagers whose house was full of gas when Philpπος went in.

Sunday lunch for half of the group consisted of a delicious barbecue at the hotel. What could be better than good food *al fresco*, with the panorama of the Troodos range as a backdrop? The remainder dispersed for lunch and the afternoon, including four who ventured down the tracks towards the sea. They made it through Androlikou to Neochorion, from where they summoned a taxi home. The verdict was that it was a long but rewarding trek; they found Woodchat Shrike, Hoopoe, Chukars, Cuckoo and Bug Orchids. From others who explored the environs of the hotel in more detail came further new records, including Bee Orchid and Pied Flycatcher.

I led a small group in mid-afternoon to the Three Rocks, and thence down into the valley on the track to Androlikou. The rocks were covered in bushes of *Bosea cypria*, just bursting into leaf. Although it bore a very strong resemblance to Wild Privet, *Bosea* is in fact a member of the Amaranth family. It is widely regarded as the most important of the Cypriot endemic plants: it is a relict member of the pre-glacial flora, whose only close relatives are found on the Canary Islands and the Himalayas. The disjunct distribution of the genus *Bosea* is the stuff of which biogeographical theses are made, as indeed is the non-occurrence of *B. cypria* anywhere away from Cyprus: after all, its fleshy red fruits are eaten by birds, and the coast of Turkey is only a couple of hours

away. The family is also of interest by virtue of its unusual growth and development pattern, as we learned in an impromptu lecture from Robert.

Gradually descending from the rocks into the valley, we saw further evidence of the geological complexity which had been so graphically illustrated during Christos' talk. The track crossed an outcrop of the characteristic pillow lava, formed as a result of an underwater volcanic eruption, and then dropped further into an idyllic stream valley. Here, we could do no better than sit and wait for the wildlife to arrive. Two Chukars performed on the hillside, near to two Cyprian Hares and several Cretzchmar's Buntings. Three Siskins, presumably late returning winter visitors, dropped in briefly, whilst a brief chorus of European Tree Frogs struck up from the bed of *Typha domingiensis*. Other plants included several splendid bushes of *Phlomis lunariifolia*, and an Oleander, perhaps in its truly wild habitat.

The sun was starting to lose its heat as we headed back. An Agama was basking in the last rays, and, uncharacteristically, it was readily approachable, even allowing close up photo opportunities. Overhead, a flock of several hundred feeding birds drifted over - Swifts side by side with Alpine Swifts for comparison, and Swallows, Red-rumped Swallows and House Martins. During the afternoon, quite large numbers of Tree Pipits had arrived, with small flocks in many of the vineyards, where we also located a rather elusive Wryneck. Migration really appeared to be warming up; unfortunately, our own return migration was not far away. The rest of the walk home was taken up with trying to resist the temptation to take yet more photos of the soft, green, new foliage of *Quercus infectoria* trees lit up from behind by the rich evening sunlight.

But the 'free day' still wasn't over. At 21.20, I took most of the party on a nocturnal wildlife walk around the village. The Scops Owls performed admirably, calling to each other, and then came out under the street lights for everyone to see. I don't know who was most amazed - us at seeing the owls, the owls at seeing us, or the priest who walked past a crowd of crazy Britons all apparently saluting (actually, shielding our eyes from the lights!). All the while, we were being serenaded by a chorus of Tree Frogs, from the water storage pool. That is until someone ventured too close (15 metres appeared to be the critical distance), when they all stopped calling instantly. Whilst the neighbours probably blessed us, it did make it rather difficult to see the frogs; however, with careful torchlight searching on the surface of the pond, we managed to see a few. But how could such tiny creatures produce such an immense noise? Then we turned our attention to the bats. I had managed to explain a bat detector through security control at the airport, so I was determined to use it. A couple of small bats did come along to feed on insects around the lights, and the wavelength and pattern of clicks on the detector indicated that they were a species of Pipistrelle.

Monday 11 April : Smyies

A couple of Sedge Warblers from fields by the hotel suggested that more migrants had come in overnight, and Tree Pipits were still flying over early in the morning. The old bus came to collect us, this time out of necessity: last year, we discovered that a normal coach cannot get past one of the tight corners in Neochorion. We were hoping to get into the small church near Smyies, and our instructions were to find the *papas*. Fortunately, Anne spotted him in a café in Neochorion (the big black hat was an obvious advantage in this case),

but rather than give us the key, he jumped aboard and introduced himself as Papas Kyriakos. After negotiating the corner and the very bumpy couple of miles afterwards, we arrived at the delightfully situated little church of Ayias Minas, and the *papas* proceeded to give us a guided tour. The walls were covered in fragments of 12C frescos, and paintings (in Byzantine style), especially of St Minas (to whom it is dedicated) and St George (an ubiquitous figure locally). Also of note were the piles of wax figures, from whole babies to various organs, the offerings of people seeking a cure to particular afflictions. The church is all that remains of the old village, before it moved to its present location; Neochorion literally translated means 'new village'. There is still at least one resident though, a large Agama living in the walls.

As we continued on foot through the well developed pine forest, the dappled shade and resinous aroma making a delightful combination, a Hoopoe called constantly in the distance. Spanish Sparrows provided a typically noisy accompaniment, although they were rather difficult to see. We soon discovered the special plants, with *Thymus integer* and *Alyssum akamasicum* from the Smyies picnic site upwards. Both of these are endemics, particularly associated with serpentine soils; the surface outcrops of such rocks were quite apparent from the sparse vegetation, made up largely of plants which were not found elsewhere.

The walk up to the Forest Service Lookout seemed daunting from below, especially in the strengthening heat. But the gradient was gentle, and there were plenty of plants to keep us occupied: mostly species we had seen already, such as *Onosma* and *Lithodora*, but with a scattering of new ones, including the Wild Olive.

We reached the Lookout for lunch, and were rewarded with the most panoramic views. To the east, the Troodos massif was clear to its summit; the northern foothills could be traced right down to the sea, forming the opposite side of Khrysokhou Bay. On our side of the bay, formed by the Akamas peninsula, the central spine of hills from Cape Arnouti continued southwards to Droushia (the hotel was clearly visible) and beyond. If only we had time to explore, the lower slopes towards the Cape seemed to offer all sorts of riches, and then the rocky western coast, down to Lara, completed the panorama. Juniper and *Cistus* scrub on the rocky plateau was interspersed with carpets of Turban Buttercups, and (Stormin') Norman chanced upon the second Large Whip Snake of the trip. A final look around the summit rocks produced what turned out to be our last new endemic, the local variety of *Ptilostemon chamaepeuce*.

We then potted back to Smyies to await the return of the bus. Unfortunately, we were met at the picnic site by the drunken revelries of a safari bus tour. No one really wanted their peace and solitude intruded upon, so we all tended to drift back into the forest. Wandering off the track into a stony clearing, I flushed a Quail, in what seemed to be a most uncharacteristic habitat. Then picking up the nature trail, another clearing bursting with *Gladiolus triphyllus* left me with another enduring memory. Meanwhile, Guy found a couple of Serins, and Pat, Jenny and Doug produced a last bird gem, a Masked Shrike.

Driving back to the hotel, the driver seemed to have fun, even if it was at the expense of his passengers. I would not have believed that the nasty corner could have been successfully negotiated at 20mph, but it was, much to the discomfort of the lady L-driver who then found our bus bearing down on her. Nor

would I have believed that the rickety old bus could have overtaken lorries, travelling uphill on blind corners. Perhaps it was just as well I was trying to concentrate on writing up my notes!

Before dinner, we gathered as usual in the bar to sort out details for the following day; sadly, this time it was the details for our departure. I had managed to compile a few facts and figures to demonstrate just how successful a holiday it had been. We had recorded 74 species of bird, including the two endemics. This was fewer than in previous years, but we had not visited the mountains this year, and migration had been at a standstill for most of the week. The plant species totals were even more impressive - around 330 species (20% of the Cypriot flora), including 12 endemics (10% of the total; 30% of the Akamas total). To these figures could be added 27 butterflies (4 endemics), thanks to William and Strawberry, 4 mammals, and 6 reptiles and amphibians. It can only be considered a success.

To celebrate, it was back to Kapselos, where we had a vegetarian *mezze*. At one point, William interposed with a vote of thanks for the leaders, a truly remarkable speech, brimming with poetry and passion. We were joined later on by Artemis and Adrian, leading lights of the Laona Project, who took the opportunity to thank everyone for their support and donations. As a gesture of thanks, Artemis gave us each a bag of herbs from the Laona Project garden in Pano Akourdalia.

And so, back at the hotel, a final drink before packing and bed. At least that was my idea, until Adrian and Artemis appeared and wanted to talk conservation, Geographical Information Systems, habitat management requirements etc. When I emerged from this discussion at midnight, everyone else had long gone, but at least I felt I had been of some use.

Tuesday 12 April : Departure

A leisurely start for most, as the coach was not due to leave until 10.45; that is, apart from Robin who was catching the early morning flight to Athens. A few took the opportunity for a last walk, and came back with reports of at least two new birds - Spotted Flycatcher and Common Buzzard. The Black Francolins were still calling as we boarded the coach, and then we were on our way. Since we walked to Kritou Terra, the bulldozers had been at work widening the road, destroying the lovely flowery verges we had admired just days before. It was a sad reminder that much remains to be done in the way of conservation.

We fulfilled our end of the bargain: we were at the airport by the required check-in time. In the departure lounge, the departure time drew nearer, then passed, without anything happening. Then an hour's delay was announced, then a further 2½ hours: apparently the plane had broken down, and there wasn't another available on the island. We became all too familiar with that departure lounge and its spartan facilities. We 'escaped' onto the tarmac briefly, only to hear yet more Black Francolins, before being ushered back inside by the police. Deprived of wildlife-watching, some turned their hands to people-watching, and succeeded in finding a rarity in the form of Sir Georg Solti! We eventually took off 5½ hours behind schedule; a disappointing end perhaps, but not enough, for me at least, to ruin the memories of a wonderful holiday.

THE LISTS

In the lists below, I have tried to be as comprehensive as possible, although the plants in particular are largely the more showy or interesting species, as befits a general natural history holiday. English names are given where appropriate. The localities are coded as follows:

D - Droushia / Inia
K - Kritou Terra / Terra
S - Smyies / Lookout / Ayias Minas
B - Baths of Aphrodite / Latchi / Fontana Amorosa
F - Peyia Forest
P - Paphos

FERNS

Adiantum capillus-veneris Maidenhair Fern D S B
Cheilanthes pteridioides K
Equisetum ramosissimum D S
Polypodium cambricum Southern Polypody D

CONIFERS

Araucaria heterophylla Norfolk Island Pine D K (planted)
Cedrus libani ssp. *brevifolia* D (planted)
Cupressus sempervirens Funeral Cypress D K S B
Ephedra fragilis ssp. *campylopoda* Joint Pine B
Juniperus phoenicea Phoenician Juniper K S B F
Pinus brutia Calabrian Pine S B F
 P. halepensis Aleppo Pine F
 P. nigra ssp. *pallasiana* Black Pine K (planted)
 P. pinea Stone Pine D (planted)

DICOTYLEDONS

AIZOACEAE

Mezembryanthemum nodiflorum P

AMARANTHACEAE

Bosea cypria D K

ANACARDIACEAE

Pistachia lentiscus Mastic Tree K S B F
 P. x saportae B
 P. terebinthus Turpentine Tree D K B

APOCYNACEAE

Nerium oleander Oleander D (wild) D S B P (planted)

ARALIACEAE

Hedera helix Ivy D K

ARISTLOCHIACEAE

Aristolochia parviflora B
A. sempervirens K

BERBERIDACEAE

Berberis cretica K

BORAGINACEAE

Anchusa aegyptiaca B P
A. azurea Large Blue Alkanet D B P
A. strigosa D K
A. undulata D K
Borago officinalis Borage D K B
Buglossoides arvensis ssp. *arvensis* Corn Gromwell D
Cynoglossum creticum Blue Hound's-tongue D K B
Echium angustifolium D K P
E. italicum D
Lithodora hispidula ssp. *versicolor* D K S B F
Onosma fruticosum Shrubby Golden-drops S B

CACTACEAE

Opuntia ficus-indica Prickly-pear D K (planted)

CAMPANULACEAE

Legousia speculum-veneris Large Venus's-looking-glass K

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Lonicera etrusca D

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Cerastium glomeratum Sticky Mouse-ear D
Kohlruschia velutina D B
Minuartia picta S
Paronychia argentea P
Silene apetala D S
S. vulgaris Bladder Campion D
Spergularia diandra D
Stellaria media ssp. *cupaniana* Chickweed D

CHENOPODIACEAE

Beta vulgaris ssp. *maritima* Sea Beet P
Chenopodium murale Nettle-leaved Goosefoot D

CISTACEAE

Cistus incanus ssp. *creticus* D K S B
C. monspeliensis D S F
C. parviflorus S B
C. salvifolius Sage-leaved Cistus S B
Fumana arabica D S F P
F. thymifolia S B
Helianthemum obtusifolium P
H. salicifolium D S
Tuberaria guttata Spotted Rock-rose S

COMPOSITAE

- Anthemis rigida* B P
 A. tricolor P
Atractylis cancellata S B
Bellis sylvestris D B
Calendula arvensis Field Marigold D K B
Cardopatum corymbosum D P
Carduus argentatus ssp. *acicularis* D K S B P
 C. pycnocephalus D K P
Centaurea aegialophila S P
 C. hyalolepis D K S P
 C. veneris S
Chondrilla juncea D
Chrysanthemum coronarium Crown Daisy D K S B P
 C. segetum Corn Marigold P
Cynara scolymus Globe Artichoke D (planted)
Dittrichia viscosa D K S B
Echinops spinosissimus D K S B P
Filago gallica Narrow-leaved Cudweed S
 F. pyramidata Broad-leaved Cudweed B
Helichrysum conglobatum D K S B P
Hypochaeris achyrophorus S F
Leontodon tuberosus D S B F
Matricaria recutita Scented Mayweed D
Notobasis syriaca Syrian Thistle D K B P
Onopordum bracteatum D
Fallenis spinosa D S P
Phagnalon graecum D K S B P
Ptilostemon chamaepeuce var. *cyprius* S
Rhagadiolus stellatus D
Senecio vulgaris Groundsel D S
Silybum marianum Milk Thistle D
Taraxacum cyprium D
 T. hellenicum D
Tragopogon hybridus D B F
 T. sinuatus D B

CONVOLVULACEAE

- Convolvulus althaeoides* B P
 C. betonicifolius B P
 C. coelesyriacus D K B
 C. pentapetaloides D S P
 C. siculus B

CRASSULACEAE

- Telmisa microcarpa* D K F
Umbilicus rupestris Navelwort D K B

CRUCIFERAE

- Alyssum akamasicum* S
Biscutella didyma D S B P
Brassica nigra Black Mustard D
Capsella bursa-pastoris Shepherd's-purse D
Cardaria draba Hoary Cress D
Carrichtera annua S
Didesmus aegyptiacus S B
Hirschfeldia incana Hoary Mustard D
Matthiola tricuspidata Three-horned Stock P
Nasturtium officinale Water-cress D
Raphanus raphanistrum Radish D
Sinapis alba White Mustard D K B
 S. arvensis Charlock D

DIPSACACEAE

- Scabiosa prolifera* P

ERICACEAE

- Arbutus andrachne* Eastern Strawberry-tree S B

EUPHORBIACEAE

- Euphorbia helioscopia* Sun Spurge D P
 E. peplus Petty Spurge B
Mercurialis annua Annual Mercury D B

FAGACEAE

- Quercus coccifera* ssp. *calliprinos* Kermes Oak D K
 Q. infectoria ssp. *veneris* D K

FUMARIACEAE

- Fumaria macrocarpa* D K
 F. officinalis Common Fumitory D

GENTIANACEAE

- Centaureum maritimum* Yellow Centaury B
 C. pulchellum Lesser Centaury B F

GERANIACEAE

- Erodium cicutarium* Common Stork's-bill D P
 E. gruinum D B
 E. malacoides D S
 E. moschatum Musk Stork's-bill D
Geranium dissectum Cut-leaved Crane's-bill D
 G. lucidum Shining Crane's-bill D
 G. molle Dove's-foot Crane's-bill D
 G. purpureum Little-Robin D K S B
 G. rotundifolium Round-leaved Crane's-bill D
 G. tuberosum D K

JUGLANDACEAE

- Juglans regia* Walnut D K (planted)

LABIATAE

Lamium amplexicaule Henbit Dead-nettle D S
 L. moschatum D K
Marrubium vulgare White Horehound K
Mentha longifolia D
Micromeria nervosa D K S B F
Phlomis lunariifolia D S K
Prasium majus D K S B F
Salvia fruticosa S B
 S. verbenaca Wild Clary D B
Teucrium micropodioides S
Thymus integer D S B

LAURACEAE

Laurus nobilis Sweet Bay D (planted)

LEGUMINOSAE

Anagyris foetida Bean Trefoil K
Anthyllis tetraphylla Bladder Vetch B
Astragalus cyprius S
 A. hamosus D K S
Calycotome villosa Spiny Broom D S B
Ceratonia siliqua Carob D K S B (largely cultivated)
Cercis siliquastrum Judas Tree D S (planted)
Genista sphacelata D S B
Hippocrepis unisiliquosa S
Hymenocarpus circinnatus D K S B
Lathyrus annuus D
 L. aphaca Yellow Vetchling D K S B
 L. cicera D P
 L. gorgonei D
Medicago disciformis D
 M. lupulina Black Medick D
 M. marina Sea Medick B P
 M. scutellata D
Melilotus indicus Small Melilot D K P
Onobrychis aequidentata S
 O. caput-gallii D
 O. crista-gallii B
Pisum sativum ssp. *elatus* D
Tetragonolobus purpureus Asparagus Pea D K S B P
Trifolium angustifolium K S
 T. campestre Hop Trefoil S B F
 T. clypeatum D K S B F
 T. pamphylicum D K
 T. pilulare D K S
 T. resupinatum Reversed Clover D
 T. stellatum Starry Clover D K S B F P
 T. tomentosum D B
Trigonella monspeliaca P

Vicia cretica D
V. hybrida D K B P
V. laxiflora D
V. peregrina D K B
V. sativa Common Vetch D K S P
V. villosa ssp. *eriocarpa* Fodder Vetch D S B

LINACEAE

Linum bienne Pale Flax D S B
L. nodiflorum S
L. strictum ssp. *spicatum* S B
L. trigynum S B

LYTHRACEAE

Lythrum junceum F

MALVACEAE

Lavatera cretica Smaller Tree Mallow D
Malva aegyptiaca S
M. nicaeënsis D K B
M. parviflora Least Mallow D B
M. sylvestris Common Mallow D K B

MELIACEAE

Melia azedarach Indian Bead-tree K (planted)

MORACEAE

Ficus carica Fig B (wild?) D K (planted)

MYRTACEAE

Eucalyptus camaldulensis B (planted)

OLEACEAE

Olea europaea Olive K S B P
O. europaea ssp. *oleaster* Wild Olive S

ONAGRACEAE

Epilobium hirsutum Hairy Willowherb K

OROBANCHACEAE

Orobanche ramosa Hemp Broomrape D S B

OXALIDACEAE

Oxalis pes-caprae Bermuda Buttercup D K S P

PAPAVERACEAE

Papaver dubium Long-headed Poppy D
P. rhoeas Common Poppy D K S B P

PLANTAGINACEAE

Plantago afra S
P. cretica K S B F
P. lagopus K B P
P. lanceolata Ribwort Plantain D B

PLATANACEAE

Platanus orientalis Oriental Plane K (planted)

PLUMBAGINACEAE

Limonium sinuatum P

PLOYGALACEAE

Polygala venulosa S

POLYGONACEAE

Emex spinosa P

Polygonum aviculare Knotgrass D

P. equisetiforme D K

Rumex cyprius P

R. pulcher Fiddle Dock D

PRIMULACEAE

Anagallis arvensis Scarlet Pimpernel D K S B P

A. foemina Blue Pimpernel B

Cyclamen persicum D B P

RANUNCULACEAE

Anemone coronaria Crown Anemone D

Clematis cirrhosa Maiden's Bower D

Nigella damascena Love-in-a-mist P

Ranunculus arvensis Corn Buttercup D

R. asiaticus Turban Buttercup D K S B

R. chius D

R. cornutus D

R. ficaria ssp. *ficariiformis* Lesser Celandine D

R. millefoliatus ssp. *leptaleus* D

R. marginatus D

R. muricatus D

R. paludosus Jersey Buttercup D

R. parviflorus Small-flowered Buttercup B

R. peltatus var. *microcarpa* Pond Water-crowfoot F

RESEDACEAE

Reseda lutea Mignonette D K

R. orientalis P

ROSACEAE

Crataegus azarolus D K

Poterium verrucosum D K

Prunus dulcis Almond D K (planted)

Pyrus syriaca D

Rubus sanctus Bramble D K S B P

Sarcopoterium spinosum Spiny Burnet D K S B F P

RUBIACEAE

Galium aparine Cleavers D K B
Rubia tenuifolia D K
Sherardia arvensis Field Madder D S B
Valantia hispida B
 V. muralis S

RUTACEAE

Ruta chalepensis K F

SALICACEAE

Populus nigra var. *afghanica* Black Poplar D K (planted)

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Parentucellia latifolia ssp. *flaviflora* D K B F
Verbascum sinuatum D
Veronica anagallis-aquatica Blue Water-speedwell K
 V. arvensis Wall Speedwell D
 V. cymbalaria D K

SOLANACEAE

Hyoscyamus albus White Henbane D
Lycium schweinfurthii P
Mandragora autumnalis Mandrake D S P

STYRACACEAE

Styrax officinalis Snowbell Tree D S B

TAMARICACEAE

Tamarix tetrandra P

UMBELLIFERAE

Ainsworthia trachycarpa P
Apium graveolens Wild Celery D
Daucus carota Wild Carrot D
Eryngium creticum D K P
 E. maritimum Sea-holly P
Ferula communis Giant Fennel D K P
Foeniculum vulgare D P (planted)
Lagoecia cuminoides S B
Lecockia cretica D K
Opopanax hispidus D K S
Orlaya daucoides D K S
Scandix pecten-veneris Shepherd's-needle D S
Smyrniolus atrum Alexanders D K B P
Tordylium aegyptiacum D

URTICACEAE

Parietaria judaica Pellitory-of-the-wall D K B
Urtica pilulifera Roman Nettle D K
 U. urens Annual Nettle D

VALERIANACEAE

Centranthus ruber Red Valerian D
Valeriana italica D
Valerianella sp. B

VITACEAE

Vitis vinifera Grape Vine D K S B (planted)

MONOCOTYLEDONS

AMARYLLIDACEAE

Narcissus tazetta D

ARACEAE

Arisarum vulgare Friar's Cowl D K S B
Arum hygrophilum D

CYPERACEAE

Carex distans Distant Sedge S
 C. flacca Carnation Sedge D
 C. halleriana S
Eleocharis palustris Common Spike-rush D

DIOSCOREACEAE

Tamus communis Black-bryony D

GRAMINEAE

Aegilops peregrina D
Andropogon distachyos D
Arundo donax Giant Reed D B
Eriza maxima Large Quaking-grass K S B
 E. media Quaking-grass D K
Bromus madritensis Compact Brome D
 B. sterilis Barren Brome D
Hordeum leporinum D P
Lagurus ovatus Hare's-tail Grass S B P
Phleum arenarium Sand Cat's-tail P
Poa annua Annual Meadow-grass D
Vulpia ciliata Bearded Fescue S B P
 V. membranacea P

IRIDACEAE

Gladiolus italicus D K P
 G. triphyllus S B
Gynandrisis sisyrinchium Barbary Nut D K P

JUNCACEAE

Juncus hybridus D F

LILIACEAE

- Allium neapolitanum* D K B P
 A. nigrum D
 A. trifoliatum D K S F
Asparagus acutifolius D K
Asphodelus aestivus D K S B F P
Bellevalia nivalis S F
 B. trifoliata D K S
Gagea graeca D B F
 G. juliae D
Muscari comosum Tassel-hyacinth K
Ornithogalum pedicellare D K S F
 O. umbellatum ssp. *divergens* D
Scilla cilicica K
Smilax aspera D K S B
Tulipa agenensis Polemi
Urginea maritima Sea Squill D K S B F P

ORCHIDACEAE

- Anacamptis pyramidalis* Pyramidal Orchid D S F
Barlia robertiana Giant Orchid D K
Neotinea maculata Dense-flowered Orchid S
Ophrys apifera Bee Orchid D
 O. carmeli Mt. Carmel Orchid F
 O. fuciflora ssp. *bornmuelleri* K S
 O. fusca ssp. *iricolor* D
 O. lutea ssp. *murbeckii* Yellow Bee-orchid D S F
 O. scolopax Woodcock Orchid D S
 O. sphegodes ssp. *mammosa* D K
Orchis coriophora ssp. *fragrans* Bug Orchid D
 O. italica Naked-man Orchid D K
 O. laxiflora Loose-flowered Orchid D
 O. morio ssp. *libani* Green-winged Orchid D F
Serapias vomeracea Tongue Orchid D K S F
 S. vomeracea ssp. *laxiflora* K F

PALMAE

- Phoenix dactylifera* Date Palm K (planted)

TYPHACEAE

- Typha domingensis* D

FUNGI

- Puccinia smyrnii* Alexanders Rust D

LICHENS

- Cladonia foliacea* S

BUTTERFLIES

HESPERIDAE

Carcharodus alceae Mallow Skipper K
Gegenes pumilio Pigmy Skipper K

LYCAENIDAE

Celastrina argiolus Holly Blue S B
Glaucopsyche paphos Paphos Blue D S B F
Lycaena phlaeas Small Copper P
Philotes vicrama ssp. *astabene* Baton Blue P
Polyommatus icarus Common Blue B
Syntarucus pirithous Lang's Short-tailed Blue K
Thersamonia thersamon Lesser Fiery Copper S?

NYMPHALIDAE

Cynthia cardui Painted Lady D S B
Vanessa atalanta Red Admiral D K

PAPILIONIDAE

Allancastris cerisyi ssp. *cypria* Eastern Festoon D K S
Papilio machoon ssp. *giganteus* Swallowtail S P

PIERIDAE

Anthocharis cardamines ssp. *phoenissa* Orange Tip D K S B
Artogeia ergane Mountain Small White D
 A. rapae Small White D K S B F P
Colias croceus Clouded Yellow D K S B P
Gonepteryx cleopatra ssp. *taurica* Cleopatra K S B
Pieris brassicae Large White D K S B F B
Pontia chloridice Small Bath White D K P
 P. daplidice Bath White P

SATYRIDAE

Hipparchia pellucida ssp. *cypriensis* Cyprus Grayling D
Lasiommata maera ssp. *orientalis* Large Wall Brown D
 L. megera ssp. *lyssa* Wall Brown D S
Maniola cypricola Cyprus Meadow Brown K
Pararge aegeria Speckled Wood K S
Ypthima asterope African Ringlet D

OTHER INSECTS

Thaumetopoea pityocampa Pine Processionary Moth D K
Xylocopa violacea D K
Coccinella septempunctata Seven-spotted Ladybird S
Anacridium aegyptium Egyptian Locust K

AMPHIBIANS

Hyla arborea European Tree Frog D

REPTILES

Agama stelio Agama D K S B P
Lacerta laevis ssp. *troodica* Troodos Lizard D K B
Acanthodactylus schreiberi Fringe-fingered Lizard P
Coluber ravergieri Ravergier's Whip Snake B
C. jugularis Large Whip Snake K S

MAMMALS

Pipistrellus sp. Bat D
Erinaceus auritus Eared Hedgehog D
Rattus rattus Black Rat D
Lepus cyprius Cyprian Hare D

BIRDS

Egret sp. - B(1)
Short-toed Eagle - F(1)?
Common Buzzard - D(1)
Kestrel - D K B P
Peregrine Falcon - B(2)
Chukar - D S B
Black Francolin - D K B P Polemi Chourou Airport
Quail - D K S
Ruff - P(2)
Yellow-legged Gull - B P
Feral Pigeon D K S B P
Rock Dove - D
Woodpigeon - D K S Polemi
Collared Dove - B
Cuckoo - D
Great Spotted Cuckoo - D K
Scops Owl - D K B
Little Owl - D
Common Swift - D K B P
Pallid Swift - K B
Alpine Swift - D
Kingfisher - B(1)
Hoopoe - D S B
Wryneck - D(1)
Short-toed Lark - D(1) P(10)
Crested Lark - D K S B P
Sand Martin - B(1)
Crag Martin - B(2)
Swallow - D K S B P
Red-rumped Swallow - D K S B
House Martin - D K S B P
Tawny Pipit - P(10)
Tree Pipit - D K S B P
Red-throated Pipit - K(2)
Black-headed Wagtail - P
Blue-headed Wagtail - B P



Ashy-headed Wagtail - P(1)
 Wren - D(1)
 Robin - D(1)
 Nightingale - D S B P
 Redstart - D P
 Whinchat - P(1)
 Northern Wheatear - D(2) B(3) P(10)
 Isabelline Wheatear - D(1) P(2)
 Black-eared Wheatear - D(1)
 Cyprus Pied Wheatear - D K S B P
 Finsch's Wheatear - D(1)
 Blackbird - D(1)
 Cetti's Warbler - D K S B
 Fan-tailed Warbler - D P
 Sedge Warbler - D(3)
 Icterine Warbler - D(2) K(1)
 Sardinian Warbler - D K S B
 Cyprus Warbler - D K S B
 Whitethroat - D K
 Lesser Whitethroat - D K
 Spectacled Warbler - D(1)
 Ruppell's Warbler - D(1) F(1)
 Blackcap - D K S B
 Chiffchaff - D S B
 Wood Warbler - D(2) S(1)
 Spotted Flycatcher - D(1)
 Semi-collared Flycatcher - K(1)
 Pied Flycatcher - D(1)
 Great Tit - D K S B
 Woodchat Shrike - D(1) P(2)
 Masked Shrike - D(1)
 Magpie - D K S B P
 Jackdaw - D K S B
 Hooded Crow - D K S B
 House Sparrow - D K S B P
 Spanish Sparrow - D K S
 Chaffinch - D
 Serin - D(1) S(2) B(1)
 Greenfinch - D K S B P
 Goldfinch - D K S B
 Siskin - D(3) B(1)
 Linnet - D K S P
 Ortolan Bunting - D(1) S(2)
 Cretzschmar's Bunting - D K S
 Corn Bunting - D K S B P

Dr Chris Gibson
1 Dove House Cottage
Oakley Road
DOVERCOURT
Essex
CO12 5DR

17 May 1994

LAONA PROJECT (UK)

DUDWICK HOUSE • BUXTON • NORWICH NR10 5HX
Tel / Fax: (0603) 278296

15th June 1994

Dear All,

This letter is to thank you all for the very generous donation of £550 (£25 x 22) which has been made to the Laona Project from your holiday. Such encouragement is very much appreciated in Cyprus I can assure you.

After your departure from the Droushia Heights I spent the next 2 days being shown round the ongoing tasks being undertaken by the Project. I was very impressed by the delightful conversions of old houses into holiday homes in some villages, combined with the wonderful herb garden at Pano Akoudhalia. I was also shown round the old school house in Kritou Terra which is about to become a Field Studies Centre for Cypriot schoolchildren. Artemis, who as you will remember is the Project Director, asked me what I thought you would like the donation to be spent on. I said the Centre, and I am sure if you return to the Akamas area one day and visit it, you will approve.

I would also like ^{to take} this opportunity to thank you all for the most generous present you gave Chris and I. This was a bit of a showstopper like William's speech!

Every time I go to Cyprus I enjoy it more, but this last trip was really very special for both of us, and this was definitely a lot to do with the marvellous bunch of people who joined us on this occasion. It was, I think, our 4th or 5th visit to the island but certainly not our last.

I do hope we shall see you all again sometime.

With best wishes and happy memories,

Anne Cryer (Mrs)

