GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Cyprus is the third largest island of the Mediterranean, with a total surface area of 9,250 km². The island is positioned 70 km south of Turkey, 105 km west of Syria and about 360 km north of Egypt, and has a population of 700,000 (in 1996); an average population density of 75 people per km².

The island has two mountain ranges separated by a central plain. The southern Troodos mountain range with its hilly extensions occupies a large part of the west and south of the island. The highest peak is Mount Olympus with an altitude of 1,952 m. The northern Pentadactylos mountain range runs along the north coast from Cape Kormakitis in the west to Cape Andres in the east. The highest peak is Kyparissovouno (altitude 1,024 m) at its western end. The narrow coastal strip along the north coast is fairly intensively cultivated.

Between the two mountain ranges lies the central plain of Mesaoria. This is the ‘bread-basket’ of Cyprus where the rain-fed crops of barley and wheat are grown. The fertile red-soil areas to the south and south-east corner of the plain are the main potato and vegetable growing areas of Cyprus. There are no perennial rivers on Cyprus, only a few springs and streams in Troodos. The largest seasonal river is the Pedieos, with a total length of about 95 km, it originates from the Troodos mountain range, passes through the Mesaoria plain and flows into Famagusta Bay, but only in the winter months.

Cyprus has 16 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) covering a total area of 1,305 km², which is 14% of the land area of the island (Map 1, Table 1). Seventeen IBAs were identified in 1989 (Grimmett and Jones 1989), of which two no longer meet the IBA criteria, and in 1996 a new IBA was identified (Table 1, Map 1).

In 1974 the Turkish army invaded Cyprus and occupied almost 40% of the island. Since then a buffer zone has been created called the Green Line and Greek Cypriots live to the south of the line and Turkish Cypriots to the north; access is not allowed to the northern Turkish occupied areas. Three IBAs lie in the northern occupied part: the Klidhes Islands (001), Karpas peninsula (002) and Kyrenia range (003). There are no recent records or surveys available for these IBAs.

ORNITHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Every year millions of migrants stop or pass over Cyprus. Nearly 200 species occur as regular passage migrants and 90 species are regular winter visitors. Of the 114 species that have bred in Cyprus, 80 species breed regularly and 50 are resident.
There are 10 species of European conservation concern (SPECs) which regularly breed in Cyprus (Tucker and Heath 1994), two of which, *Aquila heliaca* and *Larus audouini*, are of global conservation concern and breed in sufficient numbers to satisfy the A1 criterion at three sites (Klidhes Islands 001, Paphos State Forest 015 and Adelphi Forest 016) (Table 2). Additionally, the globally threatened *Oxyura leucocephala* fulfils the A1 criterion in winter at Larnaca salt-lakes (005) and Akrotiri salt-lake (007) (Table 2) and *Aythya nyroca* occurs at both sites. Two species are endemic to the island, *Oenanthe cyprica* and *Sylvia melanochroa*, and although common and widespread throughout the island, have very small global ranges and are the reasons for Cyprus being an Endemic Bird Area (Stattersfield et al. 1998). Three IBAs have also been identified on the basis of assemblages of Mediterranean-biome species (criterion A3) such as *Sylvia conspicillata*, *Sylvia melanochroa*, *Oenanthe cyprica*, *Larus nubicus*, *Emberiza caesia* and *Emberiza melanophrys*.

Four sites are IBAs for congregatory species (Table 3), including Cape Aspro (011) which is particularly important for breeding *Falco eleonorae*, and Akrotiri salt-lake (007) and the Akamas peninsula (014) over which fly thousands of *Grus grus*, and also *Anthropoides virgo*, on passage.

Eleven IBAs in Cyprus qualify on the basis of significant breeding populations of species with an unfavorable conservation status in Europe (criterion B2) (Table 1). The proportions of the national populations of the eight SPECs meeting criterion B2 that breed in IBAs are shown in Table 4. Over 50% of the national population of *Phalarocorax aristotelis*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, *Falco eleonorae* and *Larus audouini* breed in IBAs. Most of the European breeding population of *Francolinus francolinus* is restricted to Cyprus and about 50% of the national population breeds within IBAs (Table 4).

### HABITATS

Five IBAs are predominantly wetland sites (Figure 1) with a further four holding some wetland habitats. These sites are important for passage and wintering waterbirds. Two of these sites are salt-lakes, Akrotiri (007) and Larnaca (005). Both salt-lakes dry up in the summer and their water-levels depend greatly on the amount of rainfall. Akrotiri salt-lake is less saline than Larnaca salt-lake and for this reason it also differs ecologically. Both sites are particularly important for wintering *Phoebopus ruber*. Significant water development projects, primarily in the form of dams constructed in the last few decades, have resulted in the creation of some important bird habitats including the dams of Akhna (006), Asprokremmos (002), Evretou Kourris, Yermasoyia and Kiti.

Four IBAs, including Klidhes Islands (001) at Cape Andreas in the north-east of the island, are either islands or rocky coastal cliffs (Figure 1), important for breeding populations of *Falcownta krai*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Larus audouini* and *Phalarocorax aristotelis*.

---

**Table 1.** Summary of Important Bird Areas in Cyprus. 16 IBAs covering 1,305 km²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IBA code</th>
<th>Important area name</th>
<th>Administrative region</th>
<th>Area (ha)</th>
<th>Criteria (see p. 11)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001 CY001</td>
<td>Klidhes Islands</td>
<td>Famagusta</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>A1, B1i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002 CY002</td>
<td>Karpas peninsula</td>
<td>Famagusta</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>A2, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003 CY003</td>
<td>Kyrenia range between Kormos and Pentadactylos peaks</td>
<td>Kyrenia</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004 CY004</td>
<td>Cape Greco</td>
<td>Famagusta</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005 CY005</td>
<td>Larnaca salt-lakes</td>
<td>Larnaca</td>
<td>1,850</td>
<td>A1, A2, A4ii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>006 —</td>
<td>Akhna Dam</td>
<td>Famagusta</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>007 CY007</td>
<td>Akrotiri salt-lake including Bishop's Pool</td>
<td>Limsosol</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>A1, A2, A4ii, B1i, B1iv, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>008 CY008</td>
<td>Phasouri reedbeds</td>
<td>Limsosol</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>A2, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>009 CY009</td>
<td>Akrotiri Cliffs</td>
<td>Limsosol</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010 CY010</td>
<td>Episkopi Cliffs</td>
<td>Limsosol</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>A2, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>011 CY011</td>
<td>Cape Aspro</td>
<td>Limsosol</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>A4ii, B1i, B1ii, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>012 CY012</td>
<td>Asprokremmos Dam</td>
<td>Paphos</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>A2, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013 CY013</td>
<td>Paphos plain</td>
<td>Paphos</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>A2, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>014 CY014</td>
<td>Akamas peninsula</td>
<td>Paphos</td>
<td>15,500</td>
<td>A2, A4ii, B1i, B1iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>015 CY015</td>
<td>Paphos State Forest and Stavros ts Psokas Forest Station</td>
<td>Paphos, Nicoria</td>
<td>60,170</td>
<td>A1, A2, A3, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>016 CY016</td>
<td>Adelphi Forest</td>
<td>Nicoria</td>
<td>12,756</td>
<td>A1, A2, A3, B2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 2. Important Bird Areas in Cyprus that are important for species of global conservation concern (meeting criterion A1).*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>IBA code</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>IBA code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Oxyura leucocephala</em> White-headed Duck</td>
<td>005, 007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aquila heliaca</em> Imperial Eagle</td>
<td>015, 016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Larus audouini</em> Audouin’s Gull</td>
<td>001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3. Important Bird Areas in Cyprus that support important numbers of one or more congregatory species (i.e. meeting criteria A4 and/or B1). IBAs meeting both criteria A4 and B1 for the species are shown in bold. IBAs meeting only criterion B1 for the species concerned, and not A4, are shown in normal type. For key to ‘Season’, see p. 7.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Minimum national breeding population (pairs)</th>
<th>Proportion (%) of national population breeding at all IBAs in Cyprus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Phalarocorax aristotelis</em> Shag</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aquila heliaca</em> Imperial Eagle</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hieraaetus fasciatus</em> Bonelli’s Eagle</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Falco eleonorae</em> Eleonora’s Falcon</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Francolinus franzolinus</em> Black Francolin</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Larus audouini</em> Audouin’s Gull</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Oenanthe cyprica</em> Cyprus Pied Wheatear</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sylvia melanophrys</em> Common Warbler</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Only those species of European conservation concern (see Box 1, p. 12) that meet IBA criteria in Cyprus are listed.
2. Data are taken from the BirdLife/EBCC European Bird Database 1998 (Heath and Borggreve 2000).
3. The percentage of the national population in IBAs exceeds 100%. Usually this is because the national population estimate has not been updated recently whilst the IBA population estimate has been recently updated with new data as a result of comprehensive surveys of IBAs themselves. Also, the individual site count for a species may be the maximum or average over recent years, and summing these may record more birds than are present nationally in any single year.
4. Data are incomplete, therefore approximate percentages have been added based on knowledge of the populations in Cyprus.
Many of the IBAs include areas of agricultural land, scrub (maquis and garrigue) and forests, but this generally constitutes less than 50% of the total area of an IBA. The Karpass peninsula (002) and the Akamas peninsula (014) are mainly covered with Juniperus phoenicea. Many of these sites hold breeding birds of prey (Aquila heliaca, Hieraaetus fasciatus, Accipiter gentilis), as well as the endemics Oenanthe cypriaca and Sylvia melanophoros, Fransolinus francolinus and many passage migrants. Clearance over many centuries and the unrestricted grazing by goats have destroyed much of the islands’ original forest, which is now confined mainly to the Troodos and Pentadactylos mountains. Five IBAs are predominantly forest sites: 003, 015 and 016, with 002 and 014 having just under 50% forest cover. These IBAs are large and thus the overall forest cover is nearly 75% of the total area of all IBAs in Cyprus. There are two pine zones: the Pinus brutia zone occupies the altitudes from sea-level to 1,200 m and covers a total area of 100,000 ha or 11% of the island’s total area, and on the higher Troodos, above 1,200 m to 1,950 m, the Pinus nigrae zone forms pure forest and covers an area of 6,000 ha. Sixty-nine percent of the area of the IBAs (89,500 ha) is state-owned forest.

**IMPACTS ON IBAs – LAND-USE AND THREATS**

Almost 70% of the IBAs have agriculture as a significant land-use and this includes arable land, mostly cultivated with barley, perennial crops, orchards, groves, and annuals such as vegetables and potatoes (Figure 2). The killing of migratory birds is a serious problem in Cyprus. This threatens birds across Cyprus, including those within IBAs; unsustainable exploitation is listed as a threat at nearly 90% of IBAs (Figure 3). Although the island’s hunting (shooting) regulations are fairly comprehensive, the enforcement of the laws is inadequate and thousands of birds of many species are illegally shot each year. Other problems include liming and netting. Liming (using sticks covered in glue to trap birds) is a traditional method of catching birds for food, but is now strictly illegal. However, it still takes place from August to May on a massive scale, with little or no effort being made to stop it. The illegal use of nets to catch birds is also a problem. Disturbance to birds is also listed as a threat at nearly 80% of IBAs. The creation of new roads, especially forest roads, and the popularity of four-wheel drive cars has made every corner of the IBAs more accessible to humans, thus increasing disturbance to birds, especially raptors. Also the dramatic increase in use of leisure boats makes it easier for people to reach even the most inaccessible sea cliffs on the island.

**PROTECTION STATUS**

Table 5 and Figure 4 summarize the national and international protection status and coverage at the 16 IBAs in Cyprus. Three-quarters of IBAs are protected by national legislation to some extent (Figure 4) but none are protected internationally.

- **National protection**

  The two major categories of protected areas protecting birds from hunting are (1) Permanent Game Reserves and (2) Temporary Game Reserves. Forty-nine per cent (63,680 ha) of the total IBA area is covered by Permanent Game Reserves: 678 ha of Larnaca salt-lakes (006) covering the main lake, 2,000 ha of Akrotiri salt-lake (007) covering the main lake, 200 ha of Akrotiri Cliffs (009), 175 ha of Episkopi Cliffs (010), 10,500 ha of Paphos plain (013) and 50,000 ha of Paphos State Forest (015) (Table 5). Additionally, part (1,172 ha) of Larnaca salt-lakes (006), 125 ha of Akhna Dam (006) and 260 ha of Asprokremmos Dam (012) are designated Temporary Game Reserves.

  Temporary Game Reserves cover areas (such as dams) designated from time to time by the government, usually to protect possible breeding areas, heavily hunted areas (mainly to protect Alectoris chukar and Francolinus francolinus, the two main game species of the IBAs).
birds) and also extensive areas of orchards and other cultivation that need protection from hunters. Anyone caught hunting in these areas is subject to fairly strong penalties; limited and netting, although illegal, still go on in some of these areas. In this way, the government aims to maintain some sort of control over hunting. Apart from these restrictions, the licenses issued to cover each open hunting season clearly stipulate which species may be shot. However, the vast majority of the 55,000 licensed hunters (1998) shoot birds indiscriminately, posing a major conservation problem.

There are proposals to establish a National Park at the Akamas peninsula (014) to control the area from further tourist development, but hunting is still allowed and thousands of birds are indiscriminately shot every year. Cape Greco (004) is the only National Forest Park. Klidhes Islands (001) are the only Nature Reserve, and 8,000 ha of Karpas peninsula (002), is a proposed site for a Nature Reserve.

The islands are an important stop-over site during migration, especially for waterbirds. One of the larger islands, the one closest to the mainland, is the only known site in Cyprus where

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The site descriptions were compiled from *Important Bird Areas in Europe* (Grimmett and Jones 1989), with the exception of Akhna Dam (006). Updated information was also provided by Louis Kourtelliarides of the Forestry Department, Antonis Antoniou of the Environment Department, and the Cyprus Ornithological Society Reports (1988–1991) edited by Melis Charalambides and Pavlos Neophytou.

I would also like to thank Melanie Heath of BirdLife International for her guidance and encouragement, which was extremely helpful.

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**International protection**

The international legislation which Cyprus is party to is shown in Box 1. Although party to the World Heritage Convention it has not designated any natural World Heritage Sites. Also Cyprus has not designated any natural World Heritage Sites. Only one site has been designated with national protection status of Important Bird Areas in Cyprus (see Appendix 1 for a general description of these agreements).

**SITE ACCOUNTS**

**Klidhes Islands**

Admin region Famagusta

Coordinates 35°42’N 34°36’E

Altitude 0–20 m Area 15 ha

**Site description**

Habitats Rocky areas (100%); sea cliff/rocky shore; rock stacks/islets

Land-use Nature conservation/research (100%)

A chain of six small, rocky islands off the north-east point of Cyprus. Low cliffs surround the main island, the vegetation of which is dominated by grasses, with Salicornia and Atriplex forming short dense swards in places. With the exception of a lighthouse, the island is uninhabited.

**Birds**

The islands are an important stop-over site during migration, especially for waterbirds. One of the larger islands, the one closest to the mainland, is the only known site in Cyprus where *Larus audouinii* breeds.

---

**Table 5. Protection status of Important Bird Areas in Cyprus.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IBA code name</th>
<th>International protection status</th>
<th>National protection status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001 Klidhes Islands</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002 Karpas peninsula</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003 Kyrenia range between Komos and Pentadactylos peaks</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004 Cape Greco</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005 Larnaca salt-lakes</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>006 Akhna Dam</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>007 Akrotiri salt-lake including Bishop’s Pool</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>008 Phasouri reedbeds</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>009 Akrotiri Cliffs</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010 Episkopi Cliffs</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>011 Cape Aspro</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>012 Asprokremmos Dam</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013 Paphos plain</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>014 Akamas peninsula</td>
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<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>015 Paphos State Forest and Stavros to Psikias Forest Station</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>016 Adelphi Forest</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total number of IBAs** 1561

---

**Figure 4.** The national protection status of Important Bird Areas in Cyprus.

![Diagram of protection status]

**Table 5. Protection status of Important Bird Areas in Cyprus.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IBA code name</th>
<th>International protection status</th>
<th>National protection status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001 Klidhes Islands</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002 Karpas peninsula</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003 Kyrenia range between Komos and Pentadactylos peaks</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004 Cape Greco</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005 Larnaca salt-lakes</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>006 Akhna Dam</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>007 Akrotiri salt-lake including Bishop’s Pool</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>008 Phasouri reedbeds</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>009 Akrotiri Cliffs</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010 Episkopi Cliffs</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>011 Cape Aspro</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>012 Asprokremmos Dam</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013 Paphos plain</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>014 Akamas peninsula</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>015 Paphos State Forest and Stavros to Psikias Forest Station</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>016 Adelphi Forest</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>None</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total number of IBAs** 1561

---

**Box 1. International legislation and initiatives that are relevant to site conservation in Cyprus** (see Appendix 1 for a general description of these agreements).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global</th>
<th>Biodiversity Convention</th>
<th>Ramsar Convention</th>
<th>Bern Convention</th>
<th>World Heritage Convention</th>
<th>MAB Programme</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Pan-European</td>
<td>Bern Convention</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Barcelona Convention</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Convention ratified/initiative supported</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Convention signed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Important Bird Areas in Europe – Cyprus

**Protection status**

**National High International None**

15 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Klidhes Islands, 15 ha).

**Conservation issues**

**Threats** Disturbance to birds (C)

Human predation of Laridae eggs formerly occurred, but is no longer thought to be a significant problem.

**Karpas peninsula**

Admin region Famagusta
Coordinates 35°38’N 34°25’E
Altitude 0–157 m Area 8,000 ha

**Site description**

A long, narrow peninsula north-east of the village of Rizokarpasso, with small offshore islands. The IBA includes hills covered mainly by low juniper Juniperus phoenicea forest, with maquis occurring towards the coast.

Habitats Forest and woodland (45%; native coniferous forest), Scrub (30%; sclerophyllous scrub/garrigue/maquis), Wetland (10%; sand-dunes/sand beach; shingle/stony beach; sea cliff/rocky shore), Artificial landscape (15%; arable land; perennial crops/orchards/groves)

Land-use Agriculture (30%), Military (15%), Not utilized (50%), Tourism/recreation (5%)

**Birds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia melanothorax</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenicopterus ruber</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An important area for Francolinus francolinus, which is increasing in numbers following the introduction of a ban on shooting. It has spread throughout the peninsula and south to the Famagusta area, and has been recorded near Avgorou and the Ahna Dam. Many common species are resident or visiting breeders, many more overwinter or occur on passage. It is not uncommon to record 120 different species in a day in April, ranging from Phoenicopterus ruber and raptores to the smallest passerines. Cape Andreas is by far the best birdwatching site for spring and autumn migrants in Cyprus.

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

**Threats** Forest grazing (C), Unsustainable exploitation (C)

Threats to the IBA have not been fully assessed. There is a proposal for the designation of a protected area covering 5,635 ha of the Karpas peninsula.

**Kyrenia range between Kornos and Pentadactylos peaks**

Admin region Kyrenia
Coordinates 35°17’N 33°18’E
Altitude 600–1,024 m Area 16,000 ha

**Site description**

Habitats Forest and woodland (60%; native coniferous forest; mixed forest), Scrub (30%; sclerophyllous scrub/garrigue/maquis), Rocky areas (15%; inland cliff)

Land-use Agriculture (5%), Forestry (10%), Not utilized (85%), Tourism/recreation (5%)

A long, narrow ridge of rocky mountains forming part of the Pentadactylos range, stretching from Kornos (946 m) to Pentadactylos peak (740 m) in the east. The mountains support a mixture of coniferous woodland, scrub, maquis and grassland. Human activities include forestry, and the grazing of goats and sheep in all suitable areas.

**Protection status**

National High International None

385 ha of IBA covered by National Forest Park (Cape Greco, 385 ha).

**Conservation issues**

**Threats** Disturbance to birds (C), Recreation/tourism (U), Unsustainable exploitation (C)

Part of the IBA is a hunting-dog training area, which causes disturbance to birds. Also liming and netting is illegally practiced, especially in autumn.

**Larnaca salt-lakes**

Admin region Larnaca
Coordinates 34°32’N 33°37’E
Altitude 0–20 m Area 1,850 ha

**Site description**

The IBA covers four salt-lakes, which dry out in summer, surrounding agricultural land and Salicornia scrub. The north-eastern corner of Cyprus is the best place to see the Black Francolin, which is increasing in numbers following the introduction of a ban on shooting. It has spread throughout the peninsula and south to the Famagusta area, and has been recorded near Avgorou and the Ahna Dam. Many common species are resident or visiting breeders, many more overwinter or occur on passage. It is not uncommon to record 120 different species in a day in April, ranging from Phoenicopterus ruber and raptores to the smallest passerines. Cape Andreas is by far the best birdwatching site for spring and autumn migrants in Cyprus.

**Protection status**

None

385 ha of IBA covered by National Forest Park (Cape Greco, 385 ha).

**Conservation issues**

**Threats** Extraction industry (C), Forest grazing (U), Natural events (B), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

Forest fires and increased access via forestry roads make the area more accessible and thus cause disturbance to birds. 9,600 ha of IBA covered by State Forest land (Kyrenia Range, 50,000 ha).

**Cape Greco**

Admin region Famagusta
Coordinates 34°57’N 34°04’E
Altitude 0–100 m Area 385 ha

**Site description**

A rocky escarpment ending in steep cliffs on the southern seaward side. The IBA comprises mainly scrub (with rocky outcrops) and some cultivated areas; the tip of the Cape is closed to the public due to the presence of a radio station.

Habitats Forest and woodland (10%; native coniferous forest), Scrub (50%; scrub), Rocky areas (15%; sea cliff/rocky shore; inland cliff), Artificial landscape (30%; perennial crops/orchards/groves)

Land-use Agriculture (30%), Not utilized (50%), Urban/industrial/transport (20%)

**Birds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oenanthe cypriaca</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus Pied Wheatear</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An important site for migrants (particularly passerines, but also raptores), providing the first arrival point for northbound birds in spring.

**Protection status**

National High International None

385 ha of IBA covered by National Forest Park (Cape Greco, 385 ha).

**Conservation issues**

**Threats** Disturbance to birds (C), Recreation/tourism (U), Unsustainable exploitation (C)

Part of the IBA is a hunting-dog training area, which causes disturbance to birds. Also liming and netting is illegally practiced, especially in autumn.

**Larnaca salt-lakes**

Admin region Larnaca
Coordinates 34°32’N 33°37’E
Altitude 0–20 m Area 1,850 ha

**Site description**

The IBA covers four salt-lakes, which dry out in summer, surrounding agricultural land and Salicornia scrub. The north-eastern corner of
the site borders the suburbs of Larnaca and several military camps, whilst Larnaca International Airport adjoins on the eastern side (one of the lakes is bisected by a runway).

### Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phoenicopterus ruber</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A4i, B1i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxyura leucocephala</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oenanthe cyprica</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A2, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia melanothorax</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The site is very important for wintering waterbirds and as a resting-place for many species of waterbirds, waders and passerines during migration. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Branta ruficollis (wintering), Circus maccouraus (passage).

### Conservation issues

**Threats**
- Agricultural intensification/expansion (C)
- Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (B)
- Disturbance to birds (B)
- Filling-in of wetlands (C)
- Industrialization/urbanization (B)
- Infrastructure (A)
- Recreation/tourism (B)
- Unsustainable exploitation (A)

The area is coming under threat from development for tourism and the encroachment of both the airport and the Larnaca suburbs, and is affected by pollution from the airport. A desalination plant is to be constructed near the Larnaca sewage-treatment plant at the end of 1999. Night hunting is a threat, which, due to its indiscriminate nature, can lead to protected species being shot. The Environment Department has drafted a management plan, which states that the lakes and marginal land within 500 m of the shore should be protected. The lakes to the south of the airport and east of the road from Meneou to Sypros beach are a Permanent Game Reserve, and hold the Larnaca sewage-treatment plant. The main lake to the north and west of the main road is also a Permanent Game Reserve, with the designation only covering the area that is under water.

### Site description

The dam was constructed in 1987 to enable the irrigation of the Famagusta area. Water is supplied to the reservoir (capacity 5.8 million m³) via a pipeline from Kourris Dam near Limasol. After ten years of operation the reservoir is surrounded by well-established trees (Tamarix, Mimosa) and reedbeds (Phragmites), and has developed into a diverse wetland of great importance. Human activities include fishing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oenanthe cyprica</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia melanothorax</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The site has attracted a variety of birds since its construction, and today is one of the most important wetlands in Cyprus, both for wintering and migrating waterbirds, raptors and waders. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Aythya nyroca (wintering, no data), Oxyura leucocephala (wintering, no data), Circus maccouraus (small numbers on passage), Glareola nordmanni (passage, no data), Gallinago media (passage, no data).

### Protection status

**National High International** None

125 ha of IBA overlaps with Temporary Game Reserve.

### Conservation issues

**Threats**
- Disturbance to birds (C)
- Recreation/tourism (C)
- Unsustainable exploitation (C)

Unsustainable exploitation through illegal hunting remains a threat to birds in the area, even though the site is a Temporary Game Reserve. Also, due to the prolonged drought, there is a very big threat of the dam drying out.

### Site description

The IBA includes Akrotiri salt-lake, reedbeds and gravel pits, Bishop’s Pool, Zakaki pools, and Ladie’s Mile beach. The salt-lake dries out in summer, and is surrounded by reedbeds and saltmarsh. There are vineyards and orange groves in the vicinity of Bishop’s Pool, which is a man-made reservoir taking surplus treated effluent from the Akrotiri sewage-treatment works.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oxyura leucocephala</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B1i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oenanthe cyprica</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guea goy Cane</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A4i, B1i</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oenanthe cyprica</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A2, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia melanothorax</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Protection status

**National Partial International** None

2,000 ha of IBA covered by Permanent Game Reserve (Akrotiri Lake, 2,000 ha).

### Conservation issues

**Threats**
- Burning of vegetation (B)
- Construction of dyke/dam/barrage (C)
- Disturbance to birds (C)
- Drainage (U)
- Extraction industry (C)
- Filling-in of wetlands (C)
- Industrialization/urbanization (C)
- Unsustainable exploitation (B)
The area is threatened with drying-out following the construction of a dam on the River Kouris, which was a source of water during the winter. Shooting from the lake shores, especially at night, indiscriminately kills birds. There is a need for the entire area to be designated as a Permanent Game Reserve.

**Phasouri reedbeds**  
**Admin region Limassol**  
**Coordinates** 34°38’N 32°56’E  
**Altitude** 0-5 m  
**Area** 323 ha

**Site description**  
An extensive area of reedbeds (*Phragmites*) and water-meadows (unique in Cyprus), adjacent to Akrotiri salt-lake.

- **Habitats**: Grassland (40%; humid grassland), Wetland (60%; standing brackish and salt water; water-fringe vegetation)
- **Land-use**: Agriculture (20%), Not utilized (80%)

**Birds**

- **Species**:  
  - *Francolinus francolinus* (Black Francolin)  
  - *Oenanthe cypriaca* (Cypriot Wheatear)  
  - *Sylvia melanothorax* (Cyprus Warbler)

A very important stop-over site during spring and autumn migration; also important for winter visitors. Bird data are averaged for 1990–1995, although many more species are recorded every year, ranging from raptors and large waterbirds to small warblers (*Sylvia* species) and finches (*Fringilla* species). Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Crex crex*, *Gallinago media* (both passage).

**Protection status**  
**National** Partial  
**International** None

Part of the IBA is protected by a Temporary Game Reserve.

**Conservation issues**

- **Threats**  
  - Bunting of vegetation (B), Construction of dykes/dams/barrage (U), Disturbance to birds (A), Other (B), Unsustainable exploitation (B)

The area is threatened with drying-out following the construction of the dam on the River Kouris, which formerly supplied water to the area. Inappropriate reed-cutting (‘Other’ threat) and burning and encroachment by grazing animals is resulting in extensive damage to the reedbeds. Indiscriminate shooting is also a major problem. The Environment Department has drafted a management plan.

**Akrotiri Cliffs**  
**Admin region Limassol**  
**Coordinates** 34°34’N 32°57’E  
**Altitude** 0-60 m  
**Area** 200 ha

**Site description**  
The site covers the sea cliffs situated between Cape Gata and Cape Zevgari, and is included within the UK Sovereign Base Area.

- **Habitats**: Rocky areas (100%; sea cliff/rocky shore; rock stacks/islets)  
- **Land-use**: Military (100%)

**Birds**

- **Species**:  
  - *Falco eleonorae* (Eleonora’s Falcon)  
  - *Oenanthe cypriaca* (Cypriot Wheatear)  
  - *Sylvia melanothorax* (Cyprus Warbler)

Large numbers of birds pass through on migration.

**Protection status**  
**National** High  
**International** None

200 ha of IBA covered by Permanent Game Reserve.

**Episkopi Cliffs**  
**Admin region Limassol**  
**Coordinates** 34°40’N 32°49’E  
**Altitude** 0-80 m  
**Area** 175 ha

**Site description**  
The IBA comprises sea cliffs, rocky shores and occasional sandy beaches, and covers Kensington Cliffs, Tunnel Beach, Quarry Beach, Curium, and Gibraltar Point. The cliffs contain steep valleys, gorges and caves, and are included within the UK Sovereign Base Area.

- **Habitats**: Wetland (10%; shingle/stony beach), Rocky areas (85%; sea cliff/rocky shore; inland cliff, caves), Artificial landscape (5%; other urban/industrial areas)  
- **Land-use**: Military (50%), Not utilized (50%)

Thousands of migrants pass over and frequent the area in spring and autumn.

**Protection status**  
**National** High  
**International** None

175 ha of IBA covered by Permanent Game Reserve.

**Conservation issues**

- **Threats**  
  - Disturbance to birds (C), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

The IBA falls within a military zone and is inaccessible for the purposes of conducting surveys. This means that it is also inaccessible to hunters, thus reducing the disturbance to birds.

**Cape Aspro**  
**Admin region Limassol**  
**Coordinates** 34°19’N 32°43’E  
**Altitude** 0-120 m  
**Area** 240 ha

**Site description**  
These are the highest sea cliffs on Cyprus, extending for 8 km from the village of Pissouri (Cape Aspro) to the Petra tou Romiou area, and are accessible only by sea.

- **Habitats**: Rocky areas (100%; sea cliff/rocky shore; rock stacks/islets)  
- **Land-use**: Not utilized (100%)

**Birds**

- **Species**:  
  - *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (Shag)
  - *Falco eleonorae* (Eleonora’s Falcon)

Surveys are difficult due to the inaccessibility of the cliffs, which support the largest breeding colony of *Falco eleonorae* in Cyprus.

**Protection status**  
**National** None  
**International** None

**Conservation issues**

- **Threats**  
  - Disturbance to birds (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

1. No recent surveys.
The cliffs are inaccessible; the only threats being disturbance from boats and helicopters.

## Site description

The reservoir was formed following the damming of the River Xeros, and is surrounded mainly by rough grassland (used for goat- and sheep-grazing) and arable land planted with cash crops. Small pools of water and reeds *Phragmites* are located under the dam wall. Constructed in 1982, this is the second largest reservoir in Cyprus with a capacity of 51 million m³ of water.

### Threats
- Disturbance to birds (B)
- Industrialization/urbanization (B)
- Unsustainable exploitation (B)

### Conservation issues

The main problem is posed by development for tourism along the shoreline on either side of Paphos town.

## Site description

A narrow coastal plain situated between Ay Georgios Peiyias and the mouth of the River Khapotami, and bisected by the Ezoussas, Dhiarizos and Xeros rivers. The site comprises cliffs, rocky shores and a few sandy bays on the seaward side, and low rolling hills inland. Cash crops are grown on an area of irrigated land.

### Threats
- Farming (B)
- Industrialization (B)
- Unsustainable exploitation (B)

### Conservation issues

One of the main breeding areas for *Francolinus francolinus*, and a favoured resting-place for migrants during spring and autumn. Passage species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Circus maurus* (2–3 birds), *Falco naumanni* (up to 20 birds), *Glaucous nordsmanii* (up to 10 birds).

### Protection status

National High International None

The entire IBA is covered by Permanent Game Reserves.

## Site description

A narrow range of hills covered with scrub, pockets of coniferous woodland, farmland and maquis, and considerable areas of rank grassland. The area extends from the Latchi, Prodromi, Droushia, Inia road down to Cape Drepanum, and is used mainly for grazing goats and sheep, with a small amount of arable farming and fruit-growing.

### Threats
- Farming (B)
- Industrialization (B)
- Unsustainable exploitation (B)

### Conservation issues

The main problem is posed by development for tourism along the coastline.

## Site description

A variety of grassland, scrub, woodlands and wetland areas

### Threats
- Drying-out of the pools and dam, mainly due to drought
- Unsustainable exploitation (B)

### Conservation issues

The cliffs are inaccessible; the only threats being disturbance from boats and helicopters.

### Protection status

National High International None

The entire IBA is covered by Permanent Game Reserves.

## Site description

A narrow coastal plain situated between Ay Georgios Peiyias and the mouth of the River Khapotami, and bisected by the Ezoussas, Dhiarizos and Xeros rivers. The site comprises cliffs, rocky shores and a few sandy bays on the seaward side, and low rolling hills inland. Cash crops are grown on an area of irrigated land.

### Threats
- Farming (B)
- Industrialization (B)
- Unsustainable exploitation (B)

### Conservation issues

One of the main breeding areas for *Francolinus francolinus*, and a favoured resting-place for migrants during spring and autumn. Passage species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Circus maurus* (2–3 birds), *Falco naumanni* (up to 20 birds), *Glaucous nordsmanii* (up to 10 birds).

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### Threats
- Farming (B)
- Industrialization (B)
- Unsustainable exploitation (B)

### Conservation issues

The cliffs are inaccessible; the only threats being disturbance from boats and helicopters.

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National High International None

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## Site description

A narrow coastal plain situated between Ay Georgios Peiyias and the mouth of the River Khapotami, and bisected by the Ezoussas, Dhiarizos and Xeros rivers. The site comprises cliffs, rocky shores and a few sandy bays on the seaward side, and low rolling hills inland. Cash crops are grown on an area of irrigated land.

### Threats
- Farming (B)
- Industrialization (B)
- Unsustainable exploitation (B)

### Conservation issues

One of the main breeding areas for *Francolinus francolinus*, and a favoured resting-place for migrants during spring and autumn. Passage species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Circus maurus* (2–3 birds), *Falco naumanni* (up to 20 birds), *Glaucous nordsmanii* (up to 10 birds).

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National High International None

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A narrow range of hills covered with scrub, pockets of coniferous woodland, farmland and maquis, and considerable areas of rank grassland. The area extends from the Latchi, Prodromi, Droushia, Inia road down to Cape Drepanum, and is used mainly for grazing goats and sheep, with a small amount of arable farming and fruit-growing.

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- Farming (B)
- Industrialization (B)
- Unsustainable exploitation (B)

### Conservation issues

The cliffs are inaccessible; the only threats being disturbance from boats and helicopters.

### Protection status

National High International None

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## Site description

A narrow coastal plain situated between Ay Georgios Peiyias and the mouth of the River Khapotami, and bisected by the Ezoussas, Dhiarizos and Xeros rivers. The site comprises cliffs, rocky shores and a few sandy bays on the seaward side, and low rolling hills inland. Cash crops are grown on an area of irrigated land.

### Threats
- Farming (B)
- Industrialization (B)
- Unsustainable exploitation (B)

### Conservation issues

One of the main breeding areas for *Francolinus francolinus*, and a favoured resting-place for migrants during spring and autumn. Passage species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Circus maurus* (2–3 birds), *Falco naumanni* (up to 20 birds), *Glaucous nordsmanii* (up to 10 birds).

### Protection status

National High International None

The entire IBA is covered by Permanent Game Reserves.

## Site description

A narrow range of hills covered with scrub, pockets of coniferous woodland, farmland and maquis, and considerable areas of rank grassland. The area extends from the Latchi, Prodromi, Droushia, Inia road down to Cape Drepanum, and is used mainly for grazing goats and sheep, with a small amount of arable farming and fruit-growing.

### Threats
- Farming (B)
- Industrialization (B)
- Unsustainable exploitation (B)

### Conservation issues

The cliffs are inaccessible; the only threats being disturbance from boats and helicopters.

### Protection status

National High International None

The entire IBA is covered by Permanent Game Reserves.
**Site description**

Stavros tis Pskosas is the best-known forest station in Cyprus, and is situated in the middle of Paphos Forest. The site comprises mainly coniferous woodland with rocky outcrops. A large replanting scheme, covering 8,500 ha out of a total of 21,600 ha, was implemented after this area was destroyed by fire in 1974. 400 ha of the IBA are covered with the endemic Cyprus cedar Cedrus brevifolia.

**Habitats**
- Forest and woodland (90%; broadleaved deciduous forest; native coniferous forest; mixed forest)
- Scrub (5%; sclerophyllous scrub/garrigue/maquis)
- Artificial landscape (15%; arable land; perennial crops/orchards/groves; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas)

**Land-use**
- Agriculture (15%)
- Forestry (60%)
- Urban/industrial/transport (10%)

**Birds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquila heliaca</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>B A1, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hieraaetus fasciatus</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oenanthe cyanope</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>B A2, A3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sylvia melanocephala</td>
<td>R</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia melanothorax</td>
<td>R</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Oenanthe cyanpe</td>
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<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sylvia melanocephala</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A2, A3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The area is very important for breeding raptors and species of forest and woodland. The site is important for breeding raptors and species of forest and open cultivated land. There have been recent sightings of Aquila heliaca in the area, suggesting that between one and three birds are present. In 1988 a nest containing two eaglets was found near Orkontas.

**Protection status**

National Partial International None

50,000 ha of IBA covered by Permanent Game Reserve.

**Conservation issues**

**Threats**
- Agricultural intensification/expansion (C)
- Burning of vegetation (C)
- Disturbance to birds (C)
- Forest grazing (C)
- Recreation/tourism (C)
- Selective logging/cutting (C)
- Unsustainable exploitation (C)

Expansion of villages within the IBA and the construction of forest roads have increased accessibility to the area and thus made bird shooting and disturbance easier. The entire area is State Forest land.

**REFERENCES**


