

Oroklini Lake

Oroklini Lake is one of the few natural wetlands of Cyprus. It is small in size, but has an important number of breeding Spur-winged Lapwings *Vanellus spinosus* and Black-winged Stilts *Himantopus himantopus*. It is also an important area for migratory birds, for waterbirds and other species alike. The area belongs to the Natura 2000 network of protected areas.

District: Larnaca

Altitude: 2.3 meters above sea level

Coordinates (the centre of the site): 34° 58.032'N 33° 39.123'E

Total area: 93 hectares

Habitat: Oroklini Lake is a natural seasonal wetland (it floods in winter and in summer it retains little water, it is natural for it to dry late in the summer), with bushes and reeds.

Birds: 190 different bird species have been recorded in the area. The species for which the area is protected are the Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* (within the EU you can find this bird only in Greece and Cyprus) and Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*.

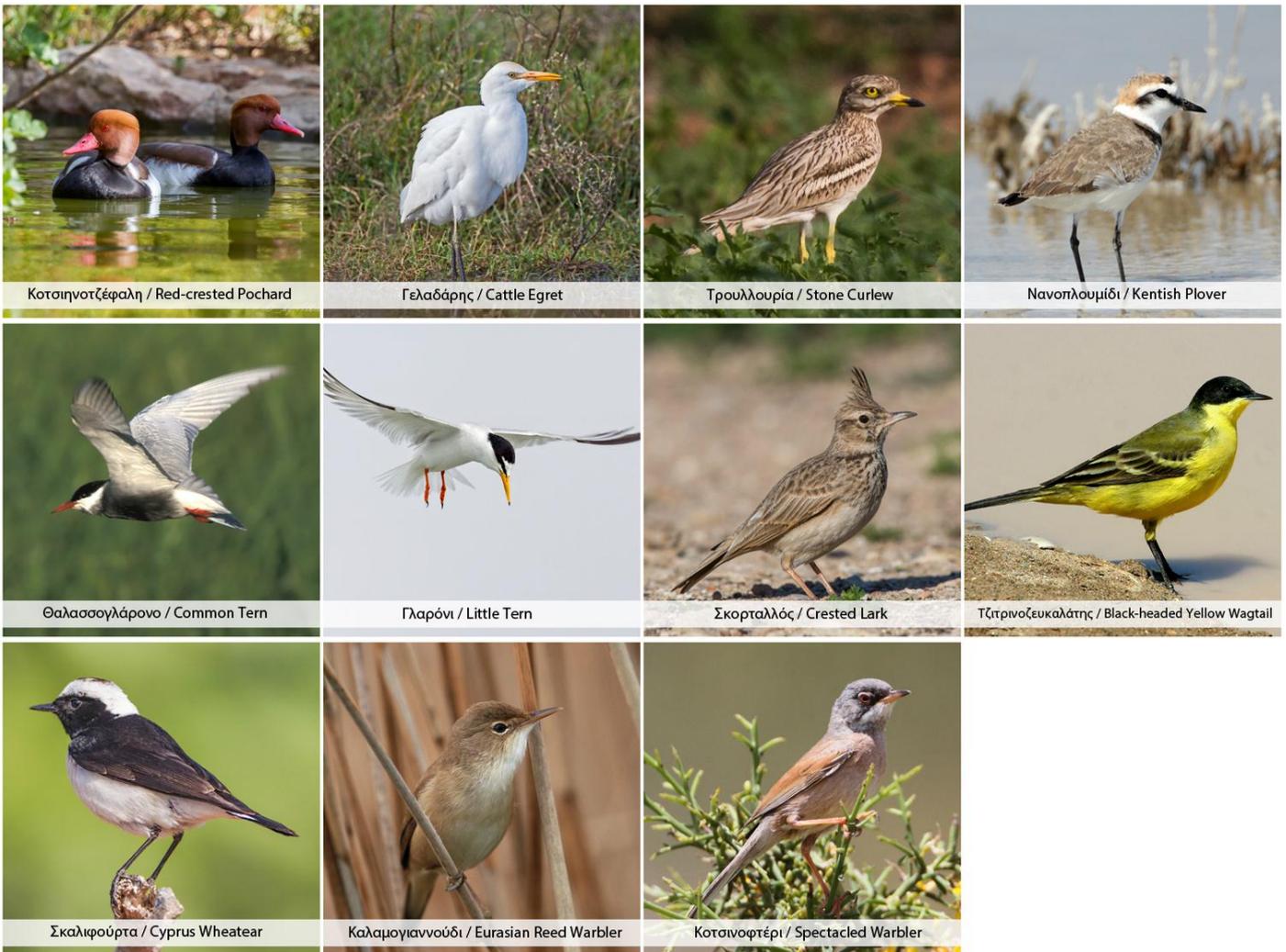
Among other important species that breed at Oroklini Lake are the Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*, Cattle egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*, Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*, Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*, Black-headed yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg*, the Cyprus Wheatear *Oenanthe cyprica*, Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* and Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*.



Πελλοκατερίνα / Spur-winged Lapwing



Καλαμοκαννάς / Black-winged Stilt



Other fauna and flora: Oroklini Lake is among the most important areas for the European Eel in Cyprus. In the area you will also find different species of frogs and bats, hedgehogs and hares.

Threats:

1. Habitat degradation and loss as a result of pressures for housing development and road creation.
2. Farm pesticides and fertilisers (runoff).
3. Existing infrastructure: the road crossing the lake, the highway in close proximity and the presence of a petrol station.

Did you know...? Oroklini Lake is the smallest Natura 2000 site in Cyprus. It is also the first and probably the only location in Cyprus where there are road signs for birds, as the road crosses the lake.

What else can you find in the area?

At Oroklini Lake there are two birdwatching hides with information for visitors on the different bird species they can enjoy there. The hides, as well as other actions, took place within the framework of the LIFE Oroklini project for the restoration of the wetland. You can learn more about the project here: www.orokliniproject.org