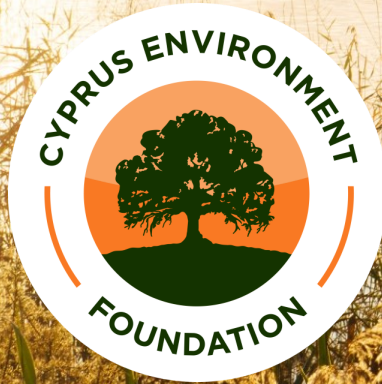


CYPRUS WETLAND MONITORING SCHEME



BirdLife
Cyprus



OVERVIEW



The Cyprus Wetland Monitoring Project was implemented in 2022 and 2023 based on a shared view that a collaborative approach is needed to effectively monitor and conserve Cyprus's waterbirds.

The project aims to eliminate duplication of effort, make best use of resources, harmonise monitoring protocols and to provide training and capacity, especially in the north of the island.



EQUIPMENT

The project provided two quality spotting scopes to KUŞKOR. The equipment has been essential to the success of the project.

The scopes were distributed to volunteers who subsequently received training and became established as monthly observers at wetlands in the east and west sides of the island.

KICKOFF WORKSHOP

**DO YOU HAVE BASIC BIRDWATCHING EXPERIENCE?
THEN WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

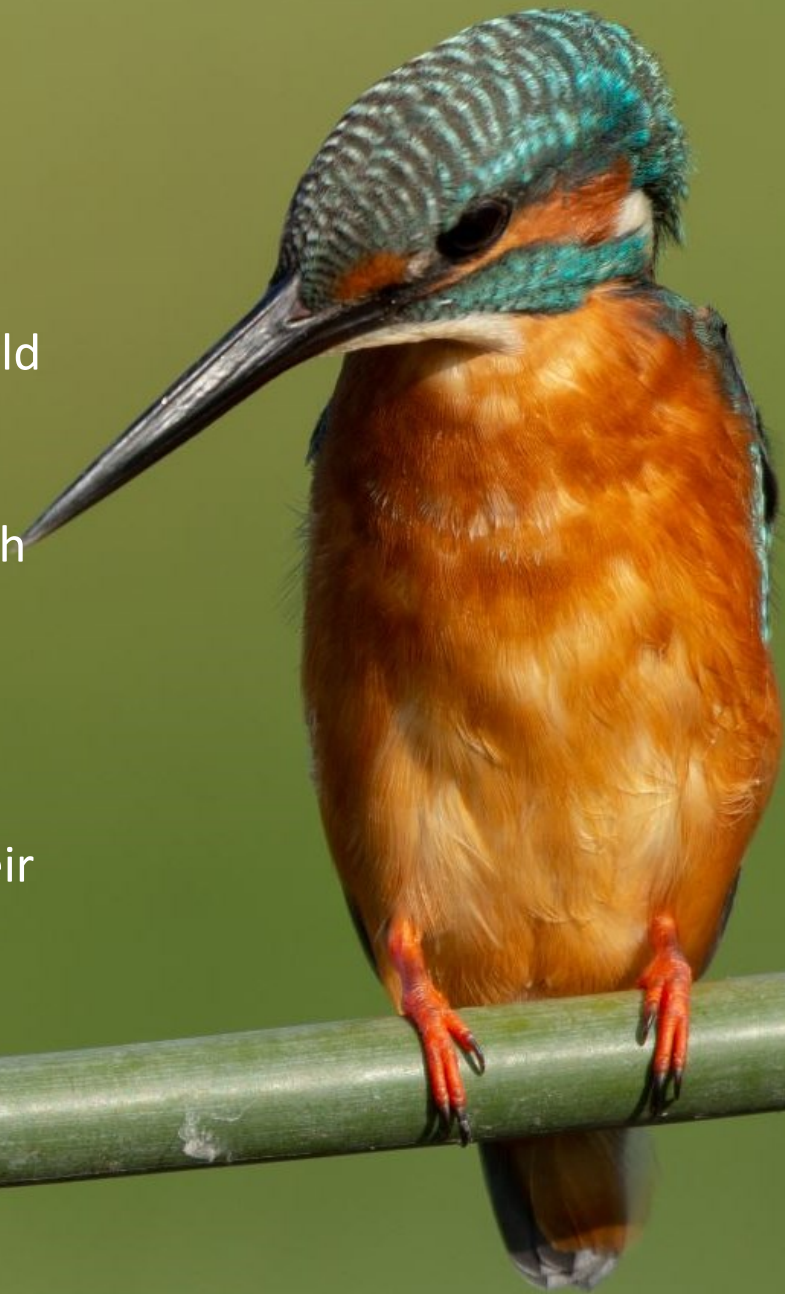
Join us at the
Home for Cooperation on
Tuesday, 20th September at 3pm
for a presentation on the
All-Cyprus Wetland Monitoring Scheme,
to meet our representatives
and to sign up.



This project is a collaboration between BirdLife Cyprus and KUŞKOR,
with support of the Cyprus Environment Foundation.

A bicommunal workshop was held at the Home for Cooperation in September. This was followed up by KUŞKOR with in-person meetings with potential volunteers.

The aims of the project, methods and expectations of volunteers were presented, and volunteers stated their commitment.



FIELD TRAINING



Field training was held in December 2022 at Haspolat (Mia Milia) Sewage Treatment Works and Important Bird Area. This complex and heavily managed wetland provided a great training ground for volunteers.

KUŞKOR and BirdLife Cyprus representatives outlined the monitoring protocol and pitfalls of counting birds were identified and discussed. It was a good opportunity for the bicomunal team to come together.

ACHIEVEMENTS

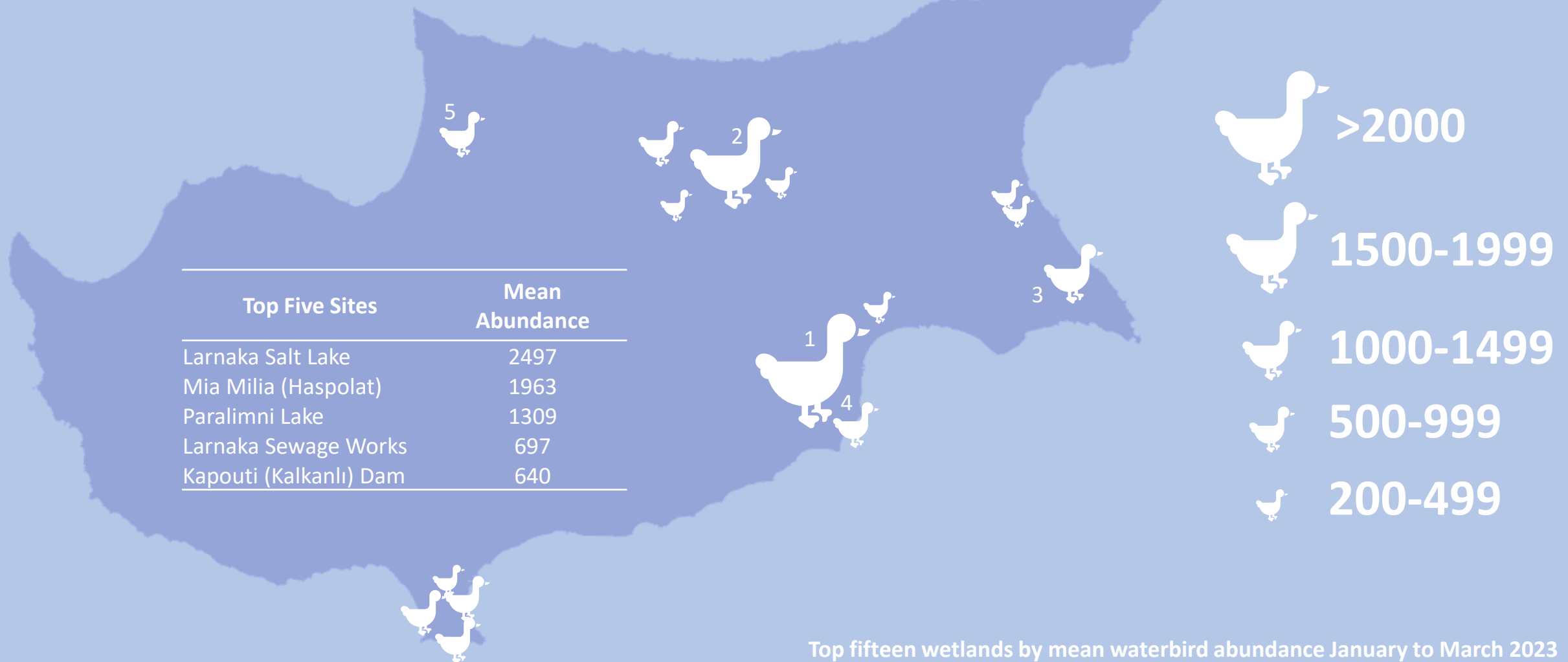


Before the project, monitoring in the north was patchy. Now, 10 volunteers regularly contribute surveys of over 30 wetlands in the north. A process is established for organising teams, vetting and collating all-island data. Data is more complete and representative across the two communities and coverage is improved. These great achievements show the value of collaboration.



MEAN WATERBIRD ABUNDANCE

WINTER 2023

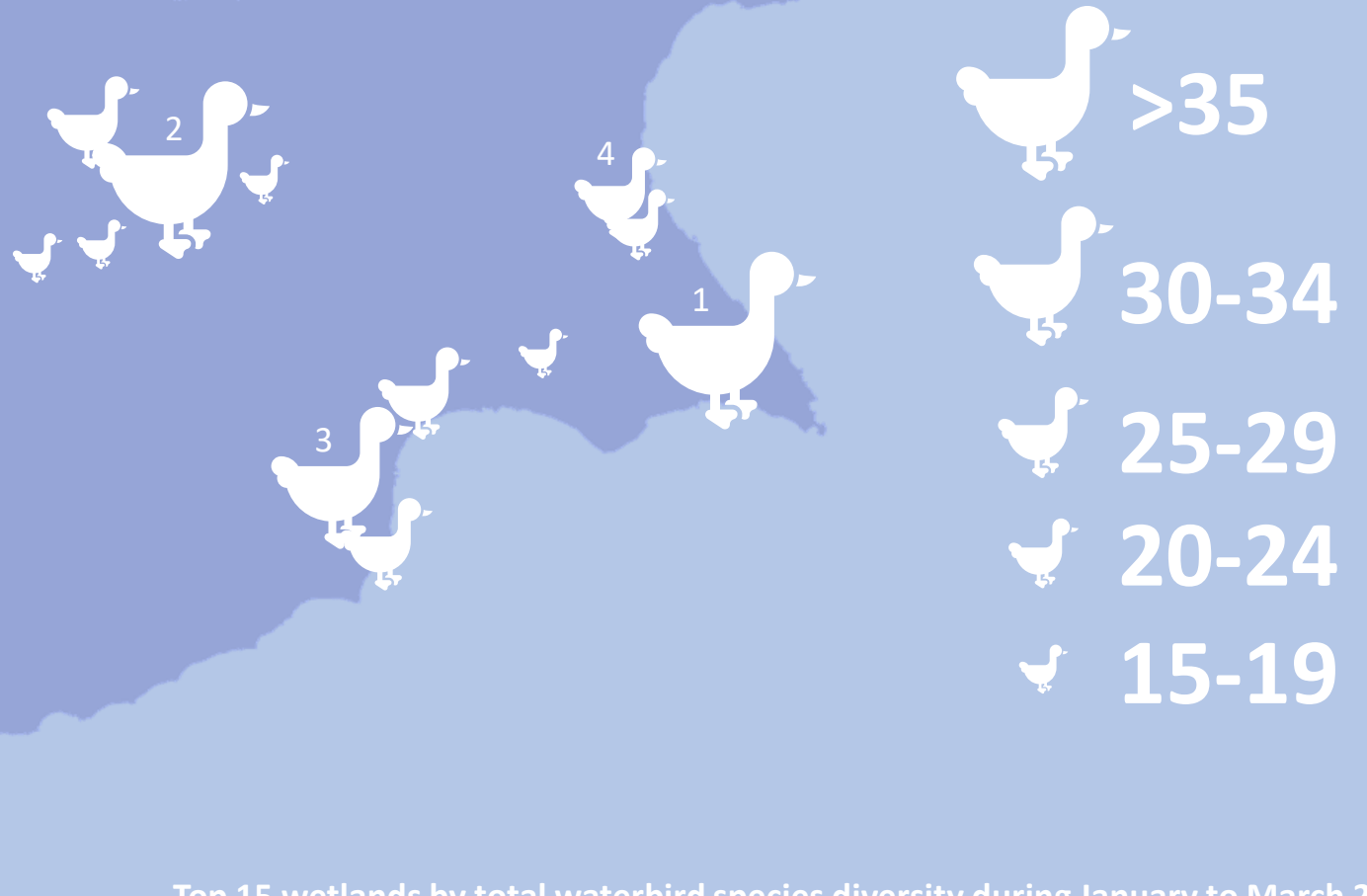


Top fifteen wetlands by mean waterbird abundance January to March 2023

TOTAL WATERBIRD DIVERSITY

WINTER 2023

Top Five Sites	Cumulative Species Count
Paralimni lake	37
Mia Milia (Haspolat)	36
Larnaka Salt Lake	32
Agios Lukas North	27
Akrotiri Marsh	27



Top 15 wetlands by total waterbird species diversity during January to March 2023

CASE STUDY



Balıkesir (Palaikythro) Pool is a small wetland on the Kanlıdere (Pedieos) river and is popular among birdwatchers and naturalists. In 2014, it became part of the Haspolat (Mia Milia) Important Bird Area.

When Değirmenlik (Kythrea) Municipality began to use the site for landfill, KUŞKOR delivered written statements and held meetings with the authorities, but little action was taken.

During the first three months of the Cyprus Wetland Monitoring Scheme, the site was among the top 15 of over 100 wetlands in terms of both waterbird diversity and abundance. The ability to measure the importance of this site on an island-wide scale, gives conservationists a stronger hand in their advocacy.

Legal action is now in progress and the municipality have been ordered to move the waste to an official waste management site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Cover photo: Oroklini Lake by Silvio A. Rusmigo

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