

known range may indicate an extension in the range of this species (subspecies). Special attention should be paid to it in the future.

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## The Cyprus Warbler, *Sylvia melanothorax*, recorded in Turkey

by Max Kasperek

**Keywords:** Sylvidae – Middle East – Turkey – zoogeography – wintering grounds

### 1. Introduction

The Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*) is a warbler endemic to Cyprus, where it is common and widespread up to c. 1400 m above sea level. It occurs mainly in low maquis, but also in undergrowth along valley bottoms in pine forests, around forest edges with scattered pines and *Cistus* cover, and in areas of *Quercus alnifolia*. The Cyprus Warbler is a partial migrant: many

birds leave Cyprus in late September and October, returning in late February and March, whereas part of the population stays in Cyprus during the winter (FLINT & STEWART 1983). However, little is known about the wintering grounds. A few birds have been recorded from Lebanon and Palestine in winter and early spring (BENSON 1970, VAURIE 1959). WILLIAMSON (1974) also notes "has occurred in Asia Minor". However, I could find no source for this statement, and so no date or locality is known. The present record from Turkey is probably the first for which details are known.

## 2. Record

Together with my wife AYGÜN KILIÇ, I observed a warbler with barred and spotted throat and breast near Anamur on 4.4.86. The bird was extremely tame and we could approach to within a few metres. The bird had a pronounced white moustachial streak. The upper side was dark grey with a touch of dark brown. The extent of mottled parts on the underside was not as great as is shown in e.g. "Collin's Fieldguide" for the Cyprus Warbler. The belly and the flanks did not have a distinctive black and white pattern, but were dirty brownish. WILLIAMSON (1974) reports that the Cyprus Warbler can show individual variation in the extent of the black and white feathers on the underparts, and also that the flanks and even the lower breast can have a faint pinkish suffusion. The tail feathers of the bird we watched were missing. Nevertheless, the tail was cocked frequently, a behaviour which is typical for the Cyprus Warbler as well as for the Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*. This description fits the male of the Cyprus Warbler.

## 3. Discussion

The location of this observation was the shore of the Mediterranean Sea near Anamur. At this point a ditch crosses the dunes and the beach. The Cyprus Warbler was hopping in low tamarisc scrub (*Tamarix* sp.). Apart from some grasses, there was no other vegetation. Anamur is one of the places on the Turkish mainland which is closest to Cyprus: Only some 80 km separate the island and the mainland. It is thus surprising that there are not more records from Turkey, though this may be because the bird has been overlooked rather than because it is really absent. It cannot even be ruled out that the Cyprus Warbler is a regular winter visitor to parts of the Turkish southern coast. Early April is a rather late date. Usually migration back to Cyprus is over by early March and eggs are found from April onwards (FLINT & STEWART 1983). A possible explanation of the present record might be the missing tail feathers of the bird, which prevented it from crossing the sea.

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## On records of the Pine Bunting, *Emberiza leucocephalos*, in Turkey from the last century

by Max Kasparek

**Keywords:** Emberizidae — Middle East — Turkey — wintering grounds

### 1. Introduction

KUMERLOEVE (1961) did not include the Pine Bunting in his avifauna of Turkey as he assumed that no proof was available. He cited ROBSON and ALLÉON who reported the species from the Istanbul area but he wrote "as nothing about proofs has become known, this species cannot be included in the list of the birds of Anatolia." However, KUMERLOEVE included the Pine Bunting in his "revised list of the birds of Turkey" (KUMERLOEVE 1966a) with the addition "one specimen 1858". On the other hand, he did not mention the species in a paper on supplements to the Turkish avifauna which was published at the same time (KUMERLOEVE 1966b). So, the situation is rather unclear, especially as KUMERLOEVE did not give any details on date, locality or museum of the specimen from 1858. For this reason, the literature regarding *Emberiza leucocephalos* in Turkey was re-checked and data referring to museum specimens were compiled.