



Information Kiosk at Oroklini Lake, M. Apostolidou

Oroklini Lake – A wetland of European importance

Oroklini Lake is a must-see wildlife site in the Larnaca district. This fantastic nature patch is literally in the heart of Voroklini community and, despite its small size, is home to rich wildlife.

For the preservation of its great biodiversity hot-spot the wetland is protected under

European law, thus it is designated a Natura 2000 site. Here, two threatened bird species come to nest in significant numbers, the Black-winged Stilt (Oroklini Lake is the best nesting site in Cyprus for this species) and the Spur-winged Lapwing (this species nest only in Greece and Cyprus within the EU). Moreover, Oroklini Lake is the only site in Cyprus where the beautiful Red-crested Pochard nests. In total, an impressive 190 bird species have been recorded at Oroklini Lake!

Oroklini Lake is one of the few natural wetlands in Cyprus and like other wetlands of the island it was suffering from a lot of pressures. To safeguard this wetland a team of five partners in Cyprus (Game and Fauna Service, BirdLife Cyprus, Environment Department, Department of Forests and Voroklini Community Council) started a pioneering project with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union. The three-year project (2012-2014) aim was to bring an ecological balance to the lake and to ensure Oroklini Lake remains a true wetland haven for birds for years to come and a unique nature site for people to enjoy. This was achieved through the implementation of a number of conservation actions (such as fencing the site, restoring a degraded area, water management works and other) as well as awareness raising actions such as the erection of a birdwatching hide and an information kiosk for visitors, the creation of information and education material and many more.

Visitor facilities offer a unique experience to enjoy Oroklini Lake and its birds throughout the year. In spring one can see thousands of ducks that come here to winter, in spring any visitor can see much colourful wildlife action going on there as birds are in their breeding season, in the summer one can see chicks while autumn is ideal to see autumn migrants.

Oroklini Lake is also ideal for school visits. With a visit to Oroklini Lake children can learn about wildlife through experiential education and the use of the education

material produced as part of the LIFE Oroklini project. To arrange a visit please contact the Information Kiosk Officer on 97 819636.

To learn more about the LIFE Oroklini project please click **here** www.orokliniproject.org or **here** <http://www.voroklini.org/default.asp?id=391>.

How to get here:

From the Larnaca – Ayia Napa highway (A3) with direction to Ayia Napa take the exit to Oroklini. Then take the first turn left and follow the road that will take you next to the lake. The information kiosk and the car park will be on your right hand.

If you are coming on A3 with a direction to Larnaca, take the exit to Oroklini and at the crossroad you will see the lake opposite you. Go right and you will see the information kiosk and the car park on your left.

For the map please click **here**.

<https://www.google.com/maps/preview?f=q&source=embed&hl=en&geocode=&q=Oroklini+Lake,+Oroklini,+Larnaca,+Cyprus&aq=1&oq=oroklini+la&sl=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=58.076329,135.263672&t=m&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Oroklini+Lake&ll=34.96728,33.655329&spn=0.028135,0.05785&z=14&iwloc=A>

For more information please contact the Voroklini Community Council or the Information Kiosk Officer on 97 819636.

You can now enjoy the documentary made on Oroklini Lake as part of the project.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrMURTwqY4A>



Birdwatching hide, M.
Apostolidou



Red-crested Pochard, A.
Stocker



Spur-winged Lapwing, S.
Christodoulides



Black-winged Stilt, A.
Stocker



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