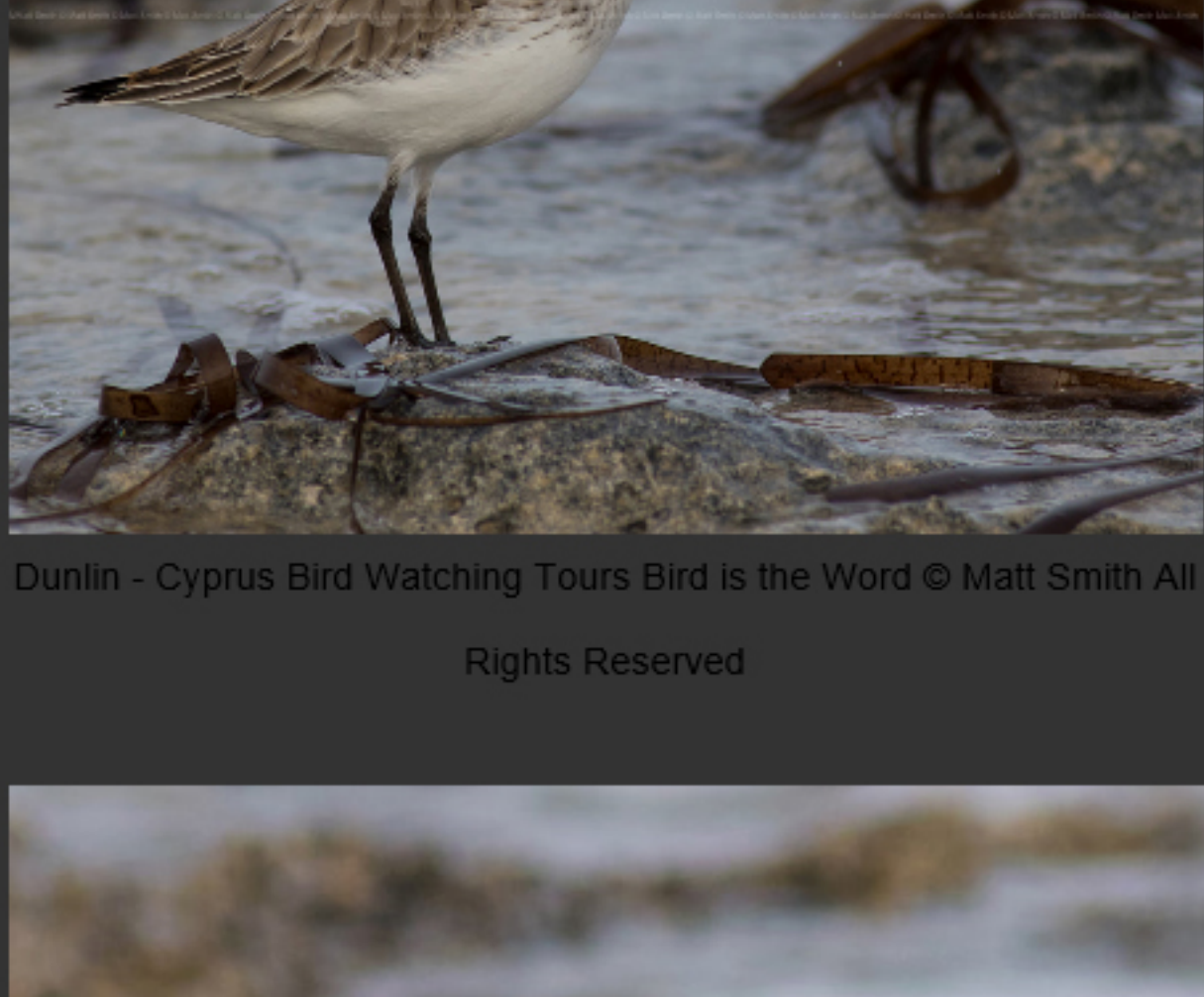


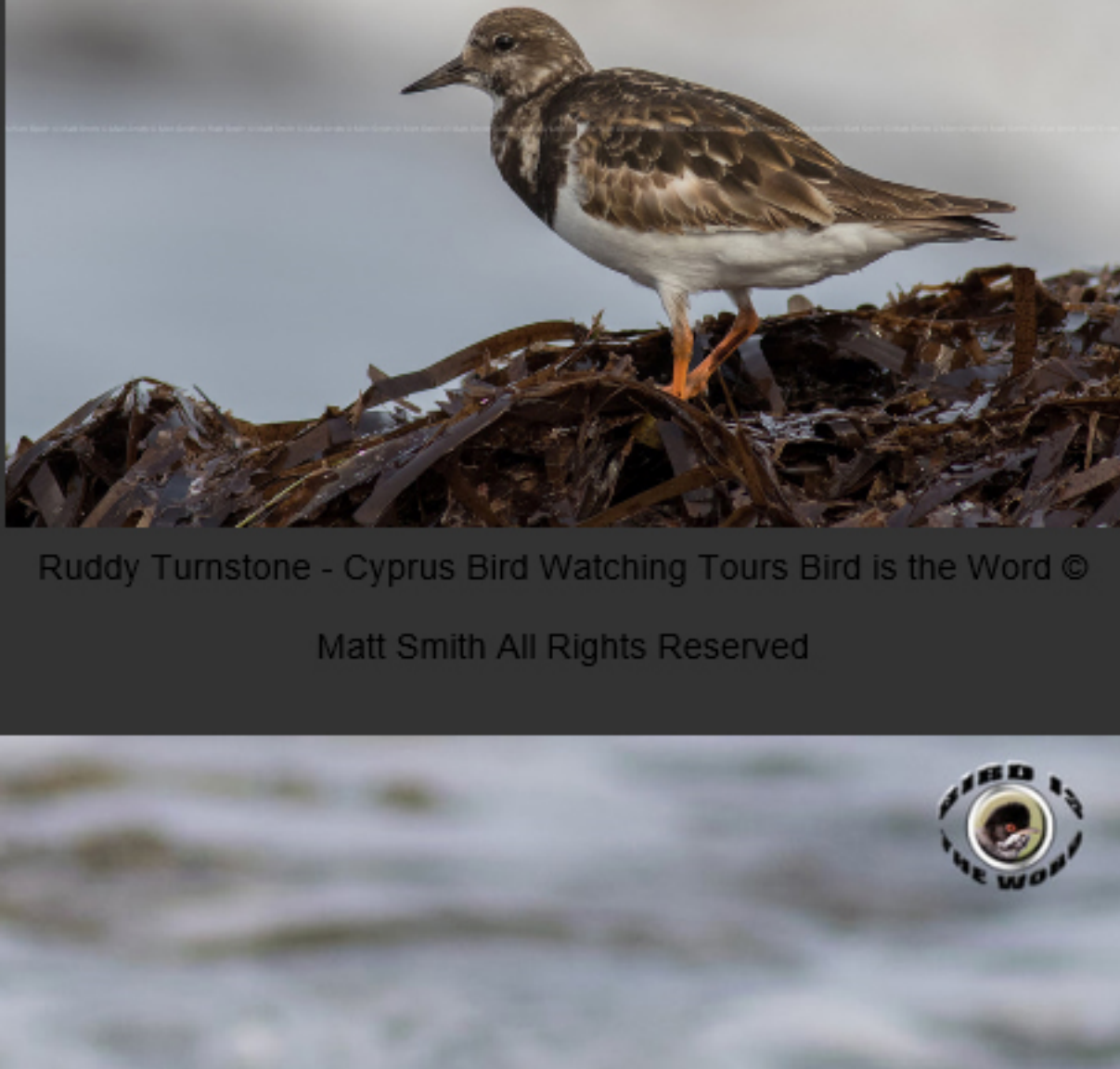
**Cyprus Bird Watching Tours - BIRD is the WORD - Paphos, Limassol, Troodos, Larnaca, Famagusta, Nicosia, Agia Napa 12-16/02/2018**

Heuglin's Gull (Central 2) - Cyprus Bird Watching Tours Bird is the Word © Matt Smith All Rights Reserved

Day 3 was the Paphos area. Our first bird was a Common Kingfisher on the Acheleia Canal. We moved on to the Headland to start so we could get the Greater Sand Plover before there was too much disturbance in the area. Sure enough we located 3 with one nearing Summer Plumage. Also present here was a Common Sandpiper, a Whimbrel, a few Dunlin which were literally walking around Aladdin's feet and a group of Ruddy Turnstone on the seaweed piles. Away from the rocks we had Red-throated, Water and Common Pipit along with Crested Lark and Skylark. Here we saw our first Yellow-legged Gull.



Dunlin - Cyprus Bird Watching Tours Bird is the Word © Matt Smith All Rights Reserved



Ruddy Turnstone - Cyprus Bird Watching Tours Bird is the Word © Matt Smith All Rights Reserved



Greater Sand Plover - Cyprus Bird Watching Tours Bird is the Word © Matt Smith All Rights Reserved

We then moved on to the Sewage Plant where we had great views and photo opportunities with Cattle Egret feeding in the Alfalfa fields. Also the many Spur-winged lapwing were present, many landing very close to us in the road. Red-throated and meadow pipit were in large numbers here and we managed a very close photo opportunity with a male European Stonechat here as promised. There was a Grey Wagtail on the waste area singing away but sadly no Bluethroat yet but a suprise show was a very early Common Nightingale very briefly seen flying into some dense vegetation on the side of the road as leaving the site.



Cattle Egret - Cyprus Bird Watching Tours Bird is the Word © Matt Smith All Rights Reserved

We continued to Anarita Park for our Finsch's Wheatear. We located the male and female very quickly and also saw another Isabelline Wheatear of which to my amazement was attacked by the Finsch's Wheatear. It was always my belief that the Isabelline wheatears do all the attacking. Here I managed to get Aladdin incredibly close to the Male Finsch's Wheatear, quite a task considering how shy they are. We got a few more Cyprus Warbler here and Chukar and quite a few Woodlark. We also had great photo opportunities with singing Corn Bunting. We had a quick look around Agia Varvara, target here was the Zitting Cisticola for good photos ... we managed to get quite close to a few perched, one was flying quite erratically here and diving towards the other which could have been a display or forcing another male from its territory. Here we also got another Isabelline Wheatear providing frame filling photo opportunities.



Finsch's Wheatear - Cyprus Bird Watching Tours Bird is the Word © Matt Smith All Rights Reserved



Corn Bunting - Cyprus Bird Watching Tours Bird is the Word © Matt Smith All Rights Reserved

We then headed to Mandria for lunch and then had a quick sweep of the beach seeing Laughing Dove on the wires on the way. There was a European Shag on the rocks and plenty of Skylark in the fields but no sign of the Hen Harrier that has been showing well over the previous week. Spanish Sparrow providing some great photo opportunities here as did a Common kestrel.



Spanish Sparrow - Cyprus Bird Watching Tours Bird is the Word © Matt Smith All Rights Reserved



Common kestrel - Cyprus Bird Watching Tours Bird is the Word © Matt Smith All Rights Reserved

We then went to the Anarita Masts, the Little Owl wasn't present and none of the pipits were about so we moved on quickly checking Kouklia fish farm on the way for the Salvonian Grebe which sadly must have moved on. We stopped in at Episkopi to try for the Vultures again. This time we had one sitting on the cliffs and flew very close as we were heading back. I then noticed one sitting in a pine tree as we were leaving the site... fantastic!

The west held 56 species.



Eurasian Griffon Vulture - Cyprus Bird Watching Tours Bird is the Word © Matt Smith All Rights Reserved