

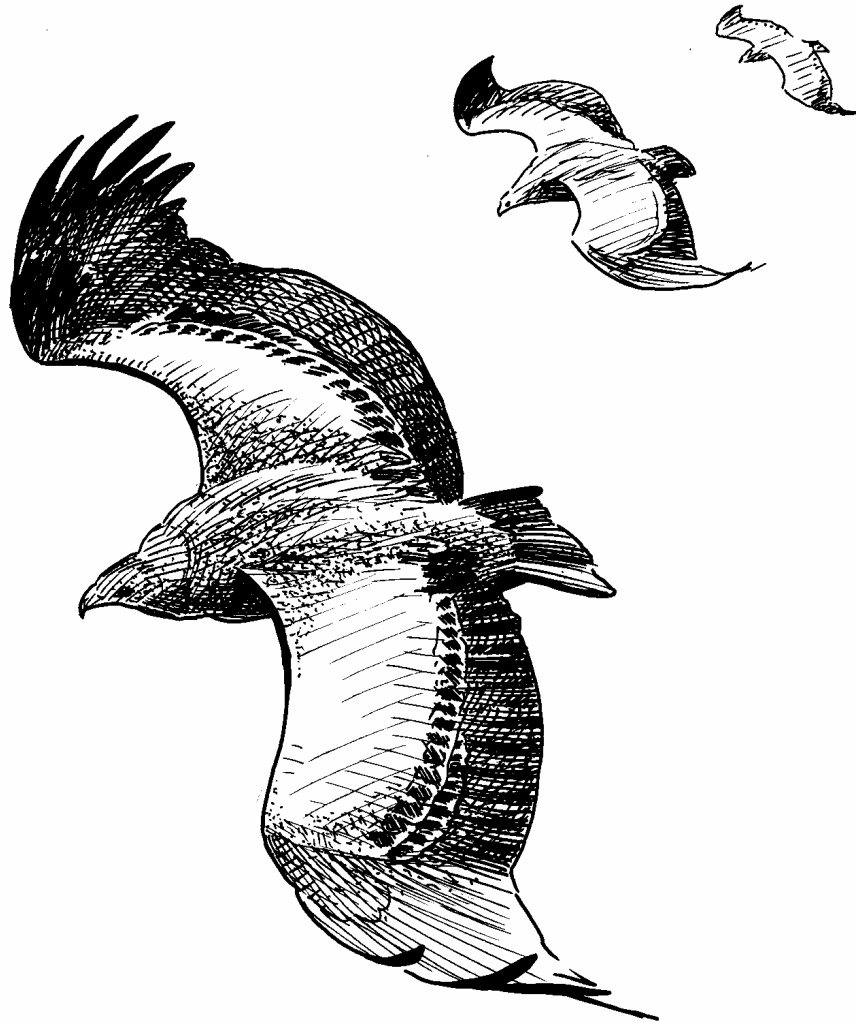
Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0PX

Telephone: 01603 300552

www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: chris@honeyguide.co.uk



Crete
16 – 23 April 1996

Crete
16 – 23 April 1995

The group

Mary Grant

Martin George
Barbara George

Gwen Boston
Stan Boston

Roger Pawley
Hazel Pawley

Jim Pollok-Morris
Pat Pollok-Morris

Jane Dunlop
Ann Davey

Beryl Ranwell

George Shutter

Report written by Ivan Nethercoat and plant list by Mick Rebane.

Illustrations by Rob Hume.

Like all Honeyguide Holidays, a contribution of £25 per person was made to conservation, a total of £325 to the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS). Honeyguide holiday reports often include a 'thank you letter' from the organisation receiving the donation. This seems to take a long time to come through from Athens, and had not arrived at the time of printing of this report (August 1996), so last year's thank you letter (for £275) is attached instead, which similarly was too late for inclusion in the 1995 holiday report. Over £10,000 has been contributed by Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays to conservation projects since 1991.

Crete
16 – 23 April 1995

A week in the eastern Mediterranean in April is a prospect that fills a naturalist with great excitement. To witness the spring migration of birds, when the weather can bring in new species every day, or to witness a wealth of wild flowers all too often only dreamed of in the UK is a great experience and one that this trip fulfilled admirably.

One of the other great unpredictable features is, of course, the weather. Last year the trip was in very hot sun for most of the week, this year we had strong cool winds and an overcast sky with small bursts of hot sun. Bad weather however often means good birds and as all the participants were well prepared this posed no problems. It was indeed a week of birds and flowers in plenty, set in a wonderful landscape with great food and very friendly people.

April 16

A slight delay in the flight caused few problems and we were soon on the way to Heraklion where we were met by our Cretan expert and main leader, Mick Rebane. Our base for the week was on the southern coast, a coach journey that took us along the northern coast and then due south through some wonderful scenery. That we were now in a different country soon became apparent from the bus as we passed lots of cistus and giant fennel with hooded crows, buzzard and chough overhead.

Plakias is a small town on the coast that, while obviously a popular tourist spot, has not succumbed yet to major development and retains a small town, local feel. Our hotel was a small locally owned establishment with very friendly hosts that made the stay a pleasant one, if at times cool.

Our evening meal was taken in the first of several local tavernas that were to be sampled during the week.

April 17 – Myrthios

A trip before breakfast was to become a regular event for a small group on the trip: a reconnaissance party for those preferring the comfort of blankets and pillows. This morning was the first and involved a short walk along the seafront, past a small stream that flows through the town and on to some rough fields that lay just beyond the beach. This short walk introduced us to some of the regular and migrant species.

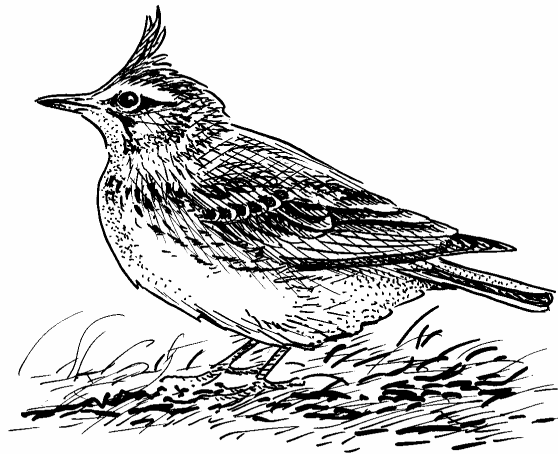
The stream held a very confiding little stint and six common sandpipers, feeding up while on migration north. The trees overhead had Italian sparrows as well as the more familiar house sparrow while the fields were the home to crested larks and whinchats all week. This morning also saw four woodchat shrikes on wires around the fields, hunting for insects before either dispersing around the island or moving further into southern Europe. Along with the more familiar corn bunting, Sardinian warbler was also soon to be heard, announcing the fact that we must be in the Mediterranean.

Following a very pleasant continental breakfast we took a walk inland along the stream to the next village, Myrthios. Within a few hundred yards of the town we had stopped to admire such floral delights as tongue orchid, honeywort and Bermuda buttercup – while listening to the indignant call of Cetti's warbler from the tall reeds. A large shadow passed overhead and on looking up it turned out to be caused by a glossy ibis flying low along the stream before disappearing into a secluded part of the stream! A nice start to the walk!

The route to Myrthios takes one along the stream and then up the hillside that forms the mouth of one of the many spectacular gorges for which Crete is famed. Our destination is a small tavern in the town which offers a spectacular view over Plakias and back into the gorge. The trip is only a short walk but so full of wonderful flowers, butterflies and birds that it takes half a day just to get to the Taverna. The

wind was still strong and cool today so the small birds and butterflies were keeping low down. Highlights however included wood warbler, pied flycatchers and golden oriole as well as our first views of griffon vulture. The Cretan race of Eastern Festoon butterfly put on a good appearance alongside the more familiar holly blues and some more orchids. Frank found two wonderful specimens of Italian man orchid which were duly photographed by all those with cameras while Pam posed the question as to why they were so called! Two very fine turban buttercups also received the paparazzi treatment while overhead we had the almost constant company of buzzard.

Following lunch a more direct route took us down the hill in half the time, accompanied by low flying alpine swift and raven. A walk along the beach for a few of the group turned into a battle with the elements as the now strong wind whipped up the dry sand and sent it straight for our faces, Persevering into calmer areas was worth the effort as the walk became very pleasant in the evening sun and gave us some very close views of crested lark and a repeat of some of the birds seen before breakfast.



Our evening meal was at a different taverna where we were to sample a superb selection of Greek specialities while discussing the rest of the week's trip.

April 18 – Spili

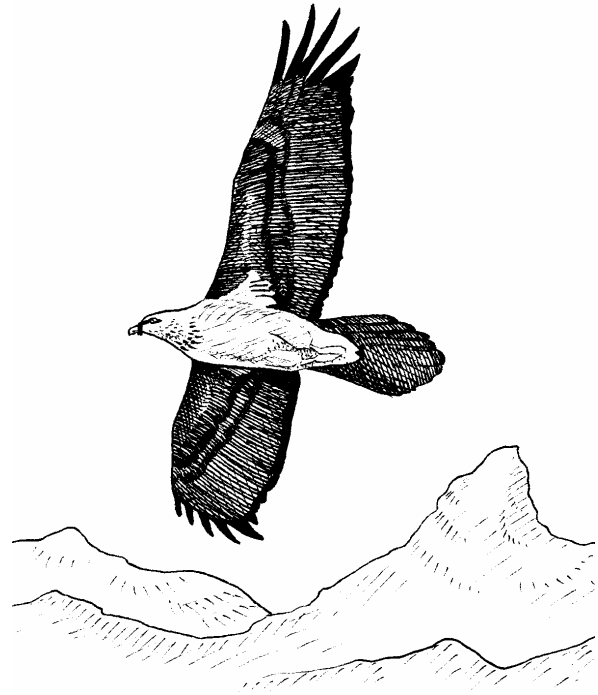
Our first venture in the two minibuses we had use of for the week and a drive to Spili and up into the hills beyond. Here the road stops climbing and we are on a flat area of farmed land. A short walk over a large tree and onto a small hill and suddenly orchids are everywhere to the extent that it is difficult to walk without treading on some specimens. Even for the non-botanist it is an amazing sight with over 15 species in such good numbers. The area could be supported by a grant from Kodak as cameras were clicking away in great profusion. The loose-flowered and Cretan bee orchids were particularly spectacular, as were the wild irises.

In the distance could be heard woodlark and corn bunting and the group soon naturally divided into botanists and birdwatchers. Half the group took a walk behind the hill and then on a woodlark hunt. A marsh harrier came into the valley and hunted along the fields just below us. The woodlark was very difficult to find as the song carried in all directions but eventually we were rewarded with superb views and the bird singing right in front of us while griffon vultures circled behind us. The first spotted flycatcher of the year was also there, along with stonechat and a very distant blue rock thrush.

For lunch we drove into Spili, bought some snacks, sampled the coffee, saw the fountain and presented Anne with a birthday card before driving back to the Kourtaliótiko gorge. As we approached the gorge we could see several vultures circling over the top of the cliffs. The second bus was delayed by a Sardinian warbler on route so got into the gorge a bit later. The vultures were now obvious so we stopped for a quick look while they were overhead. After a few minutes there were seven birds together with one or two sat on the rocks that were quite visible through the telescope. As we watched a very different shape came over the cliff in the form of a lammergeier! It came down the rock face and landed

in a cave. Despite our best efforts the bird was always obscured by a tree with only the occasional movement of its tail giving away its presence.

After this we drove on to meet the other bus just around the corner. The lay by was situated just below a raven nest with two young in and on the patch of a pair of kestrels. From this lay-by there had been built a series of steps that took us down into the gorge where the water can be seen coming spectacularly out of the rocks to join the river. Here too were some wonderful wild cyclamens growing under the shade of the bushes, with crag martins flying overhead. Another marsh harrier flew along the ridge followed by a more delicate harrier when we got back to the vans. As we drove back to Plakias we were nicely delayed by a male Montagu's harrier, just in off the sea and working hard to gain height to get to the cliff top and continue its journey north. Just around the corner from this was a very close woodchat, sitting on wires at eye level with the van.



A detour to the sea front fields on the way back to the hotel was also very productive. Five tawny pipits proved very obliging as did a crested lark which just kept getting closer and closer to us. It soon became clear it had food in its beak when it calmly walked under a small bush and fed a nest of young a matter of feet away from us! Feeling the day had gone very well we drove back to the hotel only to be stopped by Mick at the stream. Here were three black-headed wagtails, a race of 'our' yellow wagtail and very spectacular in vivid yellow plumage with a jet black head. Then to cap it all, we walked onto the bridge in the town to be greeted by the glossy ibis feeding about 20 feet away. Quite a day!

April 19 – Phaestos

A cool and windy morning did not deter the small pre-breakfast group. Using the bus to get us to the fields meant more time. Roger got out of the van and almost immediately put up a stone-curlew from the field, which flew toward the beach where it joined five more. Obviously these birds had just flown in the night before and would soon be gone. The regular wheatears and whinchats were also here along with seven little egrets, greenshank and four grey herons.

After breakfast we detoured back to the beach to try and show the rest of the group the stone-curlews. The count was now 13! and while we were watching eight night herons flew in off the sea soon to be followed by 10 common terns and a female hen harrier.

Our 'real' destination for the day was Festos (Phaestos), a famous archaeological site that overlooks a large plain. Some of the group spent some time among the ruins while others pottered about looking for birds and flowers.

This was a day for swifts and swallows. At times there were hundreds of them around us, alpine swifts, house martins, common swifts and swallows in a huge flock over the plain. And then there was one that was a bit different; there it was, a lone red-rumped swallow almost lost among its close relatives. In the fields below could be heard the occasional call of quail and serin called from the pine trees around the shop. Over lunch hen and Montagu's harriers were seen, plus cuckoo, peregrine and tree sparrow with alpine swifts cruising past at a very close eye level.

Once the group was all back together we took a walk along the small road to Aghios Triada. This may not sound too exciting but seldom can a roadside offer such a profusion of flowers mixed with spectacular views. Here too was our first sighting of chukar, a wild partridge, similar to our game bird the red-legged partridge.

Back in Plakias, a quick trip to the stream on the way to the taverna showed a couple of new arrivals in the form of wood sandpiper and a pied wagtail. These wagtails are not usually seen outside of the UK but some seem to migrate through Crete.

April 20 - Lake Kournas, Giorgiopoulos marsh

Still cool and wet before breakfast. Today seemed very quiet with no new arrivals and few birds on the fields. We drove as far as we could along the sea front. Three kestrels were hovering over the distant cliffs. We had seen two here most days. One of the birds looked a bit odd but the birds were flying in very strong wind and then disappeared quickly so we didn't think much of it. Roger then commented on the fact that he should have stayed in bed when we noticed now five 'kestrels' over another hill and closer. This was odd and closer inspection proved worthwhile as they were in fact red-footed falcons! We quickly walked closer to get the sun behind us and a better view and were rewarded with the wonderful sight of 12 birds hunting over an old quarry, a mixture of the stunning grey males and beautiful orange-breasted females, bedecked in highwayman's mask. The birds were now very close and in wonderful early morning light. On returning to the bus there were now four birds sitting on wires near the bus giving spectacular views in the telescope. Feeling elated we went back for breakfast, pausing briefly as seven glossy ibises flew in off the sea!

After breakfast the rest of the group went to see the falcons. They were again distant and into the light but eventually showed quite well for everyone while they sheltered from a heavy shower. A black-eared wheatear also put in an appearance before the drive through the Kotsiphos gorge to Kournas on the north coast.

The gorge was very wet but a brief stop for a wonderful Cretan lily also allowed everyone a very close view of a blue rock thrush.

Lake Kournas is the only permanent fresh water lake on the island. It is spectacular but often with few birds. Today however was a good day. Twelve black-necked grebes were watched while partaking of the local coffee and wonderful Greek yoghurt before a short walk to the end of the lake. Here a squacco heron did three very close fly pasts for the group, a golden oriole was very active in a tree across the lake and buzzard and peregrine were on the cliffs above us.

A short drive on to Giorgiopoulos for lunch. This coastal town is the point where a river meets the sea with a small area of marsh. Cory's shearwaters were flying past as we pulled in. On the marsh were five little egrets, wood sandpiper, little grebe and several black-headed wagtails. But surprise bird was a very obliging spotted crane that came right out into the open to allow everybody very good views through binoculars and telescope.

The evening was spent in the city of Rethymnon. Here people went either sight seeing, shopping or birding! A quick trip to the public gardens came up with two cuckoos, one a red phase bird, golden oriole and a very nice collared flycatcher, calling to a female bird. A kingfisher was on the walls of the harbour too. A very good evening meal was enjoyed by all before the night drive back to the hotel.

April 21- Moni Préveli

Pre-breakfast today saw glossy ibis, ruff, wood sandpiper, black-eared wheatear, three red-footed falcons and another new visitor in the form of a great white egret flying along the coast.

A trip to the nearby monastery at Préveli again allowed people to look at wildlife and history. At the car park some time was spent tracking down two or three ortolan buntings that were singing. Their songs are often very difficult to pinpoint but in the same area were several pied flycatchers and a very distant Ruppell's warbler. Our walk below the monastery produced lots of wood warblers, several more pied flycatchers, three collared flycatchers, a fantastic male black-eared wheatear and for Mick and Martin a semi-collared flycatcher.

The afternoon was free time for people to do as they wished. Some of us went to the taverna at Myrthios; Martin and Barbara went on a walk in the gorge in very high winds, which turned a pleasant stroll into a major feat; Jim, Pat and Jane decided to boldly go where it appeared no one had gone before as the path they were on suddenly turned into an undefined route of six foot high gorse, and other perhaps less adventurous souls relaxed in the town.

April 22 – Frangocastello

Two pied wagtails were now in town. This morning was very windy with heavy showers but while the birds may have been quiet we were treated to one of the most spectacular rainbows we had ever seen set against stormy clouds, bright sun, sea and cliffs, a special sight and worth getting out of bed for.

After breakfast the rain stopped and we set off for Frangocastello, at the south western end of the island. The journey took us through the mountains and out onto a flat area of coastal field and scrub. A brief stop on route at a sheltered river mouth was very productive with very close views for everyone of 13 grey herons on rocks in the sea, ruff, wood sandpiper, sand martins and swallows and a surprise red-rumped swallow, this time for everyone to see and very close.

At Frangocastello we were in warmth and sunshine. A very obliging wryneck sat in a fig tree on the cliff for three of the party straggling behind the others. Further on there were flocks of short-toed larks and again some very low alpine swifts. Martin was busy catching swallowtail butterflies when in from the sea came a great spotted cuckoo, unfortunately not settling down near to us. Lunch was spent in hot sun sheltered from the wind overlooking the sea. Below us on the beach was a turnstone in breeding plumage, not where this Arctic breeding bird should have been while out to sea flew a distant white-winged black tern.

A walk along the cliff gave everyone good views of hoopoe. Two male Montagu's harriers were hunting in the fields soon joined by a female and a marsh harrier. Martin found a pair of subalpine warblers in bushes on the cliff while below us a great reed warbler flew in from the sea. Still gathering our thoughts from all this, Mick called out for a flock of 16 purple herons flying in!

A slow walk back saw more tawny pipits and pied flycatcher and then a coffee at a nearby taverna. The herons were then up in the air again, struggling against the strong wind. One bird eventually landed on rocks on the shore, a sign perhaps of how tired these normally very secretive birds were. The wind also brought all our powers of identification into play when a distant bird of prey turned out to be a high flying plastic bag!

Pictures of Plakias from the hills overlooking the town on the way home ended a very good day and a very productive week.

April 23

A lazy morning packing and getting ready for the 12:30 bus to the airport. Today of course was calm with hot sun as we said our goodbyes and thanks to Mick and boarded the bus. Vultures over the gorges on the way home and marsh harriers hunting over the airfield were nice to see us off back to the UK.

Thank you for your company, stories and for making a cool and windy week into a very pleasant experience. Mick and I hope to see you again.



Wildlife lists

Birds

Cory's shearwater	Giorgiopouli beach 20/4
Night heron	8 flew in off the sea at Plakias 19/4
Squacco heron	Lake Kournas 20/4. Plakias on rocks just north of town 21/4
Little egret	Small groups most days on rocks off shore at Plakias, Giorgiopouli marsh 20/4
Great white egret	One flew over Plakias 7.45 am 21/4
Grey heron	4 at Plakias 19/4. 13 on rocks just off Karaka beach 22/4
Purple heron	16 flew in off the sea at Frangocastello 22/4. 2 birds at end of road west of Plakias, in small stream 23/4
Glossy ibis	1 all week in stream at Plakias. 7 flew in off sea 8 am at Plakias 20/4
Black kite	1 from coach on the way to Plakias 16/4
Lammergeier	1 Kourtaliótiko gorge (sub adult) 18/4
Griffon vulture	2 Kotsiphos Gorge 17/4. At least 7 flying and sat on rocks in Kourtaliótiko Gorge 18/4
Marsh harrier	1 at Kourtaliótiko Gorge and 1 above Spili 18/4. 1 at Frangocastello 22 / 4
Hen harrier	Possibly 1 over Kourtaliótiko Gorge 18/4. 1 female at Plakias apparently off the sea heading north 19/4.
Montagu's harrier	1 male at Kourtaliótiko 18/4. 2 male and 1 female Frangocastello 22/4
Buzzard	Frequent in mountains, esp behind Plakias
Kestrel	Frequent in mountains. Each day at eastern end of Plakias beach.
Red-footed falcon	12 at eastern end of Plakias beach 7.45am 20/4
Peregrine	1 at Lake Kournas and 1 at Giorgiopouli 20/4
Chukar	1 from road to Aghios Triada 19/4. 1 above Plakias 22/4
Quail	1 heard Phaestos 19/4
Spotted crane	1 Giorgiopouli marsh 20/4
Moorhen	Plakias and Giorgiopouli marsh
Coot	Lake Kournas 20/4
Stone-curlew	13 at Plakias 19/4
Little ringed plover	3 Plakias 18/4
Little stint	1 Plakias 17/4, 1 Koraka beach 22/4 Plakias 21/4
Ruff	Plakias 21/4
Spotted redshank	1 on rocks at Frangocastello 22/4
Greenshank	1 on Plakias beach 19/4, 1 on Frangocastello beach 22/4

Green sandpiper	1 on beach at Plakias 22/ 4
Wood sandpiper	2 Plakias 21/4, and for most of the week. 3 at Giorgiopouli Marsh 20/4
Common sandpiper	Plakias up to 3 all week
Turnstone	1 on beach at Frangocastello 22/4
Yellow-legged gull	Odd birds all week at Plakias. c.100 on beach at Frangocastello 22/ 4
Common tern	Flock of 10 Plakias 19/4
White-winged black tern	1 Frangocastello 22/4
Rock dove	Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Collared dove	Rethymnon gardens 20/4
Turtle dove	4 at Frangocastello 22 / 4
Great spotted cuckoo	1 off the sea at Frangocastello 22/4
Cuckoo	2 (1 red phase) Rethymnon gardens 20/4
Swift	Frequent all week. Big flock at Phaestos 19/4
Alpine swift	Plakias, Phaestos, Frangocastello.
Kingfisher	1 on old harbour walls, Rethymnon 20/4
Hoopoe	1 at Frangocastello
Short-toed lark	odd birds at Plakias from 21/4, flock of c.30 at Frangocastello 22/4
Crested lark	Regular in fields (with nesting observed) behind beach at Plakias
Woodlark	2-3 singing, above Spili 18/4
Sand martin	Small numbers at river mouth at Plakias and Koraka.
Crag martin	Kourtaliótiko 18/4
Swallow	Frequent throughout
Red-rumped swallow	1 at Phaestos 19/4. 1 at Koraka beach 22/4
House martin	Frequent
Tawny pipit	Plakias 21/4, Frangocastello 22/ 4
Tree pipit	5 at Plakias 19/4
Yellow wagtail <i>ssp feldeg</i>	3 at Plakias from 18/4
<i>ssp flava</i>	1 at Giorgiopouli 20/4
White wagtail <i>M. alba</i>	Plakias, frequent
<i>M alba yarrellii</i>	2 Plakias 22/4
Wren	Plakias
Nightingale	Along river at Plakias 17 /4
Whinchat	Frequent in fields at Plakias
Stonechat	Aghios Triada 19/4 and Préveli, 21/4
Wheatear	Frcquent, Plakias from 16/4, Préveli 21/4
Black-eared wheatear	1 female Plakias 20/4. 1 male 'hispanica' (pale throat) Préveli 21/4 and 1 'hispanica' (dark throat) on route to Frangocastello 22/4
Blue rock thrush	Kotsiphos Gorge 20/4
Blackbird	Frequent
Cetti's warbler	Along river at Plakias
Great reed warbler	1 off the sea at Frangocastello 22/4
Subalpine warbler	1 female Aghios Triada 19/4. Pair Frangocastello 22/4
Sardinian warbler	Frequent
Ruppell's warbler	1 at Préveli 21/4
Whitethroat	Préveli 21/4
Blackcap	1 reported at Myrthios
Wood warbler	Woodland behind Plakias 17/4. At least 6 at Préveli 21/4
Spotted flycatcher	1 above Spili 18/4. 2 at Koraka beach
Collared flycatcher	2 at Rethymnon gardens 20/4. 2 at Préveli 21/4. several at far west of Plakias 21/4
Semi-collared flycatcher	1 reported at Préveli 21/4
Pied flycatcher	Frequent. Behind Plakias, Préveli, Frangocastello
Blue tit	Behind Plakias, in woodland

Great tit	Plakias
Golden oriole	Throughout the week; Plakias, Phaestos, Kournas, Frangocastello
Woodchat shrike	4 at Plakias 17/4 and odd birds throughout the week
Jackdaw	Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Hooded crow	Frequent throughout
Raven	Kourtaliótiko and other mountains
House sparrow	Regular
Italian sparrow	1 male at Plakias
Tree sparrow	Possibly nesting at Phaestos
Chaffinch	Frequent
Serin	1 at Spili & 1 at Phaestos
Greenfinch	Frequent
Goldfinch	Frequent
Linnet	Plakias and lowland areas
Ortolan bunting	3 singing at Préveli 21/4
Corn bunting	Plakias, Préveli and lowland areas.

PLANT LIST

The following list comprises the more obvious plants seen and identified- during the week.

Key and nomenclature: Latin names of plants follows those used in *Flora of the Cretan Area* (Turland et al 1993), any alternative names as used in *Mediterranean Wild Flowers* (Blamey & Grey-Wilson 1993) follow in brackets.

* Endemic to Crete

Introduced and not native to Crete and cultivated or planted species

1 PTERIDOPHYTES

Adantaceae

Adiantum capillus-veneris Maidenhair Fern

Aspleniaceae

Ceterach officinarum subsp. *officinarum* Rusty Back Fern

Hypolepidaceae

Pteridium aquilinum Bracken

Selaginellaceae

Selaginella denticulata Mediterranean Selaginella

2 SPERMATOPHYTES

i) Gymnosperms

Cupressaceae - Cypress Family

Cupressus sempervirens forma. *horizontalis* Cypress

C. sempervirens forma. *sempervirens* Funeral Cypress

ii) Angiosperms

a) Dicotyledons

Aceraceae - Maple Family

Acer sempervirens Cretan Maple

Aizoaceae - Aizoon Family

Carpobrotus edulis var. *rubescens* Hottentot Fig

Anacardiaceae - Pistacio Family

Pistacia lentiscus Mastic Tree

Apocynaceae - Oleander Family

Nerium oleander subsp. *oleander* Oleander

Boraginaceae - Borage Family

Anchusa italica (*A. azurea*) Large Blue Alkanet

Anchusa hybrida (*A. undulata* subsp. *hybrida*) Undulate Anchusa

Borago officinalis Borage

Cerinthe major subsp. *major* Honeywort

Cynoglossum creticum Blue Hound's Tongue

Echium angustifolium subsp. *angustifolium* Narrow-Leaved Bugloss

Echium italicum subsp. *biebersteinii* Pale Bugloss

Echium plantagineum Purple Viper's Bugloss

Symphytum creticum (*Procopia cretica*) Procopia

Cactaceae- Cactus Family

Opuntia ficus-barbarica (*O. ficus-indica*) Prickly Pear

Campanulaceae - Bellflower Family

* *Petromarula pinnata* Cretan Wall Lettuce

Caryophyllaceae - Pink Family

Petrorhagia velutina (*Kohlrauschia velutina*)

Silene bellidifolia

Silene colorata subsp. *colorata*

Silene vulgaris subsp. *macrocarpa* Bladder Campion

Spergularia bocconeii Greek Sea-Spurrey

Cistaceae - Rockrose Family

Cistus creticus Cretan Cistus

Cistus salvifolius Sage-Leaved Cistus

Fumana thymifolia Thyme-Leaved Fumana

Tuberia guttata Spotted Rockrose

Compositae - Daisy Family

Anthemis rigida subsp. *rigida* Rayless Chamomile

Asteriscus spinosa (*Pallenis spinosa*)

Chrysanthemum coronarium var. *coronarium* Crown Daisy

C. coronarium var. *discolor* Crown Daisy

Chrysanthemum segetum Corn Marigold

Crepis rubra Pink Hawksbeard

Dittrichia viscosa subsp. *viscosa* Stink Aster

Galactites tomentosa Mediterranean Thistle

Helichrysum barrelieri (*H. conglobatum*) Golden Cassidony

Phagnalon graecum (*P. rupestre*) Shrubby Cudweed

Ptilostemon chamaepeuce Shrubby Knapweed

Tragopogon sinuatus (*T. porrifolius*) Wild Salsify

Convolvulaceae - Bindweed Family

Convolvulus althaeoides Mallow-leaved Bindweed
Cuscuta epithymum Dodder

Crassulaceae - Stonecrop Family

Umbilicus parviflorus Small-Flowered Navelwort

Cruciferaeae - Cress Family

Arabis verna Spring Rockcress
Biscutella didyma Buckler Mustard
Cakile maritima Sea Rocket
Malcomia sinuata Stock
Matthiola tricuspidata Three-horned Stock
Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. *raphanistrum* Wild Radish
**Ricotia cretica* Ricotia
Sinapsis alba White Mustard

Cucurbitaceae - Cucumber Family

Bryonia cretica subsp. *cretica* White Bryony

Dipsacaceae - Teasel Family

Knautia integrifolia subsp. *mimica* A Scabious

Euphorbiaceae - Spurge Family

Euphorbia acanthothamnus Greek Spiny Spurge
Euphorbia characias Mediterranean Spurge
Euphorbia dendroides Tree Spurge
Euphorbia helioscopia Sun Spurge
Mercurialis annua Annual Mercury
Ricinus communis Castor Oil Plant

Fagaceae - Oak Family

Quercus coccifera Kermes Oak
Quercus ithaburensis subsp. *macrolepis* Valonia Oak

Geraniaceae - Geranium Family

Erodium gruinum Long-beaked Stork's-bill
Geranium columbinum Long-stalked Crane's-bill
Geranium rotundifolium Round-leaved Crane's-bill

Guttiferae - Hypericum Family

Hypericum empetrifolium subsp. *empetrifolium* Shrubby St. John's Wort

Labiatae - Mint Family

Ballota pseudodictamnus subsp. *pseudodictamnus* False Dittany
Coriodothymus capitatus (*Thymus capitatus*) Shrubby Thyme
Origanum vulgare subsp. *hirtum* Marjoram
Phlomis cretica
Phlomis fruticosa Jerusalem Sage
Prasium majus Spanish Hedge-nettle
Salvia fruticosa Three-Leaved Sage
Salvia viridis Red-Topped Sage
Satureja nervosa
Satureja thymbra Savory

Leguminosae - Pea Family

Acacia spp Mimosa
Anagyris foetida Bean Trefoil
Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. *rubriflora* Red Kidney Vetch
Bituminaria bituminosa (*Psoralea bituminosa*) Pitch Trefoil
Calicotome villosa Hairy Thorny Broom
Ceratonia siliqua Carob Tree
* *Ebenus creticus* Shrubby Sainfoin
Lathyrus setifolius Red Pea
Lupinus micranthus Hairy Lupin
Medicago marina Sea Medick
Medicago orbicularis Large Disk Medick
Securigera cretica (*Coronilla cretica*) Cretan Crown Vetch
Tetragonolobus purpureus Asparagus Pea
Trifolium stellatum Star Clover
Trifolium uniflorum One-flowered Clover
Tripodion tetraphyllum (*Anthyllis tetraphyllum*) Bladder Vetch
Vicia hybrida Hairy Yellow Vetchling
Vicia sativa Fodder Vetch
Vicia villosa subsp. *varia*

Lythraceae - Loosestrife Family

Lythrum junceum Creeping Loosestrife

Malvaceae - Mallow Family

Lavatera cretica Lesser Tree Mallow
Malva sylvestris Common Mallow

Moraceae - Fig Family

Ficus carica Fig
Morus alba White Mulberry

Myrtaceae - Myrtle Family

Myrtus communis subsp. *communis* Common Myrtle

Oleaceae - Olive Family

Olea europaea subsp. *europaea* Olive

Orobanchaceae - Broomrape Family

Orobanche ramosa Branched Broomrape

Oxalidaceae - Sorrel Family

Oxalis pes-caprae Bermuda Buttercup

Papaveraceae - Poppy Family

Fumaria officinalis subsp. *officinalis* Common Fumitory
Glaucium flavum Yellow-Horned Poppy
Papaver rhoeas Common Poppy

Plantaginacea - Plantain Family

Plantago cretica Cretan Plantain
Plantago lanceolata Ribwort Plantain

Platanaceae - Plane Tree Family

Platanus orientalis Oriental Plane

Polygalaceae - Milkwort Family

Polygala venulosa Eastem Milkwort

Polygonaceae - Dock Family

Rumex bucephalophorus subsp. *gallicus* Red Dock

Primulaceae - Primrose Family

Anagallis arvensis Scarlet Pimpernel (Scarlet and blue forms)

**Cyclamen creticum* CretanCyclamen

Ranunculaceae - Buttercup Family

Adonis microcarpa subsp. *cretica* Yellow Pheasant's-Eye

Anemone coronaria Crown Anemone

Anemone hortensis ssp. *heldreichii*

Ranunculus asiaticus TurbanButtercup

Resedaceae - Mignonette Family

Reseda lutea Wild Mignonette

Rosaceae - Rose Family

Sanguisorba minor subsp. *verrucosa* Salad Burnet

Sarcopterium spinosum ThornyBurnet

Rutaceae - Rue Family

Citrus limon Lemon

Citrus sinensis Orange

Ruta chalepensis subsp. *chalepensis* Fringed Rue

Santalaceae - Sandalwood Family

Osyris alba Osyris

Scrophulariaceae - Figwort Family

Bellardia trixago Bellardia

Linaria pelisseriana Jersey Toadflax

Parentucellia viscosa Yellow Bartsia

Scrophularia lucida Shining Figwort

**Verbascum arctivrus* Cretan Bearstail

Verbascum sinuatum

Solanaceae - Potato Family

Hyoscyamus albus White Henbane

Styracaceae - Storax Family

Styrax officinalis Storax

Tamaraceae - Tamarix Family

Tamarix smyrnensis Tamarisk

Thymelaeaceae - Daphne Family

Daphne sericea

Thymelaea hirsuta Thymelea

Umbelliferae - Carrot Family

Daucus carota Wild Carrot

Eryngium maritimum Sea Holly
Ferula communis subsp. *communis* Giant Fennel
Oenanthe pimpinelloides Corky-Fruited Water Dropwort
Orlaya daucooides
Smyinium olusatrum Alexanders
Tordylium apulum Mediterranean Hartwort
Torilis nodosa Knotted Hedge-parsley

Urticaceae - Nettle Family

Urtica pilulifera Roman Nettle

Valerianaceae - Valerian Family

**Valeriana asarifolia* Cretan Valerian

Verbenaceae - Verbena Family

Vitex agnus-castus Chaste Tree

Vitaceae - Vine Family

Vitis vinifera subsp. *vinifera* Grape Vine

b) Monocotyledons

Agavaceae - Agave Family

Agave americana Century Plant

Amaryllidaceae - Daffodil Family

Pancratium maritimum Sea Daffodil (leaves only)

Araceae - Arum Family

Arisarum vulgare Friar's Cowl
Arum concinatum (leaves only)
Arum creticum Cretan Arum
Dranunculus vulgaris Common Dragon Arum

Graminaceae - Grass Family

Arundo donax Giant Reed
Briza minima Giant Quaking Grass
Dasypyrum villosum
Lagurus ovatus Hare's-tail
Phragmites australis Reed

Iridaceae - Iris Family

Gladiolus italicus Field Gladiolus
Gynandris sisyrynchium Barbary Nut
Hermodactylus tuberosus Widow Iris
Iris albicans White Flag Iris
* *Iris unguicularis* ssp. *cretensis* Cretan Iris

Liliaceae - Lily Family

Allium ampeloprasum Wild Leek
Asphodeline lutea Yellow Asphodel
Asphodelus aestivus Common Asphodel
Drimia maritima (*Urginea maritima*) Sea Squill
Gagea graeca
Muscari comosum Tassle Hyacinth

Ornithogalum narbonense A Star of Bethlehem
Smilax aspersa Common Smilax
**Tulipa doerfleri*
Tulipa saxatilis (including *T. bakeri*) Rock Tulip

Orchidaceae - Orchid Family

Aceras anthropophorum Man Orchid
Anacamptis pyramidalis Pyramidal Orchid
Dactylorhiza romana Roman Orchid
Ophrys bombyliflora Bumble Bee Orchid
Ophrys doerfleri (*O. cretica*) Cretan Bee Orchid
Ophrys fusca Sombre Bee Orchid
Ophrys heldreichii (*O. scolopax* ssp. *heldreichii*) Marengo Orchid
Ophrys holoserica subsp. *holoserica* (*O. fuciflora* subsp. *fuciflora*) Late Spider Orchid
Ophrys iricolor Rainbow Orchid
Ophrys lutea Yellow Bee Orchid
Ophrys mammosa (*O. sphegodes* ssp. *mammosa*) Mammose Orchid
**Ophrys sphegodes* (either subsp. *cretensis* or *gortynia*) Early Spider Orchid
Ophrys tenthredinifera Sawfly Orchid
Orchis boryi
Orchis collina (*O. saccata*) Fan-lipped Orchid
Orchis coriophora subsp. *fragrans* Bug Orchid
Orchis italica Italian Man Orchid
Orchis lactea Milky Orchid
Orchis laxiflora subsp. *laxiflora* Lax-flowered Orchid
Orchis pauciflora (*O. provincialis* subsp. *pauciflora*) Few-flowered Orchid
Orchis quadripunctata Four-spotted Orchid
Serapia lingua Tongue Orchid
Serapia bergonii (*S. vomeracea* ssp. *laxiflora*) Bergon's Tongue Orchid

[Note: taxonomy changes, mostly 'splits' into new species, mean many orchids, *Ophrys* species especially, now have different names. Chris Durdin, January 2014.]

Palmae - Palm Family

Phoenix theophrasti Cretan Palm

Typhaceae - Reedmace Family

Typha domingensis A reedmace

M. Rebane 10/5/96



HELLENIC ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Emm. Benaki 53 - GR 106 81 Athens, GREECE Tel./Fax: +301 3811 271

FAX COVER SHEET

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ATTENTION : Mr. Chris Durdin

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Manager Marketing and Development
HELLENIC ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
53 Emm. Benaki Street
GR 106 81 Athens, Greece

If there should be any problem with the transmission of this fax, kindly contact us at the telephone/fax number (01)3811 271.

MESSAGE

Dear Mr. Durdin,

I would first like to express to you on behalf of the Hellenic Ornithological Society our sincerest gratitude for the check of U.K. Pounds 275.

By the same token, I would also like to apologize for belating conveying this message after almost 3 months. We were very busy organizing the Greek BirdWatch '95 as part of the World BirdWatch'95 event and unfortunately we fell very behind in answering correspondence.

I will prepare a more formal thank you letter so that you can send it on to the group that visited Crete. Also, in membership magazine called *Filoskopos*, we set aside the last page for thanking sponsors, volunteers, members, etc. for their support of HOS. On the next issue (due out this month) I will mention Honeyguide's donation.

In response to your request about the 1996 Crete Holiday, we would be happy to assist you in placing more information and HOS projects. Can you please send me your newest copy, by when do you need our input and when is the trip to Crete to be held?

Again, thank you for including us in your contribution list and congratulations for efforts to run holidays that are truly environmentally friendly.

Sincerely yours,
Theodora Eugines Gounas