

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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CRETE
10th – 17th April 2012

Holiday participants

Alan George and
June Lawrence
Steve and Kathy Kourik

Geoff and Barbara Pears
Mike and Mary Price
Mary Shepperd

Leaders

Chris Gibson and Tim Strudwick

Report by Chris Gibson. Many invertebrate IDs by Tim Strudwick.
Photos edged green by Chris Gibson, edged blue by Tim Strudwick
and edged orange by Steve Kourik.

Cover montage photos by Tim Strudwick except where indicated.

Top row l to r: Balkan green lizard, griffon vulture (Steve Kourik), Cretan ebony.
Middle row: *Oxythyrea funesta*, *Chalicodoma sicula* on Cretan ebony, *Tulipa doerfleri*.
Bottom row: *Tulipa bakeri* (Chris Gibson), Italian sparrow, *Orchis pauciflora*.

Our base for the week was the family-run Hotel Sofia in Plakias

<http://www.sofiahotelpiakias.com/index.php>



As with all Honeyguide holidays, £40 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for the lammergeier project of the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), which is based in Athens but whose work covers the whole of Greece and its islands. There are 6-7 pairs of lammergeiers on Crete in 2012.

The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust. We sent £491 (€560) to HOS, which brings Honeyguide's total contributions to HOS since the first Honeyguide holiday in Crete in 1995 to £8,435. The total for conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £80,039 by June 2012.

More information about the work to protect bearded vultures – as they prefer to call them in Greece – is on the website of the [Hellenic Ornithological Society www.ornithologiki.gr/page_cn.php?aID=907](http://www.ornithologiki.gr/page_cn.php?aID=907)

DAILY DIARY

Tuesday 10 April: the way there

An early start saw the group meeting at Gatwick North Terminal just after 05.00 for a flight departing at 07.10, although missing one participant, Richard, who had put his back out and was sadly unable to join us. With largely clear skies, some great views were to be had of Venice and the Dalmatian coast, though heavy cloud over Crete made the final approach to Heraklion airport over the sea a surprise to some!

Once we had reclaimed our luggage and located and loaded the minibuses it was on to the main road west, and before long it was raining! However, bright splashes of roadside colour from crown daisies and Spanish broom proved a taster of things to come, although birds were rather less in evidence. After a few kilometres the pre-booked taverna Synolakis came into view, perched panoramically on a hilltop with a dramatic view of the coastline. Not that many were taking too much notice of the rainy scenery, given the sumptuous spread of hot and cold 'help-yourself' dishes which were laid before us!

Continuing west to Rethymnon, and then crossing the mountainous interior, the rain persisted – one of the few birds noted was a rather bedraggled woodchat shrike. Otherwise, apart from a couple of mammalian road-kills (brown hare and eastern hedgehog), it was left to the brooding gloom of the dramatic Kourtaliótiko Gorge to enliven the journey.

We arrived at the Hotel Sofia in Plakias a little after 17.00, time to unpack and settle in before heading out to the Gio-Ma taverna for dinner – as always seems to be the case in Crete, a lovely meal, although this evening the very blustery wind seemed to be going right through the plastic sheeting screens! Nevertheless, after a raki nightcap all went happily to bed...

Wednesday 11 April: Plakias Old Mill, Myrthios & Kotsiphou Gorge

Due to our long travelling day there was no official pre-breakfast walk, though a few did venture out. Low cloud and a moderate northerly breeze were not conducive to much bird migration, with sightings limited to a few groups of hirundines, single fly-over tree pipit and yellow wagtail, and a green sandpiper feeding in a pool remaining from the overnight rain.

After breakfast we gathered at 09.15 and set off leisurely through the village. A pause at the bridge surprisingly produced no birds at all, but the sparrows round the houses merited close examination – Italian not house, with brown caps, whiter cheeks and heavier breast marking – and unlike in previous visits there were few, if any, signs of birds showing more house sparrow-like characteristics.

Setting off up the track towards an old Venetian mill, we paused to look at the many plants which would become familiar during our week here: *Galactites tomentosa*, an attractive variegated thistle; two contrasting members of the borage family, large blue alkanet and the hairless, yellow-flowered honeywort; a larger and more beautiful form of wild carrot than ours at home; and pitch trefoil, with purple clover heads and pungent aroma. While Tim explored the insect life, finding the flower chafer *Oxythyrea funesta* and a male mason-bee, the largest insect sought us out, an Egyptian locust, which posed helpfully at our feet. Hooded crows flew overhead, Cetti's warblers shouted from the clumps of giant reed, and Sardinian warblers rattled from many a bush, but where were the migrant birds? Almost absent, apart from a singing blackcap and one snatch of willow warbler song, sadly a situation which remained for most of the week, even after a more southerly air-flow set in.

Continuing up the track into more natural *garrigue* vegetation, carpets of purple viper's-bugloss and the beautiful *Convolvulus althaeoides*, with its large, clear pink flowers, mingled with yellow Jerusalem sage, spiny burnet, shrubby sage and thorny broom. Our first Cretan endemic, the diminutive *Solenopsis*, was followed swiftly by our first orchid, Bergon's tongue-orchid, but some dense patches of another endemic, Cretan wall lettuce, actually in the campanula family, showed no signs of flowering. No doubt this was a result of the long, cool, damp winter preceding, also responsible for the generally verdant landscape and wonderful blooming of many wayside 'weeds', most obviously swathes of crown daisy in both its colour forms.

Pausing below the mill (few felt the need to negotiate the tricky final few metres), butterflies in the sheltered, now sunny clearing started to become active, with southern speckled wood, holly blue and eastern dappled white all seen well, and a typically fleeting fly-past of a Cretan festoon, while an Erhard's wall lizard basked for all to see. However, Steve pressed on all the way, and his inveterate turning of stones and other objects was rewarded with a large freshwater crab. As the temperature lifted, so the local common buzzards started to drift over, while the first, distant griffon vultures cruised over the mountain tops. It was only a short walk back to town, chance to shed a few layers and to get in the vans for the drive to the hillside village of Myrthios, and lunch at the aptly named Panorama taverna, with its spectacular view over Plakias Bay to accompany our delicious and generous shared lunch of salads, fresh bread and other local specialities. As we left the taverna, four ravens came into view and then commenced a wonderful display of synchronised flying, each pair wingtip to wingtip.

We then explored further in the buses, stopping several times as we drove up into the Kotsiphou Gorge, picking up several new plants, including yellow asphodel, Cretan arum, shrubby flax, naked-man orchid, and extensive patches of one-flowered clover. A tree pipit posed near the bottom of the gorge, while a male pied flycatcher performed in the riverside trees near the top, and griffons were an ever-present sight overhead. With a little time to spare, we then drove on to the village of Kanevos, where a short stroll produced several serins and magnificent views of the snow-capped mountain peaks to the east. Back then via Sellia, and the steep, winding descent to Plakias, more dramatic views to round off a full day, before heading into town for the next lovely meal, this time at Mouses taverna.



Arum creticum.

Thursday 12 April: Phaistos & Ayia Triada

Geoff had the 'pleasure' of the undivided attention of both leaders on the early morning birdwatch (as indeed he did for the rest of the trip). It was calm, with scattered cloud, some hanging low over the mountains, and there was again a notable absence of migrants apart from a couple of common sandpipers at the river. Still, it gave us chance to catch up with the local crested larks and stonechats, and around the rocks and cliffs at the far eastern end of the beach a little egret, a peregrine and a couple of red-billed choughs.

Heading east after breakfast we paused firstly near the mouth of Kourtaliótiko Gorge. Buzzards, griffon vultures and ravens were taking advantage of the developing thermals and updraughts, and male blue rock thrush and black-eared wheatears stood sentinel on various rocky outcrops. The road to Phaistos took us through a variety of Cretan landscapes: alongside Mount Psiloritis, (the highest point on Crete by 3 metres!), through a large valley clothed in glass and polythene, and the working town of Timbaki (with its driving slalom, due to the unconventional parking habits of the locals), eventually to Phaistos itself – the second most important Minoan site of Crete. The car park was pretty full of cars and coaches, being the Easter holiday, so after peering over the ruins and a quick comfort break we soon made our way along a small road towards the Minoan summer palace of Ayia Triada.

The slopes were clothed in beautiful pink *Convolvulus althaeoides* (mostly of the cut leaved form sometimes know as *C. elegantissimus*), red *Echium angustifolium* and *Ricinus*, the exotic-looking castor oil plant, often used in British gardens as part of an annual tropical-style border. Careful searching produced a few spikes of our second tongue-orchid, *Serapias lingua*, but the real delight was the vista of meadows of colour, especially crown daisy, punctuated with cerise from wild gladioli. Sardinian warblers were everywhere, several males giving us unexpectedly good views as they chattered from the tops of bushes, and a rufous-phase female cuckoo gave a couple of close fly-pasts.

The drivers returned to pick up the vans, collecting the rest of the group as we drove on to our lunch stop, admiring the dense stands of Cretan ebony in full bloom attracting a range of pollinating insects.

The unbroken blue sky and strong sunlight made the shady spots under trees above Ayia Triada an ideal picnic location, enlivened by a fleeting scarce swallowtail and Tim's next hymenopteran exhibit, a male long-horned bee. After lunch, a walk downhill towards the Geropotamus river in the heat was enlivened for a few by a fleeting hoopoe, later heard calling but thereafter elusive. Under the shade of the olive trees, several orchids were found, including Cretan bee-orchid, pyramidal and *Ophrys sphegodes* ssp. *cretensis*, while the giant orchids were, as usual, completely finished and shrivelling up. The river itself held water, more than for several years, although presumably this was more to do with the wet winter than a reduction in abstraction for irrigation, and the margins harboured common, green and wood sandpipers, while a brown hare was glimpsed down the track.

It was a shame to waste the glorious sunshine, so we decided to stop in the Gorge once again on the way home. Griffons were everywhere, some giving very good views, and after a short wait a couple of Bonelli's eagles drifted into view. For the next few minutes they seemed to be everywhere, with at least three and possibly four different birds, and a flurry of aggressive interaction between two of them, suggesting we may have been near the interface of two breeding territories.

To make the most of the dying sun, we decided to eat 'round the corner' this evening, facing west, at the fish taverna Tasomanolis. And what a lovely meal, with some of freshest fish imaginable, hauled from the very waters we were looking at earlier in the day by the father-in-law of our host.

Friday 13 April: Kourtaliótiko Gorge, Spili, Spili Bumps & a mystery tour!

The early shift produced the usual common sandpiper and white wagtail at the river mouth, and then a passing flock of four black-winged stilts which, after several attempts were frustrated by the waves, landed along the beach. We then moved on to the next beach, Damnoni, where there was a corn bunting in song, a whitethroat in the sea-front bushes, and best of all, a male little bittern which lifted out of a damp patch, almost at our feet, and landed in full view in a large bush, presumably assuming its reedbed camouflage to be effective. It wasn't!



Male little bittern.



Cretan festoon.



Orchis boryi.

As we boarded the minibuses after breakfast, we noticed that the stilt flock had grown from four to 21 over the space of a couple of hours. Then it was back to the Kourtaliótiko Gorge, this time parking above the steps down to a small Orthodox chapel deep in the gorge, by the river. By the time we had watched the griffons and choughs overhead, and looked at the endemic hanging mullein and the showy clumps of Cretan viper's-grass (despite its name, not an endemic), the sun had risen far enough to penetrate the depths of the gorge. Either side of the steps down, the glories of the Cretan flora unfolded before us. Several endemic plants, including *Ricotia*, a tiny honesty relative; Cretan cyclamen, with its pure white flowers; Cretan gorge comfrey and Mount Ida knapweed, mingled with less geographically restricted species, such as the tiny blue *Polygala venulosa* growing through spiny burnet, a palatable species using spiny plants to give it protection from grazing animals. At the river, *Styrax*, or snowbell tree, was in full bloom, gently scenting the air, and a Cretan festoon butterfly fluttered by, as grey wagtails frolicked on the rocks.

The back road to Spili goes up into the hills in quite spectacular fashion, and a stop at the top gave a view over the 'Valley of the Giant Fennels', along with singing stonechat and wryneck, and a few orchids, including pink butterfly. Evidence of it being Orthodox Good Friday was all along the route – shrines on the hairpin corners were being titivated and the churches decorated. Once in Spili, the atmosphere of the day was added to with a call and response service being transmitted by loudspeaker from the main church. Nevertheless, Spili was 'open for business', all except for the gyros (local kebab) shop, to Chris's great disappointment! And the bars were bustling – it seems that being able to hear the service obviates the need to actually go to church. Very pragmatic! Tim and Chris, while passing a bar, at last got to see well and photograph a Cretan festoon resting on the chairs outside, much to the amusement of their occupants. Meanwhile Geoff, disappearing into a convenient bush near the car park, disturbed a large Balkan green lizard, and a buzzard flew over carrying an unfortunate large rat in its talons.

Then it was off to the 'Bumps', or more formally, the foothills of Mt Kedros. Just past a deserted taverna, a small lay-by was heaving with parked cars, testament to the popularity of the place. And fully justified popularity: a track through arable fields studded with deep red *Tulipa doerfleri* led us to a rocky hillock covered in orchids! Although not quite as impressive as in some previous years, given the late spring, we still found some 15 'species' (at least in the view of the predominantly German orchid 'splitters'), and some particularly showy displays of purple *Orchis boryi* and yellow few-flowered orchid. And so much more – *Iris cretensis*, crown anemone, friar's cowl, *Gagea graeca* and a whole host of other flowers added to the floral landscape, a treat for botanist and photographer alike, the latter benefiting from a veil of cloud starting to diffuse the strong sunlight (and as a consequence lifting humidity levels).



Italian man orchids at Spili.

As the afternoon wore on, so it became ever stickier, and we concluded that the best way to fill the final hour would be to take a round trip through the interior of the island and see what we chanced upon. Although neither leader had explored that way before, it looked quite simple on the map, but little did we know that since our map was produced, a little matter of a new reservoir had been imposed upon our intended route, with road closures and diversions accordingly! Still, we did see some wonderful views of the mountains, experienced 'Real Crete' (especially in the unannounced No Through Road which ended at the small square in Patsos), and picked up our second hoopoe of the day, although we did have to go almost to Rethymnon before we could turn back homeward.

Back in Plakias, Tim came upon a wood sandpiper and a squacco heron on rocks in the bay, then we settled into probably the best meal of the week, at Corali taverna, rounded off with a helping of yoghurt and amazing carrot marmalade. We also met up with David Tomlinson's group, who were eating next door, giving a useful opportunity to compare notes.

Saturday 14 April: Moní Préveli & free half day

As we predicted, the hot, humid night culminated in a thunderstorm which peaked just before dawn. Notwithstanding, the pre-breakfast trio headed out under leaden skies, with the temperature at 07.00 still 17°C. But even the storm had not grounded many migrants: a few flocks of hirundines flew through, at least one with a red-rumped swallow in it (from call). A chattering flock of some 20 Spanish sparrows, our first of the trip, crashed into a patch of giant reeds by the river, and a sedge warbler was in song in the same area.

Later, heading towards Préveli, we paused alongside a well-vegetated river in the vain hope of a golden oriole, before parking at the Turkish Bridge in the rain. Flocks of hirundines were settled on the telephone wires nearby and were found to contain four species, including several red-rumps showing their nearly-eponymous pinkish rumps to advantage as they preened. But a walk down the river in the gloom produced little of further interest, apart from singing blackcaps and a couple of miserable-looking griffons in laboured flight below the cloud base.

We set off again, straight to the headland, pausing at the war memorial with its touching inscription, a tribute to the part played by the monks in the Resistance and a celebration of Peace. Although the rain had moderated to drizzle, the remote windswept location, the history represented by the memorial and the fact that its gates were locked, combined appropriately with the mournful, yet beautiful song of a woodlark.

Ever onward, we arrived at the 'New' Monastery, now home to just two monks, as the third died recently. Here, the culture-vultures opted to visit the museum, while the rest of us took a short stroll around outside. A corn bunting sang as we walked and single tree pipit and wood warbler hinted at migration, reinforced by a turtle dove which hurtled past us during one of the heavy showers. We intended to break for lunch in the dry of the café at the Turkish Bridge, but when we got there we discovered they had closed up some time over the previous two hours. Never mind, we elected to head back to Plakias to begin the half-day of rest, retail therapy etc., and as we parked, our first little ringed plover graced the river mouth, before everyone went on their own way. Some ventured only as far as the seafront tavernas, and Mike, both Marys, Geoff and Barbara were duly rewarded with a sighting of some 50-60 'large dark birds' winging in off the sea. Necks tucked in, they had to be herons, but which species? Most likely they would have been either purple or night herons, as these often travel in groups, but they must remain in the ranks of the 'ones that got away'. Otherwise, Chris managed to flush a cuckoo, and several sightings of more and larger flocks of Spanish sparrows in groups of up to 60 suggested they too were on the move.

On then to the 'optional' late-afternoon botanical ramble along the beach and dunes in the now humid sunshine, for which everyone turned up! Carpets of yellow sea medick and pink *Silene colorata* provided the colour, while added interest came from a nosed grasshopper and numerous *Andrena* bees (with black bodies and darkened wings, looking like and probably mimicking one of the carpenter-bees) which were assiduously collecting pollen from the flowers of sea-rocket. We found nun's-farts (fibrous sea-balls from the churned roots and shoots of Neptune-weed) on the driftline, two little ringed plovers on the beach, but best of all, on the dunes, three black-headed wagtails, including two splendid males. A feast of biodiversity on our very doorstep.

Tonight's venue was the taverna Sofia, another great choice with a good range of fresh seafood, before we headed off to bed. Although we had been warned to expect a rowdy night, midnight seeing the start of two days of Easter revelry with fireworks and bangs, it seems that few if any stayed awake long enough!

Sunday 15 April: Souda, Frangocastello & Imbros Gorge

The parties in the bars were still in full swing as the early birdwatchers struck out, but again actually finding birds to watch proved a serious challenge. The only migrant, indeed bird, of any note was a great reed warbler a little way up-river, and it was typically elusive, given away only by its song, rather atypically delivered from within a large *Pistachia* bush.

Today was the day to explore westwards, first stopping a couple of kilometres from Plakias at Souda. Here, in a nearly-dry river valley, there is a grove of the near-endemic Cretan palm. A dense, often

branched palm, it provided perfect cover for Cetti's warblers, who duly shouted at us from within, while a dead hooded crow lay on the road.

Continuing once more, along a spectacular road snaking through the hills, through roadworks and over a very narrow bridge in Rodakino, and just before Frangocastello, we turned left, down a track towards the sea. And here at last we connected with migrant birds *en masse*. Yellow wagtails were immediately apparent, feeding in the more sheltered areas out of the brisk wind. Of the males, about half were blue-headed and half black-headed, with one striking male of the disputed Black Sea taxon *superciliosus*. There were numerous whinchats on the fences, with a single male redstart; tree pipits flying over and tawny pipits in the fields; and a woodchat shrike, typically prominent despite the distance we were viewing it. Returning to the vans, we were able to look downwards, finding carpets of *Anthemis rigida*, and several Erhard's wall lizards basking on the sandy verges. Then on to the Castle promontory for lunch, the interior of the castle structure providing welcome respite from the wind. A short walk onto the beach took us to a small river mouth, home to Balkan terrapins, albeit very jumpy, sunning themselves on the banks while various damselflies danced over the water. The sea was very quiet, and several minutes of scanning produced only yellow-legged gulls, apart from two pairs of black-winged stilts, one pair resting on the water's edge and another flying past.

Having exhausted the Castle area, not finding any further migrant birds, we then pressed on into the Imbros Gorge. What a spectacular drive! Dozens of hairpins up a very good new road took us up to the top, and ultimately to a café. Although not the one formerly patronised by Honeyguide, cantilevered over the Gorge, its cliff-top location was too good to miss. And so we sat and stared at the stunning view, sipped coffee, and watched as griffons drifted overhead, and a blue rock thrush serenaded us from a roadside pylon.

We had a leisurely drive home, stopping twice – firstly to watch a very obliging woodchat shrike, perching within 20m of the vans, and next (at Kathy's insistence) to examine a spread-eagled, road-killed stone marten, fortuitously close to a lovely patch of wild blue lupins which are such a feature of this stretch of the coastline.

Being Easter Sunday, the range of tavernas on offer was much reduced, so we found ourselves again in Mouses, before taking advantage of the now windless, warm night to check out the nightlife. Alas no moths and no bats, nor indeed anything else to report, other than the delightful starscape, punctuated by the brighter planets Venus and Mars, and the steady progress of a passing satellite.

Monday 16 April: Ayia Reservoir & Omalos Plateau

The day began clear and sunny, ideal conditions for our final trip into the mountains, although our last pre-breakfast ramble failed again to reveal any signs of migration.



Little crane.



Ruff.



Black-winged stilt.

We set off promptly for the long drive to Ayia Reservoir. Here, despite the crowds, the birds performed admirably: wood sandpipers, ruffs and a black-winged stilt stalking the near shallows; herons on the more distant margins - several squaccos and greys, and single purple heron, glossy ibis and little egret, while a male little bittern flew low over the water; coots everywhere; common and alpine swifts wheeling overhead and swooping down to feed low over the water.

At least five little crakes pecked along the edges of the water, periodically melting back into the reeds, and everyone was today able to observe Balkan terrapins basking, seemingly here more habituated to the presence of humans. A dice snake was seen swimming in the shallows, as several emperor dragonflies flew around. It was a pretty idyllic hour, producing several new birds for the trip, before we set off again, heading for the hills.

So began the long winding drive up: the road was good, the hairpins tight, but the views (for those who dared to look!) were amazing! Pausing in the sparse pine woodland near the top, the songs of curlew, firecrest and wren accompanied our lunch. A Cretan festoon played hide-and-seek with the photographers; the flowering aubrieta by the road was a much more amenable subject! The rocks were also home to a myriad of small, white, cylindrical, truncated snails, the name of which thus far remains a mystery. A few minutes and several more hairpins later, we finally dropped down onto the Omalos plateau, a flat, stony plain surrounded on all sides by mountains, used for grazing sheep but studded with bright pink tulip flowers and crown anemones.



Tulipa bakeri at Omalos.



At the Samaria Gorge taverna.

We continued to the taverna which clings to the rocks at the very top of the Samaria Gorge, and enjoyed a windswept coffee, all the while scanning the rocky slopes for the elusive kri-kri, the Cretan wild goat. To no avail, unfortunately – there are few of them and the mountain slopes are very large, and unfortunately Aristotelis, the local kri-kri finder, was not in attendance.

Wandering back to the vans, we turned our attention to the plants, including aubrieta again, the endemic Cretan mouse-eared chickweed and the very spiny *Berberis cretica*, just springing into leaf after the recent retreat of winter. Then we made a circumnavigation of the plateau, with several stops whenever we saw something of interest: some lovely shows, albeit a week or so before their best, of *Tulipa saxatilis*, out of the reach of grazing stock; an EU-protected 'Temporary Mediterranean Pond', with flowering sand-crocuses around its edge; singing tree pipits and woodlarks, and feeding tawny pipit, and northern and black-eared wheatears.

By now it was time to head homeward, a decision precipitated by the strengthening cool wind. Despite Chris's best efforts and junction-blindness, we made it back in good time, indeed with sufficient time to have one last look at the mouth of Kourtaliótiko Gorge. Our familiar griffons were performing as usual, and then as we were about to board the vans, Tim struck last-minute gold by spotting the distinctive, 'giant-falcon' shape of a lammergeier, drifting along the ridge. OK, it was a distant view, but one we had been hoping for all week – and almost the last bird of the holiday!

After a short time to pack for our prompt start in the morning, during which Tim again picked up the lammergeier – even more distantly – from his balcony, it was off to our last meal, by popular demand at Corali, our favourite evening meal venue of the week.

As is traditional now on Honeyguide trips, we took the opportunity to share our best bits of the week, and the highlights are as follows:-

HIGHLIGHTS

- Alan** 'Wagtail alley' at Frangocastello old delta, our main interaction with small migrants; and the various showy male **blue rock thrushes**.
- Barbara** **Bonelli's eagles**, seen so well in the Gorge; and two special birds which performed so well and so close – **woodchat shrike**, from the van, and **black-winged stilt** at the Reservoir.
- Geoff** The **Gorge walk**, down to the chapel, through the natural rock gardens of so many special plants; **blue rock thrush**; and our early morning **little bittern**.
- June** The delightful **flower-filled meadows** between Phaistos and Ayia Triada; **black-winged stilt** at the Reservoir; and **Barbara** periodically bursting into song!
- Kathy** **Spili Bumps**, and especially the orchids, tulips and anemones; and the **dice snake** in the Reservoir.
- Mary P** The '**big flock of big birds**' coming in over the Bay; and **squacco herons** at the Reservoir.
- Mary S** 'Her' **hoopoe**, seen well from the van; and the **Gorge walk**.
- Mike** His **unexpected paddle** in the Mediterranean, as waves lapped up the beach at Frangocastello; and the **flock of black-winged stilts** on Plakias beach, also getting their feet wet!
- Steve** The glory that is **Spili Bumps**; and (seemingly one of the overall favourites) male **blue rock thrush**, singing on its pinnacle.
As for your leaders:
- Chris** The **fall of migrants** at Frangocastello; and the display of **Cretan ebony**, his favourite plant of all time, at Ayia Triada.
- Tim** Flocks of **yellow wagtails**, with their different, distinctive and dramatic male plumage; the **flora** in total and overall **scenery**, an eye-opener for the first-time visitor.

Tuesday 17 April: the way home

A lovely sunny dawn greeted our departure as we loaded the minibuses with bags and headed off just after 09.00, giving a last view of the dramatic Cretan landscapes bathed in beautiful light – quite a contrast to the cold April showers we were expecting on our return home.

A mid-way stop at Synolakis taverna, ostensibly to see if Barbara had left her glasses there on the day we arrived, gave us the chance to relax with a drink and enjoy a few last birds. Alpine swifts and common buzzards were moving through, together with a couple of honey buzzards (our final new 'tick'), and a woodchat shrike performed admirably on the wires and fences below our viewpoint.

Then the last leg back to Heraklion, refuelling the vans, and arrival at the airport in good time for another punctual flight.

All in all, a week which was much enjoyed by everyone. Despite the limitation of a poor showing of migrant birds, we still managed to amass a respectable list. And again, in spite of the lateness of the season, the flowers were wonderful. Add to that the insects (and Tim's keen eye), scenery, generally good weather, great food and company, and it all adds up to another successful Honeyguide trip.



Hills above Plakias.

SYSTEMATIC LISTS

BIRDS

Little grebe	several on Ayia Reservoir
Little bittern	a male at Damnoni, seen very well at rest in a bush; a male in flight low over Ayia Reservoir
Squacco heron	single at Plakias, at least 6 at Ayia Reservoir
Little egret	singles at Plakias and Ayia Reservoir
Grey heron	5 at Ayia Reservoir
Purple heron	single at Ayia Reservoir
Glossy ibis	single at Ayia Reservoir
Mallard	just 2 birds at Ayia Reservoir
Honey buzzard	two migrating individuals over taverna Synolakis
Lammergeier	one adult over the mouth of Kourtaliótiko Gorge; seen later from Plakias, presumably the same bird
Griffon vulture	seen regularly over hills; birds at nest holes in Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Bonelli's eagle	3 or 4 birds in the Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Buzzard	common and widespread
Kestrel	common and widespread
Peregrine	one at the far eastern end of Plakias Bay
Chukar	Ayia Triada; Spili Bumps; Omalos
Little crane	several at Ayia Reservoir
Moorhen	several at Ayia Reservoir
Coot	many at Ayia Reservoir
Black-winged stilt	21 on Plakias beach; 4 at Frangocastello; one at Ayia Reservoir
Little ringed plover	2 on Plakias beach
Wood sandpiper	singles at Plakias and Ayia Triada; 2 or 3 at Ayia Reservoir
Green sandpiper	singles at Plakias and Ayia Triada
Common sandpiper	2-3 birds seen regularly around Plakias, especially at the river mouth; singles at Ayia Triada and Ayia Reservoir
Ruff	several at Ayia Reservoir
Yellow-legged gull	common and widespread
Rock dove	apparently wild birds in the gorges; feral pigeons everywhere
Wood pigeon	widespread in small numbers
Collared dove	common in towns and villages
Turtle dove	singles at Moní Préveli and Omalos
Cuckoo	singles at Ayia Triada (rufous phase) and Plakias
Swift	seen in small numbers, especially on the final couple of days; large flocks feeding around Ayia Reservoir
Alpine swift	seen most days, usually high up; also feeding low over Ayia Reservoir
Hoopoe	singles at Ayia Triada, and near Frati and Gerakari
Wryneck	heard calling at Frati, Kanevos and Omalos
Short-toed lark	heard at Frangocastello
Crested lark	common and widespread
Woodlark	Spili, Moní Préveli and Omalos
Sand martin	small numbers regularly in periods of hirundine movement
Crag martin	in all the gorges
Swallow	many flocks passing through
Red-rumped swallow	around 4 birds at Moní Préveli; one heard over Plakias
House martin	many flocks passing through
Tree pipit	migrating individuals heard or seen in several places; singing on Omalos
Tawny pipit	Phaistos, Spili, Frangocastello, Omalos
Yellow wagtail	occasional unspecified flyovers; 3 black-headed at Plakias; many black-headed, blue-headed and one ' <i>superciliosus</i> ' at Frangocastello
White wagtail	widespread, though not numerous
Grey wagtail	2 in Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Wren	small numbers in the gorges and mountains
Nightingale	snatches of song heard while travelling and at Ayia Reservoir

Redstart	one male at Frangocastello
Whinchat	abundant at Frangocastello; a couple at Omalos
Stonechat	small numbers in most places
Northern wheatear	several on Omalos Plateau
Black-eared wheatear	Kourtaliótiko Gorge and Omalos
Blue rock thrush	in all the gorges
Blackbird	common and widespread
Cetti's warbler	heard regularly in most sites
Sedge warbler	Plakias and Ayia Reservoir
Great reed warbler	a single male at Plakias
Sardinian warbler	common and widespread
Blackcap	small numbers seen and heard in several places
Whitethroat	single at Damnoni
Wood warbler	single at Moní Préveli
Willow warbler	one at Plakias
Firecrest	in forest at Omalos
Pied flycatcher	single male in Kotsiphou Gorge
Blue tit	common and widespread
Great tit	common and widespread
Woodchat shrike	single birds at Frangocastello, near Rodakino, taverna Synolakis and somewhere near Rethymon in the rain!
Red-billed chough	Plakias (eastern end of the Bay), Kourtaliótiko Gorge and Samaria Gorge
Jackdaw	common in the gorges
Hooded crow	very common and widespread
Raven	widespread in small groups
Italian sparrow	common and widespread
Spanish sparrow	flocks of up to 60 at Plakias on one day only; Omalos
Chaffinch	common and widespread
Greenfinch	common and widespread
Goldfinch	common and widespread
Serin	surprisingly scarce, just a few at seen at Kanevos and Spili
Linnet	a few birds on several days, especially at high altitude
Cirl bunting	Spili Bumps and beyond; Moní Préveli and Omalos
Corn bunting	few in the lowlands, but common on the higher plateau areas

Total = 83 species

MAMMALS

Eastern hedgehog	Road casualties
Badger	Skull found on Plakias beach
Stone marten	Several road casualties
Weasel	Near Spili
Black rat	Spili; Plakias
Edible dormouse	Road casualty
Brown hare	Ayia Triada, and several road casualties

REPTILES

Balkan (Stripe-necked) terrapin	Frangocastello; Ayia Reservoir
Balkan green lizard	Spili car park
Dice snake	Ayia Reservoir
Erhard's wall lizard	Plakias old mill

AMPHIBIANS

Cretan marsh frog	Tadpoles presumed to be this species found in several places, including temporary pools
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BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail	Small white	Painted lady	Wall brown
Scarce swallowtail	Eastern dappled white	Red admiral	Holly blue
Cretan festoon	Clouded yellow	Peacock	Common blue
Large white	Cleopatra	Southern speckled wood	Brown argus

BEES

<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Honeybee
<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	Buff-tailed bumblebee (but white-tailed in Crete!)
<i>Bombus argillaceus</i>	A bumblebee
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	Tree bumblebee
<i>Xylocopa violacea/iris/valga</i>	Violet carpenter bees (all 3 species are likely and almost indistinguishable in the field)
<i>Chalicodoma (Megachile) sicula</i>	A mason bee
<i>Chalicodoma parietina</i>	A mason bee
<i>Eucera algira</i>	A long-horned bee
<i>Eucera dimidiata</i>	A long-horned bee
<i>Andrena fuscosa</i>	A mining bee
<i>Anthophora dalmatica</i>	A flower bee
<i>Megachile</i> sp.	A leafcutter bee
<i>Lasioglossum leucozonium</i>	A mining bee
<i>Lasioglossum smeathmanellum</i>	A mining bee
<i>Lasioglossum punctatissimum</i>	A mining bee
<i>Halictus quadricinctus</i>	A mining bee

(another 10 or so species of bee yet to be identified)

WASPS

<i>Polistes gallicus</i>	A paper wasp
<i>Podalonia</i> sp.	A sand wasp

FLIES

<i>Bombylius</i> sp.	A bee-fly
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BUGS

<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>	Firebug
<i>Syromastes rhombeus</i>	Rhombic leather-bug
<i>Graphosoma italicum</i>	The 'Millwall' bug
<i>Nezara viridula</i>	Southern green shieldbug
<i>Calocoris nemoralis</i>	A red and black mirid bug
<i>Aquarius najas</i>	A large pond-skater

BEEPLES

<i>Trichodes apiarus</i>	A soldier beetle (other <i>Trichodes</i> species possibly seen too)
<i>Tropinota hirta</i>	A chafer
<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>	A black-and-white flower chafer
<i>Malachius bipustulatus</i>	A malachite beetle
<i>Clytra quadripunctata</i>	A leaf beetle
<i>Cicindela littoralis</i>	A tiger beetle
<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>	Seven-spotted ladybird

ODONATA

<i>Anax imperator</i>	Emperor dragonfly
<i>Sympetrum fonscolombeii</i>	Red-veined darter (below left)
<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Blue-tailed damselfly

ORTHOPTERA

<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	Egyptian grasshopper
<i>Acrida ungarica/A.turrita</i>	Nosed grasshopper (below right)

OTHER INVERTEBRATES

<i>Potamon potamios</i>	Freshwater crab
	A very large, plain-backed jumping spider



PLANTS

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

Key and nomenclature

Latin names generally follow those used in *Flora of the Cretan Area* (Turland *et al.* 1993); alternative names in common usage are given in brackets. English names are given only where one is in general use. Localities are not given, but special plants in special places are mentioned in the text.

* Endemic or near-endemic to Crete.

Introduced and not native to Crete, and cultivated or planted species.

FERNS AND ALLIES

<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback Fern
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken

CONIFERS

Cupressaceae Cypress Family

<i>Cupressus sempervirens horizontalis</i>	Cypress
<i>C. sempervirens sempervirens</i>	Funeral Cypress
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus ssp. macrocarpa</i>	

Pinaceae Pine Family

# <i>Araucaria araucana</i>	Norfolk Island Pine
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Calabrian Pine
<i>P. pinea</i>	Stone Pine

FLOWERING PLANTS - DICOTYLEDONS

Aizoaceae Mezembryanthemum Family

# <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot Fig
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Anacardiaceae Pistachio Family

<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree
<i>P. terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree

Apiaceae Carrot Family

<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	Coriander
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel
<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	Corky-fruited Water-dropwort
<i>Pseudorlaya pumila</i>	
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's Needle
<i>Smyrniolum perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Mediterranean Hartwort

Apocynaceae Oleander Family

<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander
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Araliaceae Ivy Family

<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
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Asteraceae Daisy Family

<i>Anthemis chia</i>	
<i>A. rigida ssp. rigida</i>	Rayless Chamomile
<i>Asteriscus (Pallenis) spinosus</i>	Spiny Golden-star
<i>Bellis annua</i>	Annual Daisy
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>	
* <i>Centaurea idaea</i>	Mt Ida Knapweed
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i> both vars. <i>coronarium</i> (yellow) and <i>discolor</i> (poached-egg)	Crown Daisy
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn Marigold
* <i>Crepis cretica</i>	
* <i>C. sibthorpiana</i>	

<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	Stink Aster
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Dwarf cudweed
<i>Evax pygmaea</i>	Mediterranean Thistle
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Curry-plant
<i>Helichrysum (stoechas ssp.) barrelieri</i>	
<i>Leontodon tuberosus</i>	
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	
* <i>Onopordum bracteatum ssp. creticum</i>	
<i>Phagnalon graecum</i>	Shrubby Cudweed
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>	
<i>Reichardia picroides</i>	
<i>Rhagadiolus stellatus</i>	
<i>Scorzonera cretica</i>	Cretan Viper's-grass
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Tolpis barbata</i>	
<i>Tragopogon sinuatus</i>	Salsify
Berberidaceae Barberry Family	
<i>Berberis cretica</i>	
Boraginaceae Borage Family	
<i>Anchusa hybrida (undulata)</i>	Wavy Alkanet
<i>A. italica (azurea)</i>	Large Blue Alkanet
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage
<i>Cerinthe major</i>	Honeywort
<i>Cynoglossum columnae</i>	
<i>C. creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss
<i>E. arenarium</i>	Sand Bugloss
<i>E. italicum</i>	Pale Bugloss
<i>E. plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss
<i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>	Small Forget-me-not
<i>Onosma graecum</i>	Golden-drops
* <i>Symphytum creticum (Procopiana cretica)</i>	Cretan Gorge Comfrey
Brassicaceae Cabbage Family	
<i>Aethionema saxatile creticum</i>	Burnt Candytuft
<i>Arabis verna</i>	Spring Rock-cress
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Aubrieta
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	Buckler Mustard
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black Mustard
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea-rocket
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Whitlow-grass
<i>Erucaria hispanica</i>	Spanish Mustard
* <i>Ricotia cretica</i>	Ricotia
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock
Cactaceae Cactus Family	
# <i>Opuntia ficus-barbarica (O. ficus-indica)</i>	Prickly Pear
Campanulaceae Bellflower Family	
* <i>Petromarula pinnata</i>	Cretan Wall Lettuce
* <i>Solenopsis minuta ssp. annua (Laurentia gasparrinii)</i>	
Caryophyllaceae Pink Family	
* <i>Cerastium comatum</i>	
<i>Petrorhagia velutina (Kohlrauschia velutina)</i>	
<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	Four-leaved Allseed
<i>Silene bellidifolia</i>	
<i>S. colorata</i>	
<i>S. cretica</i>	
<i>S. gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion

Cistaceae Rockrose Family	
<i>Cistus (incanus ssp.) creticus</i>	Cretan Cistus
<i>C. monspeliensis</i>	
<i>C. salvifolius</i>	Sage-Leaved Cistus
<i>Fumana arabica</i>	
Clusiaceae St John's-wort Family	
<i>Hypericum empetrifolium ssp. empetrifolium</i>	Shrubby St. John's-wort
Convolvulaceae Bindweed Family	
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed
<i>C. (a.) elegantissimus</i>	
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Dodder
Crassulaceae Stonecrop Family	
* <i>Sedum praesidis</i>	
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	
Cucurbitaceae Cucumber Family	
<i>Bryonia cretica ssp. cretica</i>	Cretan White Bryony
Dipsacaceae Scabious Family	
<i>Knautia dipsacifolia</i>	
<i>Lomelosia brachiata</i>	
Ericaceae Heather Family	
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree-heath
Euphorbiaceae Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnus</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge
<i>E. characias</i>	Mediterranean Spurge
<i>E. dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge
<i>E. helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
<i>E. hirsuta</i>	
<i>E. paralias</i>	Sea Spurge
# <i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury
Fabaceae Pea Family	
# <i>Acacia spp.</i>	Mimosa
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean Trefoil
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria ssp. rubriflora</i>	Red Kidney Vetch
<i>Bituminaria (Psoralea) bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil
<i>Calicotome villosa</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom
# <i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob Tree
* <i>Ebenus cretica</i>	Cretan Ebony (Shrubby Sainfoin)
<i>Genista acanthoclada</i>	
<i>Hippocrepis biflora</i>	
<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>	Annual Yellow Vetchling
<i>L. aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling
<i>L. setifolius</i>	Brown Vetch
<i>Lotus halophilus</i>	
<i>Lupinus micranthus</i>	Hairy Lupin
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick
<i>M. marina</i>	Sea Medick
<i>M. orbicularis</i>	Large Disk Medick
<i>Melilotus sulcatus</i>	
<i>Onobrychis aequidentata</i>	
<i>O. caput-galli</i>	Cock's-comb Sainfoin
<i>Robina pseudoacacia</i>	False acacia
<i>Securigera (Coronilla) cretica</i>	Cretan Crown Vetch
<i>S. securidaca</i>	
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom
<i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i>	Asparagus Pea
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil
<i>T. nigrescens</i>	

<i>T. resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover
<i>T. stellatum</i>	Starry Clover
<i>T. uniflorum</i>	One-Flowered Clover
<i>Trigonella balansae</i>	
<i>Tripodion (Anthyllis) tetraphyllum</i>	Bladder Vetch
<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	Bithynian Vetch
<i>V. hybrida</i>	Hairy Yellow Vetchling
<i>V. villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch

Fagaceae Oak Family

<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak
<i>Q. ilex</i>	Holm Oak

Geraniaceae Geranium Family

<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill
<i>E. gruinum</i>	Long-beaked Stork's-bill
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>G. molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
<i>G. purpureum</i>	Little Robin
<i>G. rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill

Lamiaceae Mint Family

<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i>	
<i>Coridothymus (Thymus) capitatus</i>	Shrubby Thyme
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White Horehound
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem Sage
<i>Prasium majus</i>	
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Sage
<i>Satureja (Micromeria) nervosa</i>	
<i>Stachys cretica</i>	
* <i>Scutellaria sieberi</i>	

Linaceae Flax Family

<i>Linum arboreum</i>	Tree Flax
<i>L. bienne</i>	Pale Flax

Lythraceae Loosestrife Family

<i>Lythrum junceum</i>	
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Malvaceae Mallow Family

<i>Lavatera cretica</i>	Lesser Tree Mallow
<i>Malva nicaeensis</i>	
<i>M. parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Mallow
<i>M. sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow

Moraceae Fig Family

<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry

Oleaceae Olive Family

# <i>Jasminum fruticans</i>	Wild Jasmine
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive

Orobanchaceae Broomrape Family

<i>Orobanche crenata</i>	Bean Broomrape
<i>O. minor</i>	Common Broomrape
<i>O. pubescens</i>	
<i>O. ramosa</i>	Branched Broomrape

Oxalidaceae Sorrel Family

# <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup
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Papaveraceae Poppy Family

<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned-poppy
<i>Papaver apulum</i>	Southern Prickly Poppy
<i>P. rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy

Plantaginaceae Plantain Family	
<i>Plantago afra</i>	
<i>P. bellardia</i>	
<i>P. lagopus</i>	
<i>P. lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>P. weldenii</i>	
Platanaceae Plane Family	
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane
Polygalaceae Milkwort Family	
<i>Polygala venulosa</i>	Eastern Milkwort
Polygonaceae Dock Family	
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Horned Dock
Primulaceae Primrose Family	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
* <i>Cyclamen creticum</i>	Cretan Cyclamen
Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family	
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown Anemone
<i>A. hortensis</i> ssp. <i>heldreichii</i>	
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	Maiden's Bower
<i>Ranunculus asiaticus</i>	Turban Buttercup
<i>R. ficaria</i> ssp. <i>chrysocephalus</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>R. gracilis</i>	
<i>R. marginatus</i>	
<i>R. muricatus</i>	
<i>R. peltatus</i> ssp. <i>fucoides</i>	Pond Water-crowfoot
Resedaceae Mignonette Family	
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette
Rosaceae Rose Family	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ssp. <i>azarella</i>	Hawthorn
# <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Almond-leaved Pear
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	Bramble
<i>Sarcopterium spinosum</i>	Spiny Burnet
Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Valantia hispida</i>	
Rutaceae Rue Family	
# <i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon
# <i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange
Salicaceae Willow Family	
# <i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar
Santalaceae Sandalwood Family	
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris
Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family	
<i>Saxifraga chrysosplenifolia</i>	
Scrophulariaceae Figwort Family	
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia
<i>Linaria pelisseriana</i>	Jersey Toadflax
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Shining Figwort
* <i>Verbascum arcturus</i>	Hanging Mullein
<i>V. macrurum</i>	
<i>V. sinuatum</i>	
Solanaceae Nightshade Family	
# <i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Tree-tobacco
Styracaceae Storax Family	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Snowbell Tree
Tamaricaceae Tamarisk Family	
<i>Tamarix smyrnensis</i>	Tamarisk

Thymelaeaceae Daphne Family	
<i>Daphne sericea</i>	
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>	
Ulmaceae Elm Family	
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Small-leaved Elm
Urticaceae Nettle Family	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman Nettle
Valerianaceae Valerian Family	
<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	
* <i>Valeriana asarifolia</i>	Cretan Valerian
<i>Valerianella coronata</i>	
Verbenaceae Vervain Family	
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain
Vitaceae Vine Family	
<i>Vitus vinifera</i>	Grape Vine
MONOCOTYLEDONS	
Agavaceae Agave Family	
# <i>Agave americana</i>	Century Plant
Amaryllidaceae Daffodil Family	
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil
Araceae Arum Family	
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl
<i>Arum concinatum</i>	
<i>A. creticum</i>	Cretan Arum
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon Arum
Arecaceae Palm Family	
# <i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Date Palm
* <i>P. theophrasti</i>	Cretan Palm
Cyperaceae Sedge Family	
<i>Cladium mariscus</i>	Saw-sedge
Iridaceae Iris Family	
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gladiolus
<i>Gynandriris sisyrrinchium</i>	Barbary Nut
* <i>Iris cretensis</i>	
<i>I. pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag
<i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	Sand-crocus
Liliaceae Lily Family	
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rose Garlic
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel
<i>Asphodelus ramosus (aestivus)</i>	Common Asphodel
<i>Charybdis (Drimia, Urginea) maritima</i>	Sea Squill
<i>Gagea graeca</i>	White Yellow-star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth
* <i>M. spreitzenhoferi</i>	
<i>Ornithogalum exscapum collinum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem
* <i>Tulipa saxatilis</i>	
* <i>T. doerfleri</i>	
Orchidaceae Orchid Family	
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man Orchid
<i>Barlia robertiana</i>	Early Orchid
* <i>Ophrys cretica</i>	Cretan Bee Orchid
<i>O. (scolopax) heldreichii</i>	Marengo Orchid
* <i>O. fusca creberrima</i>	
<i>O. iricolor</i>	Rainbow Orchid
<i>O. phryganae</i>	Phrygana Orchid
<i>O. sicula</i>	
<i>O. (sphegodes) mammosa</i>	Mammose Orchid
* <i>O. sphegodes cretensis</i>	Small Cretan Spider Orchid

<i>O. tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly Orchid
<i>Orchis boryi</i>	
<i>O. italica</i>	Naked Man Orchid
<i>O. lactea</i>	Milky Orchid
<i>O. laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered Orchid
<i>O. papilionacea</i>	Pink Butterfly-Orchid
<i>O. (provincialis) pauciflora</i>	Few-flowered Orchid
<i>O. quadripunctata</i>	Four-spotted Orchid
<i>Serapias bergonii</i>	Bergon's Tongue-orchid
<i>S. lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid

Poaceae Grass Family

<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Marram
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Greater Quaking-grass
<i>Hordeum leporinum</i>	
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>	
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail
<i>Lamarckia aurea</i>	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	Bulbous Meadow-grass

Posidoniaceae Sea-grass family

<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	Neptune-weed
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Smilacaceae Smilax Family

<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Common Smilax
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Typhaceae Reedmace Family

<i>Typha domingensis</i>	
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