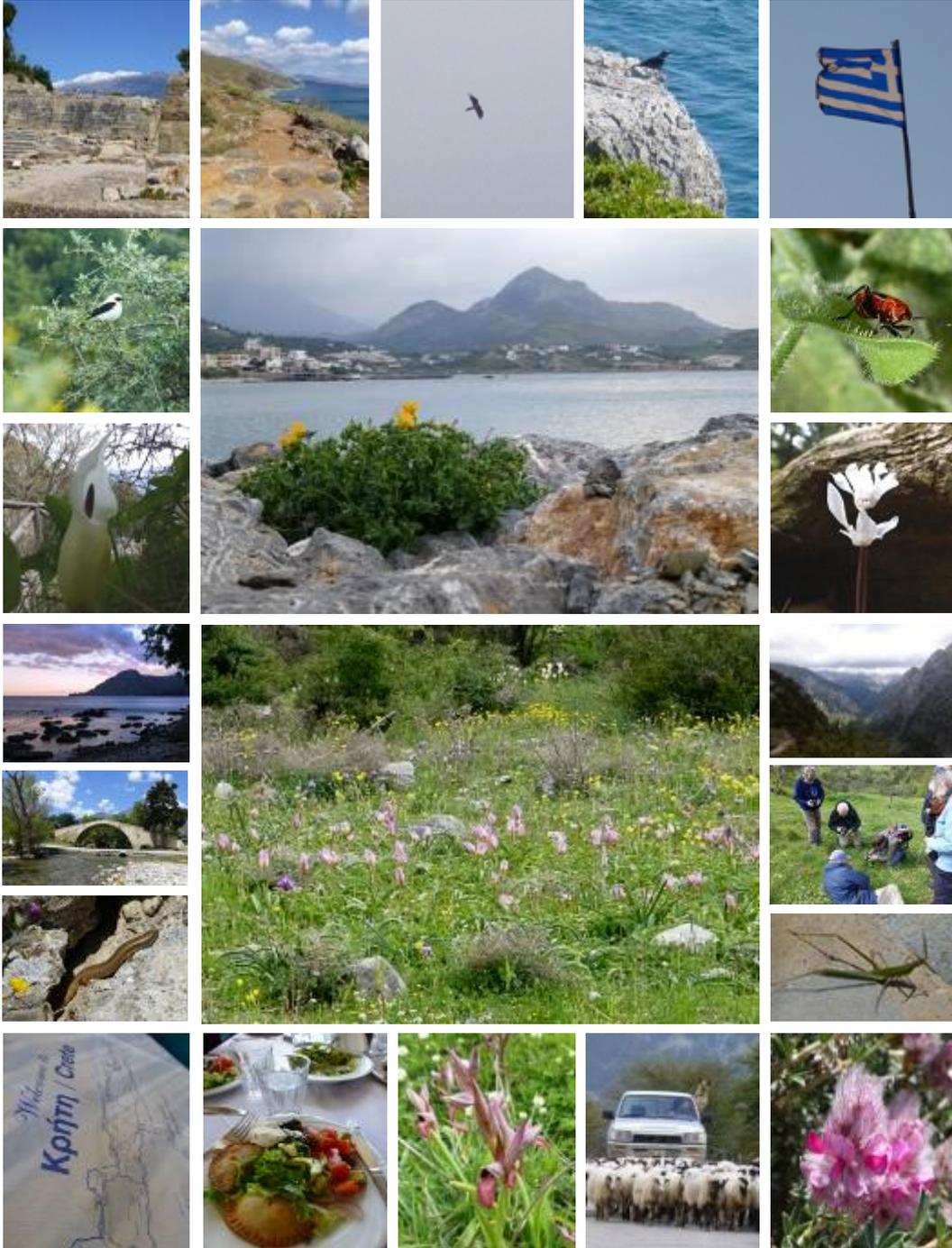




Honeyguide

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Crete
16th – 23rd April 2013

Participants

Anne and John Titchmarsh
Christine and Oliver Dix
Karin and Brennan Auger
Barbara Priest
Jenny Loring
Val Codling
Mike Poulton

Leaders

Chris Durdin and Tim Strudwick
Report by Tim Strudwick

We stayed at the family-run Hotel Sofia in Plakias, www.sofiahotelplakias.com/index.php.

The photos in this report were all taken during the holiday week, those bordered green by Chris Durdin, blue by Tim Strudwick, red by Jenny Loring and yellow by Christine and Oliver Dix – elsewhere as indicated.

Cover photo compilation by Jenny Loring. Centre: yellow horned poppies, tulips on Omalos plateau. Clockwise from top left, pictures include Festos, lammergeier, blue rock thrush, Cretan cyclamen, the top of Samaria Gorge, nosed grasshopper, Cretan ebony, tongue orchids, ocellated skink, Venetian bridge near Moní Préveli, sunset over Plakias Bay, *Arum idaeum*, black-eared wheatear. Below: the group.



As with all Honeyguide holidays, £40 of the price of the holiday was put towards conservation, 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 2013.

The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust. We sent £500 to HOS, which brings Honeyguide's total contributions to HOS since the first Honeyguide holiday in Crete in 1995 to £8,935. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £89,420 to June 2013.

Eva Stefanaki, Head of Finance from the Hellenic Ornithological Society, wrote to say, "On behalf of Hellenic Ornithological Society I would like to thank you for your generous contribution. With your faithful financial contributions over the years, you've demonstrated your deep commitment to our work for the protection of wild birds and their habitats in Greece." The updated lammergeier numbers above come from Dr Stavros Xirouchakis from the Natural History Museum of Crete / HOS, who also reports that the population of griffons has "... really gone through the roof with more than 700 individuals and more than 230 breeding pairs this year."

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

DAILY DIARY

16th April – arrival

The group all converged at Gatwick for a 07:00 flight. Leaving in cloud and light rain, after a smooth flight we arrived in slightly less cloudy weather at Heraklion. After loading into two waiting minibuses we were soon heading west along the coast road, seeing a few buzzards, kestrels, raven and griffon vultures, along with the first of many road-kill beech martens. After 40 minutes we stopped at the pink Synolakis Taverna, perched high above the coast, where a few ravens, buzzards, hooded crows and heard-but-not-seen Sardinian warblers from the car park provided the first real opportunity for birdwatching. Inside we soon tucked into a delicious lunch of mixed traditional starter dishes with fresh orange juice and coffee, and suitably refreshed we re-boarded the buses for the onward



Wood sandpiper by the bridge in Plakias

journey to Plakias. Along the way more ravens, buzzards and a group of probable red-footed falcons helped keep tired eyes open. Passing through Kourtaliótiko Gorge we stopped very briefly and quickly discovered that the wind funnelling through the narrow opening made standing up difficult and birdwatching impossible. It was slightly more sheltered at the southern end of the gorge but still very blustery, and we watched a male Montagu's harrier attempt to pass north, then turn back. Arriving at Plakias we quickly unloaded the buses, greeted our hosts at the Hotel Sofia and settled in. Those who explored the village found wood and common sandpipers and greenshank on the shore, before assembling for dinner at Gio-Ma Taverna.

17th April – Plakias, Mirthios and Kotsiphou

After breakfast we set off on foot to explore the olive groves around the village. The walk started in cool and blustery conditions and the song of Cetti's warbler and blackcap along the river were the only obvious birdlife. There was even a brief light shower as Chris started to introduce the group to the varied and colourful wayside flora. Starting with the endemic Cretan ebony, yellow honeywort, the ubiquitous crown daisy and the thistle *Galactites tomentosa*, salsify and the sniffing of pitch trefoil close to the village, the botanical tour led the group through the elegant champion *Selene bellidifolia* with its striped calyx, the English-nameless *Ptilostemnon* and the striking leaves of dragon arum. The little blue branched broomrape, among its host Bermuda buttercup, was the only identifiable species of at least three broomrapes. A bewildering array of small members of the pea family included one-flowered clover and cockscomb sainfoin. Two more endemics followed: a statuesque Cretan rock lettuce looking a little out of place under an olive tree and an impressive clump of the wood sage-like *Scutellaria sieberi*.

As the morning wore on the cloud broke a little, and as the temperature rose we saw the first butterflies of the trip – an eastern dappled white and speckled wood – a few honey bees, solitary bees and harvester ants. The wind stayed fresh and birds were mostly keeping their heads down, but a couple of migrant turtle doves, a griffon vulture cruising at low altitude across the adjacent hillside and a red-rumped swallow among the few hirundines were all appreciated. Oliver spotted the first orchid – Bergon's tongue orchid. Perhaps the best bird of the morning, a male ortolan bunting, was seen briefly by some of the group while climbing up the hill. Towards lunchtime the sun was shining as we neared the village of Mirthios, and an oriental plane tree provided some welcome shade. A final flight of steps led to the Panorama Taverna, with its stunning view down to the coast, and a table was soon full of tasty salads and cheese and spinach pies for our lunch.

After lunch, Tim and Chris walked swiftly back to Plakias to collect the buses. The day had brightened up considerably and Jenny discovered a queen German wasp feasting on the nectar of shining figwort on a roadside bank. Boarding the buses, we headed up though the Kotsiphou Gorge and stopped beyond Kanevos to explore some roadside fields. Here the song of blackcap and the local race of hawthorn in flower provided a familiar backdrop to some botanical highlights including Italian man, tongue and loose-flowered orchids and, by the roadside, the endemic *Ricotia cretica*. A serin sang from nearby trees and two red-rumped swallows hawked up and down the valley.

A few kilometres further on, our final stop of the day was in a shady woodland of oak and cypress where the floor was carpeted in the endemic Cretan cyclamen.



A grove of Cretan cyclamen and a close-up of the plants.

Back in Plakias there was time to relax and freshen up before meeting to log the first two days' many sightings, and then we dined at Muses Taverna.

18th April – Festos and Ayia Triada

Strong winds continued but the sun was shining as we drove east via Spili and Timpaki to the fertile valley of the Geropotamos river. We arrived at Festos from where the hilltop car park provided



Chukar

spectacular views over the agricultural plains to the snow-capped Psiloritis (Mount Ida). From here we watched alpine and common swifts at eye level and sharp-eyed Brennan picked out a pallid swift. The wind had eased off a little and it was warm, and as we walked the short distance to the ruins the slope below was busy with butterflies, including swallowtail and clouded yellows. A hoopoe showed briefly to some but a pair of chukars were much more cooperative and gave excellent views. Many of the group took advantage of free entry to the ruins (to mark ICOMOS – International Day on Monuments and Sites!) and explored the Minoan settlement, while others just enjoyed the wealth of insect life and glorious weather around the café area. After cooling ice-creams and juice we set off on foot towards Ayia Triada. The grassy hillside had been burnt

recently and birdlife was limited to crested larks, linnets and a woodchat shrike, but the roadside flora provided much interest, including the delicate knapweed-like crupina and some smart bug orchids. After an hour, Chris and Tim walked back to collect the buses, then drove on to Ayia Triada, picking up some of the group along the route while others opted to walk all the way. All enjoyed the exceptional roadside display of Cretan ebony. We regrouped by the ruins at Ayia Triada where we ate our packed lunches.

After lunch we set off downhill through olive groves where French lavender, thymelea, pyramidal orchids, more bug orchids and tongue orchids drew our attention. At the bottom of the hill we headed towards the Geropotamos river in search of waterbirds but were disappointed (if not entirely surprised) to find it dry. The flora came to the rescue with crupina, mallow-leaved bindweed, squirting cucumber, bean trefoil, asparagus pea and starry clover all quickly found around the fallow fields and along the roadside. There was also the etymological coincidence of milk thistle (*Silybum*) and Mediterranean thistle (*Galactites*; gala being Greek for milk, as Chris explained) growing together. The drivers retrieved the buses and, going straight on over the dried ford, we rejoined the main road and headed west towards home, making a roadside stop on the way to look at some turban buttercups which Chris had noticed earlier. Here we also found our first Cretan bee orchids of the trip. Arriving back at Plakias we took a detour via the eastern end of the village hoping for passerine migrants and found three whinchats, a woodchat shrike and crested lark. Dinner was at Taverna Tasomanolis.

19th April – Kourtaliótiko Gorge and Spili

The pre-breakfast trip started well with two great white egrets flying in off the sea at Plakias. Heading east to the new harbour, there was no sign of the flock of garganeys reported yesterday evening by Stephanie Coghlan, but nearby at Souda we found a woodchat shrike, black-eared wheatear and the unexpected sight of a wood sandpiper perched on a bush.

After breakfast we drove to Kourtaliótiko Gorge. After a quick scan for raptors we set off down some well maintained steps which led to a very small chapel and provided a convenient and safe way to explore the rocky gorge flora. We started with the shrubs that dominated the steep slope – Jerusalem sage, thorny burnet, Greek spiny spurge and tree spurge. As we descended, Chris pointed out various flowers including yellow asphodel, the tiny bellflower *Campanula erinus*, more ricotia and, near the chapel, hanging mullein growing out of a bare rock face. As often in Crete, we faced the dilemma of whether to look up or down, but thankfully there were enough of us doing both. The up-lookers spotted a white stork which made three attempts to pass north, only to be beaten by the headwind, a number of crag martins and a blue rock thrush on the walk down. The steps levelled off into a path leading to a bridge spanning a deep canyon where the stream dropped 10 metres in a series of waterfalls; maidenhair fern and mosses covered the wet, shady canyon walls. Near to the stream were some large shrubs and trees, including storax in flower (an ancient source of incense and a natural source of styrene), providing some welcome shade. Under the trees were a few Cretan cyclamen and a bellflower which Chris identified as the endemic *Campanula tubulosa*. Upstream of the waterfalls the path came down to the water and here Barbara briefly saw a pied flycatcher. Though not in the best place for raptor watching, those looking up saw a few griffons, ravens and Montagu's harrier, though only Chris saw the briefest of appearances from a Bonelli's eagle.

We climbed slowly back up to the road, at last finding the endemic Cretan gorge comfrey as we went, then drove on to the attractive town of Spili, nestled beneath towering limestone cliffs, where we ate our picnic lunch in the town square with griffon vultures and ravens overhead. After a short sight-seeing/shopping break, we drove up into the Kedros foothills to a rolling cultivated plain peppered with rocky uncultivated humps – the renowned botanical site known as 'Spili Bumps'.



Bishop's ophrys *Ophrys episcopalis*; plant-hunting at Spili Bumps; and few-flowered orchid *Orchis pauciflora*.

Stepping out of the buses, we were greeted by the song of corn buntings and woodlarks. Some orchids close to the road soon caught the eye, and Italian man, Marengo, Anatolian, monkey, Cretan bee, loose-flowered and Bergon's tongue orchids were quickly located on the damp grassy slope. We walked up the road and off through the cultivated areas, where the lovely red *Tulipa doerfleri* grew among the crops and four-spotted orchids flowered by the wayside. An impressively colourful array of flowers decorated the fallow fields and margins, including corn and field marigolds, and some tricky 'peas', among which Chris identified yellow vetchling, reversed clover and fodder vetch. Arriving at a 'bump', more orchids began to appear, including most of those we had already seen plus bishop's ophrys, Sicilian yellow bee, rainbow ophrys, sawfly orchid, few-flowered and milky orchids. Though the orchid ensemble took centre stage, we also found time to enjoy the endemics *Iris cretica*, Cretan valerian and Cretan arum, before heading back to the buses and to Plakias.

Dinner was at Sirocco which, despite its name, was less draughty than some of the other tavernas.

20th April – Ayia Lake and Omalos Plateau

The pre-breakfast walk along the beach was notable for a stiff breeze which kept birds close to the ground, and for a stone-curlew that flew up from the low dunes.

We set off after breakfast a little earlier than usual for the long drive to our first destination, Ayia Reservoir. As usual, the main roads were quiet and we arrived mid-morning to find the car park empty. Walking up onto the causeway, the well-vegetated water-body came as a bit of a surprise after several days of exploring Crete's dry and rocky habitats. Before even lifting binoculars we were calling out a long list of waterbirds – coot, moorhen, little grebe, squacco heron, little egret, wood and common sandpiper. There were ducks, too: mallard, shoveler and wigeon. Crakes are a speciality here, and a little crane was quickly located close to the group though it then proved reluctant to show itself. As we watched the emergent vegetation at the water's edge more little crakes appeared, and then a Baillon's popped out long enough for some of the group to see it. No fewer than five and probably seven or eight little crakes were seen. Little bittern, black-winged stilts, little ringed plovers and night herons all appeared. Sedge, reed and great reed warblers sang around the margins. Here and there, around the lake's edge, Balkan terrapins were basking. Up in the sky two booted eagles circled with a buzzard, a hobby flew by as did a probable red-footed falcon, and a small flock of bee-eaters. Sand martins and crag martins fed over the water. We spent some time enjoying this bird spectacle, taking photos and eventually repairing to the café, but it was soon time to move on to our next destination.



Lammergeier (*B. Aunger*); little crakes and black-winged stilt at Ayia Reservoir.

Back on the road we headed south up the northern slopes of the white mountains, where the road climbed, twisted and turned and some extensive roadworks required careful negotiation. The olive zone gave way to a forest of pine and cypress, where a black-eared wheatear posed on a roadside bush long enough for all to see it. After a long climb the road suddenly dropped down to Omalos and onto the plateau. We pulled off the road among the small fields and orchards of the plateau to eat our lunches, which most of the group opted to do in the bus – it was a chilly 6°C outside. After pulling on a few extra clothes we explored the area on foot and did not have to go far to find some of the beautiful pink *Tulipa bakeri* – a very special plant found only on Omalos Plateau. We encountered a man with a hoe digging up 'mountain greens' or '*horta*', which he was happy to show us – rosettes of dandelion-like plants. Sign language was enough to understand that the hoe was needed to reach the *horta* tangled in *Galactites* thistles. Hawthorn, apple and pear trees, many not yet in leaf, provided song-posts for woodlark and ciril bunting, and around the fields were whinchats, a redstart and many common wheatears.

We drove on the short distance to the head of Samaria Gorge. Those who walked the steep path to the café enjoyed wild aubrieta, the endemics Cretan mouse-ear and *Arum idaeum*, the latter under Cretan barberry, and other botanical specialities. At the café, Chris enquired after Aristotelis – the old chap who worked at the café and had shown groups kri-kri in the past – and came back with bad news: Aristotelis had retired! Over coffee, we scoured the distant pine-clad slopes for kri-kri without success, but enjoyed cool mountain air and the dramatic view across Lefka Ori. Calling time on kri-kri searching we re-boarded the buses, after examining the tree we'd parked by: it was the local speciality, *Zelcova* or *ambelitsiá*. We continued clockwise around the plateau, soon stopping by some strikingly-coloured fields, full of pink tulips, purple crown anemones and yellow buttercups.

While taking in the floral splendour there was a call to look up – a lammergeier was almost above us. It drifted effortlessly along the edge of the plateau and into the distance. Then the ringing of sheep bells announced the passage of a flock being herded along the road, the shepherds nudging the sheep nervously past the Honeyguiders.



Shepherding on Omalos Plateau, with the sheepdog in the back of the pick-up.

We drove on a little further and came to a shallow pond decorated by sheets of water-crowfoot. The sign told us it was in fact a 'temporary Mediterranean pond' which is an EU Priority Habitat supporting a specialised flora and fauna, which that day included six wood sandpipers and a greenshank. We again had distant views of the lammergeier working its way around the rim of the plateau.

Heading back, we chose to stop off in Rethymnon for dinner. We spent an hour exploring the old town and harbour, noting Cretan wall lettuce, rock samphire and three-horned stock around the old fort, and ate at Taverna Tripio Catostari before a late return to Plakias.

21st April – Préveli

After the previous long day there was no pre-breakfast walk, but the day dawned warm and sunny – the best so far! After a slightly later start we drove a few miles east to Moní Préveli and parked at the monastery. A couple of turtle doves flew inland as we walked downhill into the sheltered valley below the monastery.



Pied flycatcher

Here among cypress trees we quickly found a female pied flycatcher, then a wood warbler and a male golden oriole flew in. Walking further down the track a few glimpsed a male collared flycatcher, which then vanished. A group of 'yellow' wagtails was moving around the grassy slope ahead and settled on the ground and fences, where we picked out a couple of male black-headed wagtails among a dozen blue-headed. We spent some time scanning the scrubby slopes where the wagtails were feeding, picking up more pied flycatchers, a tree pipit and a few Spanish sparrows, woodlark and corn buntings. More turtle doves passed inland. Back in the shelter of the trees it was warm and insects were attracting some attention, with paper wasps, common blue and clouded yellow butterflies. We headed back up to the car park and on to the café where we were distracted from our coffee, orange juices and ice-creams by a southern comma, a cuckoo shooting overhead and violet carpenter bees prospecting for nests in the hollow cane roof.

Suitably refreshed, we drove to the WW2 memorial for a brief culture stop, then on to the Turkish or Venetian bridge over the Préveli river. It was lunchtime, and the stone bridge over the tree-lined river made a delightful setting in which to eat our packed lunches. During lunch, an ocellated skink popped out of a hole in the bridge and posed for photos. Afterwards we potted around the river for a while enjoying the abundant insect life, including the powder-blue male brown skimmer, lesser emperor, blue-tailed damselfly and large pondskaters. The only Cretan marsh frog of the week was found sitting in the sunshine, but we found no freshwater crab, despite our best efforts.

Migrant raptors put in an appearance again with two Montagu's harriers and a splendid male red-footed falcon passing overhead. The botanists noted the little *Teucrium alpestre* on the bridge and an abundance of stonewort (chara sp.) in the fast-flowing water.



Cretan palm grove at Préveli beach.

We returned to Plakias, where some of the group opted for an afternoon of leisure around the village. Christine and Oliver walked west along the quiet coastal road and were rewarded with good views of a golden oriole perched in the scrub. Others joined an optional afternoon excursion to Préveli beach. This involved an adventurous drive along a steep and winding rough track to a very quiet beach and café, and then a short and scenic walk along a cliff path to reach the small beach at the mouth of the Préveli river. As we arrived, a kestrel provided some drama as it dropped its wriggling prey (a fledgling chaffinch, as it turned out) into the sea, to be rescued by some tourists. Karin, Brennan and Chris all resorted to paddling to explore the impressive grove of Cretan palms around the small freshwater lake, where they found a night heron. The palms were recovering well from a fire in 2010. Jenny and Barbara stayed on the cliff path where they saw more Spanish sparrows and a blue rock thrush. For dinner we revisited Muses Taverna.

22nd April – Souda, Frangocastello and Kotsiphou Gorge

The day dawned warm and sunny and almost windless. A pre-breakfast excursion to Damnoni produced a few surprises, starting with a squacco heron in a roadside field. Down in the village a further two squacco herons and a night heron were among the streamside reeds, a great white egret flew inland and three or four grey herons flew around the bay. Some distance offshore, a group of five Yelkouan shearwaters flew east. As we returned to the bus a great reed warbler sang in the giant reeds nearby, and then Barbara located it at the base of the reeds where it showed itself well.

After breakfast we drove west along the coast to Souda and parked alongside the grove of Cretan palms where both male and female trees were in flower. The sky was full of low-flying alpine swifts and hirundines, and a woodchat shrike showed well on the wires and bushes. We drove on further west via Sellia, making an unscheduled stop as Chris spotted a male collared flycatcher which showed intermittently among the olives to some of the group before vanishing. A little further on, a few of the group saw a male golden oriole dashing across the road. Continuing west through spectacular hilly country we eventually descended to the coastal plain of Frangocastello, where a group of blue-headed wagtails mustering along the roadside fence was the first hint of the migrant potential of the area. Arriving at the castle, we were greeted by the sight of a female Montagu's harrier hunting the adjacent fields. After making use of the newly opened loos, we set off east along the cliff path, where Chris pointed out a rather unimpressive mandrake rosette and the woolly *Ballota pseudodictamnus*, and we found numerous wheatears and whinchats. Near the clifftop a large colony of mason bees (later identified as *Osmia signata*) with nests plastered to a large boulder drew attention. A tawny pipit was spotted and eventually showed itself on the track. Chris picked up on a group of small falcons, almost certainly red-footed, well offshore. A flock of around 15 little egrets came off the rocks, eight purple herons flew along the coast and an additional bird dropped into the scrubby fields. Though breezy it was very warm, and the group opted for drinks at a café before heading back to the castle to eat packed lunches.

After lunch we walked down to the beach. Here a large sand wasp *Sphex funerarius* was digging its nest burrow and tiger beetles running at a great pace over the sand provided entomological diversions. A pair of nosed grasshoppers, which look like stick insects, were well hidden among dry grass. Heading towards the village the path passed through low dunes vegetated with sea spurge and, oddly, common reed. The dunes gave way to a dry patch of wetland (the nearest thing to fen on Crete!) where nettle-leaved figwort and black bog-rush were growing. Dry fields behind the coast road were checked for spectacled warbler, but only crested lark, corn bunting and Sardinian warblers were found, while a male Montagu's harrier hunted nearby, giving excellent and prolonged views.



Frangocastello

Heading back to Plakias the road climbed high above the coast, providing a spectacular view east towards Plakias, and we pulled up at the roadside for a photo opportunity. This proved to be an inspired decision as Chris immediately heard the song of an ortolan bunting. Soon it appeared on the roadside fence and performed for a few minutes for the group. With a little time to spare we made a final stop in Kotsiphou Gorge to look at some special plants: Cretan rock lettuce, tree flax and Cretan gorge comfrey on a shady cliff by the road. Monkey orchid was an addition to the plant list; up in the sky yet another Montagu's harrier put in an appearance, and a lammergeier cruising along the north side of the coastal ridge was the icing on the cake of a productive day.

Before dinner the group met up for the last sightings round-up and, in Honeyguide tradition, shared their individual highlights of the trip, which were:

- Val** Ayia reservoir and the lammergeier at Omalos.
- John & Ann** (independently coming up with the same): tulips, lammergeier, and the sheep flock on the Omalos plateau.
- Oliver** lammergeier, Ayia reservoir, and 'our' golden oriole.
- Christine** 'our' golden oriole, spectacular scenery, crown daisies against a mountain backdrop, Cretan ebony.
- Barbara** mason bees, lammergeier, crakes, Montagu's harriers.
- Karin** Montagu's harriers, lammergeier, the variety of orchids, scenery.
- Brennan** orchids at Spili bumps, ortolan bunting, little crake.
- Jenny** Spili bumps, seeing the white mountains.
- Mike** ortolan bunting, little crake, lammergeier, Kourtaliótiko Gorge, reaching the Panorama taverna in Mirthios alive!
- Chris** wood sandpipers everywhere, ortolan bunting, bishop's ophrys, one-flowered clover, Spili bumps (as ever).
- Tim** Montagu's harriers, ortolan bunting, scenery, diversity of wildlife, mason bees.

For our final dinner venue of the trip we returned, by majority vote, to Muses.

23rd April – Heraklion airport and home

We awoke to a bright, warm morning and after breakfast bade farewell to the Hotel Sofia team and reluctantly set off towards Heraklion. Short stops were made for a last brief raptor watch at Kourtaliótiko Gorge and a close look at the valonia oak with its remarkable acorn cups near Armeni. At least one honey buzzard among roadside raptors was the final addition to the bird list. At a quiet Heraklion airport pre-flight formalities went smoothly, as did the flight back to Gatwick and home.

SYSTEMATIC LISTS

BIRDS

Little grebe	several on Ayia Reservoir
Yelkouan shearwater	5 at Damnoni
Little bittern	a male at Ayia Reservoir
Night heron	3 at Ayia Reservoir and one at Damnoni
Squacco heron	3 at Ayia Reservoir and 4 at Damnoni
Little egret	one at Ayia Reservoir, 15 at Frangocastello and one at Plakias
Great (white) egret	2 at Plakias, and singles at Damnoni and Frangocastello
Grey heron	3 at Plakias, 5 at Ayia Reservoir, 4 at Damnoni and one at Frangocastello
Purple heron	9 at Frangocastello
Mallard	a male and female at Ayia Reservoir
Wigeon	a male and female at Ayia Reservoir
Shoveler	3 males and a female at Ayia Reservoir
White stork	one over Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Honey buzzard	at least one near Heraklion
Lammergeier	an adult at Omalos; another at Kotsiphou Gorge
Griffon vulture	small numbers seen regularly over hills
Marsh harrier	singles at Ayia Reservoir, Omalos and Préveli
Montagu's harrier	1-4 at Plakias, Préveli, Kourtaliótiko Gorge, Kotsiphou Gorge and Frangocastello
Booted eagle	2 pale-phase birds at Ayia Reservoir
Bonelli's eagle	one briefly in the Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Buzzard	common and widespread
Kestrel	common and widespread
Red-footed falcon	a male at Préveli river, with groups of falcons likely to be this species at two other places
Hobby	one at Ayia Reservoir
Peregrine	one at Préveli beach
Chukar	2 at Festos
Little crane	at least 5 females at Ayia Reservoir
Baillon's crane	one at Ayia Reservoir
Moorhen	several at Ayia Reservoir
Coot	many at Ayia Reservoir
Black-winged stilt	2 at Ayia Reservoir
Stone-curlew	one on Plakias beach
Little ringed plover	3 at Ayia Reservoir
Ruff	one heading inland at Mirthios
Wood sandpiper	up to 7 daily at Plakias; 8 at Omalos; also at Damnoni, Souda and Ayia Reservoir
Common sandpiper	2-3 birds seen regularly around Plakias, especially at the river mouth; singles at Ayia Triada and Ayia Reservoir
Greenshank	singles at Plakias and Omalos
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	10 at Moní Préveli; also at Frangocastello and Plakias
Cuckoo	singles at Plakias and Moní Préveli
Swift	small numbers daily
Pallid swift	one at Festos
Alpine swift	a few seen most days
Bee-eater	6 at Ayia Reservoir
Hoopoe	single at Festos
Crested lark	common and widespread
Woodlark	Spili, Moní Préveli and Omalos
Sand martin	small numbers along the south coast and at Ayia Reservoir
Crag martin	in the gorges, coastal cliffs and at Ayia Reservoir
Swallow	small numbers passing through daily
Red-rumped swallow	1-2 at Plakias, 4 birds at Moní Préveli; one heard over Plakias
House martin	small flocks most days
Tawny pipit	2 at Frangocastello
Meadow pipit	one at Omalos
Tree pipit	one at Omalos

Yellow wagtail	1 black-headed and 10 blue-headed at Moní Préveli; many blue-headed and one black-headed at Frangocastello; occasional unspecified flyovers at Plakias and elsewhere
White wagtail	2 at Plakias
Wren	small numbers in the gorges and mountains
Redstart	one female at Omalos
Whinchat	small numbers at Plakias, Frangocastello and Omalos
Stonechat	small numbers in most places
Northern wheatear	around 100 on Omalos Plateau; singles at 3 other sites
Black-eared wheatear	Kourtaliótiko Gorge, Préveli and Omalos
Blue rock thrush	in all the gorges and on sea cliffs at Préveli
Blackbird	common and widespread
Cetti's warbler	heard regularly at most sites
Sedge warbler	1-2 singing at Plakias and Ayia Reservoir
Reed warbler	2 singing at Ayia Reservoir
Great reed warbler	single singing males at Plakias, Damnoni and Ayia Reservoir
Sardinian warbler	common and widespread
Blackcap	small numbers seen and heard in several places
Whitethroat	single at Damnoni
Wood warbler	2 at Moní Préveli
Collared flycatcher	males at Moní Préveli and near Sellia
Pied flycatcher	one in Kourtaliótiko Gorge, 2 at Moní Préveli and on the way to Frangocastello
Blue tit	common and widespread
Great tit	common and widespread
Woodchat shrike	single birds at Plakias, Frangocastello, Festos & a couple of roadside spots
Red-billed chough	3 briefly in Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Jackdaw	a few in the gorges and at Omalos
Hooded crow	very common and widespread
Raven	widespread in small numbers
Italian sparrow	common and widespread
Spanish sparrow	small numbers near the Monastery and palm beach at Préveli
Chaffinch	common and widespread
Greenfinch	common and widespread
Goldfinch	common and widespread
Serin	singles at Spili and Kanevos
Linnet	a few birds on several days, especially at high altitude
Cirl bunting	Spili Bumps, Moní Préveli and Omalos
Ortolan bunting	a male near Mirthios and another singing by the road west of Sellia
Corn bunting	common on coastal slopes and on higher ground

MAMMALS	
Eastern hedgehog – at least 3 road casualties	Beech marten – numerous road casualties
REPTILES	
Balkan (Stripe-necked) terrapin	several at Ayia Reservoir
Balkan green lizard	Plakias, Festos and various roadside spots
Erhard's wall lizard	surprisingly scarce, at just a couple of roadside spots
Ocellated skink	at the Venetian bridge near Moní Préveli
AMPHIBIANS	
Cretan marsh frog – one at Préveli river and many tadpoles presumed this species downstream at the beach	



Ocellated skink and Cretan marsh frog.

BUTTERFLIES			
Swallowtail	Clouded yellow	Common blue	Meadow brown
Small white	Holly blue	Red admiral	Southern speckled wood
Large white	Long-tailed blue	Painted lady	Wall brown
Eastern dappled white	Lang's short-tailed blue	Southern comma	Small skipper
BEES			
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Honeybee	<i>Anthophora dalmatica</i>	a flower bee
<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	Buff-tailed bumblebee (but white-tailed in Crete!)	<i>Megachile</i> sp.	a leafcutter bee
		<i>Lasioglossum</i>	a mining bee
<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	Violet carpenter bee (2 other similar species also probably seen)	<i>Osmia caerulescens</i>	Blue mason bee
		<i>Osmia signata</i>	a mason bee
		<i>Dioxys cinctus</i>	a cuckoo bee
<i>Chalicodoma (Megachile) sicula</i>	a mason bee	<i>Nomada</i> sp.	a cuckoo bee
		<i>Nomada fucata</i>	a cuckoo bee
<i>Chalicodoma parietina</i>	a mason bee	<i>Stelis</i> sp.	a cuckoo bee
<i>Eucera algira</i>	a long-horned bee	<i>Andrena</i> sp.	a mining bee
<i>Eucera dimidiata</i>	a long-horned bee	<i>Halictus pollinosus</i>	a mining bee
<i>Andrena fuscosa</i>	a mining bee	<i>Halictus brunnescens</i>	a mining bee
WASPS			
<i>Vesputa germanica</i>	German wasp	<i>Sphex funerarius</i>	a sand wasp
<i>Polistes gallicus</i>	a paper wasp	<i>Lestica clypeata</i>	a digger wasp
<i>Ancistrocerus</i> sp.	a mason wasp	<i>Pemphredon</i>	a digger wasp
<i>Megascolia (Scolia) maculate (=flavifrons)</i>	a mammoth wasp	<i>Cerceris quadricincta</i>	a digger wasp
<i>Mutilla quinquemaculata</i>	a velvet-ant (wasp)	<i>Cerceris sabulosa</i>	a digger wasp
ANTS			
<i>Messor barbarus</i>	a harvester ant		
FLIES			
<i>Bombylius major</i>	Dark-edged bee-fly	<i>Systoechus</i> sp.	a bee fly
<i>Bombylius discolor</i>	Dotted bee-fly	<i>Machimus</i> sp.	a robber fly
<i>Exoprosopis jacchus</i>	Silvery bee-fly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	Marmalade hoverfly
<i>Lomatia</i> sp.	a bee fly		
BUGS			
<i>Graphosoma italicum</i>	'Millwall bug'	<i>Calocoris nemoralis</i>	a red and black mirid bug
<i>Spilostethus (Lygaeus) pandurus</i>	a black and red ground bug	<i>Coriomeris</i> sp.	a leather-bug
		<i>Eurygaster</i> sp.	a tortoise-bug
<i>Lygaeus saxatilis</i>	a ground bug / Cretan soldier beetle	<i>Aquarius najas</i>	Large pondskater



Graphosoma italicum on the distinctive seedpods of Mediterranean Hartwort; soldier beetle *Trichodes apiarus* on corky-fruited water dropwort; tiger beetle *Cicindela littoralis*.

BEEPLES			
<i>Trichodes apiarius</i>	a chequered beetle	<i>Carabus</i> sp.	a ground beetle
<i>Trichodes alvearius</i>	a chequered beetle	<i>Lachnaia</i> sp.	a leaf beetle
<i>Tropinota hirta</i>	a chafer	<i>Cicindela littoralis</i>	a tiger beetle
<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>	a black-and-white flower chafer	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>	Seven-spotted ladybird
ODONATA			
<i>Anax parthenope</i>	Lesser emperor	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	Scarlet darter
<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>	Brown skimmer	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Blue-tailed damselfly
ORTHOPTERA			
<i>Aiolopus strepens</i>	Long-winged grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	Egyptian grasshopper
<i>Barbitistes</i> sp.	a bush-cricket	<i>Acrida ungarica/A.turrita</i>	Nosed grasshopper
<i>Decticus</i> sp.	a wart-biter bush-cricket		
OTHER INSECTS			
<i>Myrmeleon</i> sp.	Ant lion		
SPIDERS			
<i>Philaeus chrysops</i>	a red jumping-spider	<i>Thomisus onustus</i>	a crab spider

CRETE PLANT LIST 2013

Key and nomenclature

Latin names of plants follow those used in *Flora of the Cretan Area* (Turland et al 1993) with additions from Mediterranean Wild Flowers (Blamey & Grey-Wilson 1993). Also used as references: *The Orchids of Crete and Karpathos* by Albertis Antonis (a photoguide) *Wild Flowers of Crete* by George Sfikas; *Flowers of Crete* by J Fielding & N Turland and *Wild Flowers of Crete* by Vangelis Papiomitoglou.

* = endemic to Crete P = planted NiF = not in flower
= 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>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	a horsetail
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean club-moss
CONIFERS	
Cupressaceae – Cypress Family	
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Cypress
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> var. <i>pyramidalis</i>	Funeral cypress
Pinaceae – Pine Family	
# <i>Araucaria araucana</i>	Norfolk Island pine
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Calabrian pine
# <i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone pine
FLOWERING PLANTS – Dicotyledons	
Aceraceae – Maple Family	
<i>Acer sempervirens</i>	
Aizoaceae – Aizoon Family	
# <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot fig
Anacardiaceae – Pistacio Family	
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic tree or lentisc
Apiaceae (=Umbelliferae) – Carrot Family	
<i>Apium nidiflorum</i>	Fool's watercress
<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	Bur chervil
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock samphire
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field eryngo
<i>Ferula communis</i> subsp. <i>communis</i>	Giant fennel
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel
<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	Corky-fruited water dropwort
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's needle
<i>Smyrniolus satrum</i>	Alexanders
<i>Smyrniolus perfoliatum</i> subsp. <i>rotundifolium</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Mediterranean hartwort (equally 2-lobed petals)

Asteraceae (=Compositae) – Daisy Family	
<i>Anthemis chia</i>	
<i>Anthemis rigida</i> subsp. <i>rigida</i>	Rayless chamomile
<i>Astericus (Bubonium) aquaticus</i>	
<i>Astericus maritimus</i>	Yellow sea aster
<i>Bellis annua</i>	Annual daisy
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field marigold
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i> var. <i>coronarium</i> (now <i>Glebionis coronaria</i>)	Crown daisy
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i> var. <i>discolor</i>	Crown daisy
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn marigold
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	Crupina
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Aromatic inula
<i>Filago (Evax) pygmaea</i>	Evax
<i>Filago pyramidata</i>	Broad-leaved cudweed
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Mediterranean thistle
<i>Geropogon (Tragopogon) hybridus</i>	
<i>Helichrysum (stoechas</i> subsp.) <i>barrelieri</i>	Curry-plant
<i>Helichrysum conglobatum</i>	a curry-plant without scent
<i>Pallenis (Asteriscus) spinosus</i>	Spiny golden star
<i>Phagnalon graecum</i>	Shrubby cudweed
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>	
<i>Scorzonera cretica</i>	Cretan viper's-grass
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk thistle
<i>Tragopogon sinuatus (porrifolius)</i>	Salsify
Apocynaceae – Oleander Family	
<i>Nerium oleander</i> subsp. <i>oleander</i>	Oleander
Berberidaceae – Barberry Family	
<i>Berberis cretica</i>	
Boraginaceae – Borage Family	
<i>Anchusa italica (azurea)</i>	Large blue alkanet
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage
<i>Cerinthe major</i>	Honeywort
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue hound's-tongue
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved bugloss
<i>Echium italicum</i>	Pale bugloss
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple viper's-bugloss
<i>Onosma graecum</i>	Goldendrop
<i>Symphytum creticum (Procopiania cretica)</i>	Procopiania or Cretan gorge comfrey
Cactaceae – Cactus Family	
# <i>Opuntia ficus-barbarica (Opuntia ficus-indica)</i>	Prickly pear
Campanulaceae – Bellflower Family	
<i>Campanula erinus</i>	
* <i>Campanula tubulosa</i>	
* <i>Petromarula pinnata</i>	Cretan wall lettuce
Caprifoliaceae – Honeysuckle Family	
# <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
Caryophyllaceae – Pink Family	
* <i>Cerastium scaposum</i>	Cretan mouse-ear
<i>Silene bellidifolia</i>	
<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean catchfly
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered catchfly
Cistaceae – Rockrose Family	
<i>Cistus (incanus</i> subsp.) <i>creticus</i>	Cretan cistus
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved cistus
<i>Fumana arabica</i>	
<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved fumana
Clusiaceae – St John's-wort Family	
<i>Hypericum empetrifolium</i> subsp. <i>empetrifolium</i>	Shrubby St. John's-wort
Convolvulaceae – Bindweed Family	
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved bindweed
<i>Convolvulus (althaeoides) elegantissimus</i>	cut leaves, pale in centre of flower
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Dodder

Crassulaceae – Stonecrop Family	
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	Navelwort / wall pennywort
<i>Umbilicus parviflorus</i>	Small-flowered navelwort
Cruciferae (=Brassicaceae) – Cabbage Family	
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Aubrieta
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	Buckler mustard
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea-rocket
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse
<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned stock
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild radish
* <i>Ricotia cretica</i>	Ricotia
Cucurbitaceae – Cucumber Family	
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting cucumber
<i>Bryonia cretica</i> subsp. <i>cretica</i>	Cretan white bryony
Dipsacaceae – Scabious Family	
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i> subsp. <i>mimica</i>	a two-tone scabious
Dioscoraceae – Yam Family	
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black bryony
Ericaceae – Heather Family	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i> P	Strawberry-tree
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree-heath
Euphorbiaceae – Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnus</i>	Greek spiny spurge
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Mediterranean spurge
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree spurge
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun spurge
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea spurge
# <i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor oil plant
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual mercury
Fabaceae (=Leguminosa) – Pea Family	
# <i>Acacia cyanophylla</i>	Mimosa / blue-leaved wattle
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean trefoil
<i>Anthyllus vulneraria</i> subsp. <i>praepropera</i> (= <i>rubriflora</i>)	Red (Mediterranean) 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>	Shrubby sainfoin (Cretan ebony)
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow vetchling
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Brown vetch
<i>Lupinus micranthus</i>	Hairy lupin
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted medick
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Large disk medick
<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	Cock's-comb sainfoin
<i>Ononis reclinata</i>	Small rest-harrow
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False acacia
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpiurus
<i>Securigera parviflora</i>	
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom
<i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i>	Asparagus pea
<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil
<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>	a common annual white clover
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed clover
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry clover
<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly trefoil
<i>Trifolium uniflorum</i>	One-flowered clover
<i>Tripodion (Anthyllis) tetraphyllum</i>	Bladder vetch
<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	Bithynian vetch (two-tone purple & white)
<i>Vicia cretica</i>	
<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy yellow vetchling
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder vetch

Fagaceae – Oak Family	
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes oak
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm or evergreen oak
The following are deciduous oaks on Crete, both doubtfully native:	
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy oak
<i>Quercus ithaburensis</i> subsp. <i>macrolepis</i>	Valonia oak; acorn cups with long, spreading scales
Fumariaceae – Fumitory Family	
<i>Fumaria macrocarpa</i>	
Gentianaceae – Gentian Family	
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort
<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>	Lesser centaury
Geraniaceae – Geranium Family	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common storksbill
<i>Erodium gruinum</i>	Long-beaked storksbill
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved storksbill
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved cranesbill
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved cranesbill
Lamiaceae (=Labiatae) – Mint Family	
<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i>	
<i>Coridothymus (Thymus) capitatus</i>	Shrubby thyme
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red dead-nettle
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i> P	French lavender
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem sage
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Spanish hedge-nettle
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i> (formerly <i>Salvia triloba</i>)	Shrubby or 3-leaved sage
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild clary
<i>Salvia viridis</i>	Red-topped sage
<i>Satureja (Micromeria) nervosa</i>	
<i>Satureja thymbra</i>	Summer savory
* <i>Scutellaria sieberi</i>	A big white skullcap
<i>Teucrium alpestre</i>	
Linaceae – Flax Family	
<i>Linum arboreum</i>	Tree flax
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale flax
<i>Linum strictum</i>	
Lythraceae – Loosestrife Family	
<i>Lythrum junceum</i>	
Malvaceae – Mallow Family	
<i>Lavatera cretica</i>	Lesser tree mallow
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Small-flowered mallow
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common mallow
Meliaceae – Persian Lilac family	
# <i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian bead tree or Persian lilac
Moraceae – Fig Family	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig
# <i>Morus alba</i>	White mulberry
Myrtaceae – Myrtle Family	
<i>Myrtus communis</i> subsp. <i>communis</i>	Common myrtle
Oleaceae – Olive Family	
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive
Orobanchaceae – Broomrape Family	
<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched broomrape
Oxalidaceae – Sorrel Family	
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Yellow oxalis
# <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup
Papaveraceae – Poppy Family	
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow horned-poppy
<i>Papaver argemone</i> subsp. <i>nigrotinctum</i>	
<i>Papaver purpureomarginatum</i>	
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy
Pittosporaceae – Pittosporum family	
# <i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	Pittosporum

Plantaginaceae – Plantain Family	
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buckshorn plantain
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain
Platanaceae – Plane Tree Family	
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
Polygalaceae – Milkwort Family	
# <i>Polygala x dalmaisiana</i>	Sweet pea shrub
Polygonaceae – Dock Family	
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Horned dock
Primulaceae – Primrose Family	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel (scarlet and blue forms)
* <i>Cyclamen creticum</i>	Cretan cyclamen
Punicaceae – Pomegranate family	
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate
Ranunculaceae – Buttercup Family	
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown anemone
<i>Anemone hortensis</i> subsp. <i>heldreichii</i>	
<i>Ranunculus asiaticus</i>	Turban buttercup
<i>Ranunculus peltatus</i> subsp. <i>fucoides</i>	Pond water-crowfoot
Resedaceae – Mignonette Family	
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White mignonette
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild mignonette
Rosaceae – Rose Family	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> subsp. <i>azarella</i>	Hawthorn
# <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Almond-leaved or Wild pear
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	Bramble
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i> subsp. <i>verrucosa</i>	Mediterranean salad burnet
<i>Sarcopterium spinosum</i>	Thorny burnet
Rubiaceae – Bedstraw Family	
* <i>Asperula pubescens</i> (<i>Asperula incana</i>)	showy, pale pink, on calcareous cliffs
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild madder
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder
<i>Valantia hispida</i>	
Rutaceae – Rue Family	
# <i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon
# <i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	Rue
Santalaceae – Sandalwood family	
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris
Scrophulariaceae – Figwort Family	
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow bartsia
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Shining figwort
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	Nettle-leaved figwort
* <i>Verbascum arcturus</i>	Hanging mullein
<i>Verbascum macrurum</i>	
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	Water speedwell
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	
Solanaceae – Nightshade Family	
<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	Mandrake
# <i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Tree tobacco
Styracaceae – Storax Family	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax
Tamaricaceae – Tamarix Family	
# <i>Tamarix smyrnensis</i>	Tamarisk
Thymelaeaceae – Daphne Family	
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>	Thymelea

Ulmaceae – Elm Family	
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Small-leaved elm
<i>Zelcova abelicea</i>	Zelcova, or ambelitsiá
Urticaceae – Nettle Family	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman nettle
Valerianaceae – Valerian Family	
* <i>Valeriana asarifolia</i>	Cretan valerian
Verbenaceae – Verbena Family	
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste tree
Vitaceae – Vine Family	
<i>Vitus vinifera</i>	Grape vine
Monocotyledons	
Agavaceae – Agave Family	
# <i>Agave americana</i>	Century plant
Amaryllidaceae – Daffodil Family	
<i>Narcissus tazetta</i> NiF	
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i> NiF	Sea daffodil (leaves only)
Araceae – Arum Family	
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's cowl
<i>Arum concinatum</i>	
* <i>Arum idaeum</i>	Cretan arum
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon arum
Arecaceae – Palm Family	
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary date palm
<i>Phoenix theophrasti</i>	Cretan palm
Cyperaceae – Sedge Family	
<i>Cyperus longus</i>	Galingale
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Black bog-rush
Iridaceae – Iris Family	
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field gladiolus
<i>Gynandriris sisyrrinchium</i>	Barbary nut
* <i>Iris cretensis</i>	
<i>Iris pseudocorus</i>	Yellow flag
Liliaceae – Lily Family	
<i>Allium nigrum</i>	
<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>	
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth
<i>Ornithogalum exscapum</i>	
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	A spiked star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's broom
* <i>Tulipa (saxatilis) bakeri</i>	(pink, Omalos)
* <i>Tulipa doerfleri</i>	(red, Spili)
Orchidaceae – Orchid Family	
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man orchid
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal orchid
<i>Barlia robertiana</i> NiF	Giant orchid
<i>Ophrys cretica</i>	Cretan bee orchid
<i>Ophrys (scolopax) heldreichii</i>	Marengo orchid
<i>Ophrys episcopalis / holoserica</i>	Bishop's ophrys
<i>Ophrys iricolor</i>	Rainbow orchid
<i>Ophrys sicula</i>	Sicilian yellow bee orchid
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly orchid
<i>Orchis anatolica</i>	Anatolian orchid
<i>Orchis boryi</i>	
<i>Orchis coriophora</i> subsp. <i>fragrans</i>	Bug orchid
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Italian man orchid
<i>Orchis lactea</i>	Milky orchid
<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered orchid
<i>Orchis (provincialis) pauciflora</i>	Few-flowered orchid

<i>Orchis quadripunctata</i>	Four-spotted orchid
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey orchid
<i>Serapias bergonii</i> (<i>S. vomeracea</i> subsp. <i>laxiflora</i>)	Bergon's tongue-orchid
<i>Serapias cordigera</i> subsp. <i>cretica</i>	
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue orchid
Poaceae – Grass Family	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Greater quaking-grass
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall barley
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed
Posidoniaceae – Sea-grass family	
<i>Posidonia aceanica</i>	Neptune-weed
Smilacaceae – Smilax family	
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Common smilax or sarsaparilla
Typhaceae – Reedmace family	
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	



From the top, left to right: Anatolian orchid, Marengo orchid, Cretan bee orchid, friar's cowl, crown daisies.