

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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

Telephone: 01603 300552

www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: honeyguide@tesco.net



Lesvos
23 – 30 April 2009

Lesvos
23 – 30 April 2009

Holiday participants
Dixon and Valerie Gunn
Philip Howard
George Kalli
Jenny Loring
Julie Sherwood

Leader
Rob Lucking



Our hosts at Madonna Apartments in Vatera: Dimitra and Vaios Balkizas
www.vatera-lesvos.co.uk

Apartments and Vatera Bay pictured above
Glossy ibises over Kalloni salt pans pictured on front cover

Report by Rob Lucking

Photos edged blue by Rob Lucking, edged green by Jenny Loring

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £35 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case to Friends of Green Lesbos. The conservation contribution this year of £35 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of £270. A thank-you letter from John Bowers of Friends of Green Lesbos appears at the end of this report.

The total for conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays since 1991 was £60,166 by June 2009.

Lesvos
23 – 30 April 2009

Itinerary

Thursday 23 April

Flight from Stansted to Athens and onward to Mytilini, Lesvos, arriving 20h45. Transfer to Vatera by minibus. Evening meal at Maria's taverna, Kalamakia.

Friday 24 April

Morning around Almiropotamus River mouth and upstream, west of Vatera.

Lunch at Madonna Apartments.

Afternoon at Skala Polichnitos salt pans and environs followed by wetland at Nifida.

Saturday 25 April

Leisurely drive from Vatera to Achladeri via Polychnitos salt pans.

Taverna lunch in Agiassos.

Afternoon circular walk in sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos.

Sunday 26 April

Morning and picnic lunch at Kalloni salt pans.

Coffee in Skala Kalloni and birding around Kalloni Pool and Metochi Lake.

Return to Vatera via Achladeri and roadside flower stop.

Monday 27 April

Pre-breakfast seawatch at Agia Fokas.

Morning in Napi Valley.

Picnic lunch at Skala Sikiminia.

Afternoon birding along coast road to Petra.

Tuesday 28 April

Western Lesvos.

Morning drive to Ipsilou Monastery with various stops en route.

Afternoon petrified forest park and coastal road north of Sigri.

Stop at Sigri – Eressos road junction.

Wednesday 29 April

Morning Achladeri, coastal scrub between Petra and Molivos.

Lunch at Kremastes Bridge.

Afternoon botanising in olive groves near Asomatos.

Thursday 30 April

Pre-dawn departure from Madonna Studios to airport for flight to Athens.

Lengthy wait in Athens before onward flight to Stansted which landed early.

Daily Diary

Thursday 23 April

The group met at Stansted Airport for the 10h20 Aegean Airlines flight to Athens. The flight left Stansted late but arrived in Athens ahead of schedule. After a fairly lengthy wait in Athens, the connecting flight to Mytilini got us to Lesvos for 20h45 where we were met by Dimitra's husband Vaios, collected the minibus and drove over to Madonna Studios in Vatera, our base for the week. After unloading our bags we had our first of many excellent evening meals at Maria's taverna, *Kalamakia*, just along Vatera beach.

Friday 24 April – around Vatera

For our first day we stayed local and explored the Almiropotamus river mouth at the western end of Vatera bay. The day started sunny but with a definite chill in the air. Hirundines swarmed over the river mouth. Mainly swallows but with a few each of red-rumped swallow, house martin and sand martin mixed in for good measure. A short-toed eagle hovered in the distance along with two common buzzards.

Along the river, Cetti's warblers sang their explosive song and occasionally came out into the open affording good views – a sight rarely enjoyed in the UK. A squacco heron flew down river alighting in front of a few lucky observers before continuing down to the beach. Continuing the heron theme, a male little bittern (right) crept through the reed stems in front of us, and the Balkan terrapins, giving outstanding views and a purple heron rose from the river and flapped languidly downstream.



From the ford across the river we enjoyed views of common, wood and green sandpiper together, and fine male little crane showed well with a modicum of patience.

The wayside vegetation kept the botanically minded interested with a good selection of species including two species of *Tragopogon*, splashes of field poppy and both 'normal' and large Venus's looking-glass. Butterflies included swallowtail and southern white admiral.

After a lunch of lentil soup and salad at Madonna Studios, we headed out to the Polichnitos salt pans. Unfortunately waders were few and far between on the salt pans and difficult to view in the heat haze. We estimated around fifty wood sandpipers, a couple of small groups of curlew sandpipers and little stints, two Kentish plovers and a single greenshank.

Whinchats however were common and we saw a splendid male red-backed shrike perched on a wire. Both black-headed and blue-headed wagtail fed in the damp roadside fields but first prize went to an immaculate male red-footed falcon on an overhead wire.

The arable fields yielded some botanical treasures including pheasant's eye, wild gladiolus, barbary nut and more peas and vetches than you could wave a stick at!

Further down the road we pulled over and walked through the olive groves, finding woodchat shrike, a Montagu's harrier (right, see note in bird list on page 11) and our first, and as it turned out only, black-headed bunting – a fine male.



We rounded off the day at a small wetland at Nifida which held nineteen black-winged stilts (including two on nests), a couple of wood sandpipers, a little ringed plover and a squacco heron. A small flock of yellow

wagtails, including both black-headed and blue-headed races, fed in a freshly ploughed field and perched up in adjacent tamarisks when disturbed.

After a shower and rest, we assembled at the minibus and drove the short distance to Maria's where we enjoyed taramasalata, grilled grey mullet fresh out of Kalloni Gulf and ice cream.

Saturday 25 April - Polychnitos salt pans and Agiassos

Pre-breakfast sea-watching from the veranda at Madonna Studios produced around a dozen Mediterranean shearwaters while George's walk around Vatera yielded a stonechat.



After breakfast we took the scenic coastal track from Skala Polichnitos past the salt pans to Achladeri, via Skala Vasilikon. As yesterday, the commonest wader on Polichnitos salt pans was wood sandpiper (left). Two little stints showed better than yesterday though and a flock of ten purple herons heading north were obviously migrants. Our first bee-eaters were picked up on call and then twelve seen also heading in a northerly direction. Two red-throated pipits were seen on the dividing bunds between the pans.

Carrying on past the salt pans through the olive groves, around six golden orioles flew over the olives away from us. We stopped the van but with the exception of two

fleeting views and a couple of calls, we could not relocate them. A little further on a fine male masked shrike perched obligingly for all to see.

Next stop was the open Calabrian pine woodland at Achladeri to search for one of Lesvos's speciality birds – Krüper's nuthatch. Common across the water in Turkey, Lesvos is the only place in Europe where the species

is found. A pair usually nests in the Achladeri area but this year only a male was present but was fortunately defending a territory around a suitable nest site in a rotten tree stump, presumably in the hope of attracting a female! Easily located by call, the nuthatch proved challenging to see but eventually most of the group got good views. While waiting for the nuthatch to appear we watched a pair of masked shrikes and a subalpine warbler. Back at the minibus we saw three woodchat shrikes and a cirr bunting on the overhead wires.

Lunchtime beckoned but we just had time to make a short stop in another area of pine woodland for a quick botany fix. Green-winged, Provence and loose-flowered orchids were all quickly located. Dixon and Valerie saw a Persian squirrel – Lesvos is the only place in Europe where this species can be found.

In the mountain village of Agiassos we parked at the bottom of the village and walked up through the streets to the top to meet Dimitra in a local taverna (left). Lunch was traditional Greek meze with three types of salad,



white beans, prawns, meatballs, stuffed courgette flowers and local cheeses. A pair of blue rock thrushes sang loudly from the rooftops.

After lunch we wound our way back down the village, stopping for a quick look inside the Panagia ti Vrefokratousa (Church of the Virgin Mary), and started out along the circular walk through the sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos. The song of nightingales surrounded us as we followed the cobbled *kalderim* path through the woodland. The bright lime-green leaves of false thorn-wax carpeted the woodland floor with the leaves of dragon arums also starting to show. Crown anemones provided splashes of red and purple. The walk proved to be a botanist's delight with the green flowered fritillary *Fritillaria pontica*, wild peonies, white helleborine, pyramidal orchid, Provence orchid, Reinhold's orchid and *Ornithogallum nutans* (right). The flowers of hairy birthwort were impressive as were the red waxy buds of *Cytinus hypocistus*, a relative of the rafflesia. Birds were few and far between but robin, blackbird and chiffchaff were all familiar. A couple of bursts of song from an Eastern Bonelli's warbler were less familiar but unfortunately the singer wouldn't reveal itself.



After the walk we had teas and coffees from a local kafenion (one of those little bars where the old boys sit smoking and drinking ouzo) before making our way to the bus and back to Vatera for our evening meal of stuffed peppers and tomatoes.

Sunday 26 April – Kalloni

A quick detour first thing to look at a roller, found before breakfast by Rob on the track leading up to Point Fokas. Fortunately it was still there (otherwise Rob's life wouldn't have been worth living!) and the group enjoyed exceptional views of this colourful migrant perched on overhead wires and flying down to capture beetles from the adjacent farmland. In the same area were Sardinian warblers, black-eared wheatears (right) and our first Eleonora's falcon. By the Almiropotamus river we watched half a dozen bee-eaters making their sallies from nearby bushes.



We then moved on to the Kalloni area and first to the Kalloni salt pans which are much larger than those at Polichnitos and usually better in the spring. We stopped briefly next to the new bird hide at the eastern end of the salt pans where there was a small flock of some twenty wood sandpipers and a Kentish plover. Two red-throated pipits gave good views along the track. A little farther on, a short-toed lark fed unobtrusively in the short vegetation showing off its chestnut cap to good effect.

Farther up we turned off onto the main track heading south along the western edge of the salt pans. On the first pan was a large flock of black-winged stilts squabbling noisily with a few avocets scattered amongst them. Little terns and common terns patrolled the canal around the edge of the salt pans and two stone-curlews were picked out amongst the vegetation on the bunds separating the pans. Although the light wasn't ideal, a flock of nineteen greenshanks roosted in the centre of one of the pans adjacent to the road with half a dozen curlew sandpipers.

Further along the track we came across a magnificent waterbird spectacle on the flooding fields next to the salt pans. In one small area we watched squacco, grey and purple herons, great white egrets, glossy ibises



(pictured on front cover), ruddy shelducks and both whiskered and white-winged black terns. Jenny picked up a distant black stork circling on the thermals (black stork in flight seen later in the week pictured left).

The sheep fields south-east of the salt pans held a single mute swan, red-throated pipit, two little stints and best of all two collared pratincoles. A stone-curlew was seen in flight as was a flock of twelve ruddy shelducks and in the distance, a flock of greater flamingos took to the wing.

We enjoyed our picnic lunch overlooking the flooded fields and then followed the signs to the purported Environmental Information Centre but failed to locate said centre, instead following the river back up to the main road and into Kalloni town.

We navigated through Kalloni town to the small coastal village of Skala Kalloni. In the village square we visited the tame white pelican (no, you can't count it!) and escaped the heat of the day in one of the local cafes with a coffee or frappé.

At Kalloni pool we saw our first coot of the trip as well as both little and great bittern and a short distance away at Metochi Lake, we saw little grebe and a male little crane while a male sparrowhawk caused panic amongst the hirundines.

Our attempt to relocate Krüper's nuthatch for Valerie and Julie on the way back to Vatera failed – maybe mornings are best – but we enjoyed good views of three serins and a masked shrike while the local mossies enjoyed their dinner. Us!

A quick botanical stop revealed many spikes of violet bird's nest orchid (well spotted Jenny), a species that appears to be parasitic on pine here, although some botanists believe it to be saprophytic on decaying vegetation.

Back to Vatera for a quick shower and our evening meal at Maria's of stuffed vine leaves and moussaka.

Monday 27 April – Napi Valley and Molivos

A pre-breakfast trip to Agia Fokas produced over a hundred Yelkouan shearwaters and our first hoopoe, the latter causing a spot of bother with the army who mistook our enjoyment of the hoopoe for an attempt to invade their local sentry point. Fortunately the local constabulary took a more pragmatic approach and no harm was done.

After breakfast we headed up the Napi Valley into the mixed oak and olive woodland. A brisk northerly wind was blowing and the birding was slow. Golden orioles were heard calling in the woodland and one was very briefly seen. Good views were had of singing Orphean warbler as well as masked, red-backed and woodchat shrikes. At the top of the valley, common buzzard, goshawk, short-toed eagle and peregrine were seen.

We ate our picnic lunches in the picturesque harbour of Skala Sikiminia where some of the group took the opportunity to buy postcards and enjoy a warming hot drink as the weather had clouded over and it was distinctly chilly. We then took the coastal track to Molivos stopping en route for various birds such as long-legged buzzard and short-toed eagle. An obliging turtle dove sat on overhead wires and two male Cretzschmar's buntings showed well on roadside boulders.

In the coastal scrub between Molivos and Petra, the hoped-for Rüppell's warblers refused to show in the blustery wind. A male subalpine warbler played ball though and gave good views and a ruddy shelduck flying in off the sea was a surprise. The coastal scrub did add a few new flowers to the list including the white *Cistus salvifolius* and tongue orchid. Another broad-bodied chaser was found hanging up in the vegetation, it being too cold to fly.

We then headed back to Vatera via a known scops owl roost site just outside Kalloni. Philip's sharp eyes quickly located a roosting owl tucked in tight against the trunk of a Eucalyptus tree and we all enjoyed exceptional views of this tiny little owl (right).

Dinner at Maria's tonight was stifado followed by baked apple.

Tuesday 28 April – Western Lesvos

An earlier than usual breakfast to allow an early start for our trip to the far west of the island.



Just to the north of Achladeri, four black storks fed in a coastal inlet along with eighteen little egrets, one grey heron and a great white egret. Just outside Filia we enjoyed excellent views of a long-legged buzzard and two short-toed eagles and another stop a little farther on revealed two further short-toed eagles and a woodlark singing from overhead wires. A wren singing in the background was new for the trip.

We pushed on towards Ipsilou Monastery and parked at the bottom. Walking up to the monastery, which is perched atop the dome of an extinct volcano, we quickly heard a singing cinereous bunting, another Lesvos speciality, and enjoyed good views of it singing unobtrusively from the boulder fields. Further searching revealed at least three singing males. The fluty calls of golden oriole were heard and everyone enjoyed good views of least two black and yellow male orioles in oak trees at the bottom of the valley. A pair of western rock nuthatches attended their nest, a dome constructed of mud plastered underneath a large rock. Farther up the path, the calls and songs of wood warblers surrounded us and we saw our first spotted flycatchers. A European nuthatch was an unusual sighting – the species does nest on Lesvos but in small numbers. While Rob went back down to collect the minibus (and more importantly the packed lunches!), the rest of the group took a tour of the monastery museum led by one of the resident monks and enjoyed a pair of blue rock thrushes and alpine swifts.



After Ipsilou, we stopped off for a quick visit to the Petrified Forest, a site of international geological importance for its 'petrified' trees – ancient sequoias and pines fossilised by volcanic activity 20 million years ago. A little owl was seen perched on a small farm building, a raven flew overhead and at least three chukars were new for the trip. A cluster of orchids was found at the bottom of the park but unfortunately all were still tightly closed.

We then continued west to Sigri and took a small track north of the village through an area of damp fields and scattered woodland. A small flock of falcons foraging over a nearby ridge proved to be a mixed flock of four red-footed falcons and at least seven lesser kestrels. The area was full of bee-eaters (above) and our estimate of 30+ was probably conservative. An area of young olive plantation contained a good selection of garrigue plants including both pink and white cistus, French lavender, a pale yellow rock-rose and a new tongue orchid, much bigger than those seen on the north coast the previous day. Using the new Lesvos orchid book (published only in Greek unfortunately) we later identified it as *Serapias*

orientalis. A lesser grey shrike completed the shrike list for the trip and there was a good selection of passerine migrants including whinchat, wood warbler, both pied and spotted flycatcher and more golden orioles.

Final stop of the day was the Sigri – Eressos road junction where three Isabelline wheatears, a species right on the western edge of its range in Lesvos, showed well.

A long drive back to Vatera for our dinner of pork chops.

Wednesday 29 April – Achladeri and olive groves near Asomatos

A pre-breakfast birding excursion to the western end of Vatera beach yielded two new birds for the trip. The first was crag martin with two seen flying around the abandoned hotel on the hillside. The second was an osprey that flew in off the sea and headed north.

After breakfast we headed back to Achladeri for second helpings of the Krüper's nuthatch. We were soon enjoying good views as the male attended his nest hole in a rotten pine stump.

En route to the north coast there were now five black storks in the coastal wetlands north of Achladeri and a further two seen in flight just to the north of Kalloni. By the time we reached Petra it was starting to rain but Honeyguiders are made of stern stuff and not to be put off, we parked up in the layby between Petra and Molivos for a second go at the Rüppell's warblers. We all enjoyed good views of at least three blue rock thrushes and a male red-footed falcon flew east. The most notable sighting though was of a Mediterranean Monk Seal that drifted west just offshore. With only an estimated 350-450 individuals, the Mediterranean Monk Seal is the world's most threatened pinniped and one the world's rarest mammals.

Jenny went botanising on the other side of the road and found spotted rock-rose in the garrigue. Eventually the drizzle lifted and our target species revealed itself - a pair of Rüppell's warblers. To celebrate we headed off to Molivos for a coffee/hot chocolate and enjoyed a nice adult Audouin's gull (right) in the harbour.



We had our picnic lunch at the old bridge at Kremastes along a rough track to Agia Paraskevi. No sooner had we sat down and started to tuck in, a sombre tit called behind us and we had good views of *Parus lugubris* (one of my favourite Latin names!) feeding in the olive trees.

After lunch we botanised in some olive groves just beyond Agiassos along the road to Asomatos. We located some new orchids – four-spotted orchid *Orchis quadripunctata*, sombre bee orchid *Ophrys fusca* and a further two *Ophrys* orchids.

An early return to Vatera for packing but we took the opportunity for a quick visit to the shops in Polychnitos to buy presents for friends and family.

Dinner tonight was Maria's famous meze including white and broad beans, meatballs, grilled cheese, octopus stifado, tuna salad and fried slices of courgette. Not many of the group could finish the rice pudding!

After the nightly log, the group all shared their holiday highlights. Both Dixon and Valerie enjoyed the selection of birds we saw, especially the unexpected ones, and the general ambience of Lesvos. Philip's highlight was locating and watching the roosting scops owl while George enjoyed the migrating flock of

hirundines and wood sandpipers. Jenny had lots of highlights including getting to grips with short-toed eagle identification, finding the first black stork, Reinhold's and violet bird's nest orchids and finding two broad-bodied chasers. Julie's favourite moments were getting great views of male subalpine warbler and seeing cinereous bunting and rock nuthatch within minutes of each other at Ipsilou Monastery.

Thursday 30 April

An early start for the airport. Dixon was dispatched to ride in the taxi along with our bags and with strict instructions not to let the taxi speed ahead so that Rob could follow behind in the minibus and not get lost in the road works on the outskirts of Mytilini.

Check-in at the airport at that time of the morning was straightforward and we were soon on board the rather large jet taking a rather small complement of passengers to Athens. At Athens we had a good few hours wait for our onward flight to Stansted so plenty of time for breakfast, shopping and more importantly for Rob and Jenny to go through the flower list for the trip!

The onward flight to Stansted was uneventful. Clearer skies allowed for good views of the Alps and soon we touched down at Stansted. Goodbyes were said hurriedly at baggage reclaim as Rob had a train connection to make.

I'd like to thank the group for their good company throughout and for making the holiday such an enjoyable one. Thanks as always to Dimitra and Vaios Balkizas of Madonna Studios for looking after us all so well and to Maria and Dimitris for feeding us their splendid Greek fare every night at the Taverna Kalamakia (the four are pictured below).



Systematic lists

Birds

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

2 Metochi Lake 26 April.

Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

Ca. 12 off Vatera 25 April; 100+ off Agias Fokas 27 April.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

7 Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; several off Vatera and one off Molivos 27 April; 13 off Vatera 29 April.

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

1 Kalloni pool 26 April.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

1 male Almiropotamus river Vatera 24 April; 1 Kalloni pool 26 April.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

2 Almiropotamus river Vatera, 1 Nifida 24 April; 2 Kalloni salt pans 26 April; 1 off Agias Fokas 27 April.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

1 Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; ca. 6 Kalloni salt pans 26 April; 16 on coast north of Achladeri 28 April.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

1 Kalloni salt pans 26 April; 1 near Kalloni salt pans 27 April; 1 on coast north of Achladeri 28 April.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

1 in flight near Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; 5+ Kalloni salt pans 26 April; 1 near Mandamados 27 April; 1 on coast north of Achladeri 28 April; 2 on coast north of Achladeri 29 April.

Purple heron *Ardea purpurea*

1 Almiropotamus river Vatera 24 April; 16 (a 10 and a 6) flew north at Polichnitos salt pans 25 April; 1 Kalloni salt pans 26 April; 1 north of Sigri 28 April.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

1 seen circling from Kalloni salt pans 26 April; 4 on coast north of Achladeri 28 April; 5 on coast north of Achladeri and 2 in flight north of Kalloni 29 April.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

One on a nest in Polichnitos throughout; 1 near Skala Kalloni 26 April.

Glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

35+ Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

200+ Kalloni salt pans throughout.

Mute swan *Cygnus olor*

1 immature Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

14 Kalloni salt pans 26 April; 1 in off the sea at Molivos 27 April; 2 on coast north of Achladeri 28 April.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

4 Polichnitos salt pans 24 and 25 April; 1 off Vatera beach 29 April.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

1 in off the sea at west end of Vatera beach 29 April.

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

1 Vatera 24 April; 2 near Achladeri 26 April; 1 Napi Valley, 2 between Skala Sikaminias and Molivos, 1 near Kalloni 27 April; 2 east of Filia and 2 between Filia and Skalochori 28 April.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

1 female Almiropotamus river Vatera 24 April; 1 female and 1 male near Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

1 2nd calendar year male near Polichnitos salt pans 24 April. Originally thought to be Pallid Harrier but closer examination of photos showed barring on the axillary feathers (the 'armpit') which is diagnostic of Montagu's.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Ringtail harrier at Kalloni salt pans 26 April was probably this species.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

1 female Napi Valley 27 April.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

1 male Metochi Lake 26 April.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

2 Vatera 24 April; 1 Agiassos 25 April; 2 from Kalloni salt pans 26 April; 3 Napi Valley 27 April; 1 near Ipsilou Monastery 28 April.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

1 between Skala Sikaminias and Molivos 27 April; 1 east of Filia and 1 between Vatousa and Andissa 28 April.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

7 north of Sigri 28 April.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

1 Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; 1 Napi Valley 27 April.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

1 male near Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; 1 male and 3 females north of Sigri 28 April; 1 male flying east near Molivos 29 April.

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*

1 Vatera 26 April.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

1 Napi Valley 27 April.

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*

2-3 Petrified Forest Park 28 April.

Little crane *Porzana parva*

1 male Almiropotamus river Vatera 24 April; 1 female Almiropotamus river Vatera and 1 male Metochi Lake 26 April.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

6 Almiropotamus river Vatera 24 April; 4+ Metochi Lake 26 April.

Coot *Fulica atra*

1 Kalloni pool 26 April.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

19 Nifida 24 April; 55 Kalloni salt pans 26 April; 20+ Kalloni salt pans 27 April.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

45 Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedipnemus*

2 Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

2 Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

1 Almiropotamus river Vatera, 1 Nifida 24 April; 1 Polichnitos salt pans 25 April; 2/3 Kalloni salt pans 26 April; 2 at west end of Vatera beach 29 April.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

2 Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; 3 Polichnitos salt pans 25 April; 2/3 Kalloni salt pans 26 April; 1 Kalloni salt pans 27 April.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Ca. 6 Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; 2 Polichnitos salt pans 25 April; 2 Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Ca. 6 Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; 3 Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

1 heard Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

1 Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; 19 Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

3-4 Almiropotamus river Vatera, ca. 50 Polichnitos salt pans 24 and 25 April; 100+ Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

1 Almiropotamus river Vatera, 1 near Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; 1 Polichnitos salt pans 25 April.

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*

1 adult Molivos harbour 29 April.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans michahellis*

Seen daily. Common throughout the island.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

2 near Nifida 24 April; ca. 6 Kalloni salt pans 26, 28 and 29 April; 4 off Agia Fokas 27 April.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

2 Kalloni salt pans 26, 28 and 29 April.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

4 Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

8 Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Seen daily. Common throughout the island.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

4 seen or heard near Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; 1 near Polichnitos salt pans 25 April; 1 near Achladeri 26 April; heard calling in Napi Valley and 2 seen 27 April; 2 near Sigri 28 April; heard calling in olive groves near Asomatos 29 April.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Several heard in Vatera/Polichnitos area 24 and 25 April; heard near Achladeri and 1 seen at Polychnitos hot springs 26 April; 1 Napi Valley 27 April.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

1 from taxi on way to airport on 30 April.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Active nest seen at Achladeri.

Scops Owl *Otus scops*

1 roosting in Eucalyptus outside Kalloni 27 April.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

1 Petrified Forest Park 28 April.

Swift *Apus apus*

Seen throughout.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

30+ Ipsilou Monastery 28 April; 4 Molivos 29 April.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

1 outside army sentry post near Vatera and heard in Napi Valley 27 April.

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*

Heard in sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos 25 April.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

1 near Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Seen daily. Abundant throughout the island.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

1 singing from wires between Filia and Skalochori and 1 at Ipsilou Monastery 28 April.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Seen throughout.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

2 around abandoned hotel at west end of Vatera beach 29 April.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common. Seen throughout.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

Several in hirundine flock over Almiropotamus river Vatera 24 April.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Common. Seen throughout.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

1 Almiropotamus river Vatera 24 April.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

2 Polichnitos salt pans 25 April; 3/4 Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg*

Several over Almiropotamus river Vatera and in damp fields alongside Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; several around Polichnitos salt pans 25 April; several Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*

Flock of around 20 yellow wagtails mainly of the subspecies in Nifida 24 April; several Kalloni salt pans 26 April.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Small numbers in Vatera, Polichnitos salt pans and Nifida 24 April.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

1 singing between Vatousa and Andissa 28 April.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Several singing in sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos 25 April.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Many singing in sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos 25 April; heard singing in Kalloni area 26 April; heard and seen Napi Valley 27 April; several singing between Vatousa and Andissa 28 April.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

6 around Vatera and in excess of 30 around Polichnitos salt pans, 24 April; several in Polichnitos area 25 April; seen throughout the day around Vatera and Kalloni 26 April; ca. 6 north of Sigri 28 April.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

1 Vatera 25 April.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

3 by the Sigri - Eressos road junction 28 April.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

1 male Ipsilou Monastery 28 April; 1 male west end of Vatera beach 29 April.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanicus melanoleuca*

Male on chimney at Agiassos 25 April; several in Vatera area 26 April; common in the west of the island 28 April.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

A pair at top of Agiassos and female at the bottom 25 April; a pair between Vatousa and Andissa and a pair at Ipsilou Monastery 28 April; 1 male on abandoned hotel at west end of Vatera beach and at least 3 in coastal scrub between Petra and Molivos 29 April.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

In all wooded habitats on the island.

Song thrush *Turdus philomelos*

One singing above Agiassos 25 April.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

At least 6 along Almiropotamus river Vatera with one next to Madonna Studios 24 April; 1 near Polichnitos salt pans 25 April; singing around Metochi Lake and Kalloni salt pans 26 April; one next to Madonna Studios 28 April.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

1 along Almiropotamus river Vatera, 24 April.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

1 along Almiropotamus river Vatera, 24 April; 1 Kalloni pool 26 April.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

3 along Almiropotamus river Vatera 24 April; 1 outside Kalloni II hotel 26 April; 1 singing at west end of Vatera beach 29 April.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*

Several along Almiropotamus river Vatera 24 April; 1 Agia Foka 27 April; several around mouth of Vourkos river at west end of Vatera Bay on 29 April.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

1 Vatera and 1 Achladeri 25 April; several Napi Valley and Molivos 27 April; several seen well in the western part of the island 28 April with a very confiding male between Vatousa and Andissa.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

Seen or heard around Madonna Studios, Vatera most days.

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia ruepelli*

Pair in coastal scrub between Petra and Molivos 29 April.

Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis crassirostris*

2 Napi Valley 27 April; 1 in coastal scrub between Petra and Molivos 29 April.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

1 along Almiropotamus river Vatera 24 April.

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*

1 singing above Agiassos 25 April.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Many on the slopes of Ipsilou Monastery and north of Sigri 28 April.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Several on the slopes of Ipsilou Monastery and north of Sigri 28 April.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

1 near Metochi Lake 26 April; singles between Vatousa and Andissa, on the slopes of Ipsilou Monastery and north of Sigri 28 April.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

1 above Agiassos 25 April; 2 Napi Valley 27 April; between Vatousa and Andissa 28 April.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Seen in all wooded areas throughout.

Sombre Tit *Parus lugubris*

1 by Kremastes Bridge 29 April.

Kruper's Nuthatch *Sitta krueperi*

1 Achladeri 25 and 29 April.

Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer zarudnyi*

2 at nest Ipsilou Monastery 28 April.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

1 at Ipsilou Monastery and another probable between Vatousa and Andissa 28 April.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Ca. 6 near Polichnitos 25 April; calling in Napi Valley 27 April; 2 males at Ipsilou Monastery and 4 males/1 female north of Sigri 28 April.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Male near Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; female Napi Valley 27 April; pair north of Sigri 28 April.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

1 north of Sigri 28 April.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

1 near Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; 3 Achladeri 25 April; 1 Vatera 26 April; 1 Napi Valley 27 April; 1 north of Sigri 28 April.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

Male near Polichnitos salt pans and 2 Achladeri 25 April; 1 Achladeri 26 April; 1 Napi Valley 27 April.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius atricapillus*

1 near Vatera 26 April; 1 Molivos 27 April; 1 between Vatousa and Andissa 28 April.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Seen daily and common throughout.

Raven *Corvus corax*

1 near Achladeri 25 April; 1 over petrified forest park 28 April.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen daily.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Seen most days.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Seen daily and common throughout.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

Singing at Achladeri 25 April; 3 at Achladeri 26 April; 1 west end of Vatera bay 29 April.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Seen daily and common throughout.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Seen daily and common throughout.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

Male at Achladeri 25 April; pair in coastal scrub between Petra and Molivos 27 April.

Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea*

3 singing males Ipsilou Monastery 28 April.

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*

2 males between Skala Sikiminiias and Molivos 27 April; several singing on west coast 28 April.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*

Male near Polichnitos salt pans 24 April.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Seen daily and common throughout – possibly the commonest bird on Lesvos!

Total – 127 species

Mammals

Eastern Hedgehog *Erinaceus concolor* -
1 road casualty.
Bat *spp.* - Seen on several evenings along
Vatera beach front.
Persian Squirrel *Sciurus anomalus* -
1 in pinewoods near Achladeri on 25 April.

House mouse *Mus musculus* -
1 at Madonna Studios – cat casualty!
Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* -
1 from taxi on way to airport on 30 April.
Mediterranean Monk Seal *Monachus monachus* -
1 offshore between Petra and Molivos on 29 April.

Amphibians and Reptiles

Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda* - Heard croaking in most
freshwater wetland areas.
Balkan (= stripe-necked) Terrapin *Mauremys rivulata* -
Seen hauled out at the mouth of the Almiropotamus
river and at Metochi Lake.
Green Lizard *Lacerta viridis* (right) - Several seen very
well in sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos 25 April.
Turkish Gecko *Hemidactylus turcicus* –
1 at Madonna Studios – another cat casualty!



Butterflies

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon* (below) -
1 Vatera 24 April; 1 Kalloni salt pans 26 April.



Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius* -
1 Kalloni salt pans 26 April.
Eastern Festoon *Zerynthia cerisy* -
Above Agiassos 25 April.
Large White *Pieris brassicae* -
Seen throughout.
Small White *Artogeia rapae* -
Seen throughout.

Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines* -
Seen most days.
Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea* -
Seen most days.
Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus* -
Above Agiassos 25 April.
Southern White Admiral *Limenitis reducta* -
1 Vatera 24 April.
Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* -
1 Agiassos 25 April.
Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* -
Several seen during course of week.
Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* -
1 Ipsilou Monastery 28 April.
Large Wall Brown *Lasiommata maera* -
1 Molivos 29 April.
Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* -
1 Agiassos 25 April.
Small Skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris* -
1 Molivos 29 April.

Dragonflies

Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa* (right) -
1 above Agiassos 25 April and 1 between Petra and
Molivos 29 April.
Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans* -
1 Almiropotamus river mouth, Vatera 24 April.



Grasshoppers and Crickets

Field Cricket *Gryllus campestris*.
Bush-cricket sp.- Several early instars seen.
Blue-winged Grasshopper *Oedipoda germanica* -
1 Achladeri pinewoods 25 April.

Egyptian Locust *Anacridium aegyptium* - 1 near
Polichnitos salt pans 24 April.

Other invertebrates

Common Cockchafer *Melolontha melolontha* -
1 (dead) outside Madonna studios 26 April.
Dung Beetle sp. Lots of black beetles seen.
Yellow-and-black Flat-backed Millipede -
Several found under stones at Agiassos 25 April.
Antlion *Ascalapidae* sp? - 1 Ipsilou Monastery
28 April.
Spider sp. *Philaeus chrysops* - Several Napi Valley
27 April.
Caterpillar of the noctuid moth *Cucullia calendulae*
pictured right on rayless mayweed *Anthemis rigida* -
Kremastes 29 April.



Plants

The most incomplete of the lists. Common plants from northern Europe generally omitted. With thanks to Brian Anderson for some clarifications and obscure species.

Trees and shrubs (except those noted in families below)

Calabrian pine *Pinus halepensis* ssp. *Brutia*.
Stone pine *Pinus pinea* - Introduced to the island.
Italian cypress *Cupressus sempervirens* - Frequent and widespread, in both its 'normal' and columnar ('funeral cypress') forms.
Sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*.
Kermes oak *Quercus coccifera* - Evergreen, with small holly-like leaves.
Valonia oak *Quercus aegilops* - Its acorn cups are unmistakable – large, with thick, flattened re-curved scales. In the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa.
Downy oak *Quercus pubescen*.
Fig *Ficus carica*.
Oriental plane *Platanus oriental*.
A riparian species.
Tamarisk sp. *Tamarix* sp.
Oleander *Nerium oleander* ssp. *Oleander*.
Judas tree *Cercis siliquastrum* - Planted widely in Petrified Forest park.

Rafflesia family

Cytinus *Cytinus hypocistis* ssp. *clusii* (*Cytinus ruber*).

Sandalwood family

Osyris *Osyris alba*.

Birthwort family

Hairy birthwort *Aristolochia hirta* (right).

Fathen family

Sea purslane *Halimione portulacoides*.

Sea beet *Beta vulgaris ssp. maritima*.

Shrubby seablite *Suaeda vera*.

Aizoon family

Red hottentot fig *Carpobrotus acinaciformis*.

Pink family

Forked catchfly *Silene dichotoma*.

Small-flowered catchfly *Silene gallica*.

Mediterranean catchfly *Silene colorata ssp. colorata*.

**Buttercup family**

Peacock anemone *Anemone pavonina*.

Water-crowfoot sp. *Ranunculus sp.*

Pheasant's-eye *Adonis annua*.

Celery-leaved buttercup .

Peonies

Peony *Paeonia mascula ssp. arietina*.

Poppies

Common field poppy *Papaver rhoeas*.

A Poppy *Papaver minus?*

Yellow-horned poppy *Glaucium flavum*.

Hypecoum imberbe.

Fumitory family

Ramping fumitory *Fumaria capreolata*.

A simplification of a complex and difficult group.

Crucifers – cress family

Spring rock-cress *Arabis verna* - Agiassos.

Three-horned stock *Matthiola tricuspidata* - Vatera beach.

'Lesvos alison' *Alyssum lesbiacum* - Abundant on, and a marker for, serpentine rocks that chromium is mined from and is toxic to many plants. Not in Blamey.

Mignonettes

White mignonette *Reseda alba*.

Stonecrops

Reddish stonecrop *Sedum rubens*.

Navelwort sp. *Umbilicus sp.*

Saxifrages

A saxifrage *Saxifraga hederifolia*.

Saxifrage sp. *Saxifraga sp.*

Leaf similar to Meadow saxifrage *S. granulata* in appearance.

Rose family

Thorny burnet *Sarcopoterium spinosum* - A widespread, frequently dominant component of the garrigue.

Almond-leaved pear *Pyrus spinosa* (*Pyrus amygdaliformis*) - Common and widespread.

Pea family

Hairy thorny broom *Calycotoma villosa* - Occasional component of the garrigue and maquis.

Coronilla (orientalis) balansae - Abundant small yellow pea, in fields and pavement cracks in Vatera. Not in Blamey.

Disc trefoil *Hymenocarpus circinatus*.

Yellow vetchling *Lathyrus aphaca* or something very similar with smaller, pale yellow flowers.

Annual Yellow Vetchling *Lathyrus annuus*.

Lathyrus gorgonei or similar with nettle leaf shaped bracts.

Narrow-leaved lupin *Lupinus angustifolius*.

Tree medick *Medicago arborea* - Planted widely in Petrified Forest.

Sea medick *Medicago littoralis* - Abundant on Vatera beach.

Disc medick *Medicago orbicularis*.

False acacia *Robinia pseudacacia*.

Shield clover *Trifolium clypeatum*.
Reversed clover *Trifolium resupinatum*.
Star clover *Trifolium stellatum*.
Woolly clover *Trifolium tomentosum*.
One-flowered clover *Trifolium uniflorum* - Prostrate clover on paths in Petrified Forest Park.
A blue fenugreek *Trigonella coerulescens* - Abundant on Vatera beach.
Hairy yellow vetchling *Vicia hybrid*.
Common vetch *Vicia sativa*.
Vicia narbonensis.
Vicia melanops.
Fodder vetch *Vicia villosa*.

Sorrel family

Bermuda buttercup *Oxalis pes-caprae* - Occasional under olives and on waste ground.

Crane's-bills and stork's-bills

Shining crane's-bill *Geranium lucidum*.
Dove's-foot crane's-bill *Geranium molle*.
Little Robin *Geranium purpureum*.
Long-beaked stork's-bill *Erodium gruinum* - Vatera.

Flaxes

Pale flax *Linum bienne*.
White flax *Linum tenuifolium*.

Spurges

Sun spurge *Euphorbia helioscopia*.
Euphorbia myrsinites.
Narrow-leaved glaucous spurge *Euphorbia rigida*.
Large Mediterranean spurge *Euphorbia (characias) wulfenii*.
Annual mercury *Mercurialis annua*.

Pistacio family

Mastic tree *Pistacia lentiscus* - a frequent component of maquis.

Mallows

Common mallow *Malva sylvestris*.

Rockrose family

Cistus creticus ssp. creticum.
Sage-leaved cistus *Cistus salvifolius*.
Fumana laevipes - the unspotted, pale yellow rockrose.
Spotted rockrose *Tuberaria guttata*.

Cucumber family

Squirting cucumber *Ecballium elaterium*.

Umbellifers – carrot family

Thorow-wax sp. *Bupleurum sp.*
Sea holly *Eryngium maritimum*.
Giant fennel *Ferula communis ssp. communis* - Conspicuous along many roadside verges.
Perfoliate alexanders *Smyrniium perfoliatum*.
Water dropwort sp. *Oenanthe sp.*
Shepherd's needle *Scandix pecten-veneris*.
Tordylium or Mediterranean hartwort *Tordylium apulum*.

Primrose family

Purple loosestrife *Lysimachia atropurpurea* - a different species to what we call purple loosestrife in the UK.
Scarlet pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis* - Both the blue- and scarlet-flowered forms.
Ivy-leaved sowbread *Cyclamen hederifolium* - above Agiassos and in olive groves near Asomatos.

Thrift family

Winged sea lavender *Limonium sinuatum*.

Bedstraw family

Field madder *Sherardia arvensis*.

Bindweed family

Mallow-leaved bindweed *Convolvulus althaeoides*.

Borage family

Blue houndstongue *Cynoglossum creticum*.

Undulate anchusa *Anchusa undulata*.

Purple viper's bugloss *Echium plantagineum*.

Labiates - mint family

Large deadnettle *Lamium garganicum*.

Henbit deadnettle *Lamium amplexicaule* ssp. *amplexicaule*.

French lavender *Lavandula stoechas*.

Marjoram *Origanum vulgare*.

Potato family

Shrub tobacco *Nicotiana glauca* - Naturalised garden escape in Molivos.

Figwort family

Nettle-leaved figwort *Scrophularia peregrine*.

A mullein *Verbascum undulatum*.

A bartsia *Parentucellia latifolia*.

Broomrapes

Broomrape sp. *Orobanche* sp.

Plantains

Buck's-horn plantain *Plantago coronopus*.

Ribwort plantain *Plantago lagopus*.

Sea plantain *Plantago maritima*.

Valerian family

Pink valerian *Centranthus calcitrapae* ssp. *calcitrapae*.

Cornsalad sp. *Valerianella* sp.

Bellflower family

Nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium*.

A large Venus's looking-glass *Legousia pentagonica* - Adjacent to the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera and elsewhere.

Composites – daisy family

Woolly chamomile *Anthemis tomentosa*.

A mayweed *Anthemis chia*.

Rayless mayweed (= Rayless chamomile) *Anthemis rigida*.

Astericus aquaticus.

Field marigold *Calendula arvensis*.

Cornflower *Centaurea cyanus*.

Crown daisy *Chrysanthemum coronarium*.

Corn marigold *Chrysanthemum segetum*.

Pink hawkbeard *Crepis rubra*.

A Leopards bane *Doronicum orientale*.

Milk thistle *Silybum marianum*.

Salsify *Tragopogon porrifolius*.

Chicory *Cichorium intybus*.

Monocotyledons**Lily family**

White asphodel *Asphodelus ramosus* (*Asphodelus albus* ssp. *albus*).

Pontic fritillary *Fritillaria pontica*.

Gladiolus sp. *Gladiolus* sp. - In arable fields near Polichnitos.

Tassel hyacinth *Muscari comosum* - Abundant in the stream valley above Melinda on 19 April.

Common grape hyacinth *Muscari neglectum*.

Drooping star-of-Bethlehem *Ornithogalum nutans*.

Star-of-Bethlehem *Ornithogalum umbellatum*.

Yam family

Black bryony *Tamus communis*.

Irises

Barbary-nut *Moraea sisyrinchium*.

Arums

Common dragon arum *Dracunculus vulgaris*.

Orchids

Violet bird's nest orchid *Limodorum abortivum* - Many flowering spikes in pine woodland site between Achladeri/Agiassos road junction on 26 April (photo 1).

Narrow-leaved helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia* - In sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 25 April (photo 2).

Green-winged orchid *Orchis morio* ssp. *picta* (also known as Painted orchid) - At the edge of the pine forest near the T-junction on the Achladeri/Agiassos road on 25 April.

Loose-flowered orchid *Orchis laxiflora* - At the edge of the pine forest near the T-junction on the Achladeri/Agiassos road on 25 April.

Provence orchid *Orchis provincialis* - At the edge of the pine forest near the T-junction on the Achladeri/Agiassos road on 25 April.

Four-spotted orchid *Orchis quadripunctata* - In olive groves near Asomatos 29 April (photo 3).

Toothed orchid *Orchis tridentata* - In sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 25 April (photo 4).

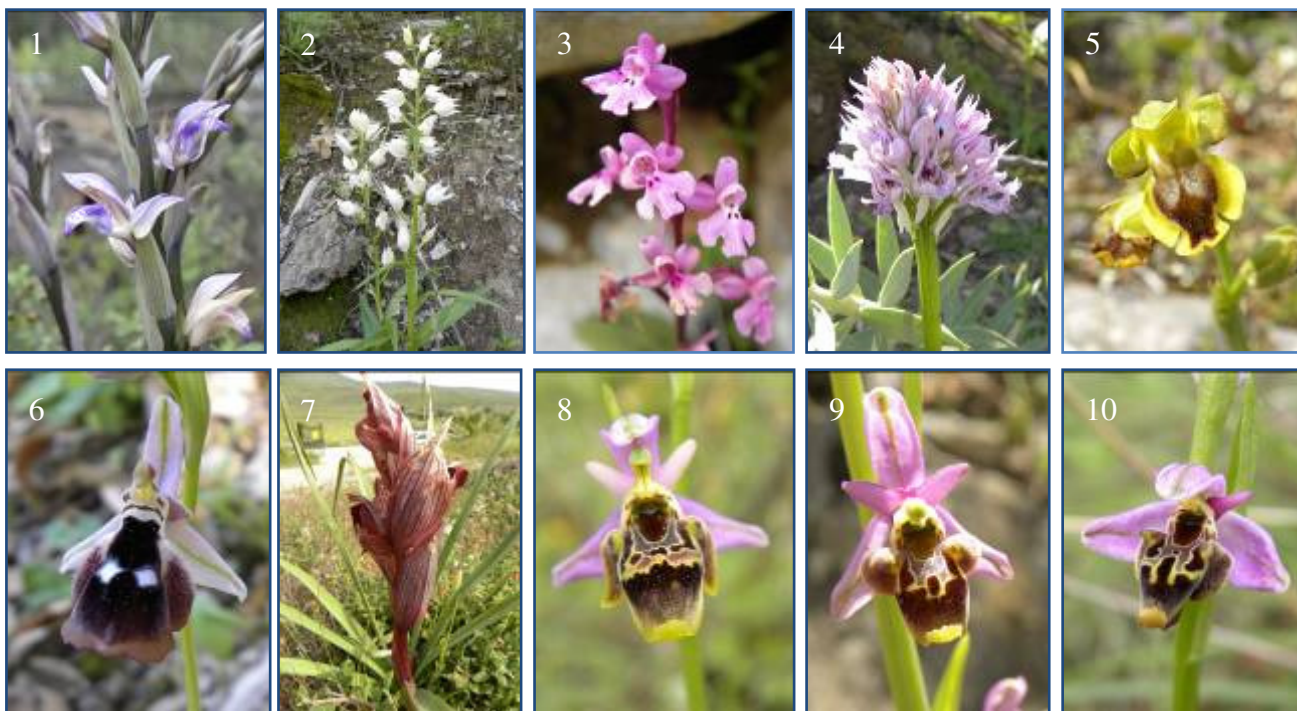
Lesser yellow bee orchid *Ophrys sicula* (*Ophrys lutea* ssp. *minor*) - In olive groves near Asomatos 29 April (photo 5).

Reinhold's orchid *Ophrys reinholdii* - In sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 25 April (photo 6).

Small-flowered tongue-orchid *Serapias parviflora*.

Serapias orientalis (photo 7).

Ophrys sp. (woodcock orchid types) – In olive groves near Asomatos 29 April (photos 8-10).



Grasses and rushes, etc. (very incomplete)

Giant reed *Arundo donax* - Introduced.

Common reed *Phragmites australis*.

Large quaking grass *Briza maxima*.

Ferns

Rustyback *Ceterach officinarum* - In the stone wall beside the track above Agiassos.

Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*.

FRIENDS OF GREEN LESBOS

acting on behalf of the environment and future generations

www.greenlesbos.com

6 Ashwood Terrace
Leeds LS6 2EH
England
Email: jkbowers@gxn.co.uk
14th March 2009

Chris Durdin
HoneyGuide Wildlife Holidays
36 Thunder Lane
Thorpe St Andrew
Norwich NR7 0PX

Dear Chris

On behalf of Friends of Green Lesbos I am writing to thank the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust for their generous gift. You may rest assured that we will use the money to defend the wildlife of Lesbos.

Sincerely



John Bowers
President