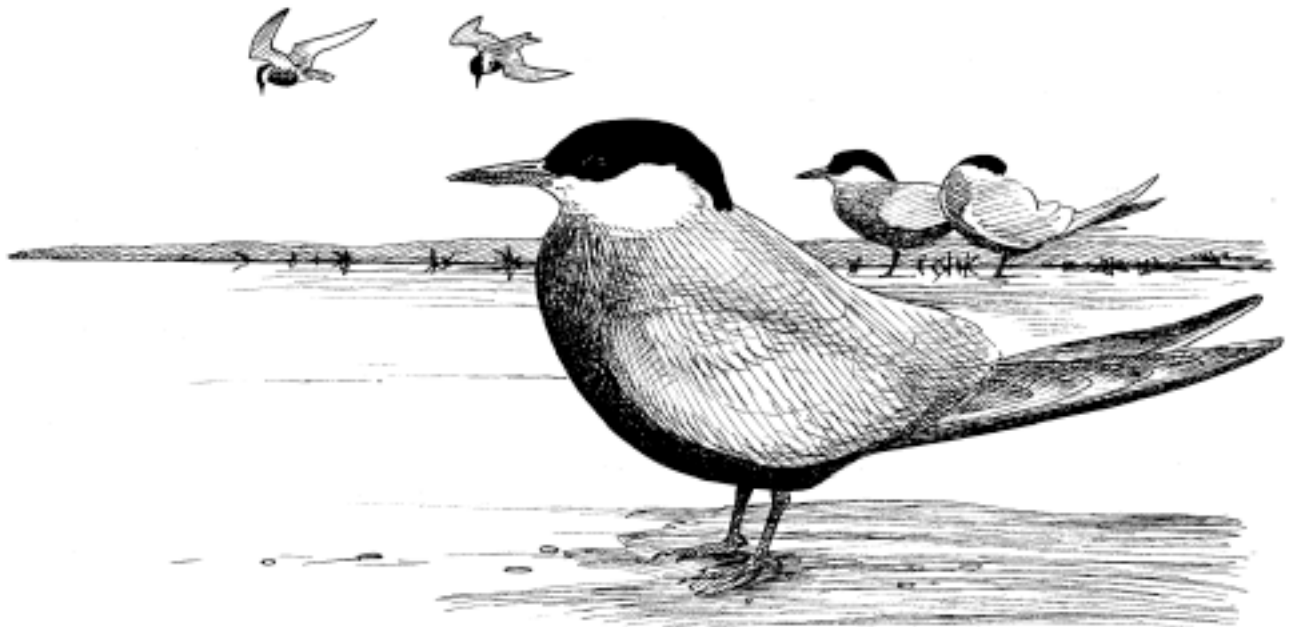


Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0PX
Telephone: 01603 300552 evenings & weekends
www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: honeyguide@tesco.net



**Eastern Greece
5 – 12 May 2006**

Eastern Greece
5–12 May 2006 (with Athens extension 12–14 May)
Cambridge RSPB local group

The group:

Thea Cockcroft
Audrey Meaney

Andrew Camps

Melvyn Smith
Brenda Smith

Leaders

Steve Henson
Ivan Nethercoat

Poringland, Norwich
Beverley, Yorkshire

Report by Steve Henson.

Illustrations by Rob Hume, except field cricket by Maureen Gibson

Front cover: whiskered terns

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year of £25 per person towards WWF Greece's Dadia Project was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of €224 (£160). This brings the total conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays since 1991 to £43,378 (£60,729) at the end of September 2006. A thank-you letter from WWF Greece is the final page of this holiday report.

Some of the photos that Ivan Nethercoat took on this holiday are in a gallery on Honeyguide's website: see <http://www.honeyguide.co.uk/greece.htm>

Itinerary & highlights

Friday 5/5/06 – east bound

Afternoon Olympic Airways flight from London Heathrow at 12:20hrs, arriving Athens 17:55hrs (Greek time).

Drinks and evening meal in Athens airport.

Internal evening flight to Alexandroupolis ('Alex') at 21:20hrs, arriving around 22:20hrs. Picked up the minibus at the airport and drove north on Route 95 to the Ecotourism Centre on the edge of Dadia village.

Saturday 6/5/06 – Dadia and the Diavolorema Valley

Morning: relaxing circular walk through Dadia village, downhill through farmland into the Diavolorema River valley, northeast of the village.

Lunch in Dadia at the taverna in the square.

Late afternoon: walk by the Diavolorema River, northeast of the village. Discovered 'Bunting Corner'!

Evening taverna meal in the village.

Highlights of the day were: spur-thighed tortoise, lesser spotted eagles displaying over the river valley, the diversity of raptors, the migrating storks, waking up to the song of a nightingale, seeing nightingale, black-headed bunting and all the buntings at 'Bunting Corner'!

Sunday 7/5/06 – vultures and an introduction to the Evros delta

Morning: a visit by bus to the raptor 'feeding station', Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park.

Afternoon: Anthi lagoons and the beach, Evros Delta, west of the Loutros River.

Evening taverna meal in the village.

Highlights of the day were: 'marsh' terns feeding over the lagoons near Anthi, collared pratincole and the roadside rollers.

Monday 8/5/06 – return to the delta

Evros Delta - open arable and scrubby area north of the railway line, the Sarantametros Canal and circuit of Drana Lagoon.

Picnic lunch at Drana Lagoon.

Evening taverna meal in the village.

Highlights of the day were: the large group of waders on Drana Lagoon, the exceedingly cute and fluffy little ringed plover chicks and for the holiday leaders at least, the great spotted cuckoo.

Tuesday 9/5/06 – the peace and tranquillity of Kapsalo

Morning: the high, craggy rocks and radio mast at Kapsalo in Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi.

Picnic lunch.

Afternoon: leisurely afternoon, northwest of Lefkimi. Stream valley 'meadow', scrub and woodland.

Afternoon cakes, ice-creams and drinks in Provatonas.

Evening taverna meal in the village.

Highlights of the day were: green lizard, the wild tulips and last but not least, the views

from and the peace and tranquillity of Kapsalo.

Wednesday 10/5/06 – in the restricted zone

Evros Delta.

Morning: slide presentation by Eleni Makrigianni at the Evros Delta Visitor Centre at Traianoupolis, followed by a lagoon boat trip through the saltmarsh towards the sea and a guided tour of Drana Lagoon and Anthi lagoons.

Picnic lunch.

Afternoon: a guide-free visit to the restricted access, eastern part of the delta, eventually exiting at Feres.

Evening taverna meal in the village.

Highlights of the day were: adult white-tailed eagle carrying food, a marsh harrier 'food pass', the perched male Levant sparrowhawk, spotted redshank, bee-eater and for Melvyn and Brenda, the post-evening meal giant peacock moth on the road in Dadia village.

Thursday 11/5/06 – around Dadia and a trip to 'Turkish' Soufli

Walk through Dadia village, downhill through woodland, scrub and small fields into the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village.

Picnic lunch under the hedge near 'Shrike Corner'.

Late afternoon: shopping trip into Soufli.

Evening taverna meal in the village.

Highlights of the day were: pallid swifts in Soufli, golden oriole seen from the minibus, Orphean warblers feeding young and a southern white admiral butterfly through the 'scope.

Friday 12/5/06 – homeward bound (via an Athens weekend)

Very early morning: departed Dadia Ecotourism Centre as dawn broke with a thunderstorm, southwards on Route 95 again for a delayed 07:10hrs Olympic Airways flight from Alexandroupolis to Athens. There, Steve and Ivan bid the group a hasty farewell before rushing through transfers, just managing to catch their 09:20hrs onward flight to London Heathrow, leaving behind Andrew, Audrey, Thea, Brenda and Melvyn to enjoy their weekend stay in Athens.

<p>Highlights of the week were: the 'marsh' terns at the lagoons near Anthi, the Evros Delta lagoons themselves, 'thermallling' white storks, the adult white-tailed eagle carrying food, masked shrike and seeing wild tortoises!</p>



Systematic lists

Birds

English and scientific names and status are based on *The Birds of Greece* (Handrinos & Akriotis 1997) except under Mediterranean Shearwater and Bonelli's Warbler which are now considered, following a taxonomic review, to be the distinct species Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* and Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis* respectively. Status refers to Greece as a whole.

Little Grebe

Widespread and locally common resident

Two, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, on 7 May, with one also seen there 10 May.

Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

A raft of c.250 in the bay offshore from the Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.

Cormorant

Fairly widespread and locally common resident, common and widespread winter visitor

Small numbers on the Evros Delta, mainly in the coastal margins, on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Pygmy Cormorant

Scarce and local resident, locally common winter visitor

One, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.

White Pelican

Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant

Groups of 11, four, three & five circling north of Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May & one in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Bittern

Widespread but scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Heard booming, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.

Little Bittern

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

One in *Phragmites* reed near the bridge over the Sarantametros Canal on 8 May & one dead on the track in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Squacco Heron

Common but local summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant

c.30, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May, with seven there 10 May & two Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Little Egret

Fairly common and widespread resident, common and widespread passage migrant

Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Great White Egret

Rare and local resident, widespread and locally common winter visitor

One, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May & four, Evros Delta on 10 May.

Grey Heron

Common and widespread resident

Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Purple Heron

Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common passage migrant

Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Black Stork

Rare and local summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May, including birds over Dadia National Park & the Diavolorema River valley north of Dadia, where there was a maximum of seven birds on 6 May.

White Stork

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May, with a number of occupied nests including at Provatonas and in Soufli town, but not in Dadia this year where the nest had fallen down – at least one of the pair remained, perched on the still present nest frame atop the telegraph pole. Thermalling flocks of 350, 96, 80, 76 & 50 over Dadia village & the Diavolorema River valley north of Dadia on 6 May; a flock of c.100 over the national highway near Lyfkon on 7 May & a thermalling flock of 72 over the western side of the Evros Delta near Traianoupolis on 10 May.

Glossy Ibis

Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and widespread passage migrant

Five, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May, with seven there on 10 May.

Spoonbill

Rare and local resident

Two, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 10 May.



Greater Flamingo

Fairly widespread and locally common non-breeding visitor

A distant 80+, Evros Delta on 8 & 10 May.

Mute Swan

Rare and local resident, locally common winter visitor

107, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May & also seen on the Evros Delta, 8 & 10 May.

Ruddy Shelduck

Scarce and local partial migrant

Two in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Shelduck

Scarce and local resident, fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor

Small numbers, Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Wigeon

Fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor

One, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 & 10 May.

Gadwall

Scarce and local resident, fairly common winter visitor

One, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 & 10 May.

Mallard

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, very common and widespread winter visitor

Five, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, on 7 May & five in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Garganey

Scarce and local summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant

c.50 at the Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.

Shoveler

Fairly widespread and common winter visitor and passage migrant

15 Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May, with two there 10 May.

Honey Buzzard

Widespread but scarce summer visitor and passage migrant

One over the Ecotourism Centre near Dadia Village on 6 May.

Black Kite

Rare and local resident, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Two in riverine forest adjacent to the River Evros, in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta near Feres on 10 May.

White-tailed Eagle

Rare and local resident.

An adult, carrying food, flew over the national highway on the western side of the Evros Delta near Traianoupolis on 10 May.

Egyptian Vulture

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

Two, Dadia village on 6 May; three at the raptor feeding station, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park on 7 May & a single, Dadia village area on 10 May.

Griffon Vulture

Fairly common but local resident

Nine at the raptor feeding station, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park on 7 May & two at Kapsalo (the radio mast), Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Black Vulture

Rare and local resident

Circa six over Dadia village and the edge of Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park on 6 May; 14 at the raptor feeding station, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park on 7 May & *circa* six at Kapsalo (the radio mast), Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Short-toed Eagle

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Marsh Harrier

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, common winter visitor and passage migrant

One over farmland on the edge of the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May & good numbers on the Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Montagu's Harrier

Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and widespread passage migrant

A female, west of the Sarantametros Canal on the western side of the Evros Delta on 8 May & a 'ringtail' of indeterminate age and sex in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta near Feres on 10 May.



Levant Sparrowhawk

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

Three over farmland on the edge of the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May & 1-3 seen daily, 8-11 May, including a male perched on a telegraph pole in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta near Feres on 10 May.

Buzzard

Common and widespread resident and winter visitor

Over farmland on the edge of the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May & seen daily, in several locations, 9-11 May.

Long-legged Buzzard

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common partial migrant

An immature near the national highway, on the western side of the Evros Delta near Traianoupolis on 8 May.

Lesser Spotted Eagle

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

c.5 over the Dadia area and the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May & seen daily, 8-11 May including three in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Booted Eagle

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

Two over the Dadia area and the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 6 May; a single near Doriskos on 7 May.

Kestrel

Common and widespread resident

Seen daily on 7-11 May, including a pair at Kapsalo (the radio mast), Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Red-footed Falcon

Common and widespread passage migrant

Three over the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 6 May & a female over farmland near the River Evros, in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta near Feres on 10 May.

Hobby

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Singles seen daily on 6-8 May & two in riverine forest adjacent to the River Evros, in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta near Feres on 10 May.

Peregrine

Widespread but scarce resident and winter visitor

Two at Kapsalo (the radio mast), Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Chukar

Fairly widespread and locally common resident

One heard calling at Kapsalo (the radio mast), Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Moorhen

Common and widespread resident

Evros Delta on 7, 8 and 10 May.

Coot

Common and widespread resident, very common winter visitor

Evros Delta on 7 and 10 May.

Oystercatcher

Scarce and local resident, fairly common winter visitor

Small numbers, Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Black-winged Stilt

Fairly widespread and locally common summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant

Evros Delta on 7 & 8 May.

Avocet

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common resident and winter visitor

Four, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Collared Pratincole

Fairly common but local summer visitor, widespread passage migrant

Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May, with maximum of five on both 7 & 8 May.

Little Ringed Plover

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

One at the Diavolorema River, north of Dadia village, on 6 May; a pair with two recently-fledged young, east of Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8 May & one in the in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Ringed Plover

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, rare winter visitor

Two on the shoreline, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May & 14, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Kentish Plover

Common and widespread resident

Evros Delta on 7, 8 and 10 May; maximum three on the beach including a female sitting on the nest, Anthi

lagoons on 7 May.

Grey Plover

Fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor and passage migrant

Evros Delta on 8 & 10 May; maximum 27+ on 8 May.

Spur-winged Plover

Rare and local summer visitor

c.6 in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Lapwing

Scarce and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor

Four, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May & also seen on the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Sanderling

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May, maximum 16 on the shoreline, Anthi lagoons, 7 May.

Little Stint

Very common and widespread passage migrant, locally common winter visitor

Evros Delta on 8 & 10 May; maximum 28 in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Curlew Sandpiper

Widespread and locally common passage migrant

Evros Delta on 8 & 10 May; maximum c.37 on 8 May & 35 in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Dunlin

Common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant

Evros Delta on 8 & 10 May; maximum c.18 on 8 May.

Ruff

Very common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

Evros Delta on 7 & 10 May; maximum 30 in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Whimbrel

Widespread but scarce passage migrant

Two on the saltmarsh fringing Laki Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Curlew

Common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant

Several on the saltmarsh fringing Laki Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Spotted Redshank

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May; maximum 49 in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Greenshank

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

A single, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Wood Sandpiper

Common and widespread passage migrant

Four, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 10 May.

Common Sandpiper

Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and widespread passage migrant

A single, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Turnstone

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant

One on the shoreline, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May; two, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May & one in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Mediterranean Gull

Widespread and locally common resident

Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Little Gull

Widespread and locally common passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

A single first-year bird, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Black-headed Gull

Rare and local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor

A single, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Yellow-legged Gull

Very common and widespread resident

Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Sandwich Tern

Rare and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant

One along the shoreline, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.

Common Tern

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Evros Delta on 7 & 10 May.

Little Tern

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers, Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Whiskered Tern

Rare and local summer visitor, common passage migrant

36 in a mixed flock of 72 marsh terns, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.

Black Tern

Rare and local summer visitor, common passage migrant

Twelve in a mixed flock of 72 marsh terns, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May; a flock of c.20, Evros Delta on 8 May & a single, Evros Delta on 10 May.

White-winged Black Tern

Common and widespread passage migrant

24 in a mixed flock of 72 marsh terns, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May & three with black terns, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Collared Dove

Common and widespread resident

Seen daily, 7-11 May.

Turtle Dove

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Great Spotted Cuckoo

Rare and local summer visitor and passage migrant

An adult seen by Ivan and Steve as it flew from scrub in front of the minibus, on the western edge of the Evros Valley near the national highway north of Monastiraki, 8 May.

Cuckoo

Fairly widespread but scarce summer visitor, widespread and fairly common passage migrant

Small numbers seen or heard daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Little Owl

Fairly common and widespread resident

One in Dadia village on 8 May.

Swift

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Pallid Swift

Common and widespread summer visitor

c.8-10 circling the houses near the railway line and seen at the nest nearby, in Soufli on 11 May.

Bee-eater

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May including 33 over the Dadia and Diavolorema River Valley on 6 May & 39+ over the Evros Delta on 8 May.

Roller

Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen perched on wires over open scrub and farmland adjacent to Route 95 between Peplos south to the Monastiraki area, particularly around the turning to Doriskos at Akriati: 13 on 7 May including six at the Doriskos turning at Akriati; 9 on 8 May and smaller numbers, 10-11 May. One on the Evros Delta on 8 May.

Hoopoe

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers seen or heard daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Green Woodpecker

Widespread and locally fairly common resident

One heard near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 10 May.

Syrian Woodpecker

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Calandra Lark

Widespread and locally common resident

Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Short-toed Lark

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Singles, Evros Delta on 8 & 10 May.

Crested Lark

Common and widespread resident

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May. Common and widespread in open arable farmland and along the national highway.

Skylark

Fairly common but local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May. Occurs in open brackish and saltmarsh areas.

Sand Martin

Widespread and locally common summer visitor, very common passage migrant
One, Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May and small numbers on the Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Crag Martin

Fairly common and widespread partial migrant
3+ around the crags near the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Swallow

Very common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May. Nests at the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park.

Red-rumped Swallow

Widespread and locally common summer visitor
Small numbers seen at several locations on 6-7 May & 9 May.

House Martin

Common and widespread summer visitor
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Tawny Pipit

Widespread but scarce summer visitor
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Black-headed Wagtail

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May. All showed the characteristics of the black-headed race, *Motacilla flava feldegg*. Numerous on the Evros Delta.

White Wagtail

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, common and widespread winter visitor
Small numbers seen on 6, 9-10 May including a pair around the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 6 & 10 May and one at the Diavolorema River on 6 May.

Robin

Fairly common and widespread resident, very common winter visitor.
Seen or heard around the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 7-8 & 10 May & at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Nightingale

Common and widespread summer visitor
Seen or heard daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May, including one or more males in song nightly behind the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park.

Whinchat

Scarce and local summer visitor, common passage migrant
Four at 'Bunting Corner' in the Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May & four nearby on 11 May; two in the Evros Delta on 8 May.

Isabelline Wheatear

Rare and local summer visitor
A male in territory and displaying near the Sarantametros Canal bank north of Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Black-eared Wheatear

Common and widespread summer visitor
Seen on 6-7 & 9-10 May. This is the eastern race *Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca* in which males of the black-throated form are spectacular!

Blue Rock Thrush

Fairly common and widespread resident
3 around rocky outcrops near the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Blackbird

Common and widespread resident
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Song Thrush

Scarce and local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor
Seen and heard singing around the Ecotourism Centre and in the nearby Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park, on 8 & 10-11 May.



Mistle Thrush

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen and heard singing around the Ecotourism Centre and in the nearby Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park, on 6 & 9 May & at the raptor feeding station, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park on 7 May.

Cetti's Warbler

Common and widespread resident

Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May. Mostly heard but one or two birds glimpsed briefly.

Reed Warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

In the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Great Reed Warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Sarantametros Canal, Evros Delta on 8 May & in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May. This large warbler becomes very visible when singing, as it climbs the reed stems.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Subalpine Warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor

A male in stream valley scrub west of Lefkimi on 9 May.

Orphean Warbler

Widespread but scarce summer visitor

A pair seen well, carrying food, in a hedgerow in fields near 'Shrike Corner' (seen in same territory in 2004) & another three heard singing, Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village on 11 May.

Whitethroat

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen on 6 May & daily, on 8-11 May.

Blackcap

Common and widespread resident

One heard in Dadia Forest near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 6 May; one at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May & one heard in forest along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 11 May.

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen or heard daily at several locations, 7-11 May.

Chiffchaff

Fairly common but local summer visitor, common and widespread winter visitor

Heard in Dadia Forest on 7 May & near the Ecotourism Centre, both Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Spotted Flycatcher

Widespread and locally common summer visitor, very common passage migrant

One on the track running parallel with the Sarantametros Canal, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Pied Flycatcher

Common and widespread passage migrant

1 near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 6 May.

Long-tailed Tit

Fairly common and widespread resident

1 near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Blue Tit

Very common and widespread resident

Heard around the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 7 May & at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Great Tit

Common and widespread resident

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Penduline Tit

Fairly widespread and locally common resident

A pair attending the nest in scrub along the bank of the Sarantametros Canal, Evros Delta on 8 May & several heard calling among dense tamarisks in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Golden Oriole

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen or heard daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Red-backed Shrike

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May. Numerous in scrub along the track running parallel with the Sarantametros Canal, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Lesser Grey Shrike

Fairly widespread but scarce summer visitor and passage migrant

A pair, Evros Delta on 8 May & a single north of Dadia village on 11 May.

Woodchat Shrike

Common and widespread summer visitor

Small numbers seen daily, 6-8 & 10-11 May, including two in the 'Shrike Corner' area, Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 11 May.

Masked Shrike

Scarce and local summer visitor

A pair in the Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May; a male in scrub north of the railway line, Evros Delta on 8 May & a male near 'Shrike Corner', Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 11 May.

Jay

Widespread and locally common resident

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Magpie

Common and widespread resident

Seen on 7-8 & 10-11 May.

Jackdaw

Common and widespread resident

Seen on 7-10 May.

Hooded Crow

Very common and widespread resident

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Raven

Fairly common and widespread resident

1-2, Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Starling

Fairly common but local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

House Sparrow

Very common and widespread resident

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Spanish Sparrow

Widespread and locally very common resident and summer visitor

Seen daily on 6 & 8-11 May.

Tree Sparrow

Widespread and locally common resident

Single in Dadia village on 6 & 11 May.

Chaffinch

Very common and widespread resident and winter visitor

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Serín

Fairly common and widespread resident

One at the Diavolorema River on 6 May & one at the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park, daily on 9-11 May.

Greenfinch

Common and widespread resident

Seen on 6-7 & 9-11 May.

Goldfinch

Common and widespread resident

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Hawfinch

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, widespread and locally common winter visitor

3-4 near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 6 May

Cirl Bunting

Common and widespread resident

Seen daily, 6-7 and 10-11 May.

Ortolan Bunting

Widespread and locally common summer visitor

Three males, Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May & several at Kapsalo (the radio mast), Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Reed Bunting

Scarce and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor

Two in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Black-headed Bunting

Widespread and locally very common summer visitor



Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May. Common and widespread.

Corn Bunting

Very common and widespread resident

Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May. Very common and widespread.

Total – 151 species

Mammals

European Souslik *Spermophilus citellus*

Evros Delta on 8 May.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

One crossing the forest track in front of the bus on the way up to the raptor feeding station, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park, 7 May.

Amphibians & Reptiles

Common Toad *Bufo bufo*

Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park.

Green Toad *Bufo viridis*

Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 6 & 7 May.

Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda*

Heard daily throughout the holiday from behind the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park; Diavolorema River, north of Dadia village, on 6 May; Evros Delta, on 7, 8 & 10 May; in the stream, west of Lefkimi, on 9 May.

Hermann's Tortoise *Testudo hermanni*

One at the roller spot next to the Doriskos turning, on Route 95 (main highway) & two, Dadia area on 11 May.

Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca*

Singles in the Dadia area on 6 & 11 May; Evros Delta on 10 May.

European Pond Terrapin *Emys orbicularis*

Two adjacent to the bridge over the Sarantametros Canal, Evros Delta, on 8 May & several on the side of the stream, along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia, 11 May.

Balkan Terrapin *Mauremys rivulata*

Several on the side of the stream, along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia, on 11 May.

Kotschy's Gecko *Cyrtopodion kotschyi*

One clinging to the walls adjacent to the wall lights outside the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park, on the evenings of 6 and 8 May.

Green Lizard *Lacerta viridis*

An immature between the Ecotourism Centre and Dadia village on 6 May.

European Glass Lizard *Ophisaurus apodus*

Unfortunately only dead ones seen: on 6, 8 and 11 May.

Dice Snake *Natrix tessellata*

An individual probably of this species seen by Melvyn, Dadia, on 6 May.

Butterflies

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*

Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius*

Clouded Apollo *Parnassius mnemosyne*

Kapsalo (radio mast), Dadia National Park, on 9 May.

Small White *Artogeia rapae*

Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*



Along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia on 11 May.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Lesser Fiery Copper *Lycaena thersamon*

Along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia on 11 May.

Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*

Along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia, on 11 May.

Green-underside Blue *Glaucopsyche alexis*

Dadia, on 10 May.

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Southern White Admiral *Limenitis reducta*

Along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia, on 11 May.

Camberwell Beauty *Nymphalis antiopa*

Diavolorema River, north of Dadia village, on 6 May.

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

Glanville Fritillary *Melitaea cinxia*

Kapsalo (radio mast), Dadia National Park, on 9 May and along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia, on 11 May.

Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*

North edge of Dadia village, on tracks down into the Diavolorema River Valley, on 6 & 11 May. The pattern of the markings indicates that this is the *bulgarica* sub-species.

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

Kapsalo (radio mast), Dadia National Park, on 9 May.

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*

Along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia, 11 May.

Mallow Skipper *Carcharodus alceae*

Along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia on 11 May.

Moths

Pine Hawk-moth *Hyloicus pinastri*

Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 8 May.

Cream-spot Tiger *Arctia villica*

Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 6-8 May.

Giant Peacock Moth *Saturnia pyri*

Dadia village on 10 May.

Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea pytiocampa*

Woven, protective 'nests' that harbour the caterpillars; in the pines, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park.

Dragonflies

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*

Evros Delta on 8 May.

Grasshoppers & Crickets

Red-winged Grasshopper *Oedipoda germanica*

Dadia area and the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 6 May.

Blue-winged Grasshopper *Oedipoda coerulescens*

Dadia area and the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 6 May.

Field Cricket *Gryllus campestris*



Other insects

Ascalaphus sp.

Numerous at Kapsalo (radio mast), Dadia National Park, on 9 May.

Hornet *Vespa crabro*

Diavolorema River Valley, on 6 May.

Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocarpa violacea*

Rose Chafer *Cetonia aurata*

Other invertebrates

Tortoise tick

One seen lodged on a spur-thighed tortoise in the Dadia area, 6 May.

Plants

Predominantly species seen in flower, excluding most grasses, sedges and rushes. The list is based on Chris Gibson's list from 2000, updated in 2004. English names are given where one is in general use in the books.

The localities in which each species was recorded are given the following codes:

D - Dadia area generally
DA - agricultural areas close to Dadia in the Diavolorema valley
DF - Dadia Forest
DK - Kapsalo (radio mast)
DL - valley above Lefkimi
L - Loutros hills area generally
E - Evros Delta generally
ED - Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta
EA - Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta

Gymnosperms (conifers)

Prickly juniper *Juniperus oxycedrus* DF
Calabrian pine *Pinus brutia* DF
Black pine *Pinus nigra* DF

Dicotyledons

Aceraceae (maple family)

Field maple *Acer campestre* D
Montpelier maple *Acer monspessulanum* DK

Apocynaceae (periwinkle family)

Herbaceous periwinkle *Vinca herbacea* DK

Apiaceae (carrot family)

Hemlock *Conium maculatum* DA
Field eryngo *Eryngium campestre* D, L, E
Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare* DA
Orlaya *Orlaya grandiflora* DK
Perfoliate Alexanders *Smyrniium perfoliatum* DK

Aristolochiaceae (birthwort family)

Birthwort *Aristolochia clematitis* DA

Asteraceae (daisy family)

Slender thistle *Carduus tenuiflorus*
Cornflower *Centaurea cyanus* DA, L, E
Perennial cornflower *Centaurea triumfetti* DK
Milk thistle *Silybum marianum*
Tragopogon dubius D

Boraginaceae (borage family)

Dyer's alkanet *Alkanna lehmanii* D
Alkanet *Alkanna officinalis* D
Alkanna undulata D, E
Pale bugloss *Echium italicum* L
Purple viper's-bugloss *Echium plantagineum* L
Purple gromwell *Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum* DF, DA
Nonea pulla DA

Brassicaceae (cabbage family)

Alyssum saxatile DK
Tower-cress *Arabis turrata* DK
Hoary cress *Cardaria draba* DA, E

Campanulaceae (bellflower family)

a Clustered bellflower *Campanula lingulata* L
Spreading bellflower *Campanula patula* L

Large Venus's-looking-glass <i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	L, D
Caprifoliaceae (honeysuckle family)	
Dwarf elder <i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	DA
Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	D
Caryophyllaceae (pink family)	
Corncockle <i>Agrostemma githago</i>	DA
Sticky catchfly <i>Lychnis viscaria</i> ssp. <i>atropurpurea</i>	DK
Kohlruschia <i>Kohlruschia velutina</i>	D
White campion <i>Silene alba</i>	DA
Sand catchfly <i>Silene conica</i>	L
Bladder campion <i>Silene vulgaris</i>	DK
Chenopodiaceae (goosefoot family)	
Sea-purslane <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	E
Glasswort <i>Salicornia europaea</i>	E
Cistaceae (sun-rose family)	
Grey-leaved cistus <i>Cistus incanus</i> (= <i>Cistus creticus</i>)	DF
Sage-leaved cistus <i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	D
Spotted rock-rose <i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	DF
Convolvulaceae (bindweed family)	
Field bindweed <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	
Pink bindweed <i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	DK, L
Cornaceae (dogwood family)	
Dogwood <i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	DA
Cornelian cherry <i>Cornus mas</i>	D
Corylaceae (hazel family)	
Hop hornbeam <i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	D
Dipsacaceae (teasel/scabious family)	
Teasel <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	DA
<i>Knautia orientalis</i>	DK
Ericaceae (heather family)	
Eastern strawberry-tree <i>Arbutus andrachne</i>	DF
Tree-heath <i>Erica arborea</i>	DF
Euphorbiaceae (spurge family)	
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	L
Fagaceae (beech family)	
Turkey oak <i>Quercus cerris</i>	DF
Kermes (=prickly) oak <i>Quercus coccifera</i>	L
Downy oak <i>Quercus pubescens</i>	DF
Fumariaceae (fumitory family)	
Fumitory <i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	DA
Geraniaceae (crane's-bill family)	
Common stork's-bill <i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	D
Cut-leaved crane's-bill <i>Geranium dissectum</i>	DA
Dove's-foot crane's-bill <i>Geranium molle</i>	DA
Little robin <i>Geranium purpureum</i>	
Small-flowered crane's-bill <i>Geranium pusillum</i>	
Bloody crane's-bill <i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	DF
Round-leaved crane's-bill <i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	DA

Hypericaceae (St. John's-wort family)	
<i>Hypericum cerastoides</i>	DF
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	DF
Perforate St. John's-wort <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	DK
Lamiaceae (mint family)	
Spotted dead-nettle <i>Lamium masculum</i>	DK
Bastard balm <i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	DK
Felty germander <i>Teucrium polium</i>	L
<i>Thymus longicaulis</i>	D, L
Leguminosae (pea family)	
a Milk vetch <i>Astragalus hamosus</i>	L
Bladder senna <i>Colutea arborescens</i>	DA
Shrubby scorpion-vetch <i>Coronilla emerus</i>	D
Disk trefoil <i>Hymenocarpus circinatus</i>	L
Yellow vetchling <i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	DK
Brown vetch <i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	DA, DK
Bur medick <i>Medicago minima</i>	D
Large disk medick <i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	D
Small melilot <i>Melilotus indicus</i>	D
Cockscomb sainfoin <i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	D, L
<i>Onobrychis ebenoides</i>	D
Pitch trefoil <i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	DA
False acacia <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	D
Spanish broom <i>Spartium junceum</i>	D
Narrow-leaved crimson clover <i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	D
Hare's-foot clover <i>Trifolium arvense</i>	D
Hop trefoil <i>Trifolium campestre</i>	
<i>Trifolium globosum</i>	L
<i>Trifolium pilulare</i>	DL
Reversed clover <i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	EA
<i>Trifolium speciosum?</i>	DK
Starry clover <i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	E
Tufted vetch <i>Vicia cracca</i>	DK
Large yellow vetch <i>Vicia grandiflora</i>	DA
Hairy tare <i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	D
Hairy yellow vetchling <i>Vicia hybrida</i>	DA
<i>Vicia pannonica</i>	DA
Fodder vetch <i>Vicia villosa</i>	DA
Linaceae (flax family)	
Pale flax <i>Linum bienne</i>	E
Purging flax <i>Linum catharticum</i>	D
Yellow flax <i>Linum nodiflorum</i>	DF
<i>Linum tenuifolium</i>	DF
Loranthaceae (mistletoe family)	
Mistletoe <i>Viscum album</i>	DA
Malvaceae (mallow family)	
Common mallow <i>Malva sylvestris</i>	DA
Moraceae (fig family)	
Fig <i>Ficus carica</i>	DA
Oleaceae (olive family)	
Flowering (Manna) ash <i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	DK
Wild jasmine <i>Jasminum fruticans</i>	DA, DK, L
Orobanchaceae (broomrape family)	

Bedstraw broomrape <i>Orobanche caryophyllum</i>	DK
Paeoniaceae (peony family) <i>Paeonia peregrina</i>	DK
Papaveraceae (poppy family) Common poppy <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	DA, L, E
Platanaceae (plane family) Oriental plane <i>Platanus orientalis</i>	L
Polygalaceae (milkwort family) Tufted milkwort <i>Polygala comosa</i>	DK
Ranunculaceae (buttercup family) Traveller's-joy <i>Clematis vitalba</i> Peacock anemone <i>Anemone pavonina</i> Fan-leaved crowfoot <i>Ranunculus circinatus</i> <i>Ranunculus gramineus?</i> <i>Ranunculus velutinus</i>	DK DL, DK EA DK DA
Rhamnaceae (buckthorn family) Christ's-thorn <i>Paliurus spina-christi</i> <i>Rhamnus oleoides</i>	D, E, L L, DK
Rosaceae (rose family) <i>Geum bulgaricum</i> Sulphur cinquefoil <i>Potentilla recta</i> Almond-leaved pear <i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i> Dog-rose <i>Rosa canina</i>	DK DL L D
Rubiaceae (bedstraw family) Crosswort <i>Galium cruciata</i>	DF
Salicaceae (willow family) Grey poplar <i>Populus canescens</i> Aspen <i>Populus tremulus</i> White willow <i>Salix alba</i>	D D
Scrophulariaceae (figwort family) Jersey toadflax <i>Linaria pelisseriana</i> <i>Parentucellia latifolia</i> French figwort <i>Schrophularia canina</i> <i>Verbascum sinuatum</i> <i>Verbascum undulatum</i> Large speedwell <i>Veronica austriaca v. austriaca</i>	DF D DK D, E D, DF DF
Tamaricaceae (tamarisk family) <i>Tamarix hampeana</i>	E
Tiliaceae (lime family) Silver lime <i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	DK
Ulmaceae (elm family) <i>Ulmus canescens</i>	DA
Valerianaceae (valerian family) a cornsalad sp. <i>Valerianella</i> sp.	
Violaceae (violet family) Dwarf pansy <i>Viola (arvensis) kitaibeliana</i>	DA

Monocotyledons

Cyperaceae (sedge family)

False fox-sedge *Carex otrubae*

DK

Iridaceae (iris family)

Wild gladiolus *Gladiolus illyricus*

DF, DL

Iris attica

DF

Yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*

E

Liliaceae (lily family)

Allium nigrum

E

Asphodel *Asphodelus aestivus*

DF

Tassel hyacinth *Muscari comosum*

DK

Grape hyacinth *Muscari neglectum*

D, DF

Honey garlic *Nectaroscordum siculum*

DK

Star-of-Bethlehem *Ornithogalum umbellatum*

DK, DL

Butcher's-broom *Ruscus aculeatus*

DF

Wild tulip *Tulipa sylvestris*

DK

Orchidaceae (orchid family)

Sword-leaved helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia*

DK

Mammose [Early spider] orchid *Ophrys mammosa* [*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *mammosa*]

DL

Lax-flowered orchid *Orchis laxiflora*

DL

Poaceae (grass family)

Large quaking-grass *Briza maxima*

D

Wood melick *Melica uniflora*

DK

Common reed *Phragmites australis*

E

Bearded fescue *Vulpia ambigua*

DK

Typhaceae (reedmace family)

Lesser reedmace *Typha angustifolia*

E