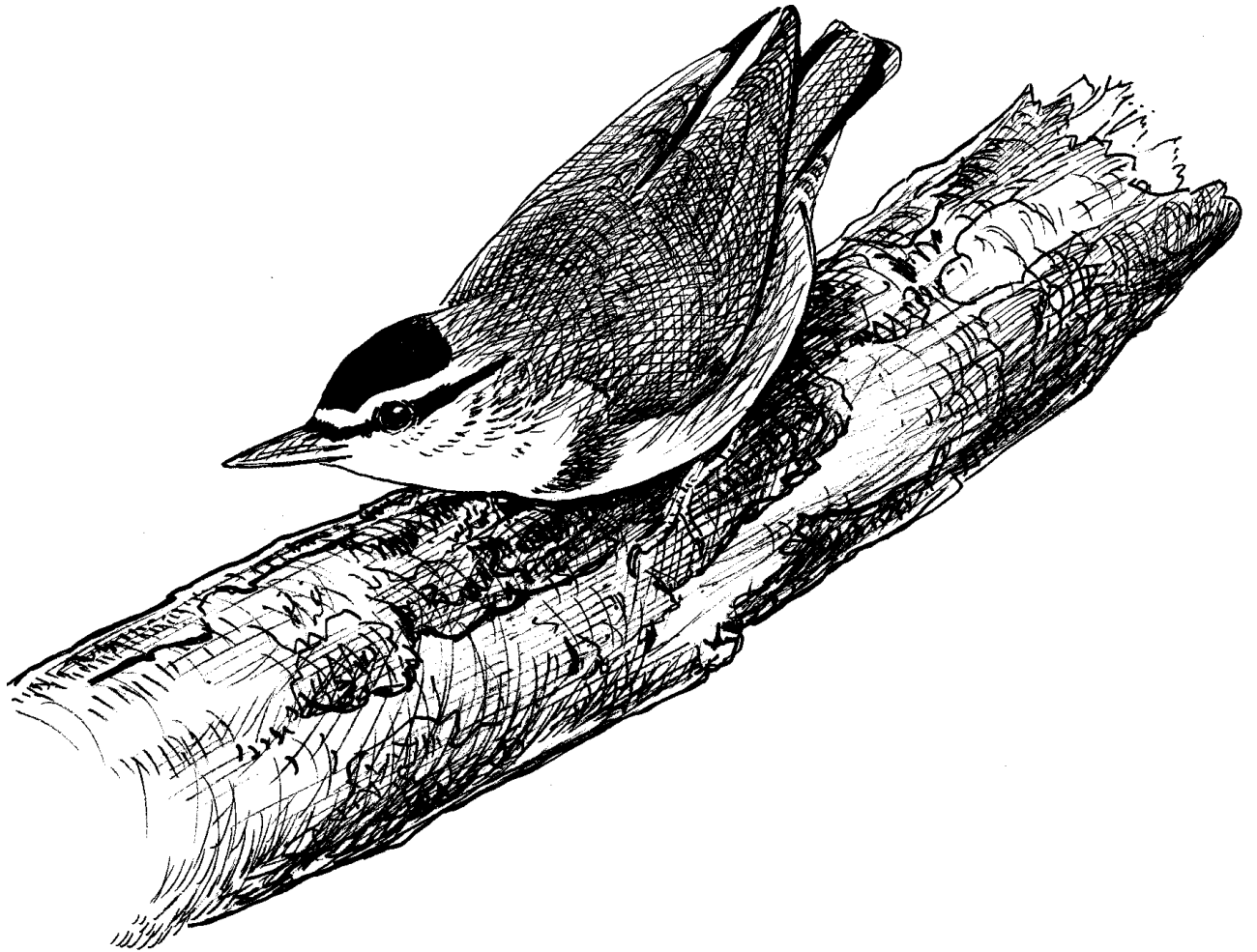


Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Lesvos
17 – 27 April 2006

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Holiday participants

Peter Douch
Monica Douch

Monica Taylor

Robin McKeown Canberra, Australia

Karin Auger Germany
Brennan Auger

Dorian Mason
Margaret Mason

Leaders

Rob Lucking
Steve Henson

Our hosts at Madonna Apartments in Vatera: Dimitra & Vaios Balkizas

Report by Rob Lucking and Steve Henson

Illustrations by Rob Hume. Front cover: Krüper's nuthatch

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, like last year through LEPET, the Alternative Tourism Society of Lesvos. The plan is for the money to support a new publication on the dragonflies of Lesvos. The conservation contribution this year of £25 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the new Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of €329 (£235), rounded up to €350 (= £250). The cheque was received by Dimitra Balkizas, LEPET's chairman.

The total conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was at £42,235 (roughly €59,100) at the end of June 2006.

Lesvos
17 – 27 April 2006

Itinerary

Monday 17 April / Tuesday 18 April

Overnight flight from Heathrow to Athens and onward to Mytilini, Lesvos arriving 06h30. Transfer to Vatera by minibus.

Breakfast at Madonna Apartments followed by rest and recuperation.

Afternoon around the Vourkos River mouth, east of Vatera.

Dinner at Maria's taverna, Kalamakia and joined by Robin, Karin and Brennan.

Wednesday 19 April

Morning around the Almiropotamos River mouth and upstream, west of Vatera.

Lunch at Madonna Apartments.

Afternoon at Skala Polichnitos saltpans and area on the eastern side of Kalloni Bay.

Polichnitos for white stork at nest and cakes shop.

Thursday 20 April

Morning in open pine woodland near Achladeri for Krüper's nuthatch. Roadside stop for orchids near the T-junction on the Achladeri-Vasilika road.

Taverna lunch in Agiassos.

Afternoon in sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos followed by coffee & cakes in the square.

Friday 21 April

Morning & lunch at Kalloni saltpans.

Drinks in Skala Kalloni harbour.

Afternoon at Kalloni II Pool and back to Vatera via Alikoudi Pool.

Saturday 22 April

Western Lesvos.

Morning stops at Limonas Monastery and in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, *en route* to the west of the island.

Lunch and early afternoon at the Petrified Forest Park near Sigri then returning via Ipsilou Monastery and the Sigri-Eressos road junction for Isabelline wheatear.

Sunday 23 April

Morning walk from the Vourkos River mouth towards Kato Stavros, east of Vatera.

Afternoon local exploration along the track to Nigida for wild tulips.

Monday 24 April

Pre-breakfast seawatch from Agias Fokas (Brennan, Dorian, Rob & Steve).

Botanists group Kato Stavros to Melinda drive, with stops for flowers. Afternoon drinks over the beach at Melinda.

Birders to Achladeri, Kalloni saltpans, Kalloni II Pool, Skala Polichnitos saltpans and Alikoudi Pool.

Tuesday 25 April

Morning stops at 'Derbyshire', the mini-soccer pitch near Kalloni for roosting scops owl, at the hillside 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road and between Petra and Molivos for Rüppell's Warbler.

Taverna lunch at Taverna Vafios.

Afternoon in Molivos town and harbour.

Wednesday 26 April

Botanists group to Agiassos & afternoon return trip to the wild tulip site for Monica & Robin.

Birders to Napi Valley, Skala Sikaminia & Skala Polichnitos saltpans. Bakery stop in Mandamados.

Late afternoon shopping for presents in Polichnitos.

Thursday 27 April

Morning transfer to Mytilini for return flights home, via Athens.

Daily diary

Tuesday 18 April – newly arrived

After an overnight flight for the contingent leaving Heathrow on Monday 17 April, we arrived in Lesvos on the first flight in from Athens at 06h30. After collecting our luggage and completing the paperwork for the minibuses, we transferred to Madonna Apartments in Vatera, our base for the holiday, where we were greeted by Dimitra and Vaios.

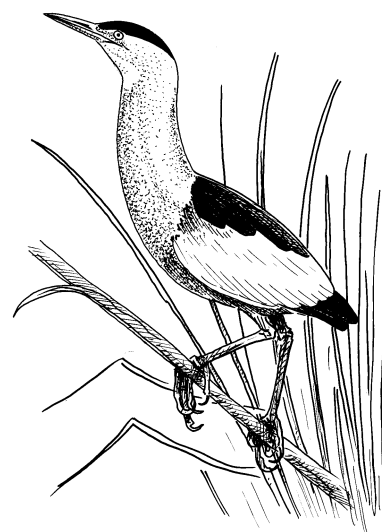
Following a much appreciated breakfast of sausage, eggs and mushrooms (not to mention tea and coffee!), most of the group rested until lunchtime. After lunch we drove the short distance to the mouth of the Vourkos River at the eastern end of Vatera Beach.

Dorian immediately came up trumps with a splendid male blue rock thrush feeding alongside the track. The keen botanists in the group started to get to grips with the myriad of wild flowers including thorny burnet, two species of *Cistus* and numerous clovers, medicks and peas. A bright yellow splash of the endemic 'Lesvos Alison' *Alyssum lesbiacum* was admired on the hillside. A few butterflies were on the wing, mainly orange tips, but Peter found and photographed a nice mallow skipper.

Near the river mouth two great reed warblers sang noisily from the depths of the tamarisks but refused to show themselves. Fortunately a superb little bittern was more obliging as it clambered through the giant reeds.

Out at sea small groups of Yelkouan shearwaters flew westwards, with a couple of shags fishing just offshore. Again the botanists had a field day on the beachcrest with expanses of three-horned stock, sea rocket and yellow-horned poppy providing a continuous stretch of colour along Vatera bay.

Dinner was at Maria's taverna, Kalamakia, where Robin, Karin and Brennan joined us after arriving on the early evening flight in from Athens, completing the holiday group.



Wednesday 19 April – around Vatera

Our first full day in the field and as we were all still recovering from the previous day's travelling, we stayed locally and spent the morning exploring the Almiropotamos River at the western end of Vatera.

A strong southeasterly wind was blowing, whipping up the white tops out at sea and an eastern olivaceous warbler was heard singing from deep within a tamarisk but sensibly stayed out of the wind and was hidden from view. A female marsh harrier was the first bird of prey of the holiday.

From the concrete bridge, at least two wood sandpipers were seen feeding in the river along with two little ringed plovers and a ruff. The star birds however were three little crakes – one male and two females – seen very well as they crept through the reeds along the margins of the river, occasionally flying out to feed at the water's edge in full view.

Thursday 20 April – Achladeri & Agiassos

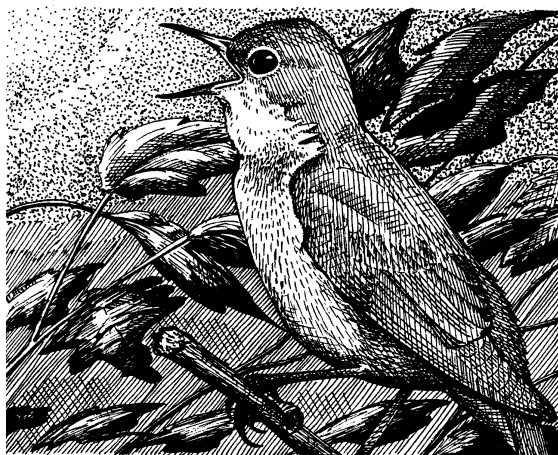
Thursday dawned much calmer and settled and after breakfast we drove up to the open Calabrian pine woodland near Achladeri, on the eastern side of Kalloni Bay, to search for one of Lesvos's speciality bird species, Krüper's Nuthatch. Common across the waters in Turkey, Lesvos is the only place in Europe where this species is found. The woodland was a cacophony of sound, primarily chaffinches, with short-toed treecreeper singing softly in the background. After hearing some tantalisingly close nuthatch calls a group of German birders showed us the nest site in a cavity in a dead pine bough. For the next hour we watched an attentive pair of Krüper's nuthatches feeding their offspring in the nest. At least three scimitar-shaped alpine swifts flew overhead, as did three short-toed eagles and our first common buzzard.

As the sun came out so did the butterflies with orange tip, small heath and small copper all putting in an appearance. The protective cocoons of the pine processionary moth could be seen in a number of the pine trees and a 'procession' of 25 caterpillars was photographed as they wound their way along the forest floor. A group of three Persian squirrels showed well to most of the group as they chased each other across one of the woodland tracks.

Lunchtime beckoned but we just had time to make a short stop in another area of pine forest that we knew from previous holidays to be good for orchids. Unfortunately most of the Provence and green-winged orchids were past their prime but a robust flowering spike of violet birdsnest orchid was appreciated by all.

On to the picturesque mountain village of Agiassos for our taverna lunch, where we were joined by Dimitra and three Dutch journalists. Lunch was a traditional Greek meze meal with Greek salad, white beans, battered fish, meatballs and courgette flowers stuffed with cheese.

After lunch we followed the winding road through the village to the start of our afternoon walk through the sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos. We were surrounded by the song of nightingales as we followed the cobbled *kalderim* path through the botanically rich woodland. In places, the bright, lime-green leaves and stems of false thorn-wax *Bupleurum subovatum* carpeted the woodland floor with several spikes of dragon arum just starting to unfurl. Grape hyacinths were pushing their way through and the green-flowered *Fritillaria pontica* appeared rather unassuming until you peered up into the open flower.



At least four false Apollo butterflies flapped languidly along the path, occasionally settling for us to see the virtually transparent forewings of the male. Small numbers of holly blues and red admirals made the most of the sunshine.

We stopped in our traditional spot, a hillside meadow with scattered sweet chestnut trees, to enjoy the spectacle of peacock anemones, barbary-nut irises, peonies in full flower and the drooping spikes of *Ornithogalum nutans*. Provence orchids were at their best in the meadow but we were still a little early for the white helleborine.

Reluctantly we dragged ourselves away from the meadow and made our way back to the village square, where we drank Greek coffee from the local kafenion and ate cakes from Manos's wonderful bakery.

Friday 21 April (Good Friday) – Kalloni salt pans

A hot sunny day saw us making our way to one of Lesvos's premier birding sites, the salt pans at Kalloni on the northern shore of the Gulf of Kalloni. Migrant waders and waterfowl were plentiful with avocet, black-winged stilts and a delicate marsh sandpiper feeding on the flooded pans. A pair of distant stone curlews showed on one of the raised bunds between the lagoons and greater flamingos were sweeping their bills through the water, filtering out small crustaceans.

To the south of the pans in a flooded field adjacent to the track was the spectacle of 35 glossy ibises and more than 20 garganey, many of the latter being superb spring males, all feeding in the shallow waters against the backdrop of water-crowfoot in flower. A 'ringtail' harrier, either Montagu's or pallid, but seen too distantly to allow a positive ID, quartered the fields whilst a female marsh harrier sat unobtrusively at the waters edge. We ate our packed lunches while watching this flurry of avian activity – spring in Lesvos at its best!

After lunch we carried on up the track to look over another area of wet grassland grazed by sheep. Here we watched a group of eight short-toed larks, a fine male northern wheatear, a pair of ruddy shelducks and a smattering of black-headed wagtails. On our way back to the main road we enjoyed close views

of greenshank, redshank, spotted redshank, ruff and wood sandpiper feeding in the channel around the salt pans.

On through the town of Kalloni to the small fishing port of Skala Kalloni where we enjoyed refreshments in a café in the village square. A ‘tame’ white pelican looked rather forlorn and out of place on the quayside. This bird had been found with an injured wing and, after being nursed back to health by the Lesvos wildlife rescue hospital, has been adopted by the local fishermen.

At the Kalloni II Pool were a smattering of half a dozen or so male garganeys and three squacco herons feeding in the vegetation. A little grebe was heard calling. An adult European pond terrapin was watched swimming in the pool along with two dice snakes, a close relative of the grass snake. A bright green common tree frog was located in the open on a tamarisk branch where it was duly admired and much photographed.

On the way back we took what proved to be a protracted detour to Alikoudi Pool, where a white-tailed plover had been reported earlier in the week. This turned into a mini adventure when we discovered the route was less straightforward than the map suggested! After a couple of tight three-point turns we eventually found the pool. Unfortunately there was no white-tailed plover but we did enjoy the amazing and unusual sight of a Eurasian bittern sitting atop a hedgerow, rather than in the reedbed habitat we are accustomed to seeing them in!

Back to Vatera for a traditional Good Friday meze dinner at Kalamakia.

Saturday 22 April – western Lesvos & the Petrified Forest

After a quick photo-stop at Limonas Monastery just outside Kalloni, we pushed on along the twisting roads towards the west of the island. A roadside stop near Skalochori revealed four common buzzards, a rather distant long-legged buzzard and a singing woodlark. At the gorge known as the ‘Grand Canyon’, just outside Vatoussa, a male blue rock thrush showed along the top of a ridge and a western rock nuthatch was watched as it visited its nest. A short-toed eagle flew across the gorge and another long-legged buzzard was seen, this time giving better views. Two species of oak predominated – Kermes oak with its holly-like leaves and Valonia oak with its characteristic long, curly spines on the acorn cups. We saw our first eastern festoon butterflies and alongside the road were a few bright blue cornflowers.

On to the Petrified Forest Park, a site of international geological importance where ancient sequoia and pines were ‘fossilised’ during volcanic activity some 20 million years ago. A little owl perched obligingly out in the open for the photographers and as we ate lunch in the visitors’ shelter just inside the park, a chukar showed distantly atop a large boulder. From the network of paths through the park several more chukars, a male pied flycatcher and a female red-backed shrike showed well, as did a black starred agama lizard. It wasn’t long before the ‘target’ bird of the day, cinereous bunting, was found, calling and hopping unobtrusively around the boulders. An eastern dappled white butterfly was new for the trip.

At the nearby Ipsilou Monastery, built on top of an old volcanic dome, there were fine views over to the Turkish coast. The entrance fee to see the inside of the monastery was considered to be good value, especially as it included a blessing and a photo opportunity with one of the resident monks! The weather was too settled for any migration although another western rock nuthatch and a black-eared wheatear showed well.

At the Sigri–Eressos road junction, three Isabelline wheatears – a species right on the western edge of its range in Lesvos – showed well, as did another long-legged buzzard, whilst a Levant sparrowhawk gave only frustratingly brief glimpses. A large European glass lizard, a legless lizard resembling a giant slow worm, was also seen, making its way frantically through the vegetation to its burrow.

Sunday 23 April (Easter Sunday) – Vourkos River Valley & ‘Tulip Hill’

Easter Sunday dawned hot and sunny and before breakfast a male black-headed bunting sang outside Madonna Apartments, a newly arrived summer visitor and the first of the holiday.

After breakfast we made our way again down to the Vourkos River mouth at the eastern end of Vatera beach. A great reed warbler was more obliging than on our previous visit, this time perching in full view and a fine squacco heron in full breeding plumage fed in the river. A purple heron was located in a damp field next to the track and a pair of crag martins appeared to be the only inhabitants of the half-built hotel in the hillside.

Walking north into the river valley towards Kato Stavros, the picturesque olive groves were full of the bright yellow colour of *Allysum* in flower. A few eastern festoons were on the wing and a green hairstreak narrowly avoided Brennan's net. Two turtle doves were flushed from the track and a cuckoo was heard calling from up on the slope. At our lunchtime stop in a clearing in the olive groves Brennan succeeded in netting a fine brown argus.

After lunch we returned to Madonna Apartments for a rest in the heat before later setting off along the track to Nigida, between Vatera and Vrisa, in a search for the wild tulips that were known to grow there and seen only recently by Dimitra and Maria. *En route* a poppy field was much admired and photographed and in a fallow field several spikes of pyramidal orchid and a fine spike of large blue alkanet *Anchusa azurea* were identified. Making our way further up the track we left the cultivated fields and entered pine forest, leaving the van by the side of the road and continuing on foot as the track became steep. After a further 1.5km hike uphill Steve located our target species, the wild tulip *Tulipa undulatifolia*, with its vivid scarlet flowers and wavy-edged leaves, growing in abundance in dappled shade underneath the pine woodland. Several spikes of field gladiolus, as well as violet birdsnest orchid, were also found on the slopes.

Monday 24 April

An early start with Steve, Rob, Brennan and Dorian heading to the nearby headland at Agias Fokas for a spot of pre-breakfast seawatching. After a slow start, the shearwaters started to move with at least 100 Yelkouan and 20 Cory's (Scopoli's) shearwaters offshore. Afterwards, *en route* for breakfast, a quick look from the bridge over the Almiropotamos River revealed two male little crakes.

After breakfast the group split with Steve taking Peter and Monica, Monica 'T', Robin, Karin and Brennan for a day of botanising between Kato Stavros and Melinda and Rob taking Dorian and Margaret for a day's birding.

The birders headed first for Achladeri where we had the pair of Krüper's Nuthatch all to ourselves and spent an hour photographing them as they fed around us and carried food to the nest. Driving towards Kalloni salt pans we saw a group of birders parked up on the side of the road at 'Derbyshire' and quickly located a splendid male red-footed falcon perched on a small tree near the road. A female was found further away on some overhead wires.

On to the salt pans, it was obvious that more birds had arrived since last Friday; a group of around 40 marsh terns contained at least nine white-winged black terns, with the remainder being whiskered and a selection of waders included marsh sandpiper, many more little stints and 12 spotted redshanks. Better views were obtained of a stone-curlew on the raised bund between the pans. As on Friday, we ate our packed lunch at the flooded field behind the pans where 26 glossy ibises were still present. A hobby whistled through, causing panic amongst the feeding waders and out of the blue, a male citrine wagtail flew in and fed nearby, around the base of some clumps of rushes.

After a frappe break at Skala Kalloni, we moved on to Kalloni II Pool where we quickly located two squacco herons, four more whiskered terns, four glossy ibises and two little bitterns. To round off the day we went back to Skala Polichnitos salt pans to look again for the white-tailed plover. Once again there was no sign of it but, perhaps as compensation, we found a pair of masked shrikes in the olive groves between the salt pans and Alikoudi Pool, as well as a friendly olive farmer who was able to answer all our questions about olive growing!

Tuesday 25 April – the north coast

Several stops *en route* to the north coast, the first at 'Derbyshire' to see if the red-footed falcons seen yesterday were still there. Unfortunately they were not but three black storks and a high count of 34 ruddy shelducks constituted an acceptable alternative.

Next to the 'mini-soccer' five-a-side football pitch just outside Kalloni, a site known to support roosting scops owls. Sadly there was absolutely no sign of the birds this time, despite intensive searching and for the first time we failed to find scops owl. Continuing on, from the 'bandstand' on the road to Petra we enjoyed views over the Kalloni plain and watched both cirr and Cretzschmar's bunting. Two short-toed eagles cruised over the valley, a hobby moved north and a sparrowhawk soared overhead.

The coastal garrigue alongside the Petra to Molivos road was productive with two male Rüppell's warbler singing obligingly from the tops of the bushes and a southern white admiral butterfly was seen. The yellow rock rose Arabian Fumana *Fumana arabica* was a new species for the holiday and was given the English name 'Arabian yellow rockrose' by Peter.

On to the Vafios Taverna in the hillside village of Vafios for a splendid late lunch of traditional savoury pastries. These included cheese pies, spinach pies & pumpkin pies followed by ice-cream, with a leisurely afternoon in Molivos town overlooking the Turkish coast, where we explored the winding streets on the hillside before rendezvousing down in the harbour for coffee.

Wednesday 26 April

The group split again with Steve taking Peter and Monica, Monica 'T' and Robin for a return trip to Agiassos for some botanising, followed by coffee, cakes and shopping, while Rob, Dorian, Margaret, Brennan and Karin drove up through the Napi Valley to Skala Sikaminia.

Four black storks were at 'Derbyshire' and just before Kalloni salt pans we turned off to the right through Agia Paraskevi and Napi. Beyond Napi we pulled off the road and climbed up into the adjacent olive and oak woodland. Margaret quickly found a pair of sombre tits busily feeding at least two fledged chicks and a middle-spotted woodpecker flew away from us. Superb views were had of a long-legged buzzard and a pair of masked shrikes. Although we weren't paying close attention to flowers, the deep purple spikes of purple loosestrife *Lysimachia atropurpurea* were impossible to ignore.

After a bakery stop in Mandamados the birders ate their lunch and explored the picturesque coastal village of Skala Sikaminia where a scarlet macaw outside a nearby taverna was new for the list! On their way back to the south coast a pair of ruddy shelducks in a small roadside pool on the outskirts of Mandamados was a surprise.

At Skala Polichnitos salt pans it was obvious that many waders had moved on with only 50 ruffs and the usual black-winged stilts remaining. Alikoudi Pool was also quiet with only a few wood sandpipers and a greenshank although a pair of red-backed shrikes and a scattering of both blue-headed and black-headed wagtails added colour.



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Systematic lists

Birds

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
1 Kalloni II Pool 21 April

Cory's (Scopoli's) Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea diomedea*
20+ off Agias Fokas 24 April

Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*
Ca60 off Vatera beach 18 April, most flying west; 5 east off Vatera beach 19 April; ca30 off Vatera beach 20 April; ca21 off Vatera beach 21 April; 16 west off Vatera beach 22 April; 20 west off Vatera beach 23 April; 100+ off Agias Fokas 24 April; 49 west off Vatera beach & 2 east from Skala Sikaminia 26 April

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

2 off Vatera beach 18 April; 4 off Vatera beach 23 April & 3 off Agias Fokas 24 April

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellatus*

1 perched on top of a hedge at Alikoudi Pool 21 April

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

1 Vourkos River mouth 18 & 23 April; 1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 23 April & 2 (1 male, 1 female) Kalloni II Pool 24 April

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

3 Kalloni II Pool 21 April; 1 Vourkos River mouth & 5 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 23 April; 2 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, 3-4 Kalloni II Pool & 1 Alikoudi Pool 24 April

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

5 Vourkos River mouth 18 April; 1 Vatera & 1 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; ca50 Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 1 'Derbyshire' 22 April; 12 Vourkos River mouth & 14 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, 23 April; 1 Agias Fokas, 8 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & 12 Kalloni salt pans 24 April; several in 'Derbyshire' area 25 April

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

1 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; 1 near Achladeri 20 April; 1 'Derbyshire' & 2 Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 1 'Derbyshire' 22 April & 2 'Derbyshire' 24-26 April

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 19 April; 3 Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & 1 Kalloni salt pans 24 April

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

1 near Vourkos River mouth 23 April

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

3 'Derbyshire' 25 April; 4 'Derbyshire' & 1 near Mandamados 26 April

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

A pair nesting on the old olive press chimney in Polichnitos town throughout; 1 Kalloni East River 25 April

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

35 on the flooded field, Kalloni salt pans & 2 Kalloni II Pool 21 April; 26 again at the Kalloni salt pans & 4 Kalloni II Pool 24 April

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Ca30 Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 50+ Kalloni salt pans 24 April & 35 Kalloni salt pans 25 April

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Two pairs Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; 2 Kalloni salt pans 21 & 24 April; 34 'Derbyshire' 25 April; 28 'Derbyshire', 2 on roadside pool near Mandamados & 2 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 26 April

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Three pairs Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; 2 Polichnitos salt pans 24 & 26 April; 2 'Derbyshire' 25 April

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Ca20 Kalloni salt pans & 6 Kalloni II Pool 21 & 24 April

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

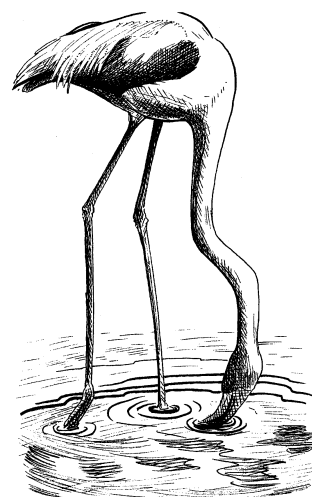
2-3 over Achladeri 20 April; 1 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa 22 April; 2 at 'Derbyshire' & 2 near the 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road 25 April; 1 Napi Valley & 1 near Mandamados 26 April

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

1 female Almiropotamos River mouth 19 April; 1 female/immature Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 1 male Kalloni salt pans & 1 female/immature Skala Polichnitos salt pans 24 April

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

2 'ringtails' at Kalloni salt pans and 1 at Alikoudi Pool on 21 April were probably this species



Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

1 near the 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road 25 April

Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*

1 seen by Dorian, Margaret and Steve at the Sigri–Eressos road junction 22 April

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

1 over Achladeri & 1 at pine woodland orchid site near the Achladeri T-junction 20 April; 4 near Skalochoi & 1 at 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa 22 April; 3 over the Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April; 1 above Kato Stavros & 1 Akraasi 24 April; 1 near the 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road 25 April; 1 Skala Sikaminia & 1 below Agiassos 26 April

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

1 near Skalochoi, 1 at 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa & 1 at the Sigri–Eressos road junction 22 April; 1 in Napi Valley 26 April

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

1 at Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 1 Petrified Forest near Sigri 22 April & 1 Vatera 23 April

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

1 male & 1 female at 'Derbyshire' 24 April

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

1 at Kalloni salt pans 24 April; 1 near the 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road 25 April

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*

Ca9 Petrified Forest near Sigri 22 April

Little Crake *Porzana parva*

1 male & 2 females Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 19 April; 1 male Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 23 April & 2 males Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 24 April

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

2 Vourkos River mouth 18 April; 12+ Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 19 April; ca 6 Kalloni II Pool 21 April; 5 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 23 April; 5 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & 6 Kalloni II Pool 24 April

Coot *Fulica atra*

Ca6 Kalloni II Pool 21 April; 2 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & 6 Kalloni II Pool 24 April

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

6 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; ca30 Kalloni salt pans 21 & 24 April; 9 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; several from bus at Kalloni salt pans 25 April & ca6 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 26 April

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Ca30 Kalloni salt pans 21 April & 48 Kalloni salt pans 24 April

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oediconemus*

2 Kalloni salt pans 21 April & 1 Kalloni salt pans 24 April

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

4 Kalloni salt pans 21 April

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

1 Vatera beach & 2 Vourkos River mouth 18 April; 2 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & 3 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; ca4 Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 2 Vatera beach, 1 Vourkos River mouth & 2 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 23 April; 1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & 4 Kalloni salt pans 24 April; 1 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 26 April

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

4 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; 4 Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 2 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 24 April & 2 Alikoudi Pool 26 April

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

1 Vourkos River mouth 18 April; 7 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; ca20 on the flooded field, Kalloni Salt pans 21 April; 1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, ca30 Kalloni Salt pans & 54 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 24 April

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & ca150 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; ca120 Kalloni salt pans 21 April, including 70 on the flooded field; ca100 Kalloni salt pans & ca50 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 24 & 26 April

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

1 on the flooded field, Kalloni salt pans 21 April & 2 Kalloni salt pans 24 April

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

1 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 & 24 April; 9 on the flooded field, Kalloni salt pans 21 April

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

6 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 & 24 April; 5 Kalloni salt pans 21 April & 12 Kalloni salt pans 24 April

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

1 Kalloni salt pans 21 April

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

2 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; 3 Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 8 Kalloni salt pans & 4 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 24 April

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

4 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 & 24 April; 8 Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 4 Kalloni salt pans & 1 Alikoudi Pool 24 April; 1 heard moving over Vatera at night & 1 heard at Alikoudi Pool 26 April

Green sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & 1 at the river near Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

2 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & 21 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; ca50 on the flooded field, Kalloni salt pans & ca10 Kalloni II Pool 21 April; 4 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 23-24 April; ca50 Kalloni salt pans, ca50 Skala Polichnitos salt pans & 5 Alikoudi Pool 24 April; 4 Alikoudi Pool 26 April

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

1 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April & 1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 24 April

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

1 Kalloni salt pans 21 April

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans michahellis*

Seen daily; common throughout

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

2 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; 2 Achladeri 20 April; ca20 Kalloni salt pans 21 & 24 April; 3 Molivos harbour 25 April; 2 Skala Sikaminia & 1 Alikoudi Pool 26 April

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Ca10 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; 6 Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 6 Kalloni salt pans & 6 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 24 April; 2 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 26 April

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

3 Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 30 Kalloni salt pans & 4 Kalloni II Pool 24 April

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

9 Kalloni salt pans 24 April

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Seen daily in and around towns and villages

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

1 heard Vourkos River mouth 18 April; 1 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa 22 April; ca5 Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April; 1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & 1 Akraasi 24 April; 1 Napi Valley 26 April

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

2 calling Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April; 1 calling in Vatera 25 April & 1 heard and seen in Napi Valley 26 April

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

2 just outside the Petrified Forest Park near Sigrí 22 April; 2 Molivos 25 April; 1 on roadside barriers outside Mandamados & 1 Polichnitos 26 April

Swift *Apus apus*

2 Polichnitos 19 April; numerous around Achladeri & Agiassos 20 April; numerous around Ipsilou Monastery 21 April; 2 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, 1 above Kato Stavros & several at Kalloni salt pans 24 April; several Molivos 25 April; several Napi Valley & below Agiassos 26 April

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

Ca6 over Achladeri 20 April

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

1 Vourkos River mouth 18 April; heard *en route* to the Petrified Forest Park near Sigrí 22 April; 1 Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April; 1 Vatera & 1 Achladeri 24 April; 1 Napi Valley 26 April

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*

1 Achladeri & 1 above Agiassos 20 April; 2 heard Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera 23 April; 1 heard above Kato Stavros, 1 heard Akrasi & 1 near Neochori 24 April; 1 Napi Valley 26 April

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Ca8 Kalloni salt pans 21 April

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Common throughout – seen in virtually all habitats

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

1 singing at pine woodland orchid site near the Achladeri T-junction 20 April & 1 singing near Skalochori 22 April

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Ca20 Kalloni II Pool 21 April & several there on 24 April

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

2 around abandoned hotel near the Vourkos River mouth 23 April

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Seen daily and common throughout

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

4+ collecting mud from Vourkos River mouth 18 April; 2 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 19 April; 1 Kalloni Salt pans 21 April; 1 ‘Grand Canyon’ near Vatooussa 22 April; 4 Vourkos River mouth and 2 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 23 April; 1 Kalloni salt pans & 2 above Melinda 24 April; 2 Skala Sikaminia 26 April

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Seen daily and common throughout

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

1 Achladeri 20 April; 1 Kalloni II Pool 21 April; 1 ‘Tulip Hill’ on the track to Nigida 23 April; 1 Agias Fokas, 1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & 1 Achladeri 24 April; 1 heard at ‘bandstand’ on the Kalloni to Petra road 25 April

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

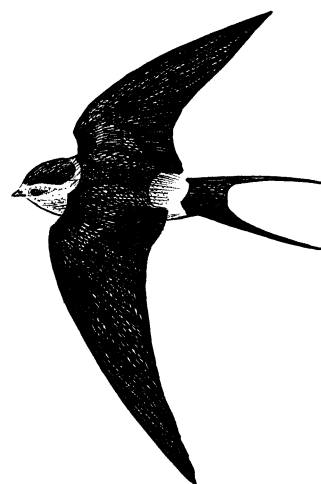
2 on the rocky sheep field near the Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Two flocks of around 20 birds each on the rocky sheep field near the Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April contained individuals of two, possibly three, races: black-headed and blue-headed and possibly grey-headed *Motacilla flava thunbergi*

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg*

Ca20 in a mixed flock of yellow wagtails at Vourkos River mouth 18 April; ca40 on the rocky sheep field near the Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April & 15 moving west Vatera 23 April were the largest groups noted with small groups, pairs and individuals seen on most days at other sites, including the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera and Kalloni salt pans



Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*

At least 2 males in a mixed flock of 12 yellow wagtails at Vourkos River mouth 18 April & at least 2 males among two mixed flocks totalling 40 yellow wagtails on the rocky sheep field near the Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi*

Several, possibly this race, amongst two flocks of around 20 birds each on the rocky sheep field near the Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

1 Agia Fokas & 1 near Alikoudi Pool 24 April

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

1 male Kalloni salt pans 24 April

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

1 singing in sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos 20 April

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

1 above Agiassos 20 April

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

One singing Vourkos River mouth 18 April; several singing above Agiassos 20 April; heard at 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa 22 April; heard Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera 23 April; singing, Akraasi, near Neochori & in the stream valley above Melinda 24 April; heard Molivos 25 April; heard Napi Valley, Skala Sikaminia & near Achladeri 26 April

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

2 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April & 1 Skala Polichnitos salt pans 26 April

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

2 just beyond the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa 22 April

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

3 Sigri-Eressos road junction 22 April

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

3 Vourkos River mouth 18 April; 1 male Kalloni salt pans 21 April; 2 Petrified Forest Park near Sigri 22 April; 2 Vourkos River mouth 23 April

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanicus melanoleuca*

Seen daily, including a male in territory at Madonna Apartments, Vatera. This is the stunning eastern race *melanoleuca*. In males, the black-throated form is most frequent, with pale-throated males noted at Vatera 18 April, Ipsilou Monastery 22 April & Napi Valley 26 April

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

1 male Vourkos River mouth 18 April; a male and female at Agiassos 20 April; 1 male 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa 22 April & 1 male Agiassos 26 April

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Seen daily; heard & seen in wooded habitats and olive groves throughout

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

2 singing Vourkos river mouth 18 April; at least 3 singing Almiropotamos River mouth 19 April; 1 singing Kalloni II Pool 21 April; 2-3 singing Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera 23 April; heard at Kalloni II Pool & at Akraasi 24 April

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

At least 2 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 19 April; 1 Kalloni II Pool 21 April & 1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 24 April

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

2 singing Vourkos River mouth 18 April & 1 singing and seen Vourkos River mouth 23 April

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*

At least two singing Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 19 April; Kalloni salt pans 21 April; Vourkos River mouth 23 April; several singing around Almiropotamos River mouth & 1 above Kato Stavros 24 April; heard singing around Madonna Apartments, Vatera daily from 20 April onwards

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

Two behind Vatera beach 18 April; 1 at the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa 22 April; 1 Vatera & several Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April; 2 near Neochori, several in the stream valley above Melinda & 5 Vatera 24 April; several in olive groves below Agiassos and in pine woodland nearby 26 April

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

1 male Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 19 April; 1 male at Madonna Apartments, Vatera 20 & 22-24 April; 2 males Vourkos River mouth 23 April & 1 olive groves below Agiassos 26 April

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia ruepelli*

2 males and a female on the coastal slopes at the 'bandstand' and lay-by site between Petra and Molivos 25 April

Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis crassirostris*

1 singing behind Madonna Apartments, Vatera 26 April

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

1 Kalloni Salt pans 21 April & 1 above Kato Stavros 24 April

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Several singing above Agiassos 20 April

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

1 male & 2 females Petrified Forest Park near Sigri 22 April

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus tephronotus*

1 in pine woodland near Achladeri 24 April

Sombre Tit *Parus lugubris*

Two pairs, including a pair feeding two fledged chicks, Napi Valley 26 April

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Seen in small numbers in wooded areas and olive groves throughout

Great Tit *Parus major*

Seen in all wooded areas and olive groves throughout

Kruper's Nuthatch *Sitta krueperi*

A pair watched at nest in open pine woodland near Achladeri 20 & 24 April

Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer zarudnyi*

1 at nest 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, 1 at nest at Petrified Forest Park near Sigri & 1 Ipsilou Monastery 22 April; 1 around the 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road 25 April

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*

Heard singing in pine woodland near Achladeri 20 April

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

1 heard calling from poplars near Akraasi 24 April

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

2 males near Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; female at Petrified Forest Park near Sigri 22 April; female Vourkos River Valley and immature male 'Tulip Hill' on the track to Nigida 23 April; male near Skala Polichnitos salt pans 24 April & 2 Alikoudi Pool 26 April

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

1 Vourkos river mouth 18 April; 1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & 2 near Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April; 1 near Achladeri 21 April; 1 Petrified Forest Park near Sigri 22 April; 1 Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera & 2 'Tulip Hill' on the track to Nigida 23 April; 1 above Kato Stavros & 1 near Alikoudi Pool 24 April

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

A pair in olive groves between Skala Polichnitos salt pans and Alikoudi Pool 24 April; a pair in the Napi Valley 26 April

Jay *Garrulus glandarius atricapillus*

Singles seen throughout; often flushed from the roadside

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* Seen daily and common throughout

Raven *Corvus corax*

1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 19 April & 1 heard near Akrafi 24 April

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen daily and common throughout

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Seen on most days including up to 12 seen at Vatera throughout; at least three around white storks nest in Polichnitos 19 April & 2 Kalloni II Pool 21 April

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Seen daily and common throughout

Serim *Serinus serinus*

2-3 Vourkos River mouth 18 April; 1 Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 19 April; several in pine woodland near Achladeri 20 April; 1 Achladeri 24 April; heard at Melinda 24 April; 1 olive groves below Agiassos 26 April

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Seen daily and common throughout

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Seen on most days and common throughout

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Small numbers around Vourkos River mouth 18 April; 3 Petrified Forest Park near Sigri 22 April; several along Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April & 1 olive groves below Agiassos 26 April

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

Seen almost daily – common and widespread

Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea*

A pair at Petrified Forest Park near Sigri 22 April

Cretschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*

1 male at the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa & several at the Petrified Forest Park near Sigri 22 April; several singing on 'Tulip Hill' on the track to Nigida 23 April; 2 singing around the 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road & several at the Rüppell's Warbler site on the coastal slopes between Petra and Molivos 25 April; several singing in Napi Valley 26 April

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*

Arrival from 23 April. A pair outside Madonna Apartments, Vatera, seen daily from 23 April; males at Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera and near Alikoudi Pool 24 April & at Alikoudi Pool 26 April

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Seen daily and abundant throughout – possibly the commonest bird on Lesbos!

Mammals

Bat spp.

'Pipistrelle-types' seen nightly over the Vatera beach road

Persian Squirrel *Sciurus anomalus*

3 together in pine woodland near Achladeri & 1 above Agiassos 20 April; 1 crossing the road near Polichnitos 21 April; 1 seen by Rob Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April; 2 near Agias Fokas & 1 above Kato Stavros 24 April

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

1 seen by Dorian & Margaret at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 23 April & 1 crossing the road near Vrissa 25 April

Dolphin sp.

Ca6 off Vatera beach on 23 & 26 April

Amphibians & reptiles

Common Tree Frog *Hyla arborea*

2 Kalloni II Pool 21 & 24 April

Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda*

Vourkos River mouth 18 & 23 April; Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera 19 & 23 April; Kalloni II Pool 21 April

Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca*

2 in sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos 20 April

Balkan (Stripe-necked) Terrapin *Mauremys rivulata*

Seen on all visits to the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & at the Vourkos River mouth

European Pond Terrapin *Emys orbicularis*

1 adult & 1 juvenile Kalloni II Pool 21 April

Starred Agama *Laudakia stellio*

1 Petrified Forest Park near Sigi 22 April; 1 near the 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road & 1 Molivos Castle 25 April; 3 Melinda 24 April

European Glass Lizard *Ophisaurus apodus*

1 at Sigi-Eressos road junction 22 April & 1 dead on the road, Polichnitos thermal baths 26 April

Dice Snake *Natrix tessellata*

2 swimming in Kalloni II Pool 21 April

Butterflies

Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius*

On the track to Nigida 23 April; Akraisi 24 April; Molivos 25 April & Napi Valley 26 April

Eastern Festoon *Zerynthia cerisy*

'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa 22 April; Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera & Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April; near Neochori & in the stream valley above Melinda 24 April; between Petra & Molivos 25 April

False Apollo *Archon apollinus*

At least four above Agiassos 20 April & 1 Ipsilou Monastery 22 April

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Common above Agiassos 20 April; Kalloni salt pans 21 April; Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April & olive groves below Agiassos 26 April

Eastern Dappled White *Euchloe ausonia*

1 Petrified Forest Park near Sigi 22 April & Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April

Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

Seen daily & widespread

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Seen daily throughout

Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*

Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April & in the stream valley above Melinda 24 April

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Open pine woodland near Achladeri & above Agiassos 20 April; Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April; above Kato Stavros 24 April & olive groves below Agiassos 26 April

Little Blue *Cupido minimus*

Stream valley above Melinda 24 April

Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*

Above Agiassos 20 April; Kalloni salt pans 21 April & Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April

Green-underside Blue *Glaucopsyche alexis*
Above Agiassos 20 April

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*
Vourkos River Valley 23 April; in the stream valley above Melinda 24 April & olive groves below Agiassos 26 April

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*
Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April

Southern White Admiral *Limenitis reducta*
At the Rüppell's Warbler site on the coastal slopes between Petra and Molivos 25 April

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*
Above Agiassos 20 April; Akraasi 24 April & Napi Valley 26 April

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*
Seen almost daily in small numbers

Southern Comma *Polygonum egea*
Molivos 25 April

Fritillary spp.
Individuals seen (but not caught to confirm identification) in the Vourkos River Valley and around 'Tulip Hill' on the track to Nigida 23 April were either Spotted, Knapweed or Glanville Fritillary – all difficult species to differentiate

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*
Open pine woodland near Achladeri 20 April; Sigri–Eressos road junction 22 April; above Kato Stavros 24 April & elsewhere in open ground habitats

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*
Above Agiassos 20 April

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*
Petrified Forest Park near Sigri 22 April; Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April & in the stream valley above Melinda 24 April

Mallow Skipper *Carcharodus tripolinus*
Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 18 & 23 April

Moths

Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*

Striped Hawk-moth *Hyles lineata* 1 feeding in three-horned stock along the Vatera beach road 19 April

Silver Y *Autographa gamma*

Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea pytiocampa* A 'procession' of 25 caterpillars - at least 2 feet long - in open pine woodland near Achladeri 20 April

Dragonflies

Blue-tailed damselfly *Ischnura elegans* 1 Kalloni salt pans 21 April

Grasshoppers & Crickets

Field Cricket *Gryllus campestris*

Bush-cricket sp. Petrified Forest Park near Sigri 22 April

Red-winged Grasshopper *Oedipoda germanica* Vourkos River mouth 18 April

Egyptian Locust *Anacridium aegyptium* Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera 23 April & Kalloni II Pool 24 April

Other invertebrates

Scorpion sp.

1 in Rob & Steve's room (!) Madonna Apartments, Vatera 27 April

Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocarpa violacea*

Dung Beetle spp.

Yellow-and-black Flat-backed Millipede

Common and widespread. Seen around Madonna Apartments, Vatera throughout the week

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.

Alyssum lesbiacum '**Lesvos Alison**' Abundant on and a marker for serpentine rocks that Chromium is mined from and which is toxic to many plants. Not in Blamey & Grey-Wilson.

Ammophila arenaria **Marram Grass**

Anacamptis pyramidalis **Pyramidal Orchid** Three spikes adjacent to the track to Nigida 23 April.

Anagallis arvensis **Scarlet Pimpernel** Both the blue- and scarlet-flowered forms.

Anchusa azurea **Large Blue Alkanet** A spike in an arable field adjacent to the track to Nigida 23 April.

Anchusa undulata **Undulate Anchusa**

Anemone pavonina **Peacock Anemone**

Anthemis chia **a Mayweed**

Anthemis rigida **Rayless Mayweed** (= **Rayless Chamomile**) Vourkos River Valley.

Anthemis tomentosa **Woolly Chamomile** Abundant on Vatera beach.

Arbutus unedo **Eastern Strawberry Tree**

Aristolochia hirta **Hairy Birthwort** Seen in the Almiropotamos and Vourkos River valleys as well as near Neochori 24 April & in the olive groves below Agiassos 26 April.

Arum concinatum (*Arum italicum*) **Large Cuckoo Pint**

Arundo donax **Giant Reed** Introduced.

Asphodelus ramosus (*Asphodelus albus* subsp. *albus*) **White Asphodel** Abundant.

Avena sterilis **Winter Wild Oat**

Ballota pseudodictamnus

Bellis sylvestris **Southern Daisy**

Beta vulgaris subsp. *maritima* **Sea Beet**

Borago officinalis **Borage**

Briza maxima **Large Quaking Grass**

Bupleurum subovatum **False Thorow-wax**

Cakile maritima **Sea Rocket** Vatera beach.

Calendula arvensis **Field Marigold**

Calycotoma villosa **Hairy Thorny Broom** Occasional component of the garrigue and maquis.

Cardaria draba **Hoary Cress**

Carduus macrocephalus Seen in the west of the island 22 April.

Carpinus orientalis **Hornbeam**

Carpobrotus acinaciformis **Red Hottentot Fig** Common garden species and sometimes naturalised alongside roads. Vatera beach road.

Castanea sativa **Sweet Chestnut** Abundant in the hills above Agiassos 20 April.

Centaurea cyanus **Cornflower**

Centranthus calcitrapae subsp. *calcitrapae* **Pink Valerian**

Cephalanthera damasonium **White Helleborine** Above Agiassos 20 April.

Cercis siliquastrum **Judas Tree** Planted. Petrified Forest Park 22 April & Taverna Vafios 25 April.

Ceterach officinarum **Rustyback** In the stone wall beside the track above Agiassos 20 April; in the stream valley above Melinda 24 April & in the olive groves below Agiassos 26 April.

Chrysanthemum coronarium **Crown Daisy**

Chrysanthemum segetum **Corn Marigold**

Cistus creticus subsp. *creticus* This and sage-leaved cistus frequently predominate in the garrigue.

Cistus salvifolius **Sage-leaved Cistus**

Convolvulus althaeoides **Mallow-leaved Bindweed**

Coronilla rostrata **a Crown Vetch**

Crepis rubra **Pink Hawksbeard**

Cupressus sempervirens **Italian Cypress** Frequent and widespread, in both its 'normal' and columnar ('funeral cypress') forms.

Cyclamen hederifolium **Ivy-leaved Sowbread** Not in flower. On the track above Agiassos 20 April.

Cynoglossum creticum **Blue Houndstongue**

Delphinium peregrinum **Violet Larkspur** Not in flower. Stream valley above Melinda 24 April.

Doronicum orientale **a Leopards Bane** Along the track above Agiassos 20 April.

Dracunculus vulgaris **Common Dragon Arum**

Ecballium elaterium **Squirting Cucumber** Molivos town 25 April.

Echium angustifolium **Narrow-leaved Bugloss**

Echium italicum **Pale Bugloss**

Eleocharis palustris **Common Spike-rush**

Erica arborea **Tree Heath** In places, grows abundantly as an understorey beneath pine woodland on the eastern side of the island.

Erodium malacoides **Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill**

Eryngium maritimum **Sea Holly**

Euphorbia helioscopia **Sun Spurge** Vatera beach and frequent on arable land.

Euphorbia myrsinites *Abundant on the roadside and in pine forest on the eastern side of the island.*

Euphorbia paralias **Sea Spurge**

Euphorbia rigida **Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge**

Euphorbia (characias) wulfenii **Large Mediterranean Spurge**

Ferula communis subsp. *communis* **Giant Fennel** Conspicuous along roadside verges near Mytilini.

Ficus carica Fig Common, planted species in villages and smallholdings.

Foeniculum vulgare **Fennel**

Fraxinus ornus **Manna (Flowering) Ash**

Fritillaria pontica Along the track above Agiassos 20 April.

Fumana arabica **Arabian Fumana** At the Rüppell's Warbler site on the coastal slopes between Petra & Molivos 25 April.

Fumaria capreolata **Ramping Fumitory** A simplification of a complex and difficult group.

Geranium dissectum **Cut-leaved Crane's-bill**

Geranium lucidum **Shining Crane's-bill**

Geranium molle **Dove's-foot Crane's-bill**

Geranium purpureum **Little Robin**

Gladiolus italicus **Field Gladiolus** Near Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April & in pine woodland alongside the track to Nigida 23 April.

Glaucium leiocarpum a **Yellow-horned Poppy**

Has deeper yellow flowers than *Glaucium flavum*. Vatera beach.

Halimione portulacoides **Sea Purslane** Skala Polichnitos.

Hyoscyamus albus **White henbane**

Hypecoum imberbe

Iris germanica **Bearded Iris** Probably planted.

Juncus maritimus **Sea Rush**

Lagurus ovatus **Harestail**

Lamium garganicum **Large Deadnettle** Abundant above Agiassos 20 April.

Lathyrus anuus

Lathyrus blepharicarpus

Lathyrus clymenum Vatera.

Lavandula stoechas **French Lavender**

Legousia pentagonica a **Large Venus's Looking-glass**

Limodorum abortivum **Violet Bird's-nest Orchid** Under pine woodland: near the Achladeri T-junction 20 April; alongside the track to Nigida 23 April; near Kato Stavros 24 April & near Agiassos 26 April.

Limonium sinuatum **Winged Sea Lavender** Beach adjacent to Vourkos River mouth & in the Petrified Forest Park 22 April.

Linaria pelisseriana **Jersey Toadflax** Above Kato Stavros 24 April.

Lupinus angustifolius **Narrow-leaved Lupin** Near Neochori 24 April.

Lysimachia atropurpurea **Purple Loosestrife** Several plants along the roadside through the Napi Valley 26 April.

Malva parviflora **Least Mallow**

Malva sylvestris **Common Mallow** Perhaps surprisingly, the usual mallow on Lesvos.

Marrubium peregrinum a **White Horehound** Along the right-hand bank of the Almiropotamos River 19 April.

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

Medicago marina **Sea Medick** Abundant on Vatera beach.

Medicago orbicularis **Disc Medick**

Melia azedarach **Indian Bean Tree** Planted

Moraea sisyrinchium **Barbary-nut** Abundant throughout the eastern part of the island.

Muscari comosum **Tassel Hyacinth**

Muscari neglectum **Common grape Hyacinth**

Nerium oleander subsp. *oleander* **Oleander**

Notobasis syriaca **Syrian Thistle**

Oenanthe sp. **Water Dropwort sp.** In a ditch adjacent to Kalloni II Pool.

Ophrys sicula (*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *minor*) **Lesser Yellow Bee Orchid** Olive groves below Agiassos 26 April.

Ophrys umbilicata a **Bee Orchid** A small number of spikes in the roadside olive grove near Neochori & three spikes in the stream valley above Melinda 24 April.

Orchis italica **Italian Man Orchid** Near Neochori and in the stream valley above Melinda on 24 April.

Orchis morio subsp. *picta* **Green-winged Orchid** (also known as **Painted Orchid**) Pine woodland near the Achladeri T-junction 20 April & near Neochori 24 April.

Orchis papilionacea **Pink Butterfly Orchid**

Orchis provincialis **Provence Orchid** Pine woodland near the Achladeri T-junction & above Agiassos 20 April; near Neochori 24 April.

Orchis tridentata **Toothed Orchid** Near Neochori & in the stream valley above Melinda on 24 April.

Ornithogalum nutans **Drooping star-of-Bethlehem** Above Agiassos 20 April.

Ornithogalum umbellatum **Star-of-Bethlehem**

Orobanche sp. **Broomrape sp.** Vourkos River Valley 23 April.

Oxalis pes-caprae **Bermuda Buttercup** Occasional under olives and on waste ground, scarce compared with Crete.

Paeonia mascula subsp. *arietina* **a Peony** In full flower, above Agiassos 20 April.

Papaver apulum

Papaver rhoeas **Common Field Poppy**

Parentucellia latifolia **a Bartsia**

Phragmites australis **Common Reed**

Pinus halepensis subsp. *brutia* **Calabrian Pine** Common planted and naturalised species in lowlands and also at higher altitudes.

Pinus pinea **Stone Pine** Introduced to the island.

Pistacia lentiscus **Mastic Tree**

Pistacia terebinthus **Turpentine Tree** A frequent component of maquis.

Pisum sativa **Wild Pea**

Plantago coronopus **Buck's-horn Plantain** Vatera.

Plantago lagopus **Ribwort Plantain** Abundant on Vatera beach.

Platanus orientalis **Oriental Plane** A riparian species.

Polypodium cambricum **Southern Polypody** In the stone wall beside the track above Agiassos 20 April.

Prasium majus **Prasium** In garrigue above Vatera beach.

Pteridium aquilinum **Bracken** Agiassos 20 April.

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

Quercus aegilops **Valonia Oak** Its acorn cups are unmistakable – large, with thick, flattened re-curved scales. In the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 22 April.

Quercus coccifera **Kermes Oak** Evergreen, with small holly-like leaves. A frequent component of the garrigue.

Quercus pubescens **Downy Oak**

Ranunculus sp. **Water-crowfoot sp.**

Reseda alba **White Mignonette** Growing on the cliff tops overlooking Molivos harbour 25 April.

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

Satureja montana **Winter Savory**

Satureja thymbra **Satureia**

Scandix pecten-veneris **Shepherd's Needle** Near Skala Polichnitos salt pans 19 April.

Scirpus maritimus **Sea Club-rush**

Scrophularia peregrina **Nettle-leaved Figwort** In the stream valley above Melinda 24 April.

Scrophularia scopolii

Sedum rubens **Reddish Stonecrop** Petrified Forest Park 22 April.

Serapias vomeracea **Long-lipped Serapias**

Sherardia arvensis **Field Madder**

Silene colorata subsp. *colorata* **Mediterranean Catchfly** Abundant along the top of the beach at Vatera.

Silene dichotoma **Forked Catchfly**

Silene discolor

Silene gallica **Small-flowered Catchfly**

Silybum marianum **Milk Thistle**

Smyrniium perfoliatum **Perfoliate Alexanders**

Symphyandra cretica **Symphyandra** 24 April.

Tamarix sp. **Tamarisk sp.**

Tamus communis **Black Bryony**

Tordylium apulum **Tordylium** or **Mediterranean Hartwort**

Tragopogon porrifolius **Salsify**

Trifolium clypeatum **Shield Clover**

Trifolium pilulare **Ball Cotton Clover**

Trifolium resupinatum **Reversed Clover** Common & widespread.

Trifolium stellatum **Star Clover**

Trifolium tomentosum **Woolly Clover**

Trifolium uniflorum **One-flowered Clover** Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Trigonella coerulescens **a Blue Fenugreek** Abundant on Vatera beach.

Tuberaria guttata **Spotted Rockrose**

Tulipa undulatifolia In sloping pine woodland adjacent to the track to Nigida 23 & 26 April.

Ulmus canescens **Mediterranean Elm** Vourkos River Valley.

Umbilicus sp. **Navelwort sp.**

Urtica pilulifera **Roman Nettle**

Verbascum undulatum **a Mullein** Roadside verges.

Vicia hybrida **Hairy Yellow Vetchling**

Vicia sativa **Common Vetch**

Vicia villosa **Fodder Vetch**