

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Eastern Greece
U3A Cambridge Bird Club
25 April – 3 May 2008

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Holiday participants

Graham and Jill Garrett
Holly Anderson
Annette Walker and Richard Howlett Jones
Gill and Andrew Goodhart
Sally Head
Jane Bett
Jim Bentley
Robin Harrison
Ann Ruel
Meg Vale
Claude Smith
Clare Blatherwick
Wendy ap Rees

Leaders: Robin and Rachel Hamilton

Report and photos by Robin & Rachel Hamilton. Cover: wild peony.

Illustrations:

Middle spotted woodpecker illustration by Szabolcs Kokay from Gerard Gorman's *Woodpeckers of Europe* (Bruce Coleman Books) and reprinted here with their kind permission.

Photo of giant peacock moth by Ivan Nethercoat.

All other line drawings by Rob Hume.

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £30 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 £30 per person towards WWF Greece's Dadia Project was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of £614 / €800. This brings the total conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays since 1991 to £53,635. A thank-you letter from WWF Greece is the final page of this holiday report (but not this web version).

Eastern Greece
25 April – 3 May 2008

Friday 25 April: Heathrow to Dadia

The Friday morning hurly-burly of Heathrow quickly resolved into a happy feeling of anticipation. Friends caught up with news, shared anecdotes of recent natural history events and competed with conflicting predictions as to the weather awaiting us. It all helped to cover the tedium of waiting for our flight to be called. We felt a little 'special'. Olympic Airways seemed to be treating us as favoured customers and had rescheduled the departure time for the second leg of our journey to accommodate our connection. It was an anxious time when we reached Athens, some 45 minutes late, only to be directed by a particularly circuitous route around the airport building to the boarding gate for the Alexandroupolis flight. True to their promise, Olympic had held it, and all the other passengers, who had been patiently waiting for an hour and a half. They were charming to this flustered crowd, and seemed to think it very odd that people from Heathrow were actually flying on to Alexandroupolis.

The sun was low in the sky, catching the mountaintops and glancing off the sea as we flew over the Aegean. Coming into Alexandroupolis, we could see gentle waves, with gulls bobbing on the water and the grassy airport, as we came into land, was yellow with carpets of spurge and spikes of mullein. While we waited to disembark we watched a big red sun finally disappear behind the hills beyond the town.

Evros Cars were waiting for us with the minibuses and the green van from the centre at Dadia was ready to take our bags. The light was too dim to take in much of the scenery on the 50 minute drive up the valley but when we arrived at Dadia it was warm with a clear, starry sky, and the song of a nightingale was almost drowned by a chorus of marsh frogs from the woods behind the centre.

It was Good Friday in Greece, with Easter weekend ahead of us. Chrysoula, who manages the centre, had arranged for dinner to be prepared for us there, so after a few minutes to find our rooms and settle in, we met again in the bar, where a long, welcoming table had been laid for us, to enjoy our first Greek meal: salad, generous bowls of *fassolakia* - a tasty green bean casserole - followed by a pudding of traditional chocolate sponge and ice cream, all washed down with several jugs of local wine. It had been a long day, so we soon headed for bed, where we continued to be serenaded by frogs and the nightingale.

Saturday 26 April: A leisurely day with local walks

After our long journey, and the two-hour time change, everyone felt that they would like the opportunity of a leisurely start to the day, so we had decided against a walk before breakfast. Claude was out early though, and was rewarded with views of both a nightingale and a black-eared wheatear.

We all met for breakfast: wonderful creamy Greek yoghurt and local honey, cereals, cold meats and cheeses, fresh bread and jams, fruit juice, tea and coffee. Replete, we set off for our morning's walk, exploring the immediate surroundings of the Ecotourism Centre. It was overcast with a chilly breeze as we turned down the hill towards the village. Some of the party caught a glimpse of our first serin, singing on the telegraph wire above the car park. There were no obvious thermals but the breeze produced updraughts above the hills, and raptors were out in force: a lesser spotted eagle skimmed the horizon above the wood, an Egyptian vulture and two black vultures glided over and four short-toed eagles, then another Egyptian vulture appeared over the hilltop nearby, closely followed by two more black vultures and a black stork. When we were not watching the sky for raptors and storks, we were diverted by beautiful views of a black-eared wheatear, a singing cirl bunting and a woodlark, all from time to time perched conveniently on telegraph wires above the lane. There is a pretty view down a little valley away to the east and the lane provides a useful vantage point from which to watch bird activity. A jay flew across the valley where we could hear a chiffchaff calling. We peered into the bushes to try to catch sight of the elusive nightingale which was at times singing a duet with a great tit, then going quiet for a moment and re-materialising in the bushes behind us, having slipped across the road without anyone seeing it. A pine processionary moths' gossamer tent was masquerading as a bird's nest in the distant pine trees and, as we turned for home, a white wagtail flew

across the road and perched in excellent view on a rock.

Beneath our feet there was plenty to look at too, though the overcast sky lessened the impact of some of the subtle flowers. The turf was studded with deep blue grape hyacinths, bright pink storksills, mauve thymes, red bartsia, yellow St John's wort and little white-flowered tufts of the endemic sandwort, *Minuartia greuteriana*, whose only sites are in Dadia forest and especially this rocky hillside. Searching for plants found us a bright green crab spider and, sheltering from the chilly breeze and partly covered by some sand and scree, a little spur-thighed tortoise.

It was beginning to rain a little and our picnic lunch was calling us, so we headed back to the centre to eat it in the shelter of the bar terrace. After a leisurely break, giving time for the rain to clear, we set out in a light drizzle for a walk into the forest. A mistle thrush was singing brilliantly from a treetop and the birds of the forest were active, but fairly quiet: great tits, chaffinches, chiffchaffs and a Bonelli's warbler. Under the pines, the cistus bushes were in bud and we came upon a magnificent clump of violet limodore, *Limodorum abortivum*. Unfortunately, the light was poor, so several of the group noted the position to return later in sunshine to take photographs. We followed the winding path under the pines, through a cleared area – a firebreak – on into the lighter shade of oaks, with wild service and eastern beech trees. But the rain was increasing, so we curtailed our exploration and turned back to the centre.

We had booked a session in the Information Centre so, after a pause to dry off, we met there to take in the information from the excellent exhibits, a very useful relief map of the forest of Dadia colour-coded for the forest's vegetation, then we watched a film on raptor conservation and the work of the Dadia WWF project, which the Honeyguide donation would be supporting.

Because of the Easter holiday, all the local tavernas were closed over the weekend so, once again, dinner was laid out for us in the bar at the centre. Chrysoula had engaged the services of a woman from the village who is a wonderful cook and she had prepared a delicious *moussaka* with, of course, Greek salad for tonight. We lingered over dinner and then disappeared to our rooms, some to turn in for the night, others to catch a quick nap before heading for the village and the 11.00 pm Easter Eve Service. We were made very welcome as the village gathered in their beautiful church with its brilliantly decorated ceilings, gilded pillars and wall paintings. The candlelit procession left the church on the point of midnight and the thunder of fireworks began. The churchgoers gathered around a huge bonfire beside the church and friends and families exchanged gifts and ate traditional red-dyed hard-boiled eggs. Chrysoula greeted us warmly and promised us red eggs for breakfast!

Sunday 27 April: An introduction to the Evros Delta

Easter Sunday dawned overcast but dry. We took our early walk up the main track through the forest. Nightingales were singing but continued to hide from the assault of a dozen pairs of binoculars. Great and blue tits, greenfinches and chaffinches, a robin and a Bonelli's warbler showed themselves among the pine branches or sang from treetop song-posts, and as we reached the wider vista of the firebreak, two black vultures and a griffon vulture flew across the hill towards the feeding station. While we were listening to another lovely nightingale, we caught the mellow purr of a turtle dove and then had a good view of a pair as they flew across the track in front of us.

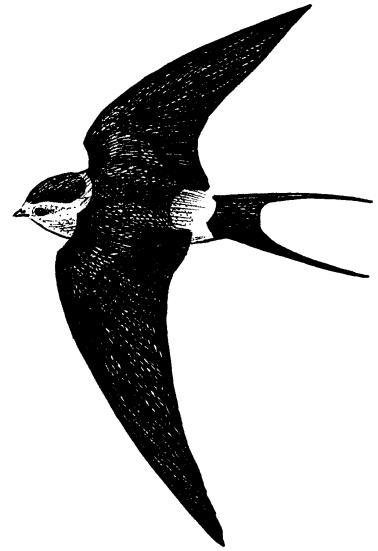
True to her promise, Chrysoula had arranged for a huge bowl of red eggs to be prepared for us so, after tucking in to another delicious Greek breakfast, we set off in the minibuses for our first visit to the Evros delta.

Keeping alert for birds as we drove south along the main road towards Alexandroupolis proved worthwhile. A white stork was visible on its nest at the traffic lights in Provatonas; a roller perched, showing just a hint of blue, on a telegraph wire beside the road; crested larks diced with death searching for insects on the road surface ahead; and both long-legged and steppe buzzards quartered the hillsides.

A new, fast road has recently been completed, connecting Turkey to Alexandroupolis and beyond. We took this route, which soon brought us down to the airport, and found our track leading out onto the delta. The

rough roadway slowed us down and we were soon brought to a halt by excellent views of corn buntings and a woodchat shrike, then by thirteen white storks in a field and a beautiful black-headed yellow wagtail.

We made our way as quickly as was comfortable through flat agricultural land, until suddenly it gave way to tamarisk scrub and then to open water. The Anthi Lagoons are extensive, shallow bodies of brackish water, segmented by straight, tamarisk-lined causeways. Reeds and rushes grow in the shallows and areas of saltmarsh have formed beside some of the causeways. The area is wonderful for water birds. Little egrets and grey and purple herons fed quietly against the reeds; black-winged stilts went about their noisy business, approaching close to us apparently oblivious of our presence; coots, mute swans and mallard made use of the areas of deeper open water. We ate our picnic lunch at a crossroads in the causeways, and had brilliant views of a black-headed yellow wagtail. We were pleased to find a male red-crested pochard with two females and everyone was delighted by the frequent sound of a bittern booming and the brief call of a water rail. Little groups of garganeys and wigeons and a small party of shovelers were showing well in the afternoon sunshine while in the air, a female marsh harrier, a white-winged black tern, flocks of swallows (including a few red-rumped, *right*) and large numbers of house martins accompanied by a few sand martins added constant interest.



We heard a greenshank calling and caught sight of it flying low over the tamarisk, and while most of us were admiring two squacco herons which Annette and Richard had found ahead of us on the track, Claude, Holly and Robin (Harrison) spotted a pair of honey buzzards wing-clapping in their prolonged and spectacular display flight. We drove on; there was a great white egret with little egrets beside it, for perfect comparison and redshanks and wood sandpipers were feeding in the shallows among the sedges and water plants.

We continued along the track to the beach, scattering crested larks and Spanish sparrows from the sandy roadway where they were feeding. We could see two great crested grebes on the sea and as we watched the yellow-legged gulls flying around and strutting about on the beach, a slender-billed gull flew by. Little terns were diving and black terns skimming the calm sea surface for food. There were great cormorants on the sea and three pygmy cormorants flew past.

While we were setting up the telescopes behind the sandy ridge three hoopoes flew through the bushes behind the beach, perching obligingly, if briefly. We could see that the edge of the sea was alive with waders: ringed plovers, Kentish plovers, oystercatchers, a small flock of dunlins, 25 sanderlings (some coming into breeding plumage), little stint and turnstones. Annette and Robin (Harrison) found a grey plover in summer plumage and three curlews flew overhead. There were common sandpipers and, in a pool along the beach, a large group of curlew sandpipers, several of which were in beautiful dark red summer plumage. On a distant sand-bar, a party of Mediterranean gulls stood in a line, looking very smart in contrast with the yellow-legged gulls beside them.

Some of us strolled through the dunes back to the minibuses, through beautiful displays of sand catchfly, tiny vetches and clovers among the dune grasses.

Our return journey to Dadia yielded our first kestrel close to the turning to Turkey, a flock of jackdaws in the village and several rollers on wires, but the main road does not make stopping easy so we pressed on. Even a flock of white storks in a field, a shout from Holly, couldn't bring us to a stop.

Easter Sunday dinner, again at the centre, was Greek style roast chicken, with richly herby flavours and generous plates of fresh Greek salad, all washed down with plentiful supplies of local wine. As usual, nightingales and frogs serenaded us and a tawny owl joined the night chorus.

Monday 28 April: Evros Delta: the Sarantametros Canal and the Drana Lagoon

Monday morning early was overcast but already feeling warmer, with much less wind. We walked down the lane towards the village and on the way we had a superb view of a black-eared wheatear perched on a post. Down in the valley we heard a Syrian woodpecker drumming; we listened to the sound, like that of a great spotted woodpecker, but fading away at the end. A curlew and a woodlark perched on a wire together and through telescopes we could see the lark's enormously long hind claws. There was a shout of "golden oriole!" from further down the lane, where Holly and Robin (Harrison) had sighted a pair on a dead tree. We rushed down to where they were looking, just in time for some to catch a glimpse and we could hear a distant cuckoo, echoing off the hill. "Ah, Bisto!" was the predictable response as we crushed and sniffed the leaves of the dwarf elder growing beside the road.

After breakfast, the morning was brightening, with some very promising patches of blue sky. We caught sight of a bee-eater on a wire beside the road beyond Dadia and stopped in Provatonas to look at the magnificent stork's nest, on a substantial telegraph pole. It was impressively honeycombed with sparrows' nests, mostly Spanish, but with a couple of house sparrows in residence as well. We nearly fell for Claude's tongue-in-cheek story that it represented a complex case of mutual benefit, the storks leaning over and grabbing the baby sparrows as they emerged from their nests and feeding them to the young storks. We added feral pigeon to the week's list and, while we were admiring a silver-leaved lime, a short-toed eagle soared overhead, shortly followed by a pair of honey buzzards, rather half-heartedly displaying.



We returned to the main road and continued towards the delta, keeping our eyes peeled for worthwhile sightings. We were rewarded with two black storks and about twenty white storks flying across ahead of us and then as we turned off onto a side road we stopped abruptly on a shout of 'flock of large birds in the sky'. About 400 white storks were gracefully soaring around in great circles in order to gain height before eventually gliding away to the west. We watched them for many minutes, beguiled by their elegant and effortless movement and the patterns of light as the sunshine caught their brilliant white plumage, set against a thunderous black cloud. It must have been a particularly effective thermal: the storks were joined by a second-year golden eagle and a lesser spotted eagle, both showing their diagnostic markings well in the exceptionally clear light.

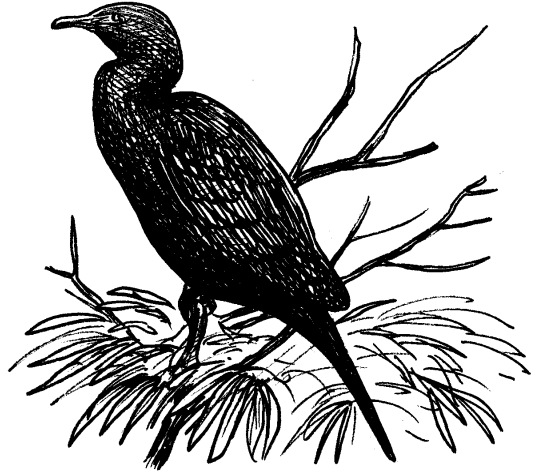
We were heading for the Evros Delta Information Centre where Eleni had arranged for us to collect permits for the restricted zones of the delta, for use later in the week. The Information Centre is a useful stop, with opportunities for postcard, tee shirt and booklet purchases as well as some extremely informative posters and maps. We were anxious to get down on to the delta though, so a distant migrating flock of 24 honey buzzards and a short-toed eagle over the hill behind the centre did not detain us for long.

We drove down to the delta on a track through a tunnel and cutting under the main road. A long-legged buzzard flew past just as we went under the road and as we drove out of the cutting, with the delta spread out in front of us, we had a very good view of a roller on a telegraph wire; it perched for us to have a good look at the amazing colours and then flew down to catch insects in the grass and returned to the wire to watch for more. The light was bright and clear and showed the strong terracotta of the plumage of a couple of kestrels as they did aerobatics beside us, and then we caught sight of another big flock of circling storks, again illuminated against the threatening clouds.

We drove on and crossed the bridge over the Sarantametros canal, where a deafening cacophony of frogs, reed warblers and great reed warblers greeted us. We climbed out of the minibuses to have a look around. A kingfisher flashed by a couple of times and moorhens called from the secrecy of the reeds. The whirling flock of storks came over above us and then poured out of the sky to come down and immediately start feeding in a field nearby where they peacefully foraged until disturbed by a tractor. Honeyguide's

dependable Isabelline wheatear performed beautifully for us as usual; they regularly nest among some old farm buildings at the crossroads here. We were able to watch it for some time, feeding in the grass and on the track, and perching on dead thistles and bushes. In the distance, we had a tantalising glimpse of a pelican – too far away to determine the species, but a female marsh harrier was much closer, clearly showing her colours, and a shout from Holly alerted us to a hobby flashing past.

It was lunchtime so we drove a little way along the canal side to find a good viewpoint to picnic. Cetti's and great reed warblers were singing incessantly and we had a brilliant view of a great reed warbler as it perched in reeds just in front of us. There were great cormorants, grey and purple herons about and one or more marsh harriers were in the air most of the time. While we were watching one of these, a very obliging Levant sparrowhawk flew along the opposite bank and perched in a nearby tree for us all to get it in our binoculars. It moved off, and then returned for another beautiful display, in very good light, before disappearing into the distance. A group of four bee-eaters appeared too, always a showstopper. Further along the canal we were delighted by a little group of pygmy cormorants (*right*), perched close to us at the foot of the reeds.



We drove on until the track turned into a causeway alongside the huge Drana Lagoon. We stopped where mud and shallow water and scattered saltmarsh plants provided feeding and cover for large numbers of small waders. Telescopes marshalled, we scanned the area for some time and found ringed plovers and displaying Kentish plovers scuttling about together. There were lots of curlew sandpipers too, with smaller numbers of dunlin, redshanks, spotted redshanks, greenshanks and little stints. We drove further out along the causeway and had a good view of a Temminck's stint on a pool beside the track.

There was a very threatening sky ahead and the visibility was reducing rapidly so we decided against driving further along the increasingly muddy track and turned for home, under the watchful eye of several beautiful black-headed wagtails.

The clouds were gathering but such light as there was was behind us so the little flocks of migrating turtle doves were shown at their best. They were hungry and very reluctant to fly far so kept taking little excursions ahead of us and feeding until we drove up to them to watch again; it was a lovely encounter with a bird that one can seldom observe so closely. As ever, telegraph wires were a great source of good birds: the only lesser grey shrike of the week and then an excellent pair of rollers. The light was brilliant and we were able to drive close to where they perched. Alternately, they repeatedly flew down to the grass below to retrieve a morsel of food which they devoured and then flew back onto the wire. You couldn't hope for clearer views made all the more memorable by the atmospheric black sky. For Wendy, it was the highlight of her week.

We drove back to Dadia keeping more or less ahead of the rain. We had a good view of a black kite just before the Dadia turning and, just after the turning, spotted a creature crawling across the road. We stopped to help what we had originally taken to be a tortoise. In fact, it turned out to be a Balkan terrapin, making its determined pilgrimage across the road towards a little roadside shrine.

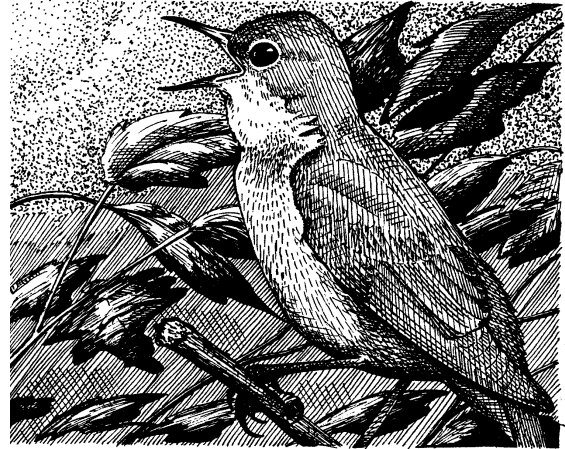
Dinner at the centre for the last time (the end of the holiday weekend) was a tasty pasta dish, *pastitsio*, with salads, rounded off with creamy ice cream and Greek chocolate cake.

Tuesday 29 April: Walk Down to the Diavolorema River valley.

At last we felt a real change in the weather; it was much warmer with the sun breaking through the clouds.

The black-eared wheatear was again to be seen by the gateway to the centre and before we reached the car park we had also seen a white wagtail and two serins on the wire. We walked down the lane into the little valley where some even earlier birds, Jill and Holly, had seen golden orioles. A jay flew over, followed by a small flock of greenfinches and then we all heard the golden oriole again though it was not showing itself. We were kept happy during our oriole vigil by a couple of black storks and then we heard a Syrian woodpecker drumming. Two red-rumped swallows flew over towards the village, giving us our first really good view, and a circl bunting was singing persistently on a wire. Suddenly, Robin Harrison spotted the Syrian woodpecker drumming on a telegraph pole, just a short distance away and in full view, giving us all a chance to watch it drumming and to 'scope' its distinguishing features.

After breakfast, we set off to walk through the village and down into the valley beyond. We saw the Syrian woodpecker again in the same place and, in one of the first gardens on the edge of the village, we heard our best nightingale yet. We listened, enchanted, and eventually we saw it, singing from a low branch, and watched it throw its head up, beak wide open, its throat swelling and vibrating in apparently ecstatic song. A little further on, a scarce swallowtail posed for photographs on the blossom of a false acacia and while we were crossing the village square, a griffon and two black vultures flew leisurely overhead.



On the edge of the village, we paused to get our bearings beside a hedgerow of brambles and nettles; true to form, the sunny bank was humming with insects and adorned with orange tip, wall brown and common blue butterflies while, above us, we watched a steppe buzzard followed across the valley by an adult and a first-year golden eagle.

We wove our way across a meadow full of assorted, some ancient, farm machinery, and out onto the steep down-hill track. There was a good vantage point to look out for activity on the edge of the wood 100 yards away and we were alerted by the deep, rasping alarm call of a nightingale, which was fiercely mobbing a marauding cat. We heard a Bonelli's warbler singing and then caught a glimpse of it among the branches. While we were peering at that, the unmistakable call of a golden oriole rang out. Andrew's persistent and determined sharp eyes at last tracked it down and it perched, eventually in full view, on the bare branch of a pine tree. A second oriole materialised and then we watched the pair fly away up the valley and out of sight.

The rapid departure of the orioles was soon explained as the mellow jangling of sheep bells approached and we waited and watched as a flock of sheep, with a few goats, a shepherd (rather unromantically, engrossed in a conversation on his mobile phone!) and a rag-bag of helpful dogs overtook us and moved off down the lane.

Two golden eagles, apparently the same ones that we had seen earlier, were performing their close-formation, rolling display flight and Jill called to point out a lovely group of three black storks gliding overhead as we pressed on down the lane, in and out of the dappled shade. A stream crosses the path, and beside it in a still deep pool lurked two smooth newts and a half-grown marsh frog with a smart green stripe down its back, as well as water boatmen, pond skaters, midge larvae and various other water creatures. A



well-grown tortoise was going our way, so we stopped and admired him, checked his tail-tip for scales, counted his supracaudal plates and pronounced him a Hermann's tortoise, before seeing him safely into the cover beside the track. Some of the party caught a brief glimpse of another golden oriole and a whitethroat flew across the track in front of us.

We reached the bottom of the hill and the wide valley of the Diavolorema River stretched ahead of us. The soft call of bee-eaters made us look upwards and a small flock flew over, towards the river. We paused to search the likely song posts in the

hedgerows for black-headed buntings and shrikes – in vain – and admired the delicate moth mullein in the hedge bottom that Ann had found, and the fragrant Mediterranean sweet briar. Some of the group went over to investigate a group of sickly looking poplar trees which turned out to be heavily laden with mistletoe. On the top of a huge pine on the hill across the river, a considerable distance away, a pale blob turned out to be a golden eagle and closer at hand, we at last found some shrikes – two woodchats perched on adjacent trees and posed well for us to see their striking markings clearly.

We walked along the road towards the river with more and more bee-eaters flying over, drawn in from all directions. Many came very close in the bright sunshine, flew around us and perched on the wires, and they were clearly congregating to feed in front of the riverside cliffs. They were a delight to watch and kept us enchanted for many minutes. Further along the road there was a chance to examine at closer quarters a fine specimen of the poplar mistletoe, a tighter ball with more leathery leaves than ours. (The mistletoe recorded in this part of Greece does not conform to this description and, in any case, parasitises pine so this plant, for the moment, remains a mystery.) Beneath it were the earthworks of a colony of European sousliks. A griffon vulture with a conspicuous white wing-tag lumbered overhead followed by a booted eagle, then



Claude picked up a juvenile eastern imperial eagle.

Lunch was waiting in the minibus beside the river and the bee-eaters and yet another pair of honey buzzards performing a display flight kept us entertained. We potted a little way along the river after lunch, the sky looking increasingly threatening. Holly and Annette were exploring the woodland edge and excitedly called us over: they had found a pair of masked shrikes. The shrikes were very obliging and gave everyone stunning views through telescopes and binoculars for several minutes. It was interesting to contrast their activity with the woodchat shrikes that we had seen earlier. The party divided; several people were determined to brave the threatening sky and retrace our outward path, others followed the quicker road route, for the sake of a brisk walk, and Rachel drove the prudent back to the centre in the minibus. The brave souls were rewarded by a spectacular hailstorm on the way back.

Nothing was scheduled for the afternoon, so opportunities for relaxation, laundry, post-cards, exploring and more bird watching were all taken. Rachel drove a small group of silk-lovers into the little town of Soufli, with its streets lined with mulberry trees, to explore, buy silk and visit the fascinating silk museum.

We had two local tavernas to choose from in Dadia, both within walking distance of the centre. Tonight we decided to sample the nearer, run by the Panagotis family. It is a charming, traditional taverna, in the heart of the village, with no English spoken. We were grateful to Chrysoula for having given us a little card with the group members' 'special dietary requirements' written for us in Greek, to avoid embarrassing disappointments.



Wednesday 30 April: Raptor feeding station at Dadia; Lefkimi and Kapsalo

An early walk along a new route through the woods southeast of the Centre gave us lovely views across the forest as well as proving productive: all the usual hirundines, warblers and raptors and the first spotted flycatcher of the week.

A visit to the raptor feeding station in Dadia Forest was scheduled for us for this morning. A minibus shuttle was arranged for the group for the ten-minute drive up to the viewing hide; as the first group arrived

at the hide, a pair of short-toed eagles flew over, displaying and calling to each other. The hide offers a comfortable view of a nearby hilltop, where carcasses are regularly left out for the vultures to supplement their food supply. There is a fascinatingly gruesome spectacle for viewers: twenty or thirty vultures all demonstrating their prearranged position at the feast! Black vultures, of which there were a few, had already played their part, opening up the carcass and taking their fill. The griffons are next in the sequence, their long naked necks enabling them to reach deep within for the tasty and nutritious inner organs - that was the stage they were at when we were watching. Two Egyptian vultures were waiting their turn to attack the pickings from the bones left by the griffons, and a raven was there on the sidelines, hoping for anything it could grab. A solitary roller was watching with curiosity from a nearby tree.

We left the hide and strolled down through the wood for our rendezvous with the return shuttle minibus. The woodland flora there is dominated by pine, of both the local species, Black Pine, *Pinus nigra* ssp *nigra* and Calabrian pine, *P. halapensis* ssp *brutia*. Oaks are represented by several species too: Turkey oak, *Quercus cerris*, downy oak, *Q. pubescens* and the local species, *Q. frainetto*. The understory of prickly juniper, *Juniperus oxycedrus*, the eastern strawberry tree *Arbutus andrachne*, tree heath, *Erica arborea* together and two species of cistus *Cistus incanus*, grey-leaved cistus and the local species *C. laurifolius*, is scattered, leaving space for ferns and mosses as well as a wide variety of woodland flowers.

After a brief break to collect our things for the rest of the day, we headed south, through the village of Lefkimi, up a winding lane through the edge of the forest, past tiny cultivations and concentrations of beehives, up to one of the highest points in the forest, the Kapsalo radio mast. We were greeted by a sharp shower, but it soon cleared and we were able to enjoy the spectacular panoramic view across the rolling landscape of the National Park. We dispersed to explore the craggy hilltop and the buildings around the



radio mast. A kestrel was showing itself beautifully in silhouette on the side of a crag; Ann found a giant peacock moth (left) resting amongst some nettles and it obligingly waited to be photographed; we looked down on a pair of ravens displaying and rolling; up among the radio masts themselves an alpine accentor, a blue rock thrush and a black-eared wheatear all allowed themselves to be seen well.

We began to stroll down the road. A Bonelli's warbler was heard singing, and we watched a female chaffinch collecting gossamer from the larval tent of pine processionary moths to weave into her nest. Two griffon vultures flew over, showing their characteristic silhouette, which Claude imaginatively likened to a Grecian urn, compared with the now familiar 'barn door' shape of a black vulture's wings. We picked up a snatch of an ortolan bunting's song, and then spotted it singing from a prominent rocky perch, giving us clear telescope views. Clare spotted a black-eared wheatear on the other side of the road and Annette and Graham reported excitedly that they had watched an ortolan bunting at very close range. A black vulture perched on a rock to our left and was soon joined by an Egyptian; Jim marvelled at the remarkable difference in size. Then we heard some strange calls from the cliff and Claude spotted a griffon vulture's nesting ledge where a young bird was calling for food. Robin Harrison found a frustratingly distant peregrine gliding by, but we soon enjoyed superb views of another one perched on a rock not far from the vultures.

All the way down, we were enchanted by the flowers in the road verges and the woodland edge. There were stately plants of the almost spurge-like perfoliate alexanders *Smyrniium perfoliatum*. The pretty pink flowers of bastard balm *Melittis melissophyllum* cowered under the Montpellier maple whose fruits were rapidly ripening to a bright crimson. The white flowers on the manna ash provided a bright contrast and irises and wild tulips decorated the rocky scree slopes beside the road. The Italian catchfly *Silene italica* and its relative, the dark red subspecies of the red catchfly *Lychnis viscaria* ssp *atropurpurea* were striking in the damp ditches and down the bank, in the shade of the hazel coppice, we found a spectacular clump of bright red wild peonies.

We retrieved the minibuses from the top of the hill and drove some distance down to where the landscape became more gently sloping and active forestry was more apparent. On a sunny roadside bank we stopped for a clump of white orchids, known from last year. They are the rare helleborine, *Cephalanthera*

epipactoides, endemic to the area and, nearby we paid our respects to some fine spikes of mambose orchid, *Ophrys mammosa*, inconspicuous and drab by comparison.

Back at the Centre, Yannis, the director of the WWF Black Vulture Project which is based there, gave us an illustrated talk about the conservation and research work that is currently going on in the forest, under the auspices of WWF. Encouragingly, he covered some of the successes of the work, and outlined the complexity of the issues involved in raptor conservation there. Graham took the opportunity to present to him the Honeyguide cheque which will contribute to the continuation of the work from which, as Graham eloquently put it, we all felt we were so richly benefiting.

Tonight it was the turn of the second taverna, the Simos, at the far side of the village, for dinner, so several members of the party strode off to enjoy a brisk evening walk. The minibus overtook them and we all arrived to find a warm welcome and an excellent and varied Greek menu to satisfy everyone, all rounded off by a pleasant evening stroll back to the centre under a starlit sky.



Thursday 1st May: The Doriskos By-Way, The Loutros Hills and back to Dadia by the Pessani road

We had been so attracted by the riverside path yesterday that we decided that it would be worth the short drive for our early walk. We hadn't taken into account the low sun as we set off eastwards along the riverbank; we must have been brilliantly illuminated in the early morning light and we were completely dazzled! However, our attention was soon caught by a mewing call and we watched a steppe buzzard fly out of the wood and perch on top of a pine tree, still calling. A little ringed plover appeared on the pebbly shore and fed among the stones and two species of wagtail - black-headed yellow, and white - moved up and down the river beside us. When we turned back and had the sun behind us, bird watching was a good deal easier. A pair of stonechats were obviously holding territory on the bushes along the path and serins were singing their scratchy song from the top of a tree in the hedgerow. Across the river, a female red-backed shrike stood out, on the top of a bramble and was soon joined by a male bird, and we could watch them at leisure, in excellent light. There was a shout of "kingfisher!" from Jill, but we were too slow to see it; fortunately, it soon flew past us again as we made our way back to the minibuses.

We had a big circuit planned for today, starting with the main road to the south and then taking a great sweep on a much smaller road that cuts through the forest and returns to Dadia from the west - with many stops on the way.

The first of these was again in the little village of Provatonas, and our best opportunity to stock up with local produce and gifts to take home, from the village shop underneath the great storks' nest. As usual, the activity at the nest provided entertainment and a sparrowhawk obligingly flew over it while we watched. We drove on, seeing two rollers and both black and white storks from the minibus. We diverted from the main road to drive along the lanes through the now by-passed village of Doriskos, in the hope that we might find an elusive black-headed bunting. We stopped before we reached the village, at the first likely view-point, and were immediately rewarded by a pair of Syrian woodpeckers on a telegraph pole, one of them peering from time to time into a nest-hole. Then there was a shout and a black-headed bunting appeared at last, first a very smart male, shortly joined by a female.



They surveyed their territory from the top of a small oak tree, apparently undaunted by a male red-backed shrike perched on the same tree. A sparrowhawk flew by, vigorously mobbed by house martins, followed a few minutes later by a fine Levant sparrowhawk – an excellent comparison for us.



We drove through the village, a rather forbidding settlement with a number of military buildings. We next stopped where the view opened out across a river valley towards a line of poplars, and soon picked up two male golden orioles, hearing them first, then seeing them very well in a tall fir tree. Suddenly there seemed to be black-headed buntings everywhere, with three male birds visible at once on various bushes and wires around. There was interest at our feet too. In the long grass Annette found a cream-spot tiger moth and a lesser fiery copper and Ann and Meg found beautiful patches of the startling crimson pheasant's-eye *Adonis sp* and Venus's-looking-glass *Legousia speculum veneris* among the weeds in the cornfield beside us.

We were soon back on the main road but turned off again to take a short cut. Before long, we came to a sudden stop, this time at the sight of an interesting road casualty: a European glass lizard - like an enormous slow-worm. It was a sad but rewarding opportunity to observe an otherwise very elusive creature.

We took the turning towards Loutros, beside one of the many rivers feeding the delta. It was May Day, a national holiday, celebrated by family excursions into the countryside for huge, convivial picnics. One of these was taking place under a beautiful riverside stand of Oriental planes *Platanus orientalis*: tables and chairs were spread out, decorated with bright coloured cloths and bouquets of wild flowers, and spread with plates piled high with festive food. Families were engrossed in energetic ball games under the watchful eye of elderly grannies, sitting comfortably in the shade. The parked cars had been decorated according to the local tradition, with bunches of wild flowers fixed under the windscreen wipers!

We turned up a track, away from the river, that wound its way steeply up into the limestone hills. We parked, with a panoramic view across the delta, and poured out of the buses onto the sweet-smelling, thymy turf. A short-toed eagle hung on the breeze with its feet dangling, then dropped down to catch a small creature, which we watched it eat in flight. We spread out, and wandered in the sun amongst the flowers in the short turf. The holly oaks *Quercus coccifera* are clearly very tasty as they had been browsed by sheep into tight bushes. The box *Buxus sempervirens* and prickly juniper *Juniperus oxycedrus*, too were sculpted into strange shapes, but together added scale and shelter, and contributed to the beauty and diversity of the hillside. There were clovers, sparges, thymes and grasses to keep the botanists happy. Sally found a beautiful group of white poppies – much photographed for later confirmation of their identification (probably *Papaver albiflorum*) and while that was going on everybody (except Sally and Rachel!) had the magical experience of watching as an adult white-tailed eagle glided slowly by, its tail flashing pure white as the sun caught it. There were butterflies everywhere and we found several of the big, fat, striped bush-cricket *Ephippiger*. In fact, we were all so captivated by this spot that we decided to schedule an early lunch. We were about to board the minibuses again when an enormous centipede, *Scolopendra sinuata* crawled out across the track. It was about 12 cm long, shiny black, with orange legs and ferocious looking pincers at the tail end; but it is the bite at the front end you have to beware of!

We continued along the back road, passing family groups gathering bunches of flowers or sitting under the shade of trees. We could hear corn buntings and ortolan buntings as we drove slowly, enjoying the spectacular views and on the look out, in vain, for a rare tree, *Eriolobus trilobatus*, related to apple, which we expected to see in flower on the way. We stopped to explore an open, grassy plateau where we found a plant of the mistletoe-like semi-parasite, *Loranthus europaeus* growing on a sessile oak, *Quercus petraea*. We strolled in the warm afternoon sun and, in the shade at the edge of the clearing found another patch of wild peonies, some birthwort, alliums and mulleins. There were scattered bushes of terebinth *Pistachia terebintha* and *Rhus coriaria*, related to our garden sumac. The near and distant views were wonderful – wooded slopes tinged rusty red with the young growth of Eastern Strawberry-tree *Arbutus andrachne* and the folding hills of the forest disappearing into a misty haze.

We drove on again, until another inviting viewpoint persuaded us to stop. Maps and compasses (and

Andrew's GPS) convinced us that the hills we could see, not so very far away, were indeed in Bulgaria. We could hear both circl and ortolan buntings, and eventually located the ortolan in our telescopes. We encountered a very big tortoise, dangerously jaywalking, and made the usual checks for species as both Hermann's and spur-thighed are found here. This one had a very flared shell, no spurs on its thighs and clear scales on the tail tip so was passed as a Hermann's tortoise, though unusually for that species, it had a single supracaudal plate.

It was time to press on as one more stop was on the schedule. We soon came upon the spot; the widespread terracotta rocks and soils of the forest are punctuated by a surprising outcrop of strikingly blue-green rock. We climbed out of the minibuses and immediately there was a cry of 'raptor' as both a short-toed eagle and a long-legged buzzard were in the air above us. This area has a magical quality. The rocks have been described to us as being rich in copper and as a result, toxic to many plant species. There seem certainly to be few species able to tolerate the conditions but those that can present a fine spectacle, and some have been found to be endemic. Bright yellow patches of alyssum stood out, as did a similarly bright yellow lichen, against the blue rocks. A much paler lemon yellow 'golden'-drop, the endemic *Onosma kittanae* was tracked down in several places among the scree. Peacock anemones were still looking lovely where they could find light shade, but sadly the fritillaries were all in fruit.

After a long day, we relaxed in the centre bar and reviewed our day, then made our way for dinner back to the taverna of the Panagotis family where once again we were warmly welcomed and enjoyed a delicious traditional Greek dinner.

Friday 2nd May: Evros Delta, in the Restricted Zone

Friday dawned another beautiful day so we decided to go down early to the river again. It was sunny and calm, with wisps of mist over the river, and the sun was just rising above the low hills to our east. This time we thought we would use the sun to our advantage, so we drove some way along the riverside track and then left the minibuses, to walk with the sun behind us.

We soon saw a steppe buzzard perched in a small tree and then stopped for a nightingale singing lustily, with the usual backing group of marsh frogs. The nightingale was a fine songster so there was a double pleasure when, after a search, we all managed to see him well. We searched for the noisy frogs too, and Jane and Gill at last tracked some down. Watching the frogs through telescopes, with their ballooning cheeks caused great hilarity. With the light behind us we all managed to see a kingfisher as it flew to and fro along the river and a male with two female red-backed shrikes perched in bushes on the opposite bank, unconcerned as we walked past them. There were distant views of two bee-eaters on a dead tree and a black-headed wagtail posed nicely for us. The black-headed buntings really had arrived and three flew over and perched in a tree, the two males especially giving us good views. The drivers walked back for the minibuses leaving the group watching four or five little ringed plovers running about on the gravel in the riverbed and a pair of woodchat shrikes perched on a bush together in the sunshine.

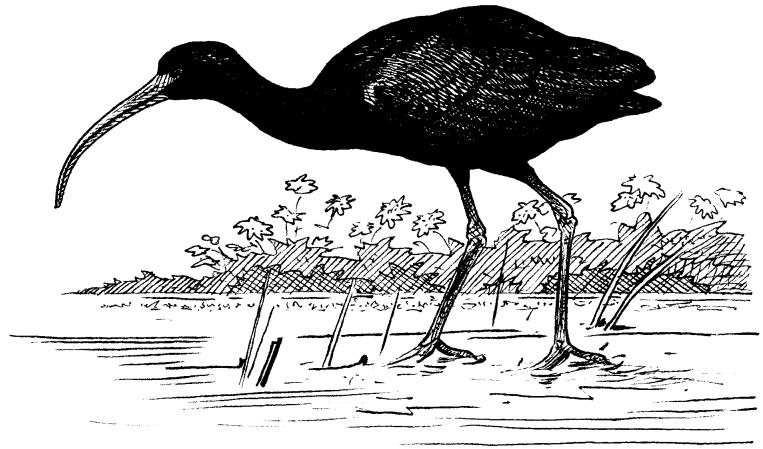
Today was our last visit to the delta and we would need our permits for the restricted area, as we should be venturing into the military zone close to the border with Turkey. We found our way through the suburbs of Feres and over the canal into the delta proper. We could see a distant flock of about thirty glossy ibises wheeling around some farm buildings and over some trees, but they never came close enough for us to see them well. We drove along the track towards a line of huge poplars marking the route of the river and then stopped for two black kites and five bee-eaters in a group of trees. Suddenly, a male Levant sparrowhawk made an appearance, hunting nearby and it perched repeatedly on posts no more than fifty metres away, giving perfect telescope views. We could hear an olivaceous warbler singing tantalisingly from deep in a dense thicket and ahead of us there was a hoopoe, first up on a wire and then down on the track very close in front of us.

An old man cycled up to us and stopped. Was he about to demand to see our permits, we wondered – though it did not seem likely. He went up to Holly and began to speak rapidly, in Greek. Regretfully, none of us could understand him. Holly did her best to explain, with gestures, what we were doing, but when birds were mentioned he immediately responded, also with gestures, that they were only good for shooting.

He cycled off, only to return a few minutes later with a pot of honey for Holly! His were the beehives we had seen clustered in the fields as we drove along.

Even though our road stretched far into the distance, it was hard to make rapid progress. Too much of interest was popping up in all directions. First we had a nice view of a great white egret on a pool on our left, then seven glossy ibises (*right*)

flew down to join it, with a dabchick diving close by. On a big tract of drying lagoon, where sand bars were becoming exposed, two superb spur-winged plovers showed themselves, strutting about, scuttling after food and generally behaving in a very elegant, well-groomed manner. We watched them for some time, enchanted by their style. Then to our great delight, a collared pratincole flew close by, giving us a good but tantalisingly brief view. We drove on for a while, then screeched to a halt, surrounded by a big flock of pratincoles, circling and catching



insects. While we watched this wonderful spectacle, Rachel caught a snatch of a call from a penduline tit, just in time to alert the group and see it flying across the track. We followed its route and, with careful searching, found the nest, about 10 metres from the path. While we watched, some of the group caught sight of two birds at the nest.

The excitement continued. We stopped at the sight of a roller on the bare sand to our right. It was struggling with some food item. We trained our binoculars on it and realised, from the colour scheme, that it was one of the enormous *Scolopendra* centipedes that we had seen at close quarters yesterday. The roller was clearly having some difficulty avoiding its poisonous bite, but it managed in the end and we watched the centipede disappear. Intermittently, among the willows on our left, small bodies of water appeared. There was a large group of ibises on one of them and smaller groups on others and we were able to watch them moving about and feeding. Then on the other side, a lagoon opened out, with shelducks swimming about on it and two squacco herons feeding at its reedy margin.

At last, we could see the end of the long track, with a lagoon on the right: a large group of mute swans resting in the sunshine, three greenshanks feeding and a reed bunting singing from a bush at the edge of the track. On the other side was the taverna, with almost no other building for miles around.

We had our lunch there, keeping a look out for interesting birds and waiting for our appointment. Eleni Makrigianni, from the visitor centre at Traianoupolis had booked a boat trip for us and eventually two boatmen arrived and led us to two charming wooden boats, with just enough room to fit us all in. We set off along a reedy canal, and almost immediately a huge dice snake swam out of the reeds to cross the canal. It was perfectly at home in the water and the boatmen circled both the boats round it so that we could all get a very good look. We chugged on past fishermen's shacks, with swallows nesting and black-headed wagtails bobbing on their jetties. There were marsh harriers hunting over the reed beds and gulls and terns flying around. Then we found ourselves in a much wider waterway, heading out into the shallow sea. There were great trees, apparently washed down the river and stranded on the submerged sandbanks, covered with birds: lots of common terns, one sandwich tern, four pelicans - two white and two Dalmatian - and great cormorants sitting on their nests in the branches of the dead trees. It was a very memorable trip, over all too quickly.

Back at the taverna there were refreshments to be had – real Greek coffee for some. The taverna also has a watchtower and several people climbed up for the amazing complete panorama of the delta. There were now several greenshanks in the lagoon with a green sandpiper and two wood sandpipers. There had been a fall of migrants: on the bank, a spotted flycatcher, a female blackcap and a female whinchat were all flitting

about on the trackside bushes.

Our bird list was approaching 150 species and on the drive back, we added three spoonbills to our tally; they flew across and settled in the lagoon beside the track. A pair of whinchats and lots more ibises in a lagoon on the right caused brief stops. Guided by Andrew's GPS, we made our way back to the penduline tit's nest, but this time there were no birds to be seen, and no sound of their characteristic call. We lingered at the last twists of the track before we left the river behind us. It was a tranquil scene: cattle were grazing the short turf of the flood plain and stately poplars flanked the riverbank. Then, finally, just before we left the delta, a Montagu's harrier and a merlin flew by.

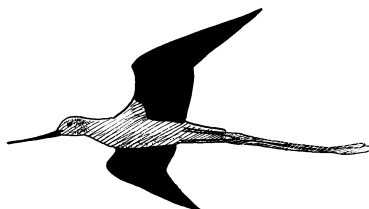
The Simos Taverna was our choice for our last Greek dinner – delicious as ever. There was an unresolved discussion as to which taverna was preferred – both excellent, and full of character, just different.

Saturday 3 May: Dadia-Athens-Heathrow

We were all ready for a 4.45 am departure from the centre and we watched a weak sun come up from behind the hills towards Turkey. The new road to Alexandroupolis made the journey to the airport a very straightforward one and the airport formalities were swiftly completed. Both the flights were on time and we arrived back to a chilly, but fine Heathrow morning – at the end of a very full week.

Highlights of the Week

- Andrew: The golden orioles on the fir tree near Doriskos; the spoonbills; the huge flock of bee-eaters; the good view of a nightingale on the last morning
- Ann: *Ophrys mammosa*; the spiralling storks; the little ringed plovers by the river
- Annette: The spur-winged plover's unexpected beauty and elegance; the varied song and mimicry of the nightingales compared with English ones; so many swallows and martins compared with England
- Clare: Blue cornflowers; ibises and great egrets standing in front of a grey heron; the pratincoles
- Claude: The masses of red poppies and the creamy white hoary cress in a field; the good company
- Gill: The bee-eaters by the river; the frog on the last morning, blowing up his cheeks (it can't be good for him!)
- Graham: The first flock of storks circling to gain height before gliding away; the wild peonies
- Holly: Being sung to sleep by tawny owls and frogs and woken up by a golden oriole and a nightingale; seeing the black and Egyptian vultures together on a rock – the size difference was fantastic; seeing the bee-eaters in a big, tumbling flock
- Meg: Venus's looking-glass; the storks wheeling above the field by the canal bridge
- Jane: The swimming dice snake; the whirling, thermalling storks; the great flock of bee-eaters
- Jill: The imperial and white-tailed eagles; sitting by the stream on the blue rocks with the golden-drops; the white poppies
- Jim: The size difference between the black and Egyptian vultures; the wild peonies
- Rachel: The white poppies and the peonies; the whirling storks against a black sky; the pratincoles
- Richard: The spiralling storks – their skill and economy of effort to gain height; the grace and skill of the pratincoles flying and hunting; finding so many cartridge cases in such a beautiful place
- Robin (Hamilton): The white-tailed eagle as it banked round, catching the sun on its tail; the alpine accentor
- Robin (Harrison): The storks whirling overhead, weaving in and out of each other; the spur-winged plover, so clean-cut, bending its knees to feed; the pratincoles
- Sally: The spiralling storks with a golden eagle above; the golden oriole by the river; lunch at the Loutros hills, with the starry clover
- Wendy: The pratincoles and rollers



Systematic lists

Birds

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

Little Grebe

Widespread and locally common resident
Several at Anthi lagoons and in the Evros restricted zone

Great Crested Grebe

Resident
2 offshore by Anthi lagoon

Cormorant

Fairly widespread and locally common resident, common and widespread winter visitor
Small numbers on the Evros Delta, a few nests in the Evros restricted zone

Pygmy Cormorant

Scarce and local resident, locally common winter visitor
Three at Anthi lagoons and five on the Sarantametros canal

White Pelican

Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant
Two in the Evros restricted zone

Dalmatian Pelican

Short-distance migrant
Two in the Evros restricted zone

Bittern

Widespread but scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
One heard booming at Anthi Lagoons

Squacco Heron

Common but local summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant
Two at Anthi lagoons and two in the Evros restricted zone

Little Egret

Fairly common and widespread resident, common and widespread passage migrant
Several in the Evros Delta

Great White Egret

Rare and local resident, widespread and locally common winter visitor
Small numbers each Evros Delta day

Grey Heron

Common and widespread resident
Seen almost daily

Purple Heron

Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common passage migrant
Small numbers each Evros Delta day

Black Stork

Rare and local summer visitor and passage migrant
Seen almost daily around Dadia

White Stork

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant
Seen daily, including an occupied nest at Provatonas. A thermalling flock of c400 birds near Loutros

Glossy Ibis

Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and widespread passage migrant
At least 40 in the Evros restricted zone

Spoonbill

Rare and local resident
Three in the Evros restricted zone

Mute Swan

Rare and local resident, locally common winter visitor
Seen each Evros Delta day, including a large flock in the restricted zone

Shelduck

Scarce and local resident, fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor
Small numbers each Evros Delta day

Wigeon

Fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor

A small flock at Anthi lagoons

Mallard

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

Small numbers each Evros Delta day

Garganey

Scarce and local summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant

A few at the Anthi lagoons.

Shoveler

Fairly widespread and common winter visitor and passage migrant

A small flock at Anthi lagoons

Red-crested Pochard

Scarce resident and passage migrant

A male and two females at Anthi Lagoons

Honey Buzzard

Widespread but scarce summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen almost daily, several pairs in display flight

Black Kite

Rare and local resident, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Odd individuals near Dadia and in the Delta

White-tailed Eagle

Rare and local resident

An adult bird seen well at Loutros Hills

Egyptian Vulture

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

A few around Dadia village, two at the raptor feeding station, and one at Kapsalo radio mast

Griffon Vulture

Fairly common but local resident

Odd individuals around Dadia, several at the raptor feeding station, and a few at Kapsalo radio mast

Black Vulture

Rare and local resident

Seen daily around Dadia village and the edge of Dadia Forest, a few at the raptor feeding station, and at Kapsalo radio mast

Short-toed Eagle

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor

Seen daily

Marsh Harrier

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

Several individuals on each Delta day

Montagu's Harrier

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

One near Feres

Goshawk

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common resident

One by the track to the raptor feeding station

Sparrowhawk

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

One near Loutros

Levant Sparrowhawk

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

One at Drana Lagoon, one near Loutros and superb views of a male perched and hunting in the restricted access part of the Evros Delta near Feres

Steppe Buzzard

Common and widespread resident and winter visitor

Seen daily

Long-legged Buzzard

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common partial migrant

Odd individuals around the edge of the Delta

Lesser Spotted Eagle

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

Odd individuals near Dadia and in the Loutros Hills

Imperial Eagle

Rare and local breeder

A juvenile bird near the Diavolorema River

Golden Eagle

Widespread and locally fairly common resident
A second-year bird near Loutros and a pair near Dadia

Booted Eagle

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant
One near the Diavolorema River and one in the Loutros Hills

Kestrel

Common and widespread resident
Seen every day

Hobby

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant
One near the Sarantametros canal

Merlin

Winter visitor and passage migrant
One near Feres

Peregrine

Widespread but scarce resident and winter visitor
Two near Kapsalo the radio mast

Water Rail

Resident
One heard at Anthi Lagoons

Moorhen

Common and widespread resident
Several at Anthi Lagoons

Coot

Common and widespread resident, very common winter visitor
Seen each Delta day

Oystercatcher

Scarce and local resident, fairly common winter visitor
Small numbers each Delta day

Black-winged Stilt

Fairly widespread and locally common summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant
Several at Anthi Lagoons and in the Evros restricted zone

Collared Pratincole

Fairly common but local summer visitor, widespread passage migrant
A large flock in the Evros restricted zone

Little Ringed Plover

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant
Two pairs by the Diavolorema River

Ringed Plover

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, rare winter visitor
A few on the shoreline, Anthi lagoons and Drana Lagoon

Kentish Plover

Common and widespread resident
Small numbers each Delta day

Grey Plover

Fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor and passage migrant
One on the shore by Anthi Lagoons

Spur-winged Plover

Rare and local summer visitor
Several individuals and pairs in the Evros restricted zone

Lapwing

Scarce and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor
Small numbers each Delta day

Sanderling

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor
25 on the shoreline near Anthi lagoons

Little Stint

Very common and widespread passage migrant, locally common winter visitor
Small numbers each Delta day

Temminck's Stint

Passage migrant and local winter visitor

One near Drana Lagoon

Curlew Sandpiper

Widespread and locally common passage migrant

Small flocks each Delta day, including several in breeding plumage

Dunlin

Common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers each Delta day

Curlew

Common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant

Three on the shore near Anthi Lagoons

Spotted Redshank

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

A few at Drana Lagoon and two in the Evros restricted zone

Redshank

Widespread and locally common resident

Small numbers each Delta day

Greenshank

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

Small numbers each Delta day

Green Sandpiper

Fairly common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant

One in the Evros restricted zone

Wood Sandpiper

Common and widespread passage migrant

Small numbers each Delta day

Common Sandpiper

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

One near Anthi Lagoons

Turnstone

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant

Several on the shoreline near Anthi lagoons

Mediterranean Gull

Widespread and locally common resident

Several on the shore near Anthi Lagoons and in the Evros restricted zone

Slender-billed Gull

Rare and local breeder and winter visitor

One or two by the shore at Anthi and Drana Lagoons

Yellow-legged Gull

Very common and widespread resident

Common throughout the coastal area

Sandwich Tern

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

One offshore in the Evros restricted zone

Common Tern

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Several along the coast each Delta day

Little Tern

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers along the coast each Delta day

Whiskered Tern

Rare and local summer visitor, common passage migrant

Small numbers over lagoons and canals in the Delta

Black Tern

Rare and local summer visitor, common passage migrant

A few along the seashore near Anthi Lagoons

White-winged Black Tern

Common and widespread passage migrant

One at Anthi Lagoons

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon

Common and widespread resident

Common in towns and villages

Woodpigeon

Resident

Odd individuals in the woods around the Ecotourism Centre

Collared Dove

Common and widespread resident

Frequent in towns and villages

Turtle Dove

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers seen daily, mostly migrating individuals and flocks

Cuckoo

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

Seen or heard daily, mostly around the Ecotourism Centre

Little Owl

Fairly common and widespread resident

One heard near the Ecotourism Centre

Tawny Owl

Fairly common and widespread resident

Heard every night from the Ecotourism Centre

Swift

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant

Several flocks seen every day

Alpine Swift

Summer visitor

A few near Kapsalo the radio mast

Kingfisher

Scarce and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor

Regularly seen along the Diavolorema River; one on the Sarantametros canal

Bee-eater

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen almost daily, including an enormous flock in the Diavolorema River valley

Roller

Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen perched on wires along roads and over open farmland almost every day; one watched hunting near the

Sarantametros canal

Hoopoe

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers seen or heard almost daily

Syrian Woodpecker

Fairly common and widespread resident

A pair watched regularly near Dadia

Calandra Lark

Widespread and locally common resident

Occasional individuals around the Delta

Crested Lark

Common and widespread resident

Seen every day. Common and widespread in open arable farmland and along the national highway.

Woodlark

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen regularly around the Ecotourism Centre

Skylark

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

Small numbers each Delta day

Sand Martin

Widespread and locally common summer visitor, very common passage migrant

Small flocks in and around the Delta on several days

Swallow

Very common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen every day. Several pairs nesting at the Ecotourism Centre

Red-rumped Swallow

Widespread and locally common summer visitor

Small numbers feeding with swallows at Anthi lagoons, and a pair near Dadia

House Martin

Common and widespread summer visitor

Small flocks seen every day

Yellow Wagtail

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers seen almost every day. All showed the characteristics of the black-headed race, *Motacilla flava feldegg*

White Wagtail

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, common and widespread winter visitor

Small numbers seen daily including a pair around the Ecotourism Centre and several by the Diavolorema River

Alpine Accentor

Resident

A single bird seen well at the Kapsalo radio mast

Robin

Fairly common and widespread resident, very common winter visitor.

Occasionally seen or heard around the Ecotourism Centre

Nightingale

Common and widespread summer visitor

Seen or heard every day, including one or more males singing nightly behind the Ecotourism Centre

Whinchat

Scarce and local summer visitor, common passage migrant

A pair in the Evros restricted zone

Stonechat

Common and widespread resident

A pair seen twice by the Diavolorema River

Isabelline Wheatear

Rare and local summer visitor

A male seen well at the usual location near the Sarantametros Canal

Northern Wheatear

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

A single bird at the Kapsalo radio mast

Black-eared Wheatear

Common and widespread summer visitor

Seen regularly near the Ecotourism Centre; one at Kapsalo radio mast

Blue Rock Thrush

Fairly common and widespread resident

One on rocky outcrop near the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Blackbird

Common and widespread resident

Seen daily, especially around the Ecotourism Centre

Song Thrush

Scarce and local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor

One heard singing near the Ecotourism Centre

Mistle Thrush

Fairly common and widespread resident

One seen near the Ecotourism Centre

Cetti's Warbler

Common and widespread resident

Heard and occasionally glimpsed in damp places almost every day

Sedge Warbler

Passage migrant and summer visitor

Heard on each Delta day and occasionally glimpsed

Reed Warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Frequently heard and seen in the Delta

Great Reed Warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Several heard and seen by the Sarantametros Canal and in the restricted part of the Evros Delta

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor

Heard and glimpsed by Anthi Lagoons and in the Evros restricted zone

Whitethroat

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen and heard almost every day

Blackcap

Common and widespread resident

Frequently heard and seen around Dadia; a migrating female near the taverna in the Evros restricted zone

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen or heard daily, mostly in woods around the Ecotourism Centre

Chiffchaff

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

Frequently heard and seen near the Ecotourism Centre

Spotted Flycatcher

Widespread and locally common summer visitor, very common passage migrant

One near the Ecotourism Centre and a migrating individual near the taverna in the Evros restricted zone

Long-tailed Tit

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen occasionally near the Ecotourism Centre

Blue Tit

Very common and widespread resident

Seen occasionally near the Ecotourism Centre

Great Tit

Common and widespread resident

Seen every day

Penduline Tit

Fairly widespread and locally common resident

A pair at their nest in tamarisk scrub in the restricted part of the Evros Delta

Golden Oriole

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen or heard daily around Dadia

Red-backed Shrike

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Individuals and pairs seen on most days

Lesser Grey Shrike

Fairly widespread but scarce summer visitor and passage migrant

One seen well near the Sarantametros Canal

Woodchat Shrike

Common and widespread summer visitor

Small numbers seen every day

Masked Shrike

Scarce and local summer visitor

A pair seen well in the Diavolorema River Valley

Jay

Widespread and locally common resident

Seen every day in wooded areas

Magpie

Common and widespread resident

Seen every day

Jackdaw

Common and widespread resident

Frequently seen in towns and villages

Hooded Crow

Very common and widespread resident

Common throughout the area

Raven

Fairly common and widespread resident

One at the raptor feeding station

Starling

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

Frequently seen throughout the area in small numbers

House Sparrow

Very common and widespread resident

Seen daily in towns and villages

Spanish Sparrow

Widespread and locally very common resident and summer visitor

Seen every day. Several pairs nesting in a stork's nest in Provatonas

Chaffinch

Very common and widespread resident and winter visitor

Seen every day

Serín

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen regularly near the Ecotourism Centre and by the Diavolorema River

Greenfinch

Common and widespread resident

Frequently heard and seen near the Ecotourism Centre

Goldfinch

Common and widespread resident

Several seen every day

Linnet

Resident

Two near the Anthi lagoons

Cirl Bunting

Common and widespread resident

Seen every day around Dadia and elsewhere in farmland and scattered scrub

Ortolan Bunting

Widespread and locally common summer visitor

A few near Kapsalo radio mast and in the Loutros Hills

Black-headed Bunting

Widespread and locally very common summer visitor

Did not arrive until 1st May; but subsequently seen in open country everywhere

Reed Bunting

Scarce and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor

Individual birds near the Anthi lagoons and in the Evros restricted zone

Corn Bunting

Very common and widespread resident

Very common throughout the area

Total – 152 species

Mammals

European Souselik *Spermophilus citellus*

Burrows seen near the Diavolorema River

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

One dead on the road near Loutros

Shrew (not identified)

One dead on the road near Dadia

Amphibians

Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda*

Heard daily; seen behind the Ecotourism Centre and in the Diavolorema River

Smooth Newt *Triturus vulgaris*

One in a stream near the Diavolorema River

Reptiles

Hermann's Tortoise *Testudo hermanni*

Several near Dadia, one jaywalking in the Loutros Hills

Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca*

One near Dadia

Balkan Terrapin *Mauremys rivulata*

One crossing the Dadia road near the main highway

Green Lizard *Lacerta viridis*

One dead on the road near Dadia

European Glass Lizard *Ophisaurus apodus*

One dead on the road near Loutros

Dice Snake *Natrix tessellata*

A large individual swimming across the canal during the boat trip in the Evros restricted zone

Butterflies

Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclydes podalirius*

Small White *Artogeia rapae*

Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*

Comma *Polygonia c-album*

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Glanville Fritillary *Melitaea cinxia*

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Lesser Fiery Copper *Lycaena thersamon*

Moths

Pine Hawk-moth *Hyloicus pinastri* (right)

Ecotourism Centre

Cream-spot Tiger *Arctia villica*

Ecotourism Centre and near Loutros

Giant Peacock Moth *Saturnia pyri*

Kapsalo radio mast

Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea pytiocampa*

Larval 'tents' in pines near Ecotourism Centre

Speckled Yellow *Pseudopanthera macularia*

Diavolorema River valley



Other insects

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*

Evros Delta and Diavolorema River valley

Pond Skater *Gerris sp*

Diavolorema River valley

Rose Chafer *Cetonia aurata*

Diavolorema River valley

EASTERN GREECE Plant List 2008

The list is largely of species seen in flower, and excludes many grasses and similar species

D - Dadia area generally

DA - Agricultural areas close to Dadia in the Diavolorema valley

DF - Dadia Forest

DLK - Kapsalo Radio Mast area and road down to Lefkimi

DP - Back road through Pessani

L - Loutros Hills area generally

E - Evros Delta generally

ED - Drana lagoon

EA - Anthi lagoons

d = dominant

a = abundant

f = frequent

o = occasional

r = rare

I = local/locally

ld = locally dominant

co-d = co-dominant

la = locally abundant

no prefix = one record only

RDB = Greek Red Data Book of Rare and Endangered Plants

TBD = To be determined, where precise identification is unconfirmed or in doubt

Pteridophytes (*Ferns and allies*)

| | | |
|--|---|---------|
| Water fern <i>Azolla filliculoides</i> | d-la: on fresh waterways in the Delta area | E |
| Rustyback fern <i>Ceterach officinarum</i> | l: in shelter of rocks on Blue Rock Hill, Pessani Road | DP |
| <i>Cheilanthes vellea</i> | l: in shelter of rocks on hill above centre and in the shelter of bushes on Blue Rock Hill, Pessani Road | D, DP |
| Bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> | d: on dry soils around centre and on woodland edges throughout | D,DF |
| <i>Gymnosperms (Conifers)</i> | | |
| Cypress <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> | la: in woodland near Feres | DF |
| Prickly juniper <i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> | f: on alkaline grassland among the hills in forest area | DF |
| Calabrian pine <i>Pinus halapensis ssp brutia</i> | ld - co-d: in Dadia Forest | DF |
| Black pine <i>P. nigra ssp nigra</i> | ld - co-d: in Dadia Forest | DF |
| <i>Dicotyledons</i> | | |
| <i>Aceraceae (Maple family)</i> | | |
| Field maple <i>Acer campestre</i> | o: in deciduous woodland | D |
| A maple <i>A. granatense</i> | o: on roadsides and in scrub in hilly areas - usually with <i>A. monspessulanum</i> , <i>Fraxinus ornus</i> etc | D |
| Montpelier maple <i>A. monspessulanum</i> | f: in scrub and deciduous woodland throughout forest area | D, DLK |
| <i>Anacardiaceae (Pistachio family)</i> | | |
| Smoke bush <i>Cotinus coggygria</i> | la: on roadside below radio mast; component of scrubby woodland | DLK |
| Terebinth <i>Pistachia terebintha</i> | la: conspicuous component of the scrub at the lunch spot on the Pessani Road | |
| Sumac <i>Rhus coriaria</i> | La:roadside between centre and Dadia village;conspicuous component of scrub in forest areas | |
| <i>Apocynaceae (Periwinkle family)</i> | | |
| Herbaceous periwinkle <i>Vinca herbacea</i> | | DLK |
| <i>Apiaceae (Carrot family)</i> | | |
| Thorow-wax <i>Bupleurum sp</i> | | |
| Hemlock <i>Conium maculatum</i> | a: waste, grassy places | DA |
| Field eryngo <i>Eryngium campestre</i> | a: dry calcareous grassland | D, L, E |
| Sea-holly <i>E. maritimum</i> | a: coastal sand dunes | EA |
| A yellow umbellifer <i>Ferulago sylvatica</i> | o: shady places around centre; open woodland; roadsides and rocky areas throughout | D |
| Fennel <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> | a: roadsides and waste places | DA |
| Parsley water-dropwort <i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i> | | EA |
| Orlaya <i>Orlaya grandiflora</i> | a: widespread in dry grassland | D |
| Perfoliate alexanders <i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i> | f: on roadsides in agricultural areas | DLK |

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| An umbellifer <i>Tordylium apulum</i> | | DA |
| A burr chervil <i>Torilis tenella</i> | a: dry grassland on Loutros Hills | L |
| <i>Aristolochiaceae</i> (Birthwort family) | | |
| A birthwort <i>Aristolochia clematitis</i> | | DA |
| A birthwort <i>A. rotunda</i> | under shade of scrub, lunch stop on Pessani Road | DP |
| <i>Asclepiadaceae</i> (Milkweed family) | | |
| Silk-vine <i>Periploca graeca</i> | l: dark purple-flowered climber on bushes on Evros flood plain | E |
| Swallow-wort <i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i> | o: roadsides, scrub | D |
| <i>Asteraceae</i> (Daisy family) | | |
| A yarrow <i>Achillea nobilis</i> | o: below radio mast | DLK |
| An anthemis <i>Anthemis chia</i> | o: roadside near Doriskos | D |
| An anthemis <i>A. tomentosa</i> | o: roadside near Doriskos | E |
| Slender thistle <i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i> | | |
| Cornflower <i>Centaurea cyanus</i> | o: arable and grassland; among rocks on Blue Rock Hill | DA, DP, L, E |
| Perennial cornflower <i>C. triumfetti</i> | o: roadside below radio mast | DLK |
| Broad-leaved cudweed <i>Filago pyramidata</i> | | |
| Star hawkbit <i>Rhagadiolus stellatus</i> | o: track to Diavolorema river | |
| Milk thistle <i>Silybum marianum</i> | f: roadsides and waste grassy places | D |
| A goat's beard <i>Tragopogon dubius</i> | | D |
| A goat's beard <i>T. hybridus</i> | | DLK |
| Salsify <i>T. porifolius</i> | garden escape, Dadia village | DA |
| Spiny cocklebur <i>Xanthium spinosum</i> | | DA |
| <i>Boraginaceae</i> (Borage family) | | |
| Dyer's alkanet <i>Alkanna lehmanii</i> | o: alkaline grassland; disused quarry, Loutros | D, L |
| Bugloss <i>Anchusa arvensis</i> | | D |
| Alkanet <i>A. officinalis</i> | | D |
| An Alkanet <i>A. undulata</i> | | D, E |
| Pale bugloss <i>Echium italicum</i> | | L |
| Purple viper's-bugloss <i>E. plantagineum</i> | | L |
| Purple gromwell <i>Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum</i> | | DA, DF |
| Nonea <i>Nonea pulla</i> | | DA |
| A golden drop <i>Onosma kittanae</i> | RDB f: Blue Rock Hill | DP |
| <i>Brassicaceae</i> (Cabbage family) | | |
| An Alyssum <i>Alyssum corymbosum</i> | | L |
| An Alyssum <i>A. saxatile</i> | | DLK |
| An Alyssum <i>A. sp TBD</i> | F: Blue Rock Hill | DP |
| Tower-cress <i>Arabis turruta</i> | o: roadsides and rocky places | DLK |
| Bunias <i>Bunias erucago</i> | o: track to Diavolorema river | |
| Hoary cress <i>Cardaria draba</i> | la: tracksides in delta area | DA, E |
| Flixweed <i>Descurainia sophia</i> | o: grassland and waste places | DA, E |

Buxaceae (Box family)

Box *Buxus sempervirens* o: in woodland understory DF

Campanulaceae (Bellflower family)

A clustered bellflower *Campanula lingulata* L

Spreading bellflower *C. patula* L

A slender bellflower *C. spatulata* r: rocky hillside near centre D

Large Venus's-looking-glass *Legousia speculum-veneris* o: track to Diavolorema river; grassland in Loutros Hills D, L

Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle family)

Dwarf elder *Sambucus ebulus* f: roadsides around Dadia village DA

Elder *S. nigra* D

Caryophyllaceae (Pink family)

Corncockle *Agrostemma githago* DA

Berry catchfly *Cucubalus baccifer* o: roadside below radio mast DLK

A pink *Dianthus cruentus* o: lunch stop on Pessani road DP

A pink *D. giganteus* DLK

Rose campion *Lychnis coronaria* DLK

Sticky catchfly *L. viscaria* ssp. *atropurpurea* o: roadside below radio mast DLK

A sandwort *Minuartia setacea* D

A sandwort *M. greuteriana* RDB la: rocky hillside between the Ecocentre and Dadia village

Kholrauschia *Kholrauschia velutina* f: dry grassland; rocky habitats D, DLK, L

Paronychia *Paronychia* sp f: dry, rocky habitats, often on rocks D

Annual knawel *Scleranthus annuus* L

Perennial knawel *S. perennis* la: scree slope near radio mast DLK

White campion *Silene alba* a: roadsides DA

Sand catchfly *S. conica* L

Cretan catchfly *S. cretica* E

Italian catchfly *S. italica* f: rocky grassland; roadside below radio mast D, DLK

A catchfly *S. multicaulis* E

A catchfly *S. viridiflora* D

Bladder campion *S. vulgaris* o: roadside below radio mast DLK

Corn spurrey *Spergula arvensis* ED

Chenopodiaceae (Goosefoot family)

Shrubby glasswort *Arthrocnemum fruticosum* a: saltmarshes and beside lagoons E

Perennial glasswort *A. perenne* a: saltmarshes and beside lagoons E

Sea-purslane *Atriplex portulacoides* a: saltmarshes and beside lagoons E

Glasswort *Salicornia europaea* a: saltmarshes and beside lagoons E

Cistaceae (Sun-rose family)

| | | |
|--|--|----|
| Grey-leaved cistus <i>Cistus incanus</i> (= <i>C. creticus</i>) | a: widespread in open situations on rocky hillsides and woodland margins | DF |
| Bay-leaved cistus <i>C. laurifolius</i> | o: rocky slopes and woodland margins | DF |
| Sage-leaved cistus <i>C. salvifolius</i> | a: widespread in open situations on rocky hillsides and woodland margins | D |
| A fumana <i>Fumana arabica</i> | | DF |
| Spotted rock-rose <i>Tuberaria guttata</i> | | DF |

Convolvulaceae (Bindweed family)

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Field bindweed <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> | o: roadsides around Dadia village | D |
| Pink bindweed <i>C. cantabrica</i> | o: rocky hillsides | DLK, L |

Cornaceae (Dogwood family)

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----|
| Dogwood <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> | | DA |
| Cornelian cherry <i>C. mas</i> | | D |

Corylaceae (Hazel family)

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----|
| Eastern hornbeam <i>Carpinus orientalis</i> | f: shrubby plants in understory | DF |
| Hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> | f: as coppice and in understory | DF |
| Hop hornbeam <i>Ostrya carpinifolium</i> | | D |

Crassulaceae (Stonecrop family)

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------|
| A stonecrop <i>Sedum cespitosum</i> | f: rocky places | D, L |
| Rock stonecrop <i>S. reflexum</i> | f: rocky places | D |
| Navelwort <i>Umbilicus rupestris</i> | f: rocky places | D |

Dipsacaceae (Teasel/scabious family)

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----|
| Teasel <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> | | DA |
| A scabious <i>Knautia orientalis</i> | | DLK |
| A scabious <i>Knautia sp</i> | r: wasteland near Evros Visitor Centre | D |
| A scabious <i>Scabiosa sp</i> | f: widespread in alkaline grassland | D |

Ericaceae (Heather family)

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|----|
| Eastern strawberry-tree <i>Arbutus andrachne</i> | o: woodland and scrub | DF |
| Tree-heath <i>Erica arborea</i> | o: woodland and scrub | DF |

Euphorbiaceae (Spurge family)

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------|
| A spurge <i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i> | f: disused quarry, Loutros | L |
| A spurge <i>E. nicaeensis</i> | | D, E |
| A spurge <i>E. seguierana</i> | la: widespread on roadsides and in grassland | D |

Fagaceae (Beech family)

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| Eastern beech <i>Fagus moesiaca</i> | f: scattered in understory | DF |
| Turkey oak <i>Quercus cerris</i> | f: scattered in forest | DF |
| Kermes oak, holly oak <i>Q. coccifera</i> | f: tightly grazed bushes on Loutros Hills | L |
| An oak <i>Q. dalechampii</i> | | DF |

| | | |
|---|---|--------|
| An oak <i>Q. frainetto</i> | ld-la: in deciduous forest | DF |
| Downy oak <i>Q. pubescens</i> | la: forest | DF |
| Sessile oak <i>Q. petraea ssp medwediewii</i> | o: deciduous forest and as isolated standard trees | DF |
| <i>Fumariaceae</i> (Fumitory family) | | |
| Fumitory <i>Fumaria officinalis</i> | | DA |
| <i>Geraniaceae</i> (Crane's-bill family) | | |
| Common storksbill <i>Erodium cicutarium</i> | o: roadsides in Dadia area and below radio mast | D, DLK |
| Mallow-leaved storksbill <i>E. malacoides</i> | | D |
| Cut-leaved crane's-bill <i>Geranium dissectum</i> | | DA |
| | | DA |
| Dove's-foot crane's-bill <i>G. molle</i> | | |
| Little robin <i>G. purpureum</i> | o: waysides and track sides | DA |
| Small-flowered cranesbill <i>G. pusillum</i> | | |
| Bloody crane's-bill <i>G. sanguineum</i> | o: roadsides in Dadia area and near Lefkimi | D, DLK |
| Round-leaved crane's-bill <i>G. rotundifolium</i> | | DA |
| <i>Hypericaceae</i> (St. John's-wort family) | | |
| A St John's-wort <i>Hypericum cerastoides</i> | o: rocky hillside between the Ecocentre and Dadia village | DF |
| A St John's-wort <i>H. olympicum</i> | | DF |
| Perfoliate St John's-wort <i>H. perforiatum</i> | | DF |
| Perforated St. John's-wort <i>H. perforatum</i> | | DLK |
| A (very delicate) St John's-wort <i>H. sp</i> | O: in forest areas | DF |
| <i>Lamiaceae</i> (Mint family) | | |
| Blue bugle <i>Ajuga genevensis</i> | | DF |
| A deadnettle <i>Lamium garganicum</i> | | DLK |
| Spotted deadnettle <i>L. maculatum</i> | white-flowered form on roadside below radio mast | DLK |
| White horehound <i>Marrubium vulgare</i> | o: rough grassland | L, E |
| Bastard balm <i>Melittis melissophyllum</i> | | DLK |
| A stachys <i>Stachys cretica</i> | | D |
| Felty germander <i>Teucrium polium</i> | | L |
| A thyme <i>Thymus capitatus</i> | o: alkaline grassland in Loutros Hills | L |
| A thyme <i>T. longicaulis</i> | o: rocky hillside between the Ecocentre and Dadia village | D, L |
| <i>Leguminoseae (Papilionaceae)</i> (Pea family) | | |
| A milk-vetch <i>Astragalus hamosus</i> | | L |
| Hairy broom <i>Chamaecytisus hirsutus</i> | | DF |
| Bladder senna <i>Colutea arborescens</i> | o: roadsides in Dadia area | DA |
| Shrubby scorpion-vetch <i>Coronilla emerus</i> | | D |
| A dyer's greenweed <i>Genista januensis</i> | o: rocky slopes below radio mast | DLK |

| | | |
|---|---|---------|
| Disk trefoil <i>Hymenocarpus circinatus</i> | o: track to Diavolorema river; alkaline grassland in Loutros Hills | DA, L |
| A vetchling <i>Lathyrus cicera</i> | | ED |
| Yellow vetchling <i>L. aphaca</i> | | DLK |
| Hairy vetchling <i>L. hirsutus</i> | o: woodland bank, track to Diavolorema river | DA |
| Grass vetchling <i>L. nissolia</i> | o: track to Diavolorema river; alkaline grassland in Loutros Hills | DA |
| Brown vetch <i>L. setifolius</i> | o: woodland bank, track to Diavolorema river; roadside below radio mast | DA, DLK |
| A vetchling <i>L. venetus</i> | | DF |
| Bur medick <i>Medicago minima</i> | | D |
| Large disk medick <i>M. orbicularis</i> | o: dry grassland around Dadia and on the edge of the delta | D, E |
| Small melilot <i>Melilotus indicus</i> | | D |
| Cockscomb sainfoin <i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i> | o: dry grassland around Dadia and in the Loutros Hills | D, L |
| An onobrychis <i>O. ebenoides</i> | | D |
| Pitch trefoil <i>Psoralea bituminosa</i> | | DA |
| False acacia <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> | o: standard trees in Dadia area | D |
| Spanish broom <i>Spartium junceum</i> | f: waysides and rocky hillsides | D |
| Narrow-leaved crimson clover <i>Trifolium angustifolium</i> | f: waysides and nutrient-rich grassland | D |
| Haresfoot clover <i>T. arvense</i> | o: dry grassland | DL |
| A trefoil <i>T. boissieri</i> | o: dry grassland on edge of the delta | ED |
| Hop trefoil <i>T. campestre</i> | | |
| A trefoil <i>T. globosum</i> | o: dry grassland in the Loutros Hills | L |
| A trefoil <i>T. pilulare</i> | | DLK |
| Reversed clover <i>T. resupinatum</i> | | EA |
| A trefoil <i>T. speciosum?</i> | | DLK |
| Starry clover <i>T. stellatum</i> | o: dry grassland in the Loutros Hills and on edge of delta | L, E |
| Tufted vetch <i>Vicia cracca</i> | | DLK |
| Large yellow vetch <i>V. grandiflora</i> | | DA |
| Hairy tare <i>V. hirsuta</i> | | D |
| Hairy yellow vetchling <i>V. hybrida</i> | | DA |
| Yellow vetch <i>V. lutea</i> | | DA |
| Common vetch <i>V. sativa</i> agg. | o: track to Diavolorema river | DA |
| A vetch <i>V. pannonica</i> | o: track to Diavolorema river | DA |
| Fodder vetch <i>V. villosa</i> | o: track to Diavolorema river | DA |
| <i>Linaceae</i> (Flax family) | | |
| Pale flax <i>Linum bienne</i> | | E |
| Purging flax <i>L. catharticum</i> | | D |
| Yellow flax <i>L. nodiflorum</i> | | DF |
| A flax <i>L. tenuifolium</i> | | DF |
| <i>Loranthaceae</i> (Mistletoe family) | | |
| Loranthus <i>Loranthus europaeus</i> | on <i>Quercus petraea</i> at lunch stop on Pessani road | DP |

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| Mistletoe <i>Viscum ?abietis</i> TBD | on <i>Populus sp</i> in Diavolorema valley | DA |
| Malvaceae (Mallow family) | | |
| Least mallow <i>Malva neglecta</i> | o: track to Diavolorema river | DA |
| Common mallow <i>M. sylvestris</i> | | DA |
| Moraceae (Fig family) | | |
| Fig <i>Ficus carica</i> | f: around Dadia village | DA |
| Mulberry <i>Morus nigra</i> | f: around Dadia village | |
| Oleaceae (Olive family) | | |
| Manna ash <i>Fraxinus ornus</i> | f: roadside below radio mast | DLK |
| Wild jasmine <i>Jasminum fruticans</i> | o: track to Diavolorema river; roadside below radio mast | DA, DLK, L |
| Wild privet <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> | | DF |
| Phillyrea <i>Phillyrea latifolia</i> | o: roadside below radio mast; widespread in scrub and woodland | D |
| Orobanchaceae (Broomrape family) | | |
| Thyme broomrape <i>Orobanche alba</i> | | D |
| Bedstraw broomrape <i>O. caryophyllacea</i> | o: near radio mast; Blue Rock Hill, Pessani road | DLK, DP |
| Paeoniaceae (Peony family) | | |
| Wild peony <i>Paeonia? peregrina or officinale</i> TBD (cover picture) | o: roadside below radio mast; lunch stop on Pessani road | DLK, DP |
| Papaveraceae (Poppy family) | | |
| Common poppy <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> | o: grassland | DA, L, E |
| <u>White poppy <i>P ?albiflorum</i> TBD</u> | r: calcareous grassland on Loutros hHills | L |
| Platanaceae (Plane family) | | |
| Oriental plane <i>Platanus orientalis</i> | r: beside river at Loutros | L |
| Polygalaceae (Milkwort family) | | |
| Tufted milkwort <i>Polygala comosa</i> | o: dry rocky grassland | D, DLK |
| A milkwort <i>Polygala sp</i> | o: Blue Rock Hill | DP |
| Polygonaceae (Dock family) | | |
| Curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> | o: grassland and wasteland | DA |
| Primulaceae (Primrose family) | | |
| Purple loosestrife (not as UK) <i>Lysimachia atropurpurea</i> | r: roadside between Centre and Dadia village | DD |
| Ranunculaceae (Buttercup family) | | |
| Pheasant's-eye <i>Adonis sp</i> TBD | f: cornfield weed | E |
| Peacock anemone <i>Anemone pavonina</i> | o: roadside below radio mast; Blue Rock Hill | DLK, DP |
| Traveller's-joy <i>Clematis vitalba</i> | o: roadside below radio mast | DLK |

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| Eastern larkspur <i>Consolida orientalis</i> | o: grassland on Loutros Hills | L, E |
| Forking larkspur <i>C. regalis</i> | | DA, L |
| Love-in-a-mist <i>Nigella damascena</i> | r: track to Diavolorema river | DA |
| Fan-leaved crowfoot <i>Ranunculus circinatus</i> | | EA |
| Lesser celandine <i>R. ficaria</i> | | D, DLK |
| A buttercup <i>R. gracilis</i> | o: in woodland close to the centre | D |
| A buttercup <i>R. gramineus?</i> | | DLK |
| A water crowfoot <i>R. pseudofluitans</i> | | DLK |
| A buttercup <i>R. millefoliatus</i> | o: in woodland close to the centre | D |
| A buttercup <i>R. muricatus</i> | la: by stream on track to Diavolorema river | DA |
| A buttercup <i>R. trichophyllus</i> | | EA |
| A buttercup <i>R. velutinus</i> | | DA |
| <i>Rhamnaceae</i> (Buckthorn family) | | |
| Christ's-thorn <i>Paliurus spina-christi</i> | a: hedgerows and isolated in shrubby areas | D, L, E |
| A buckthorn <i>Rhamnus oleoides</i> | | DLK |
| <i>Rosaceae</i> (Rose family) | | |
| Eriolobus <i>Eriolobus trilobatus</i> | RDB single tree on Pessani road | DP |
| A geum <i>Geum bulgaricum</i> | | DLK |
| Sulphur cinquefoil <i>Potentilla recta</i> | o: rocky hillside below Centre; rocky grassland in Loutros Hills | D, DLK |
| A cinquefoil <i>Poterium verrucosum</i> | o: below radio mast | DA, DLK |
| Firethorn <i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> | o: roadsides in scrubby areas | DA |
| Wild pear <i>Pyrus caucasica</i> | f: trees and bushes on the roadside and in scrub | DA |
| Almond-leaved pear <i>P. amygdaliformis</i> | o: single trees or bushes beside the road | D, L |
| Dog rose <i>Rosa canina</i> | f: waysides and hedgerows | D |
| Mediterranean sweet briar <i>R. glutinosa</i> | track to Diavolorema river | DA |
| Bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> | f: beside canals | ED |
| Wild service-tree <i>Sorbus torminalis</i> | o: roadside below radio mast | D, DLK |
| <i>Rubiaceae</i> (Bedstraw family) | | |
| Crosswort <i>Galium cruciata</i> | o: roadsides, alkaline grassland | D |
| Field madder <i>Sherardia arvensis</i> | f: grassland on edge of delta | E |
| <i>Salicaceae</i> (Willow family) | | |
| Grey poplar <i>Populus canescens</i> | | D |
| Black poplar <i>P. nigra ssp nigra</i> | Diavolorema valley | DA |
| Aspen <i>P. tremulus</i> | | |
| White willow <i>Salix alba</i> | | D |
| <i>Scrophulariaceae</i> (Figwort family) | | |
| Jersey toadflax <i>Linaria pelisseriana</i> | o: rocky hillside between the Ecocentre and Dadia village | DF |
| A toadflax <i>L. peloponesiaca</i> | | D |

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| Southern red bartsia <i>Parentucellia latifolia</i> | o: rocky hillside between the Ecocentre and Dadia village | D |
| French figwort <i>Schrophularia canina</i> | | DLK |
| Moth mullein <i>Verbascum blattaria</i> | o: rocky places on Pessani Road | D, DP |
| A mullein <i>V. sinuatum</i> | o: roadsides | D, E |
| Great mullein <i>V. thapsus</i> | | DLK |
| A mullein <i>V. undulatum</i> | f: roadsides | D |
| Large speedwell <i>Veronica austriaca</i> v. <i>austriaca</i> | | DF |
| <i>Tamaricaceae</i> (Tamarisk family) | | |
| Tamarisk <i>Tamarix hampeana</i> | d-a: Evros delta | E |
| <i>Tiliaceae</i> (Lime family) | | |
| Silver lime <i>Tilia tomentosa</i> | f: woods below radio mast | DLK |
| <i>Ulmaceae</i> (Elm family) | | |
| Elm <i>Ulmus canescens</i> | la: hedgerows around Dadia village and on track to Diavolorema river | DA |
| <i>Valerianaceae</i> (Valerian family) | | |
| A cornsalad <i>Valerianella</i> sp | | |
| <i>Violaceae</i> (Violet family) | | |
| Dwarf pansy <i>Viola (arvensis) kitaibeliana</i> | o: dry grassland beside track to Diavolorema river | DA |
| <i>Monocotyledons</i> | | |
| <i>Cyperaceae</i> (Sedge family) | | |
| Divided sedge <i>Carex divisa</i> | | EA |
| False fox sedge <i>C. otrubae</i> | | DLK |
| Sea club-rush <i>Scirpus maritimus</i> | ld: edges of lagoons and canals | EA |
| <i>Iridaceae</i> (Iris family) | | |
| Wild gladiolus <i>Gladiolus illyricus</i> | | DLK |
| An iris <i>Iris attica</i> | o: rocky hillside between the Ecocentre and Dadia village; dry rocky places elsewhere | D |
| An iris <i>I. orientalis</i> | | E |
| Yellow flag <i>I. pseudacorus</i> | | E |
| An iris <i>I. sintenisii</i> | beside track to Diavolorema river | DA |
| <i>Juncaceae</i> (Rush family) | | |
| Sharp rush <i>Juncus acutus</i> | f-ld: close to water | E |
| <i>Liliaceae</i> (Lily family) | | |
| An allium <i>Allium nigrum</i> | | E |
| Asphodel <i>Asphodelus aestivus</i> | | DF |

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| White asphodel <i>A. albus</i> | f: Loutros Hills; grassland on the Pessani road | DF, L |
| Dragon arum <i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i> | | |
| A grape hyacinth <i>Muscari botryoies</i> | o: open woodland | D |
| Tassel hyacinth <i>M. comosum</i> | a: dry grassland and rocky places | D |
| A grape hyacinth <i>M. commutatum</i> | o: dry grassland and rocky places | D |
| A grape hyacinth <i>M. neglectum</i> | o: dry grassland and rocky places | D |
| Honey garlic <i>Nectaroscordum siculum</i> | | DLK |
| Star-of-Bethlehem <i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i> | o: below radio mast ; Blue Rock Hill on Pessani road | DLK, DP |
| Butcher's-broom <i>Ruscus aculeatus</i> | o: forest understory | DF |
| Wild tulip <i>Tulipa sylvestris</i> | roadverge below radio mast | DLK |
| <i>Orchidaceae</i> (Orchid family) | | |
| White helleborine <i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i> | | DLK |
| A white helleborine <i>C. epipactoides</i> | RDB r; extensive patch on road below radio mast | |
| Sword-leaved helleborine <i>C. longifolia</i> | | DLK |
| Red helleborine <i>C. rubra</i> | single plant on road below radio mast | |
| Violet bird's-nest-orchid <i>Limodorum abortivum</i> | o: in forest | DF |
| Mammose orchid <i>Ophrys mammosa</i> | r: small group on road verge below radio mast | DLK |
| Lax-flowered orchid <i>Orchis laxiflora</i> | | DLK |
| Lady orchid <i>O. purpurea</i> | r: roadside below the radio mast | DLK |
| Long-lipped Serapias <i>Serapias vomeracea</i> | | DLK, ED |
| <i>Poaceae</i> (Grass family) | | |
| Aegilops <i>Aegilops ovata</i> (= <i>neglecta</i>) | f: dry grassland | D, L |
| Elegant hair-grass <i>Aira elegantissima</i> | f: rocky places | D |
| Large quaking-grass <i>Briza maxima</i> | f: dry grassland | D |
| Drooping brome <i>Bromus tectorum</i> | f: agricultural grassland | DA, E |
| Cock's foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | a: agricultural grassland | DA |
| Viviparous fescue <i>Festuca vivipara</i> | A: dry grassland and rocky places | D |
| Wall barley <i>Hordeum murinum</i> | f: agricultural grassland and waste places | DA |
| Wood melick <i>Melica uniflora</i> | | DLK |
| Common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i> | ld: fresh and brackish water bodies | |
| Bulbous meadow-grass <i>Poa bulbosa</i> | | D, E |
| Angel's Hair <i>Stipa pennata</i> | o: alkaline grassland | L |
| Bearded fescue <i>Vulpia ambigua</i> | | DLK |
| <i>Typhaceae</i> (Reedmace family) | | |
| Lesser reedmace <i>Typha angustifolia</i> | f: edge of canals | E |
| Greater reedmace <i>T. latifolia</i> | f: edge of canals | E |