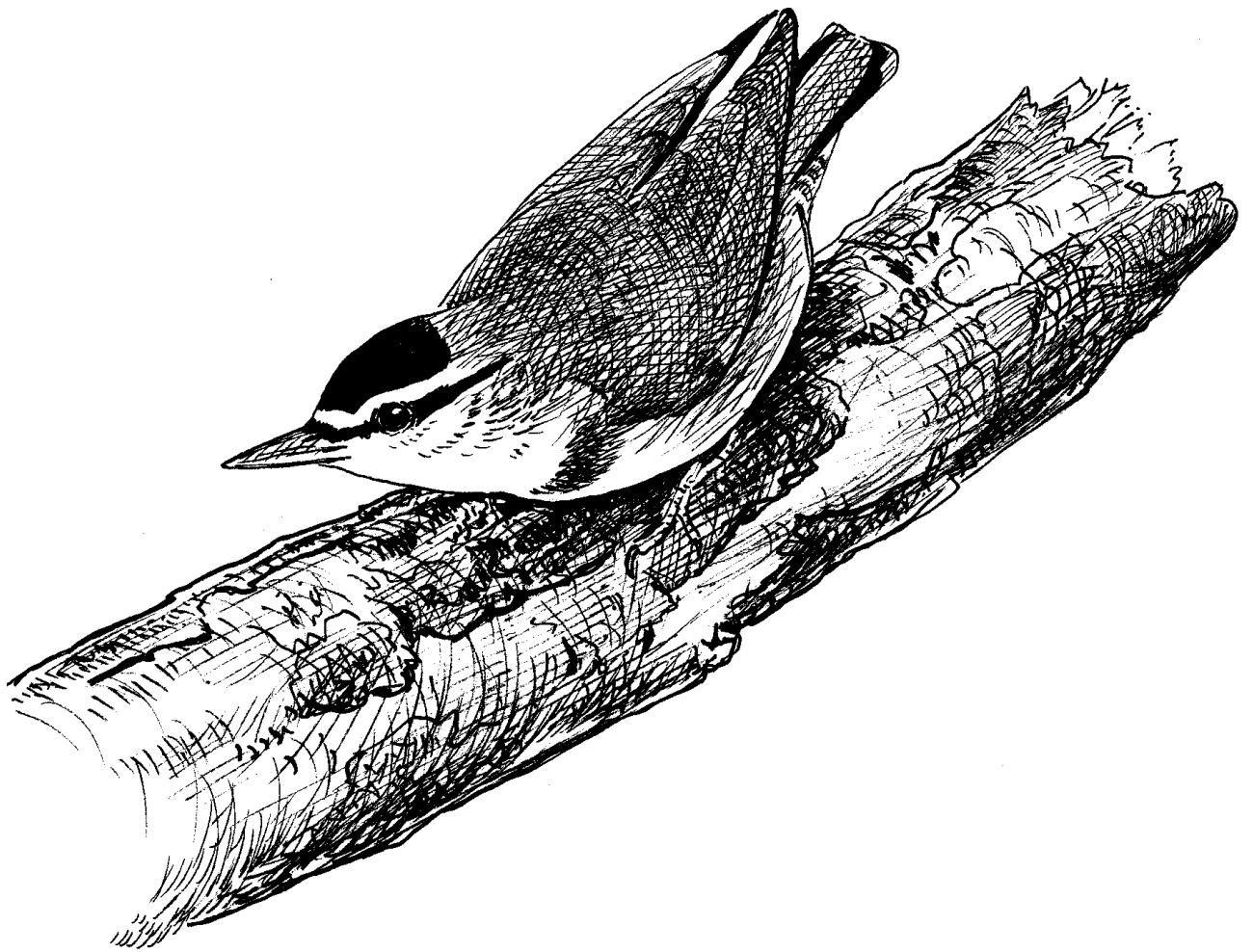


Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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



Lesvos
14 – 21 April 2005

Lesvos
14 – 21 April 2005

Holiday participants

Kate Dalziel	Cornwall
Yvonne Griffiths Daphne Gilbert	Chingford Ilford
Rai Fenton Betty Fenton	Chingford
John Lennard-Jones Verna Lennard-Jones	Woodbridge
Vic Dowsett Brenda Dowsett	Theydon Bois
Mike Bonney Rosemary Bonney <i>Staying in Lesvos until 25 April</i>	Devon
Colin Hodgson Marilyn Hodgson	Leicestershire
Bob Sharland	Fordingbridge
<u>Leaders</u> Chris Durdin Steve Henson	Norwich Poringland, Norwich

Our hosts at Madonna Studios: Dimitra and Vaios Balkizas

Report by Chris Durdin (daily log and plant list) and Steve Henson (everything else).

*Illustrations by Rob Hume, except black-winged stilt flock by Gary Wright.
Front cover: Krüper's nuthatch*

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for the first time through LEPET, the Alternative Tourism Society of Lesvos. We are still in correspondence with LEPET about the project that the money will go towards, but it's likely to be seed corn for a new Lesvos conservation body – none exists at the moment. The conservation contribution this year of £25 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the new Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of €610 (£427). We presented the cheque to Dimitra Balkizas, LEPET's secretary, and a thank-you letter from LEPET appears at the end of this report (*but not in this web version of the report*).

The total conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays was £33,330 at the end of 2004 and will be in the region of £38,000 by the end of 2005.

Lesvos **14 – 21 April 2005**

Itinerary

Thursday 14 April

Mid-day flight from London Heathrow to Athens and onward, evening internal flight to Mytilini, arriving 10:30pm. Transfer by minibuses to Vatera.

Late supper at Maria's taverna, Kalamakia.

Friday 15 April

Morning: Almiropotamos River mouth and upstream, with surrounding olive groves and scrub.

Lunch at Madonna Studios.

Afternoon: Skala Polichnitos saltpans and Alikoudi Pool on the eastern side of Kalloni Bay.

Evening meal at Kalamakia.

Saturday 16 April

Morning: Kruper's nuthatch site in pine woodland at the army camp at Achladeri. Roadside stop for orchids near the T-junction on the Achladeri-Vasilika road.

Taverna lunch in Agiassos.

Afternoon: Agiassos, including optional sweet chestnut woodland walk. Coffee and ice cream.

Brief stop for flowers in olive groves below village

Evening meal at Kalamakia.

Sunday 17 April

Morning: Kalloni Saltpans.

Picnic lunch near the beach.

Afternoon: Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni.

Teatime: drinks and cakes in the harbour square, Skala Kalloni.

Evening meal at Kalamakia.

Monday 18 April

Pre-breakfast: seawatch from Agias Fokas.

Morning: 'Mini Soccer' and taverna on the Molivos road on the outskirts of Kalloni, for roosting scops owl. North to the cliff-top 'bandstand' site on the coast road between Petra and Molivos for Rüppell's warbler and Cretzschmar's bunting.

Picnic lunch and drinks in Molivos harbour on the north coast.

Afternoon: back to the 'bandstand' scrub for flowers and butterflies.

Evening meal at Kalamakia.

Tuesday 19 April

Pre-breakfast: Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera.

Morning: Kato Stavros to Melinda drive, including stops for birds and flowers.

Afternoon: picnic lunch and walk along the stream valley above Melinda.

Evening meal at Kalamakia.

Wednesday 20 April

Morning: roadside stop at the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, *en route* to the west of the island.

Late morning, picnic lunch and early afternoon at the Petrified Forest Park near Sigri.

Late afternoon: Ipsilou Monastery and the Sigri-Eressos road junction for Isabelline wheatear.

Evening 'meze' at Kalamakia.

Thursday 21 April

Pre-breakfast: Vourkos River mouth, east of Vatera.

Morning: optional walks either in Vatera or along the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera.

Lunch at Madonna Studios. Free afternoon.

Evening meal at Kalamakia.

Friday 22 April

Early morning transfer to Mytilini for return flights home, via Athens.

Daily diary

Thursday 14 April – Heathrow to Lesvos

Lighting illuminated the sky as our two minibuses followed the man with a van with our suitcases through Mytilini and into the dark and wet countryside. Villages seemed to be in darkness, not economy but a power cut, we learnt from Dimitra when we arrived in Vatera. But, characteristically, she had been onto the power people and got the power restored so that Maria at Kalamakia could prepare the Fasolada (white bean or warming Tuscan soup) for our late, late supper. Then it was back, in the minibuses, the kilometre or so to Madonna Studios for bed.

Friday 15 April – around Vatera

Yes, it really was a clearing up shower and the day dawned bright and clear. A slow start and a full English breakfast followed our late arrival on Lesvos. Our first morning's walk was by the Almiropotamos River at the western end of the long Vatera beach. The dominant impression was colour: bright light augmenting intense red poppies, yellow corn marigolds and blue anchusas.

Over 50 Balkan terrapins were hauled out in the strong sunshine by the river. The stony bits on the other side of the bridge had displaying little ringed plovers that kept us company all morning. A reed warbler sang from the reeds and on the other side a subtly different scratchy song was that of an olivaceous warbler. Butterflies were out and about: the star perhaps was eastern festoon, but clouded yellow, green-underside blue and eastern dappled white were in the supporting cast and a humming-bird hawk-moth too. Studying the Venus's looking-glass beside the path revealed it to be *Legousia pentagonica*; numerous other flowers were noted (see lists). A hoopoe flew past as we returned to the minibuses.

After an excellent Greek salad and homemade pizza back at Madonna Studios, we set off towards the Gulf of Kalloni (Kalloni Bay). In Polichnitos there was a splendid white stork's nest on the tall former olive press chimney – the chimney for the engine that used to work the press. The salt pans beyond Skala Polichnitos were mostly rather dry and birdless, save a lone greenshank, a couple of pairs of shelducks and loafing yellow-legged gulls, but there were smaller migrants in the stoney sheep field opposite. Here Steve quickly picked out a tawny pipit and there were six yellow wagtails, of which three were male black-headed and two blue-headed wagtails, following half a dozen sheep. Northern wheatear, whinchats, corn buntings and crested larks added to the mix; the latter two species present just about everywhere all week.

Farther on in an olive grove, Steve was on the look out for masked shrikes he'd seen here in 2004 and his efforts were rewarded. This eastern speciality doesn't sit out quite as prominently as other shrikes but most saw the pair in the hedgerow, but further efforts to get good views for all didn't work out – at the first attempt. Finally, we arrived at Alikoudi Pool, a small coastal lagoon beside Kalloni Bay, from where one could see the large development of Skala Kalloni and the salt 'mountains' across the bay. A whiskered tern was flying to and fro' over the pool; waders present were little ringed and Kentish plovers, wood sandpiper and black-winged stilt. A bit of a push on the muddy track got Steve's bus moving again and, miraculously, none of the pushers got muddy. On the way back through the olive grove the female masked shrike was there, at last allowing a reasonable view.

Highlights of the day were: little ringed plover, whiskered tern, masked and woodchat shrikes, male whinchat, Balkan terrapins and the intense colours of the flowers in the strong bright light

Saturday 16 April – Agiassos and the pine woods at Achleleri

The pine forest near Achleleri is a well known site for Kruper's nuthatch, but it was the colourful array of peacock anemones that caught the eye as we arrived. It is a pleasant, open woodland of Calabrian pine *Pinus brutia*. The sound of chaffinches was everywhere, with an extra flourish at the start of the song, plus the soft sound of short-toed treecreeper. We were in luck with the 'target bird' – a male Kruper's nuthatch appeared quickly around a pine with a large, thick needley growth. It tooted like a toy trumpet as it flew away and did get seen once or twice again too. Other birds around included blue tit, serin and the black-and-white Asia Minor race of long-tailed tit – the last not seen by all, but a reminder of how close we were to Turkey.

Daphne found a very cryptic praying mantis *Ameles spallanziana*. A wood white butterfly was caught, making it possible to see the white mark on the underside of the antennal lobes that showed it wasn't

eastern wood white. The large spurge everywhere was *Euphorbia myrsinites*, easy enough to sort, unlike the abundant yellow crucifer along the roadside.

Then followed a stop in further pine forest that Steve knew to be good for orchids. Indeed the large yellow spikes of Provence orchid were obvious even from the road. They were the showiest species; others proved trickier. Several rather small and dark pink butterfly orchids were atypical and in the dry conditions, the *picta* subspecies of green-winged orchid was small too. The oddest however, were three or four very diminutive spikes of dense-flowered orchid.

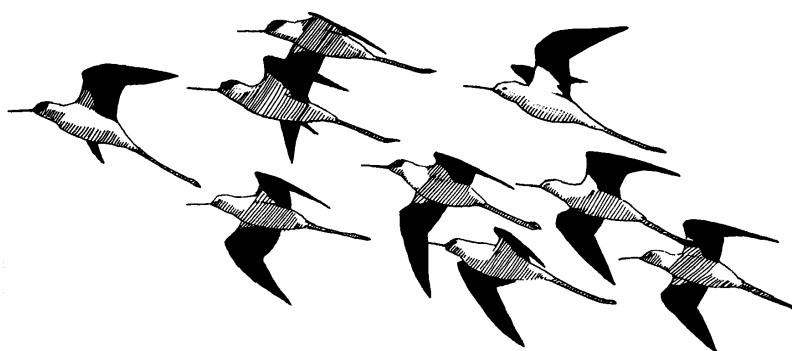
Late arriving, Dimitra was waiting for us in Agiassos where we had a splendid taverna lunch, a selection of goodies followed by traditional pistachio and cherries in syrup. Verna and Brenda decided to stay in Agiassos for the afternoon, but we gathered their attempts to sketch was greeted with such curiosity by the good people of the town that they settled for gently pottering around this characterful place. Yvonne and Betty later joined them, concluding the walk up the stony track didn't suit them and by all accounts, through local girl Dimitra, they met a fair proportion of the local inhabitants.

Most of the group took the wide stony track that winds up through sweet chestnut and cherry trees above Agiassos. The walls were rich with flowers and ferns; large dead-nettle and spring rock-cress, for example. Beautiful peacock anemones were ten-a-penny. On one bank, where the path had been widened and is now much easier to use, there was drooping star-of-Bethlehem. The local, green-flowered fritillary *Fritillaria pontica*, was quite common in one patch and there were many non-flowering dragon arums. False Apollo is one the special butterflies of Lesvos and was seen both on the way up and way down, though not that close and they evaded capture with ease. Nettle-tree butterfly and large tortoiseshell were surprises at the meadow where the walk culminated and nearby were peonies in bud. After descending into the delightful, untouristy small town of Agiassos, we managed to find the others, near Manos's celebrated cake shop.

About a kilometre down the road, a convenient lay-by allowed a brief exploration of the terraced olive groves to search for orchids. Lesser yellow bee orchid and four-spotted orchid were two new species and there were more green-winged orchids, subspecies *picta*.

At Kalamakia we celebrated Marilyn's birthday with fizz and cake, the latter decorated with a question mark – better than one candle per year, we supposed – and with peacock anemones in red, purple and white.

Highlights of the day were: Kruper's nuthatch, singing nightingales, nettle-tree butterfly, the anemones, drooping star-of-Bethlehem, the sweet chestnuts, the mossy walls above Agiassos, the Agiassos 'experience' generally, the terraced olive groves below Agiassos and for Bob, the taverna lunch!



Sunday 17 April – Kalloni salt pans

The extensive salt pans at Kalloni are the celebrated birdwatching site on Lesvos and you could see why. It is a series of flooded lagoons and on arrival there were immediately scores of flamingos, dozens of black-winged stilts chattering continuously, and about 140 avocets. Half a dozen wood sandpipers fed nearby – and many more were found later too. Searching a group of ruffs quickly revealed an elegant marsh sandpiper, seen well by all through the telescopes. We worked our way along the road, admiring purple viper's bugloss, salsify and pink hawksbeard. Vic picked up a dead twig with a paper wasp nest – and attendant wasp. A squacco heron flew through and, unusually, settled in a tree. Our first black stork dropped out of sight but a great white egret was more obliging. A little owl perched on the corner of

distant barn. I think I was identifying forked catchfly when a female pallid harrier flew past many of the group, close enough for the dark face marking and the diagnostic underwing patterning to be seen well. Marsh harriers and a superb male Montagu's harrier made quite a morning for harriers.

Just after lunch, which was taken down by the beach, we looked at a flock of little stints on the flooded grassland behind the salt pans before joining Richard Brooks, author of 'Birds of Lesvos', to overlook what has become known as the flooded 'sheep field'. With the sheep was a flock of short-toed larks; the wind was getting up so they were keeping low and out of sight even though the vegetation seemed short, but with a little patience many saw them well. There was a sprinkling of black- and blue-headed wagtails too.

We drove through Kalloni onto Skala Kalloni, stopping at the famous pool by Kalloni II hotel. In the pools among the wet vegetation were three drake garganeys, a teal and little grebes. Steve was on the look out for tree frogs and spied the silhouette of one through the blade of a reed: there it was, tucked in between the blade and the stem of reed, over water, by the edge of the road. We then drove the short distance into Skala Kalloni itself to a café in the square for cups of tea or iced coffee - *frappe* as the menu described them.

A strong, though warm, southerly wind was making the sea at Vatera distinctly rough as we returned home.

Highlights of the day were: flying flamingos, drake garganeys, pallid harrier, male Montagu's harrier, black-winged stilt, marsh sandpiper, little tern and the tree frog.

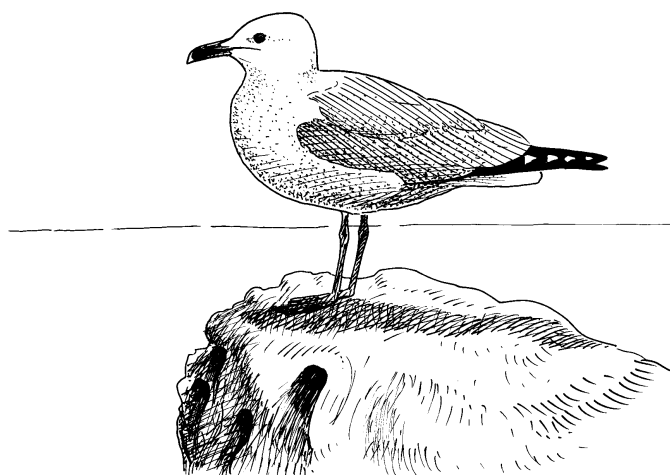
Monday 17 April – the north coast at Petra and Molivos

Steve, Mike, Collin and Marilyn set off for the headland at Agias Fokas before breakfast and saw about 35 Yelkouan shearwaters, four shags and a rather dark fox taking an early morning drink in the Almiropotamos River.

Last night's fierce winds happily gave way to a gentle southerly breeze and sunshine. Approaching Kalloni, two pairs of ruddy shelducks were on the lagoons near the road at 'Derbyshire'. On the northern outskirts of Kalloni we called in at the 'mini soccer' site. Steve briefly disappeared and returned having found our target – two scops owls roosting in a eucalyptus at only some 10 feet off the ground. We watched quietly through telescopes, from a respectful distance – which is more than the next four birdwatchers did. A short-toed eagle flew over.

Apart from a brief navigation and detour glitch that took us into and out of Stipsi, we headed to the north coast and the cliff-top 'bandstand' site – in fact a fire control watch point – between Petra and Molivos. This is a known site for Rüppell's warbler and Cretzchmar's bunting and, amazingly, both were found within minutes of pulling off the road. A Rüppell's warbler sang from a telegraph wire, but most of the group put that on hold as there was a singing bunting, like an ortolan but less melodic, on the other side of the vehicles. The Cretzchmar's bunting was initially on the rocks and scrub and then conveniently perched on a wire fence, before coming to the ground close by – where a second bird joined it. Meanwhile, back at the Rüppell's warbler, that too showed itself well on song perches on the scrub and again on the overhead wire. A crag martin also came past.

Molivos, also known as Mythimna, is on the north coast of Lesvos, looking towards Turkey. Its intricate and steep pattern of streets meant that the minibuses were left on the approaches, from where it was but a five minute walk down to the picturesque harbour. White mignonette, Cretan tree mallow and the first crown daisies of the holiday were noted along the way. We picnicked with our backs to the sea wall – it was too breezy to look out to sea – overlooking the harbour and up to the 14th century fort on the hilltop above the town. A fine adult Audouin's gull (*right*) kept us company for much of lunchtime, plus an immature briefly too, as did hundreds of mullet in the harbour brought in by spare chunks of bread. We then had an hour to have a cup of



tea, buy postcards or climb up to the fort. Just by the buses, Steve's ability to find small owls tucked into little niches shone again, this time with a little owl in a 'owl-cove' in the buildings above us.

We stopped again by the 'bandstand' on the way south, this time to potter in the scrub for plants and other things. A southern white admiral butterfly perched nicely by the road. In the more open areas were several small-flowered tongue orchids and colourful patches of pale flax and large Venus's looking-glass. Having found a spotted rock-rose, it was a shock to return to it and find the petals had fallen off! Happily, the petals stayed on a fumana and, completing the cistus collection, on the white-flowered sage-leaved cistus and pink-flowered *Cistus creticus*.

Back at Vatera, we were joined by Brian and Eileen Anderson; as well as being Honeyguide leaders in the Algarve, they have written several books about Lesvos and originally introduced Honeyguide to Dimitra and Vatera. We were able to clear up some botanical mysteries with Brian's help and they joined us for supper. Rain stopped the usual six or eight from walking back to Madonna Studios, but those in the first minibus were rewarded with a fox crossing the road.

Highlights of the day were: the roosting scops owls, Rüppell's and subalpine warblers and Cretzchmar's bunting

Tuesday 19 April – Melinda area

At the Almiropotamos River, a male little bittern (*right*), probably a newly arrived migrant, plus our first turtle dove, rewarded early risers Steve, Mike, Rosemary, Collin and Marilyn.



After breakfast we headed off eastwards along the long Vatera beach, heading inland along the dirt track via Kato Stavros. Our first stop was in open scrub with patches of grassland where there were scores of small-flowered tongue orchids. Wood, Orphean and Sardinian warblers were heard or seen, a cuckoo called and at least two woodlarks sang overhead. Middle-spotted woodpeckers remained elusive, giving tantalisingly brief views. A little farther on, a woodchat shrike was found.

Between Akراسi and Paleochori we stumbled upon a pair of masked shrikes before stopping nearby at an open, roadside olive grove. It was bright with red peacock anemones and was the richest spot for orchids so far. New species were Italian man, toothed and fan-lipped orchid, with further lesser yellow bees and many green-winged and pink butterfly orchids.

After squeezing through the winding, picturesque village of Paleochori (translated, it means old village) we took the new, EU-funded last few kilometres of brand new road downhill to Melinda. As we pulled up, a chunky starred agama lizard ran across the road and up onto a stone wall, waving and nodding its head as it looked at us, with another agama also nearby on the wall. Two more then appeared. Collin and Marilyn took a walk down to the seaside – where everything was closed, being out of season – and the rest of us walked into the olive groves and settled down for our picnic lunch beyond a wooden bridge over a stream.

After lunch, a brief search between the well-spaced olive trees produced a single spike of *Ophrys minutula*, a rare and localised bee orchid (in the *Ophrys apifera* 'group'), endemic to the Aegean islands. Leaving Verna and Brenda to sketch, we wandered through the pleasant dappled shade. There wasn't a great deal that was new, but there were plenty of eastern festoons on the wing and we found a fantastic hairy birthwort in flower, the food plant of the eastern festoon. Other new flowers included the mullein *Verbascum undulatum*, nettle-leaved bellflower and nettle-leaved figwort. Heading back, we paused again in the early evening sun to the east of Kato Stavros and were rewarded with calling and displaying short-toed eagles as well as buzzards and a sparrowhawk. We could see how a pear tree had been grafted onto the stock of the wild almond-leaved pear. The sides of the surfaced road south of Kato Stavros were lit by large, bright yellow patches of the crucifer *Alyssum lesbiacum* – Lesvos alison if one had to coin an English name. This we'd failed to find in our books, but Brian Anderson explained how this Lesvos endemic is an indicator for serpentine rocks that carry heavy metals like chromium and hence are poisonous to many plants.

John Bowers of the Green Lesvos website www.greenlesbos.com joined us at Kalamakia for supper.

Highlights of the day were: male little bittern, calling and displaying short-toed eagles, a calling cuckoo, nightingales, masked shrikes, the starred agama, the orchids, the anemones in the olive groves and the bright yellow endemic Alyssum.

Wednesday 20 April – western Lesvos and the petrified forest

The pattern of windy evenings followed by pleasant days was reversed today as last night's relatively still weather was followed by blustery, though still mainly sunny conditions. West of Kalloni our first stop was at the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, where the road goes through an area of cliffs, almost a gorge, cut by a stream. The pull-off by the road was littered with the huge, spiky acorn cups of *Vallonia* oak. A long-legged buzzard appeared briefly along the top of the ridge a couple of times, but didn't show well, while red-rumped swallow, crag martin and blue rock thrush were more easily viewed, if a little too distant.

The drive continued through increasingly rugged terrain until we reached the petrified forest – not long before a coach with old friends Ralph and Brenda Todd and a group from Worldwide Journeys arrived. The sequoia and proto-pine forest disappeared under lava some 20 million years ago and the chunks of fossilised tree trunks in here resulted, now presented for travellers in the Petrified Forest Park. We ate lunch inside the park, where there were a few handy benches and mixture of sun and shade. Steve, Mike, Rosemary, Collin and Marilyn ventured further and found the area's star bird, cinereous bunting as well as a very viewable chukar, rock nuthatch and several Cretzchmar's buntings. A raven and a pair of short-toed eagles flew over and reddish stonecrop, on the ground, was new too.

Outside, Kate was sitting quietly and had also been rewarded by close views of a chukar, which then kindly reappeared for the rest of the group. We then retraced our steps eastwards to the nearby Ipsilou Monastery, spectacularly perched high above the rugged countryside, looking towards a military installation and wind turbines to the west and north towards Molivos and Turkey. This small monastery is active and well maintained though it seemed all but deserted today, except for numerous very hungry cats. The chapel was a delight and those who went to the top layer could look down on both a blue rock thrush and the broad sweep of the rugged landscape. Near the minibuses, scrutiny of the rocky scrub produced a peregrine, rock nuthatch and a female pied flycatcher.

The Sigri-Eressos road junction is a well known site for Isabelline wheatear and, despite the brisk wind, we struck gold with three males engaged a furious dispute over a female and territory. Equally good from the botanical perspective was Vic's find of an orchid that, new to all but Steve, was the endemic *Ophrys lesbis* – matching nicely the photo in Rosemary's copy of Delforge's *Orchids of Britain & Europe*.

At the evening log we presented Dimitra with a cheque that will go through the non-profit making LEPET organisation for a project to benefit wildlife on the island. In turn, at our final meal at Kalamakia, we were all given a recipe book written and produced by Dimitra, containing many of the meals we'd eaten at Vatera.

Highlights of the day were: peregrine, Isabelline wheatears in dispute, rock nuthatch, rock nuthatch and blue rock thrush in the same binocular view, raven, Persian squirrel, the *Ophrys lesbis*, the petrified trees and the rugged scenery of the west

Thursday 21 April – Vatera

The usual pre-breakfast crew found a squacco heron at the mouth of the Vourkos River, east of Vatera whilst nearby another five were resting incongruously on the beach, perhaps after an island-hop across the sea. Reviewing the holiday the previous evening, suggestions included a longer holiday and more time to gently potter around the Vatera area. This proved to be rather more quickly arranged than anyone anticipated, when at breakfast came the news that a strike was threatening to disrupt our evening flights home. By lunchtime this had been confirmed, with a flight early the following morning instead. "You have to remember that *chaos* is a Greek word", said Brian Anderson, who turned up at Madonna Studios with his Cox & Kings group to eat their picnic with us. Not for Dimitra though, who was, as ever, on the case and plans were quickly made for the evening's food and accommodation.

But a morning at Vatera was always planned, for which we split into two. Steve took a group back to the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, where the six squacco herons were still recovering on the beach.

Chris and the botanists walked from Madonna Studios down the road opposite, then right at the 'no photography' sign up the track that runs parallel with the road into Vatera. Wild gladiolus was one of several new flowers and we recapped on some of the week's findings. Birds included Cretzchmar's bunting and crows mobbing ravens, while to the butterfly list we added spotted fritillary and common blue. Everyone went their own way for the afternoon, as Steve and Chris had to return the red bus to Mytilini, then a last, last meal at Maria's and then early(ish) to bed.

Friday 22 April – Athens and home

Up at 4.45am for an early breakfast and then back to Mytilini for the 8.25am flight to Athens. In Athens airport we failed to get anyone on an earlier, afternoon flight. Some waited all day at the airport; Kate found a shady garden with running water at a nearby hotel. Steve, Chris, Vic, Brenda, Collin and Marilyn took the new metro to central Athens, walking from Monastiraki to the Acropolis, which was covered in scaffolding and tourists. There was a nice gathering of migrants in the quiet and cooler park opposite the Acropolis, with three wood warblers, 4-5 pied flycatchers, a spotted flycatcher and a nightingale, plus a hoopoe, alpine swifts, serin, Sardinian and olivaceous warblers. Then back through the Plaka shopping area to the station to rejoin the rest of the group for the flight back to Heathrow.



Highlights of the week were: the male little bittern, avocets, roosting scops owls, Cretzchmar's bunting, the anemones, anemones and nightingales together, Barbary-nuts opening in the afternoon sun in the olive groves, the endemic bee orchid *Ophrys lesbis* and the ambience and colours of the Lesvos spring.

* * * * *

Systematic lists

Birds

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A pair at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 17 April.

Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

c.35 moving offshore (east and west) just off the headland Agias Fokas on 18 April and five moving west in Vatera Bay mid-afternoon, on 21 April.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

One in Kalloni Bay at Achladeri on 16 & 20 April.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Two off Agias Fokas, on 18 April; one off Melinda, on 19 April and one of the Almiropotamos River mouth, west of Vatera, on 21 April.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

A male at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 19 April.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Three at the Kalloni Saltpans on 17 April; one at the Vourkos River mouth and five nearby on the beach, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 & 18 April and present in small numbers at Kalloni Saltpans on 17, 18 & 20 April.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

1-2 at Kalloni Saltpans on 17 April and one at 'Derbyshire' on 18 April.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

One at Kalloni Saltpans on 17 April and one at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 18 April.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

One at Kalloni Saltpans on 17 April; one, seen from Chris's bus, near Akrasi, on 19 April and one seen by Collin and Marilyn at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 21 April.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

A pair seen throughout the week at the nest on the old olive press chimney in Polichnitos. One feeding in the river near the bridge at Keramia, on 21 April.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Kalloni Saltpans on 17, 18 and 20 April.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A pair at 'Derbyshire' and another pair nearby to the west on a freshwater pool, on 18 April; this or another pair at the latter site on 20 April.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Two pairs at Skala Polichnitos Saltpans on 15 April; two pairs at 'Derbyshire' on 17 & 18 April and three pairs there on 20 April.

Teal *Anas crecca*

A single drake at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 12 April.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Three drakes at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 12 April.

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Seen daily, including displaying pairs east of Kato Stavros on 19 April and over the Petrified Forest Park on 20 April.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Several (all females or indeterminate immatures) hunting over Kalloni Saltpans and the fields to the south of the saltpans, on 17 April.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

An adult female at the Kalloni Saltpans, on 17 April.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

A male hunting over the fields to the south of Kalloni Saltpans, on 17 April.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

One east of Kato Stavros on 19 April.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Seen daily in small numbers.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

Brief views of 2-3 in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 20 April.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Seen on 15, 17, 18 & 20 April.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

One at Ipsilou Monastery on 20 April.

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*

One sat on a flat rock in the Petrified Forest Park gave good views through the 'scope and another nearby, just outside the park, on 20 April.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Up to eight at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15, 18, 19 & 21 April and several at Skala Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 17 April.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Several at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 17 April.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Two at Alikoudi Pool on 15 April; present, Kalloni Saltpans on 17, 18 and 20 April and at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 17 April.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

140 at Kalloni Salt pans on 17 April and noted present but not counted, 18 & 20 April.

Pratincole *Glareola*

Ten, hawking insects high over Kalloni Salt pans, on 17 April. Height and poor light precluded specific identification.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Several at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, 15, 19 & 21 April; three at Alikoudi Pool on 15 April; several on the flooded field behind Kalloni Salt pans, on 17 April and 2-3 at the Vourkos River mouth, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

One, near the beach, south of Kalloni Salt pans, on 17 April.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

One at Alikoudi Pool on 15 April; 5-6 at Kalloni Salt pans, on 17 April and two at the Vourkos River mouth, east Vatera, on 21 April.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

17 on the flooded field behind the salt pans, Kalloni Salt pans, on 17 April.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Three at Kalloni Salt pans on 17 April.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

c.50 at Kalloni Salt pans on 17 April.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Two at Kalloni Salt pans on 17 April.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

One at Kalloni Salt pans on 17 April.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

c.15 at the Kalloni Salt pans on 17 April.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

One at Skala Polichnitos Salt pans, on 15 April and two at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

8-9 at Alikoudi Pool on 15 April; present in small numbers at Kalloni Salt pans and two, Skala Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 17 April and one at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 19 April.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One at Kalloni Salt pans on 17 April; one at Melinda on 19 April and two at the Vourkos River mouth, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

A first-summer bird, near the shoreline south of Kalloni Salt pans, on 17 April.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

One at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera and one at Kalloni Salt pans, on 18 April.

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*

A fine adult and an immature in Molivos harbour on 18 April.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans michahellis*

Seen daily. Common throughout the island.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Several at Kalloni Salt pans on 17 April; one in Kalloni Bay at Achladeri on 18 April and two at 'Derbyshire' on 20 April.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Seven, Kalloni Salt pans on 17 April and two noted there on 20 April.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

One at Alikoudi Pool on 15 April and one at Kalloni Saltpans on 17 April.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Three over the Vourkos River Valley, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Seen daily, throughout the island.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

One, Achladeri, on 16 April; two, Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 19 April and two, Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Singles: between Vasilika and Achladeri on 16 April; fields southeast of Kalloni Saltpans, on 17 April; Kato Stavros, on 19 April and in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Scops Owl *Otus scops*

Two at roost in a Eucalyptus tree behind the 'mini-soccer' and taverna site, Kalloni, on 18 April.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

One on a farm building roof south of Kalloni Saltpans, on 17 April and one in Molivos, on 18 April.

Swift *Apus apus*

Seen daily in small numbers (<10 per day).

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

c.5, Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 April; three over Agiassos, on 16 April; several over Polichnitos, on 17 April and one at the Petrified Forest Park, on 20 April.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Singles near Skamnioudi and at Alikoudi Pool, on 15 April.

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*

One heard in the Sweet Chestnut woodland above Agiassos, on 16 April; two seen briefly east of Kato Stavros, on 19 April and one in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

A flock of c.10 south of the Kalloni Saltpans on 17 April.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Seen daily. Abundant throughout the island.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

c.6, east of Kato Stavros on 19 April.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Small numbers at Kalloni Saltpans and one, Skala Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 17 April; 18 moving north up the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 19 April; several feeding over Kalloni East River (Tsianas River), on 20 April; two at Vatera and c.100 feeding and bathing in the river near the bridge at Keramia, on 21 April.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

One seen by Chris at the clifftop 'bandstand' between Petra and Molivos on 18 April; several at the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa and one at Ipsilou Monastery, on 20 April.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Seen daily in small numbers.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

Small numbers, on 15 April and daily, 17-21 April.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Seen daily.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

One on the stoney 'sheep field' at Skala Polichnitos on 15 April and one at the Vourkos River mouth, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One, seen by Kate, in the 'army camp' pine woodland at Achladeri on 16 April.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

One heard by Chris and Steve, calling over Kalloni Salt pans, on 17 April.

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg*

Three on the stoney 'sheep field' at Skala Polichnitos on 15 April; small numbers on the 'sheep field', south of Kalloni Salt pans on 17 April and three at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 19 April.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*

1-2 on the stoney 'sheep field' at Skala Polichnitos on 15 April; 1-2 on the 'sheep field', south of Kalloni Salt pans on 17 April and one at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 19 April.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Three on Agias Fokas on 18 April; two at Melinda on 19 April; two at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera and two at the Vourkos River mouth, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Heard singing in the Sweet Chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 16 April and between Akراسi and Paleochori, near the turning for Neochori (at the roadside orchid stop), on 19 April.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Present in the Sweet Chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 16 April.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Seen well and heard on the scrubby woodland slopes above Agiassos on 16 April and heard daily, 18-21 April.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Two on the stoney 'sheep field' at Skala Polichnitos on 15 April; two on the flooded field behind Kalloni Salt pans, on 17 April; one, Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 19 April and one at the Sigri-Eressos road junction, on 20 April

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

One on telegraph wires near Achladeri, on 17 April.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

One seen by Kate, near the Petrified Forest Park and four at the Sigri-Eressos road junction, on 20 April.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Two on the stoney 'sheep field' at Skala Polichnitos on 15 April; one near the Petrified Forest Park, on 20 April and one near the Vourkos River mouth, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanicus melanoleuca*

The stunning eastern race – all males seen had black throats. Seen daily. Numerous and widespread in rocky areas. 1-2 pairs in territory around Madonna Studios in Vatera.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

One on the Kalloni to Molivos road at the Stipsi junction, seen by Mike from Steve's bus; a male in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa and two males at Ipsilou Monastery on 20 April and a male at the unfinished hotel, Vourkos River mouth, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Seen daily. Widespread but relatively secretive compared to blackbirds in the UK, so can be overlooked. Common in olive groves.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Two in the 'army camp' pine woodland at Achladeri on 16 April.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Heard daily and occasionally seen on 15 April, daily 17-19 April and on 21 April.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Three singing, Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 April.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One at the Vourkos River mouth, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*

Seen or heard, 15 April and daily, 18-21 April. Common in the Vatera area.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

A male in scrub behind Madonna Studios in Vatera, on 15 & 18 April; two, in Sweet Chestnut woodland and scrub above Agiassos, on 16 April; one, at the clifftop 'bandstand' between Petra and Molivos on 18 April; one in olive groves above Melinda, on 19 April; a male in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 20 April and two in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

A pair in scrub behind Madonna Studios in Vatera throughout the week - male food carrying on 16 April. One, east of Kato Stavros, on 19 April.

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia ruepelli*

2-3 pairs at the clifftop 'bandstand' between Petra and Molivos on 18 April.

Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis crassirostris*

One in territory at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 and 19 April; one in scrub behind Madonna Studios in Vatera, on 15 April and one, east of Kato Stavros, on 19 April.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

One heard at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 April and one heard east of Kato Stavros on 19 April.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

One near Skamnioudi on 15 April and one, east of Kato Stavros, on 19 April.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

One, east of Kato Stavros, on 19 April; one in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, on 20 April and one in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

One, east of Kato Stavros and two at the orchid stop between Akraasi and Paleochori, near the turning for Neochori, on 19 April.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

One in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

One seen by Chris in the Sweet Chestnut woodland above Agiassos, 16 April; a female, Ipsilou Monastery, on 20 April; a female, Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera and two females, at Vatera, on 21 April.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus tephronotus*

This is the shorter-tailed, grey-backed Asia Minor race. Heard and seen briefly in the 'army camp' pine woodland at Achladeri on 16 April.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Seen and/or heard daily.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Seen and/or heard daily.

Kruper's Nuthatch *Sitta krueperi*

An active male and female, near the 2003 nest-site at the 'army camp' pine woodland site at Achladeri on 16 April. Listen for the distinctive call which sounds something like a toy trumpet!

Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer zarudnyi*

One seen by Brenda as it flew across the road in front of Steve's bus, near Akraasi, on 19 April; one at the Petrified Forest Park and one at Ipsilou Monastery on 20 April.

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*

Several in the 'army camp' pine woodland at Achladeri on 16 April.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A male, seen from Steve's bus, Filia, on 20 April.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

One at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera and three, Skala Polichnitos, on 15 April; one near Vatera, on 17 April; one near Polichnitos, on 18 April; one east of Kato Stavros, on 19 April; one at the Petrified Forest Park, on 20 April and two, Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

A pair near Skamnioudi on 15 April; a pair, between Akrasi and Paleochori near the turning for Neochori, on 19 April; one, flying across the road in front of Steve's bus near Andissa, on 20 April and a male seen by Collin and Marilyn at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 21 April.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius atricapillus*

This race sports a black cap. Seen daily on 15-18 & 20-21 April.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Seen daily. Common and widespread throughout the eastern part of the island.

Raven *Corvus corax*

One, over the Petrified Forest Park, on 20 April and two at Vatera, on 21 April.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

One, seen by Mike in the flooded field behind the salt pans, Kalloni Saltpans, on 17 April.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen daily.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Seen on 15, 17, 18 & 21 April. The largest flock was of 120, dust bathing at the western end of Vatera on 21 April.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Seen daily.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

Several seen and/or heard singing at the 'army camp' pine woodland at Achladeri and above Agiassos on 16 April; heard on the Cypress fringed stretch of road near Achladeri on several days and one at the Vourkos River mouth, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Seen daily in small numbers.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Seen daily in small numbers.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

One at Alikoudi Pool, on 15 April; small numbers moving west at the clifftop 'bandstand' between Petra and Molivos on 18 April and across the west of the island on 20 April.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

One, seen by Chris in the Sweet Chestnut woodland above Agiassos, on 16 April.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

Seen or heard daily, 15-17 & 19-21 April throughout the island. Common and widespread.

Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea*

A male at the Petrified Forest Park on 20 April.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

A male at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 April.

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*

2-3 at the clifftop 'bandstand' between Petra and Molivos on 18 April; a male in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa and several at the Petrified Forest Park on 20 April and one at Vatera, on 21 April.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Seen daily. Abundant and widespread throughout.

Total – 124 species

Mammals

Eastern Hedgehog *Erinaceus concolor*

Road deaths, on the Vatera-Polichnitos road, on 15 & 18 April.

Bat spp.

Two small-bat species around the street lights along the beach road in Vatera. No bat detectors with us this time.

Persian Squirrel *Sciurus anomalus*

One, near Skamnioudi, on 15 April; one in Sweet Chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 16 April; one at Melinda on 19 April; one running across the road near Achladeri, on 20 April and one in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Lesser Mole Rat *Nannospalax leucodon*

A number of small burrow entrances in grassy scrub, east of Kato Stavros, perhaps attributable to this species, 19 April. *The Atlas of European Mammals* (Mitchell-Jones *et al.* 1999) suggests that lesser mole rats on Lesvos may in fact be the Asia Minor species *Nannospalax nehringi*.

Black Rat *Rattus rattus*

A dead rat outside Chris's and Steve's room (!) at Madonna Studios, Vatera, on 19 April, clearly this species (Richard Brooks (1998) lists both rat species; *The Atlas of European Mammals* (Mitchell-Jones *et al.* 1999) records only black rat for Lesvos). Brown-grey with white underside. Smaller body size and more slender, with more pointed muzzle, larger ears, longer tail and longer dorsal hairs than Brown Rat *R. norvegicus*.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

One taking an early morning drink at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera and one at Vatera, on 18 April.

Beech Marten *Martes foina*

Road deaths: one, on the Vasilika-Achladeri road, first noted on 16 April and one, near the Milopotamos River, east of Kalloni, on 20 April.

Amphibians & Reptiles

Common Tree Frog *Hyla arborea*

One on common reed over water, Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 17 April.

Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda*

Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera and Alikoudi Pool, on 15 April; the stream at the 'army camp' pine woodland at Achladeri and above Agiassos, on 16 April; in a tiny pool in coastal scrub near the clifftop 'bandstand' between Petra and Molivos on 18 April and the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, on 20 April.

Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca*

One, seen by Mike and Rosemary, in coastal scrub near the clifftop 'bandstand' between Petra and Molivos on 18 April.

Balkan (= stripe-necked) Terrapin *Mauremys rivulata*

A 'pile' of over 50, basking in the sunshine at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 April and small numbers seen there on subsequent days; one at the small 'pond' at the Vourkos River mouth, east of Vatera, on 21 April.

Starred Agama *Laudakia stellio*

Four at Melinda, on 19 April and one just north of Keramia, at the side of the main Mytilini road, on 21 April.

Green Lizard *Lacerta viridis*

A mature adult (with bright blue throat) on the Vasilika-Achladeri road, on 16 April. Many juvenile 'green' lizards seen throughout the week - probably this species.

Butterflies

Swallowtail *Papilo machaon*

15, 17, 18 & 21 April.

Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius*

15, 16, 18 & 21 April.

Eastern Festoon *Zerynthia cerisy*

15 April and daily, 18-21 April.

False Apollo *Archon apollinus*

Several, near the beginning of circular walk above Agiassos, on 16 April.

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

15, 16 & 21 April.



Small White *Artogeia rapae*
16, 17, 20 & 21 April.

Eastern Dappled White *Euchloe ausonia*
15, 17 20 & 21 April.

Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*
Seen daily.

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*
Seen daily.

Wood White *Leptidea sinapis*
At the 'army camp' pine woodland at Achladeri, on 16 April.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*
Daily, 15-17 & 19-20 April.

Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*
Agiassos on 16 April and at the orchid stop between Akراسi and Paleochori, near the turning for Neochori, on 19 April. Also seen elsewhere.

Green-underside Blue *Glaucopsyche alexis*
Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 April and at the 'army camp' pine woodland at Achladeri, on 16 April.

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*
15 & 20 April.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*
Abundant along the track near Madonna Studios in Vatera, on 21 April.

Nettle-tree Butterfly *Libythea celtis*
One, above Agiassos on 16 April.

Southern White Admiral *Limenitis reducta*
One in coastal scrub near the clifftop 'bandstand' between Petra and Molivos on 18 April.

Large Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis polychloros*
One, above Agiassos on 16 April.

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*
Daily, 15-20 April.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*
15, 18 & 19 April.

Spotted Fritillary *Melitaea didyma*
Along the track near Madonna Studios in Vatera, on 21 April.

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*
16, 19 & 20 April.

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*
Daily, 18-20 April.

Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus malvae*
Petrified Forest Park, on 20 April.

Mallow Skipper *Carcharodus tripolinus*
Along the track near Madonna Studios in Vatera, on 21 April.

Moths

Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*
One, Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 April; one at Vatera, on 19 April and one at Ipsilou Monastery, on 20 April.

Silver Y *Autographa gamma*

One, near the beach, south of Kalloni Salt pans, on 17 April.

Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea pytiocampa*

Woven, protective 'nests' that harbour the caterpillars abundant in pines in the Vatera-Achladeri area.

Dragonflies

Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*

Petrified Forest Park, on 20 April.

Grasshoppers & Crickets

Field Cricket *Gryllus campestris*

Around Madonna Studios in Vatera.

Bush-cricket sp.

Achladeri, on 16 April and near the cliff top 'bandstand' between Petra and Molivos on 18 April.

Red-winged Grasshopper *Oedipoda germanica*

One at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 April.

Egyptian Locust *Anacridium aegyptium*

One at the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 April and one at the 'army camp' pine woodland at Achladeri, on 16 April.

Other invertebrates

Giant Centipede (*Scolopendra cingulatus?*)

Large, fast-moving and vicious-looking centipedes, possibly this species, near the Almiropotamos River, on 15 April and near the cliff top 'bandstand' between Petra and Molivos on 18 April.

a Mantis *Ameles spallanziana*

One found by Daphne at the 'army camp' pine woodland at Achladeri, on 16 April.

Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocarpa violacea*

15-18 & 20 April.

Common Cockchafer *Melolontha melolontha*

One at Madonna Studios, Vatera, on 16 April.

Dung Beetle sp.

Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 April and at other locations, 17 & 19 April.

Yellow-and-black Flat-backed Millipede

Common and widespread. Seen around Madonna Studios in Vatera throughout the week and in other locations including the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera, on 15 April and in pine woodland between Vasilika and Achladeri, on 16 April.

Roman Snail *Helix pomatia*

Pine woodland between Vasilika and Achladeri, on 16 April and Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 17 April.

Plants

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

Trees & shrubs (except those noted in families below)

Calabrian pine *Pinus halepensis* subsp. *bruttia*

Stone pine *Pinus pinea* Introduced to the island.

Italian cypress *Cupressus sempervirens*

Frequent and widespread, in both its 'normal' and columnar ('funeral cypress') forms.

Sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*

Kermes oak *Quercus coccifera*

Evergreen, with small holly-like leaves. A frequent component of the garrigue.

Valonia oak *Quercus aegilops*

Its acorn cups are unmistakable – large, with thick, flattened re-curved scales. In the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 20 April.

Downy oak *Quercus pubescens*

Hornbeam *Carpinus orientalis*

Fig *Ficus carica*

Oriental plane *Platanus orientalis*
A riparian species.
Eastern strawberry tree *Arbutus unedo*
Indian bead tree *Melia azedarach* Planted
Tamarisk sp. *Tamarix* sp.
Oleander *Nerium oleander* subsp. *oleander*

Sandalwood family

Osyris *Osyris alba*

Birthwort family

Hairy birthwort *Aristolochia hirta*

Fathen family

Sea purslane *Halimione portulacoides*
Skala Polichnitos on 15 April.

Aizoon family

Red hottentot fig *Carpobrotus acinaciformis*

Pink family

Hairless catchfly *Silene behen*

Vatera.

Forked catchfly *Silene dichotoma*

Small-flowered catchfly *Silene gallica*

Mediterranean catchfly *Silene colorata* subsp. *colorata*

Abundant along the top of the beach at Vatera.

Buttercup family

Peacock anemone *Anemone pavonina*

Water-crowfoot sp. *Ranunculus* sp.

Ranunculus gracilis

Lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*

Peonies

Peony *Paeonia mascula* subsp. *arietina*

Poppies

Common field poppy *Papaver rhoeas*

Papaver virchowii

Described in the *Flora of Turkey* as a little known taxon, it has two black blotches on each petal: one at the base and one at the apex. It is known from Chios but not mentioned for Lesvos (Brian Anderson).

Yellow-horned poppy *Glaucium flavum*

Vatera beach.

Hypocoum imberbe

Vatera.

Fumitory family

Ramping fumitory *Fumaria capreolata*

A simplification of a complex and difficult group.

Crucifers – cress family

Spring rock-cress *Arabis verna*

Agiassos.

Three-horned stock *Matthiola tricuspidata*

Vatera beach.

‘Lesvos alison’ *Alyssum lesbiacum*

Abundant on, and a marker for, serpentine rocks that chromium is mined from and is toxic to many plants. Not in Blamey.

Mignonettes

White mignonette *Reseda alba*

Stonecrops

Reddish stonecrop *Sedum rubens*

Petrified Forest Park on 20 April.

Navelwort sp. *Umbilicus* sp.

Saxifrages

a saxifrage *Saxifraga hederifolia*

Agiassos on 16 April.

Saxifrage sp. *Saxifraga* sp.

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

Rose family

Thorny burnet *Sarcopoterium spinosum*

A widespread, frequently dominant component of the garrigue.

Almond-leaved pear *Pyrus spinosa* (*Pyrus amygdaliformis*)

Common and widespread.

Pea family

Astragalus hamorus

A white milk-vetch with sickle-shaped pods.

Bean trefoil *Anagyris foetida*

Vatera and in the stream valley above Melinda on 19 April.

Hairy thorny broom *Calycotoma villosa*

Occasional component of the garrigue and maquis.

Coronilla (orientalis) balansae

Abundant small yellow pea, in fields and pavement cracks in Vatera. Not in Blamey.

a crown vetch **Coronilla rostrata**

Disc trefoil *Hymenocarpus circinatus*

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

Lathyrus cicera

Lathyrus clymenum

Vatera.

Lathyrus gorgonei

Narrow-leaved lupin *Lupinus angustifolius*

Tree medick *Medicago arborea* Planted.

a medick **Medicago littoralis**

Abundant on Vatera beach.

Disc medick *Medicago orbicularis*

False acacia *Robinia pseudacacia*

Shield clover *Trifolium clypeatum*

Reversed clover *Trifolium resupinatum*

Star clover *Trifolium stellatum*

Woolly clover *Trifolium tomentosum*

One-flowered clover *Trifolium uniflorum*

Petrified Forest Park on 20 April.

a sickle-fruited fenugreek **Trigonella balansae**

Abundant, small yellow pea in fields and pavement cracks in Vatera.

a blue fenugreek **Trigonella coerulescens**

Abundant on Vatera beach.

Hairy yellow vetchling *Vicia hybrida*

Common vetch *Vicia sativa*

Vicia narbonensis

Vicia melanops

Fodder vetch *Vicia villosa*

Sorrel family

Bermuda buttercup *Oxalis pes-caprae*

Occasional under olives and on waste ground, scarce compared with on Crete.

Crane's-bills & stork's-bills

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

Shining crane's-bill *Geranium lucidum*

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

Little Robin *Geranium purpureum*

Round-leaved geranium *Geranium rotundifolium*

Long-beaked stork's-bill *Erodium gruinum* Vatera.

Cut-leaved stork's-bill *Erodium laciniatum*

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

Flaxes

Pale flax *Linum bienne*

Spurges

Sun spurge *Euphorbia helioscopia*

Vatera beach and frequent on arable land.

Euphorbia myrsinites

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

Large Mediterranean spurge *Euphorbia (characias) wulfenii*

Annual mercury *Mercurialis annua*

Arable field margins.

Rue family

Fringed rue *Ruta chalapensis*

Pistacio family

Mastic tree *Pistacia lentiscus*

A frequent component of maquis.

Mallows

Tree mallow *Lavatera cretica*

Common mallow *Malva sylvestris*

Perhaps surprisingly the usual mallow on Lesvos

Least mallow *Malva parviflora*

Rockrose family

Cistus creticus* subsp. *creticus

This and sage-leaved cistus frequently predominate in the garrigue.

Sage-leaved cistus *Cistus salvifolius*

Fumana laevipes

Spotted rockrose *Tuberaria guttata*

Cucumber family

Squirting cucumber *Ecballium elaterium*

Umbellifers – carrot family

Thorow-wax sp. *Bupleurum* sp.

Sea holly *Eryngium maritimum*

Giant fennel *Ferula communis* subsp. *communis*

Conspicuous along many roadside verges.

Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare*

Perfoliate alexanders *Smyrniium perfoliatum*

Vatera.

Water dropwort sp. *Oenanthe* sp.

Shepherd's needle *Scandix pecten-veneris*

Frequent in grassy places.

Tordylium or Mediterranean hartwort *Tordylium apulum*

Primrose family

Scarlet pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*

Both the blue- and scarlet-flowered forms.

Ivy-leaved sowbread *Cyclamen hederifolium*

Thrift family

Winged sea lavender *Limonium sinuatum*

Vatera.

Bedstraw family

Field madder *Sherardia arvensis*

Bindweed family

Mallow-leaved bindweed *Convolvulus althaeoides*

Roadside verges.

Borage family

Borage *Borago officinalis*

Blue houndstongue *Cynoglossum creticum*

Undulate anchusa *Anchusa undulata*

Purple viper's bugloss *Echium plantagineum*

Yellow gromwell *Neastostema apulum*

Vatera.

Labiates – mint family

Large deadnettle *Lamium garganicum*

Agiassos.

Henbit deadnettle *Lamium amplexicaule* subsp. *amplexicaule*

French lavender *Lavandula stoechas*

Marjoram *Origanum vulgare*

Clary sp. *Salvia* sp.

Potato family

White henbane *Hyoscyamus albus*

a nightshade *Solanum elaeagnifolium*

Vatera east beach.

Figwort family

Figwort sp. *Scrophularia*, probably French figwort *Scrophularia canina*

Nettle-leaved figwort *Scrophularia peregrina*

In the stream valley above Melinda on 19 April.

a mullein *Verbascum undulatum*

Roadside verges.

a mullein *Verbascum sinuatum*

Jersey toadflax *Linaria pelisseriana*

a bartsia *Parentucellia latifolia*

Veronica cymbalaria

Agiassos and elsewhere.

Broomrapes

Broomrape sp. *Orobanche* sp.

Plantains

Buck's-horn plantain *Plantago coronopus*

Vatera.

Ribwort plantain *Plantago lagopus*

Abundant on Vatera beach.

Sea plantain *Plantagomaritima*

Vatera beach.

Valerian family

Pink valerian *Centranthus calcitrapae* subsp. *calcitrapae*

Cornsalad sp. *Valerianella* sp

Bellflower family

Nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium*

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

Adjacent to the Almiropotamos River, west of Vatera and elsewhere.

Composites – daisy family

Woolly chamomile *Anthemis tomentosa*

Abundant on Vatera beach.

a mayweed *Anthemis chia*

Rayless mayweed (= Rayless chamomile) *Anthemis rigida*

Astericus aquaticus

Vatera.

Field marigold *Calendula arvensis*

Frequent in Vatera and other locations.

Carduus macrocephalus

This big-headed thistle at Ipsilou Monastery on 20 April.

Cornflower *Centaurea cyanus*

Crown daisy *Chrysanthemum coronarium*

Corn marigold *Chrysanthemum segetum*

Pink hawksbeard *Crepis rubra*

a Leopards bane *Doronicum orientale*

Milk thistle *Silybum marianum*

Salsify *Tragopogon porrifolius*

Monocotyledons

Lily family

Yellow asphodel *Asphodeline lutea*

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

a fritillary *Fritillaria pontica*

Along the track above Agiassos on 16 April.

Gladiolus sp. *Gladiolus* sp. Vatera.

Tassel hyacinth *Muscari comosum* (right)

Abundant in the stream valley above Melinda on 19 April.

Common grape hyacinth *Muscari neglectum*

Drooping star-of-Bethlehem *Ornithogalum nutans*

Along the track above Agiassos on 16 April.

Star-of-Bethlehem *Ornithogalum umbellatum*

Yam family

Black bryony *Tamus communis*

Irises

Iris attica

Melinda on 19 April.

Bearded iris *Iris germanica*

On steep olive grove terraces above Melinda on 19 April. Probably planted.

Barbary-nut *Moraea sisyrinchium*

Abundant throughout the eastern part of the island.

Arums

Common dragon arum *Dracunculus vulgaris*

Large cuckoo pint *Arum concinatum* (*Arum italicum*)

Orchids

Violet bird's nest orchid *Limodorum abortivum*

Several emerging spikes at the 'army camp' pine woodland site at Achladeri on 16 April.

Dense-flowered orchid *Neotinea maculata*

At the edge of the pine forest near the T-junction on the Achladeri-Vasilika road on 16 April.

Pink butterfly orchid *Orchis papilionacea*

At the edge of the pine forest near the T-junction on the Achladeri-Vasilika road on 16 April and at the roadside between Akraasi and Paleochori, near the turning for Neochori on 19 April.

Green-winged orchid *Orchis morio* subsp. *picta* (also known as Painted orchid)

Toothed orchid *Orchis tridentata*

At the roadside between Akraasi and Paleochori, near the turning for Neochori and in the stream valley above Melinda on 19 April.

Italian man orchid *Orchis italica*

At the roadside between Akraasi and Paleochori, near the turning for Neochori and in the stream valley above Melinda on 19 April.

Fan-lipped orchid *Orchis collina*

At the roadside between Akraasi and Paleochori, near the turning for Neochori on 19 April and seen elsewhere. A fairly early-flowering orchid, usually virtually finished by early April.

Provence orchid *Orchis provincialis*

At the edge of the pine forest near the T-junction on the Achladeri-Vasilika road on 16 April and at the roadside between Akraasi and Paleochori, near the turning for Neochori on 19 April.

Four-spotted orchid *Orchis quadripunctata*

In the olive groves below Agiassos on 16 April.

Lesser yellow bee orchid *Ophrys sicula* (*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *minor*)

a bee orchid *Ophrys lesbis*

A single spike found by Vic at the Sigri-Eressos road junction, on 20 April. A rare and localised species endemic to western Lesvos, belonging to the Eyed Bee Orchid *Ophrys argolica* 'group'.

a bee orchid *Ophrys minutula*

A single spike in the stream valley above Melinda on 19 April. A rare and localised species endemic to the eastern Aegean islands, belonging to the Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera* 'group'.

Small-flowered tongue-orchid *Serapias parviflora*

Grasses & rushes, etc. (very incomplete)

Giant reed *Arundo donax* Introduced.

Harestail *Lagurus ovatus*

Common reed *Phragmites australis*

Ferns

Maidenhair spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes*

In the stone wall beside the track above Agiassos.

Rustyback *Ceterach officinarum*

In the stone wall beside the track above Agiassos.

Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*

