



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Crete

19 – 26 April 2017

Participants

John and Jan Croft
Geoff and Kate Gibbs
Gerald and Janet Turner
Rita and Wilkie Harrigan
Margaret Dixey
Sheila and Peter Russell
Christine Fogg
Beryl Doran
Eiluned Collins

Leaders

Chris Durdin
David Collins

Report by David Collins

Photos by David Collins (DC), John Croft (JC) and Chris Durdin (CD) were all taken during the holiday.

Cover: Tulipa bakeri on Omalós Plateau (CD).

We stayed at the family-run Hotel Sofia in Plakias, www.sofiahotelplakias.com

Below: the group near the hotel.



As with all Honeyguide holidays, £40 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for the lammergeier project of the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), which is based in Athens but whose work covers the whole of Greece and its islands.

Honeyguide's donation to HOS (BirdLife Greece) for Crete this year was £630 made up of £40 per person and supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust. It takes our running total of donations to HOS since our first Crete group in 1995 to £10,795. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £113,469 to May 2017.

More information about the work to protect bearded vultures – as they prefer to call them in Greece – is on the website of the Hellenic Ornithological Society www.ornithologiki.gr/page_cn.php?aID=907

DAILY DIARY

Wednesday 19 April – arrival

After arrival at Heraklion airport the two minibuses were quickly found and we began our journey west along the north coast of the island. We soon left the city behind and we drove through increasingly verdant countryside with blue sea to our right. About 45 minutes on we stopped at the roadside Synolakis taverna near Bali for a delicious Greek lunch overlooking vineyards and farmland. Italian sparrows and hooded crows, both common species in Crete, were busy in the fields. After lunch we spotted a fine male blue rock thrush on the hillside opposite and flowers round the car park included purple viper's bugloss, pitch trefoil and branched broomrape.

Shortly after leaving the taverna we turned left to cross the island towards our base for the week at Plakias. The increasingly rural landscape turned spectacular as we entered the Kourtaliótiko Gorge on our descent to the south coast. We stopped in the gorge to watch the griffon vultures circling above. There were more views of blue rock thrush, and both crag martin and alpine swift were also seen. As we left a chough called but was not seen.

I was pleased to find that the coastal settlement at Plakias looked much the same as it had back in 2003 when I was last in Crete with Honeyguide. We settled into the comfortable Hotel Sofia and enjoyed a bit of downtime before gathering at Gorgona taverna.

Thursday 20 April – Plakias, Mirthios and Kanevos

During the morning we walked up the flower-rich hillside to the little village of Mirthios. Wayside flora included the delightful red-flowered winged pea, honeywort, and both tassel hyacinth and its endemic Cretan relative *Muscaria spreitzenhoferi* (pale blue upper flowers and yellowish lower ones). Dragon arums were not yet in full flower but still impressive. Small shrubs included two spiny cushion plants: spiny burnet and shrubby thyme, and cistus species included the delightful yellow-flowered thyme-leaved fumana. Beryl was thrilled to find several plants of eastern serapias, our first orchids of the holiday, and bug orchid was also seen.

Sardinian warblers scolded and chattered from the undergrowth and occasionally gave brief views to part of the group. A handsome male woodchat shrike was much more obliging, returning again and again to the same bush-top allowing the whole group to see it in the telescope. The damselfly Cretan Bluet was a nice find – see lists for photo and a link. As we made our way up the last part of the track there were suddenly swallows and martins moving up through the valley, confirming that bird migration was taking place.



Walking up the hill from Plakias to Mirthios (JC); crupina and Sardinian warbler (CD).

Lunch was a leisurely affair in the welcome shade of the Panorama taverna's veranda overlooking Plakias and the sea beyond. We had parked one minibus in the village earlier on, and now retrieved the other one from Plakias so that we could drive on through the Kotsiphou Gorge to park in shady woodland above Kanevos. Around us there were white sheets of the endemic Cretan cyclamen and we also found the insectivorous friar's cowl in flower.

A short walk along the track brought us out into open meadows and scrub, and suddenly there were wonderful views down a valley towards snow-capped mountains. Then a short drive away we had a roadside stop. The flowers were a delight and included a range of orchids such as loose-flowered, Italian man, bishop's ophrys and yellow bee ophrys. The weed flora included horned dock *Rumex bucephalophorus*, not the most exciting of plants but a familiar one to me from Fuerteventura. Best of all though was the silence, a rare commodity in today's world. Dinner was at Sofia taverna.

Friday 21 April – Kourtaliótiko Gorge and Spili

The wind got up overnight, so the early morning bird walk along the shore at Plakias was a bracing affair. Two little ringed plovers gave every sign that they were nesting on a bare area of waste ground, and we saw another woodchat shrike. Along the shore we noted a range of littoral plants including sea spurge and the rather attractive shore medick. Pink narrow-leaved echium was in flower by the roadside.

After breakfast we drove the short distance to the Kourtaliótiko Gorge, where we parked in the lay-by and walked down the steps to the church and the river at the bottom. Griffon vultures were much in evidence again, and we also saw choughs and watched a male blue rock thrush in song flight. The walk was punctuated with frequent stops to admire a wealth of flowers, among which was the endemic crucifer *Ricotia cretica* with pretty mauve flowers, and *procopiana* (or Cretan gorge comfrey) which is an unusual member of the borage family with pale petals that are strangely long and thin. Composites included the stemless, purple-flowered *Centaurea raphanina* and bright yellow Cretan viper's grass. Also noted were the little valerian *Centranthus calcitrapea*, and bolder species such as bumblebee orchid, the lovely white flowered turban buttercup and a few Cretan cyclamen. Beyond the church we admired the white-flowered storax tree with its lovely scent, and a dense growth of maidenhair fern growing beside the waterfall.

Packed lunches were eaten in the square in Spili village where 25 lion heads spout water. A number of people then explored the shopping opportunities or sampled the various cafés. Eiluned and I retreated to a café opposite where a vase contained bunches of both loose-flowered and Italian man orchids – a fitting prelude to our next stop at the famous Spili Bumps.

When I was in Crete with Honeyguide in 2002 and 2003 I remember being completely blown away by the variety and profusion of orchids. I wondered whether my third visit would be something of an anti-climax, but I need not have worried. In the two hundred yards or so between the lay-by where we parked and the track leading to the bumps, there were so many orchids and other flowers to look at that progress was very slow indeed! Sawfly orchids and Cretan bee orchids seemed to be everywhere on the verge. Among them were other species such as man orchid and milky orchid as well as various species that we had already seen elsewhere. Other notable plants included the lovely lilac-coloured eastern milkwort and the delicate white flowers of the lily *Gagea graeca*. A roadside plant that particularly caught my eye was a fairly tall, yellowish umbellifer rather like a *Bupleurum* with round leaves encircling the stem. This was a species of perfoliate alexanders *Smyrniium rotundifolium*, but so different to our own alexanders.



Cretan bee orchid (JC); *Tulipa doerfleri* in an arable field by Spili Bumps (CD);
Italian man orchids with perfoliate alexanders (JC).

After leaving the road we immediately came upon a field where lovely red tulips were growing. This was the endemic *Tulipa doerfleri*, which has a very restricted range even in Crete. Beside the track were lots of purple-flowered *Orchis boryi* together with the smaller, more densely flowered *Orchis quadripunctata*. Birds of note included a singing woodlark and Geoff surprised a tawny pipit from the track ahead of us.

When we eventually reach the bumps themselves, the profusion of orchids was spectacular, and now included lots of the yellow flowered few-flowered orchid and a single hill (or fan-lipped) orchid as well as all of the species we had already noted. Other plants included the small shrub *Daphne sericea* and the dense white flower-heads of Cretan valerian.

Chris's van returned directly to Plakias and we headed back into Spili for a bit more shopping. On the way back a marsh harrier was a somewhat surprising sight flying over the road just before Plakias and there was a large flock of recently arrived hirundines that must have had quite a battle to make landfall in Crete into a strong northerly wind. Dinner was at the Kri-Kri taverna.

Saturday 22 April – Festos, Ayia Triada and Timbaki lagoons

A change of emphasis today from plants to birds. The early morning birders went to the nearby Damnoni Bay where it was clear that the continuing strong northerly winds had resulted in a fall of tired migrants. Spotted flycatchers were much in evidence and we heard several tree pipits in flight. Three purple herons flew in off the sea and there was a wood sandpiper on the shore. As we stood on the cliff top beyond the bay two large flocks of house martins came swooping in over our heads.

We drove to the Minoan site at Festos after breakfast. By the time we had sampled the coffee and pastries it was beginning to drizzle, but not enough to deter most of the group from exploring the ruins. Walking back towards the buses to start the walk towards Ayia Triada, Chris and I spotted two glorious male golden orioles perched out in the open on nearby bushes. Sadly, by the time we had gathered the group from various parts of the site the orioles had disappeared, although at least three others were seen flying into a large conifer behind us, never to be seen again. It is quite incredible how such a brilliantly coloured bird can disappear in a tree. Fortunately, however, other birds now appeared, including migrant male pied flycatcher, spotted flycatcher and best of all two very confident chukar partridges.

In what was now steady rain, we then started our three kilometre walk down the lane towards Ayia Triada. A short way into the walk some opted for a minibus ride to the end and the others enjoyed stretching their legs.

We then tried to drive to Kalamaki Pools, at the far end of the old Timbaki airstrip, but gave up on account of the rain. We moved on instead to the coastal lagoons near Timbaki, which we could park alongside and brave the now easing rain. Four male garganey gave great views as they dabbled in the shallows, and a hunched up squacco heron gave every sign of being a newly arrived and very tired migrant. Waders included about ten wood sandpipers. In addition we had close views of a bedraggled green sandpiper, a single flock of about 30 ruffs and seven little stints.



Chukar partridge (JC) and barn swallows with the eastern Mediterranean subspecies *transitiva* (DC).

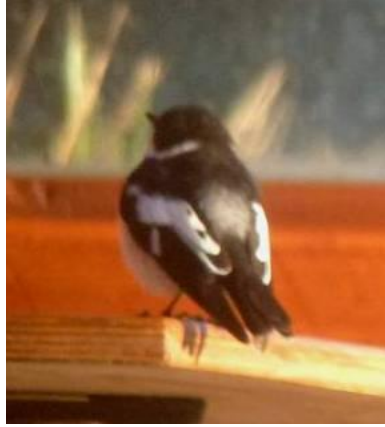
When we arrived back in Plakias there were dozens of tired swallows resting on the ground by the bridge, at least one of which, from later study of photos, showed the rufous underparts characteristic of the eastern Mediterranean subspecies *transitiva*.

Along the stream there were also spotted flycatcher and whinchat, and several more of these species were seen along the coastal frontage. More exciting were a very brief gull-billed tern flying west along the shore that was seen by a few of the group from the various cafés that we had taken shelter in from the rain and wind, and a migrant bee-eater that unfortunately only I saw. Lito at Lysseos taverna wisely had our tables inside, and we showed her the swallows roosting by the adjacent bridge.

Sunday 23 April – Moní Préveli

After yesterday's weather it was good to wake up to sunshine and light winds today. The early morning birders went to nearby Souda Bay in the minibuses. Initially we had planned to walk a short way along the coast road, but the migrants close to the shore kept us busy until it was time to head back for breakfast. A cormorant on the beach was a bit of a surprise and a pied wagtail even more so. Although the white wagtail is a fairly common bird in Crete, the familiar pied subspecies that breeds mainly in Britain and Ireland winters primarily along the Atlantic coast south to Morocco. This and previous Honeyguide records in April are therefore of considerable interest.

There seemed to be spotted and pied flycatchers everywhere. Chris had a fleeting view of a flycatcher with a partial white collar and much white on the wing. Happily this confident male 'pied' type came back into view and we also noted a pale rump and bolder than usual white spot over the beak. Could it be the rare semi-collared flycatcher? Chris took some useful digiscoped photos and these later confirmed that it had exactly the right wing and collar markings to confirm the identification of this scarce migrant.



Digiscoped record shots of semi-collared flycatcher at Souda, front and back views (CD).

Back in Plakias there was a white wagtail at the stream mouth providing useful contrast to the earlier pied.

The morning was spent in warm sunshine in the vicinity of the coastal monastery at Moní Préveli. There were lots more migrants here, including several golden orioles: two birds showed remarkably well for the whole group. Also several wood warblers, lots more spotted and pied flycatchers and a very handsome male collared flycatcher that gave excellent close views. Four species of flycatchers in one morning is a special event indeed.

After visiting the peaceful monastery there was a stop by the memorial that celebrates the help given by the monastery's monks to escaping Allied troops in WW2. We then drove the short distance to the old bridge where we had lunch by the river. Packed lunches were variously supplemented with food and drinks at the riverside café. A personal highlight here was the extended and very noisy fight that broke out among the resident farmyard geese, which we watched from our grandstand seats.



Spotted flycatcher at Ayia Reservoir; male collared flycatcher at Moní Préveli (JC); and migrant golden oriole on a distant perch at Moní Préveli (CD).

The afternoon had been nominated as free for those who wished to take a break from natural history, so after lunch I drove some of the group back to Plakias. On my return to Moní Préveli I found that I had missed a little bittern, but barely had time to feel disappointed when it lolloped out of the nearby undergrowth and took up station in full view on a little island opposite where we were standing. This bird is normally only seen briefly in dense reedbeds, so it was amazing to see one out in the open for a prolonged period.

The afternoon excursion was to visit a site where bee-eaters had nested last year. This beautiful bird is normally only a passage migrant on Crete, and the discovery of a breeding colony the year before was therefore of ornithological significance as well as being a bonus for the visiting Honeyguide group. The news was not encouraging, as we had spoken to a birdwatcher who had been there a few days before and drawn a blank, but we were determined to at least have a look. Chris had alerted the Hellenic Ornithological Society (BirdLife Greece) to their presence, and we had arranged to meet Stavros Xirouchakis to show him where the colony was (or at least had been). He duly arrived – bringing with him a pile of T-shirts, caps and posters – and we drove to the site together, stopping briefly on route to look at two occupied griffon vulture nests that he pointed out to us in the Kourtaliótiko Gorge. While we watched them Stavros told us about the fortunes of the griffon vultures and lammergeiers on the island. Both were doing well, he explained, particularly the griffons, the population of which had increased markedly in recent years to 350 pairs and 1,000 birds. Lammergeiers number about 50 birds with seven territories and five breeding pairs most years.

On route to the bee-eaters there was an unscheduled stop to watch a female red-footed falcon. It perched on a post giving good views through the telescope before flying off in search of insects. When we arrived at the site, to our delight it was immediately clear that the bee-eaters were back. They were busy restoring their nesting holes in the sandy cliffs below the road and we watched about 20 birds flying over the colony and perching in nearby trees. Just wonderful.

Jan's birthday meal was celebrated at the excellent Tasomanolis fish taverna.

Monday 24 April – Ayia Lake and Omalós Plateau

We opted to return to Souda Beach for the pre-breakfast bird walk, largely on the basis that we had only managed a hundred yards or so the day before. No sign of the semi-collared flycatcher this time, but there was now a shag as well as a cormorant on the beach, there were more spotted flycatchers and other common migrants, and a nightingale scolded from a dense bush but was not seen.

We had an early start (8:45) for a long day today to visit sites in the western part of Crete. After a long drive we arrived at the first stop. Ayia Reservoir is a great spot for waterbirds as well as having a café on site for shady drinks and ice creams. In the short distance between the café and the outfall there were several little crakes, at least two incredibly confiding little bitterns and a possibly even more confiding squacco heron. These provided outstanding photographic opportunities. Other birds included marsh harrier and sedge warbler. We had good views of a basking terrapin and there was a large American toad, an unfortunate introduction. Large numbers of Blue Emperor dragonflies hunted along the reservoir's edge. There was just time for refreshments under the welcome shade of the café's veranda before leaving.



Squacco heron (DC) and little bittern (JC) at Ayia Reservoir.

By way of contrast our next stop was in the cool mountain air of montane conifers where we ate our picnic lunches with views towards the snowy peaks of the White Mountains. Butterflies here included the endemic Cretan festoon and new plants included Cretan mouse-ear and the tiny burnt candytuft. Bird song to accompany the picnic was from largely familiar species such as blackbird and wren, but with woodlark, Sardinian warbler and black-eared wheatear thrown in. It was downhill from here to the Omalós Plateau where we stopped to admire an amazing field full of beautiful pink tulips *Tulipa bakeri*, an endemic species confined to this part of Crete. Other showy flowers were many blue- and purple-flowered crown anemones and lovely yellow-green and blackish clumps of widow iris.

Next was a stop to admire the Samaria Gorge from the viewpoint high above it, with snow-capped peaks towering all around us. The botanists enjoyed plants such as *Bellis longifolia* and wild aubretia beside the steep little path up to the café, and some of us glimpsed a Bonelli's eagle as it was pursued by a raven across the gorge. The group then had drinks on the wooden veranda of the café overlooking the gorge. Choughs and crag martins provided aerial entertainment during the rather slow service.

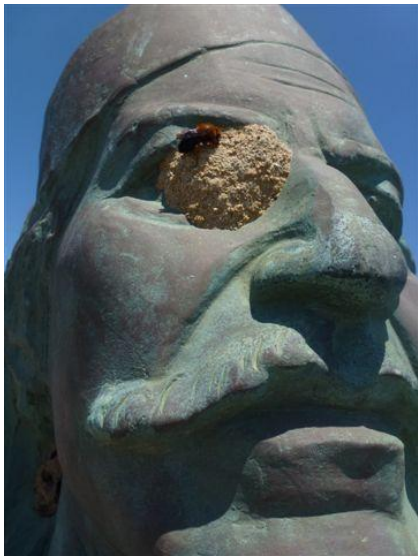
Our last stop of the day was to look at natural seasonal pools on the plateau where there were no less than 15 wood sandpipers and brief views of a tawny pipit. Then it was a steady drive down towards Hania and back home, arriving at 7pm. Our evening meal was in Muses Taverna.

Tuesday 25 April – Frangocastello

The pre-breakfast birdwatchers went back to the bay at Damnoni. There were fewer migrants than previously, but still the odd spotted flycatcher as well as our first grey herons and yellow wagtails of the trip. After breakfast we headed west along the coast towards Frangocastello. We made an unscheduled stop on route below the Kotsiphou Gorge at a place where I had seen Rüppell's warbler 15 years ago. We had hardly got out of the vans when a male duly appeared on the top of a low bush. Over the next 20 minutes or so it and another male entertained us as they flew from bush-top to bush-top around us, sometimes coming very close to give great views. The black throat and white moustache were very evident. It was good to catch up with this charming, limited range bird after so long, and it was a new bird for most of the group.

We were just getting back into the vans when a golden eagle appeared over the nearby ridge and we all piled out again to admire it. Its huge size was made clear by the mobbing hooded crows which looked very small in comparison, and its bold white wing patches identified it as a young bird.

There was another unscheduled stop a bit farther on where the characteristic song of an ortolan bunting was heard as we drove along. Unfortunately it had flown off by the time we emerged from the vans and we were unable to locate it.



'Here's mud in your eye': rock mason bee *Chalicodoma sicula* on a bust at Frangocastello (CD); dragon arum, Frangocastello (JC); monkey orchids, Kotsiphou Gorge (CD).

A walk along the coast at Frangocastello produced quite a few new flowers for our ever growing list. Among them was the handsome endemic tubular bellflower hanging in patches from a coastal rock, yellow pheasant's-eye and a dragon arum in full flower. Crested larks were seen well in the nearby meadows and a purple heron flew past. After refreshments at a cliff-top taverna lunch was taken by the castle, or in a few cases inside the castle itself. We then walked round the marshy area below, where we found a range of new wetland and shore plants including masses of the buttercup *Ranunculus marginatus* and abundant purple spikes of *Lythrum junceum*. Birds included a squacco heron and close views of a surprisingly showy great reed warbler.

The return journey to Plakias involved some convoluted manoeuvres to allow a coach through one of the narrow villages but we emerged unscathed in time for a relaxing beer at a shore-side tavern. We were back early to allow time for packing, and there was an opportunity for a bit of late birdwatching for some. A squacco heron was found by the river mouth and a little bittern flew along the shore. Chris took Kate and Beryl back to Kotsiphou Gorge for some botanising, where they noted several gorge species such as hanging mullein and tree flax and found several monkey orchids.

This was all before our final evening meal at Gio-Ma Taverna, where Chris was presented with a card and locally made mug to mark his birthday tomorrow.

Wednesday 26 April – Heraklion airport and home

Before leaving for Heraklion a night heron was seen in the river by a lucky few just above the bridge, and the squacco heron was still there. On the way to the airport we stopped briefly in the gorge in the hope of seeing lammergeier, but to no avail. Our last stop was to admire the extraordinary fruiting acorn cups of valonia oak at a lay-by. We arrived at the airport in good time for our return flight to the UK.

Holiday highlights

Rita	Golden orioles and burnt candytuft.
Wilkie	Golden orioles and bee-eaters.
Eiluned	Seeing Crete for the first time.
Peter	Golden orioles and Kate finding an oriole.
Sheila	Golden orioles; swimming with Gerry; baklava, seeing the group become a unit.
Beryl	Tongue orchids, lovely guides and new friends.
Kate	Cretan mouse-ear, monkey orchid, collared flycatcher.
Geoff	Mixed starters; endemic plants; Rüppell's warbler.
Christine	Fields of colour; widow iris.
Margaret	Omalós plateau; swathes of flowers and sheep, collared flycatcher.
John	Rüppell's warbler; Ayia Reservoir and great views of herons.
Jan	Orchids at Spili Bumps; both the collared and the semi-collared flycatcher, the little crakes.
Gerry	White wagtail; golden oriole, Omalós plateau's flowers. Lowlight: no golf course!
Janet	Bee-eaters; fields of tulips; dragonflies at Ayia Reservoir.
David	Goose fight; Rüppell's warbler; Spili Bumps.
Chris	Wonderful shows of flowers at Spili Bumps and Omalós, the best in many visits; semi-collared flycatcher; no golf courses!

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

Little grebe	Several at Ayia Reservoir on 24th.
Cormorant	One in Souda Bay on 23rd and 24th.
Shag	One in Ayia Bay on 24th.
Little bittern	One at the bridge near Moní Préveli on 23rd, four at Ayia Reservoir on 24th and one in Plakias on 25th.
Squacco heron	One at the shore pools near Timbaki on 22nd, one at Ayia Reservoir on 24th and one in Plakias on 25th.
Night heron	One in Plakias on 26th.
Little egret	Small numbers most days.
Grey heron	Two on coastal rocks near Damnoni Bay on 25th
Purple heron	Three flew inland at Damnoni Bay on 22nd and one past Frangocastello on 25th.
Mute swan	Several at Ayia Reservoir.
Garganey	Four males at the pool near Timbaki on 22nd.
Black kite	One near Plakias on 22nd
Griffon vulture	Seen every day at gorges and over mountains.
Marsh harrier	One near Plakias on 21st and a nesting pair at Ayia Reservoir on 24th.
Common buzzard	Small numbers each day.
Golden eagle	A young bird at the Kotsiphou Gorge on 25th.
Bonelli's eagle	One over the Samaria Gorge on 24th.
Kestrel	Small numbers daily.
Red-footed falcon	Female near Koxare on 23rd.
Chukar	Heard calling in several places, and a pair seen well at Festos on 22nd.
Water rail	One seen briefly at Ayia Reservoir on 24th.
Little crane	About five different birds at Ayia Reservoir on 24th.
Moorhen	Small numbers at the pools near Timbaki on 22nd and Ayia Reservoir on 24th.
Coot	Seen at Ayia Reservoir on 24th only.
Black-winged stilt	A flock flew past Plakias on 20th.
Little ringed plover	Two seen regularly along the beach in Plakias and on wasteland there.
Little stint	Seven at pools near Timbaki on 22nd, & one or two at the river mouth in Plakias from 23rd.
Ruff	30 at the pools near Timbaki on 22nd.
Green sandpiper	One bedraggled individual near Timbaki on 22nd.
Wood sandpiper	One at Plakias on several dates, and flocks of up to 12-15 at both Timbaki and Plakias on 22nd, and Ayia Lake on 24th.
Common sandpiper	One or two seen at the river in Plakias most days, a few elsewhere and eight at the lagoons near Timbaki on 22nd.
Yellow-legged gull	Common.
Gull-billed tern	One flew along the beach at Plakias during bad weather on 22nd, and perhaps the same bird in Souda Bay early the next morning.
Feral pigeon	Seen every day. Two birds in Kourtaliótiko Gorge had the characteristics of wild rock doves, though they were with two pigeons that plainly didn't.
Woodpigeon	Seen every day.
Collared dove	Seen every day.
Turtle dove	One or two seen or heard most days.
Common swift	Numerous at Ayia Reservoir on 24th.
Pallid swift	Seen and heard over the airport at Heraklion on 19th.
Alpine swift	Small numbers seen and heard at the gorges during each visit, also at Moní Préveli, Festos and Ayia Reservoir.
Bee-eater	One passing Plakias on 22nd and colony of perhaps 20 pairs on 23rd.
Hoopoe	Single birds seen very briefly near Plakias on 21st and at Festos on 22nd.
Crested lark	Small numbers in various places, especially Frangocastello area.
Woodlark	Singing birds at Spili bumps on 21st, Moní Préveli on 23rd, Omalós plateau on 24th and Frangocastello on 25th.
Sand martin	A few migrants on several dates.
Crag martin	In the gorges, particularly well seen at Samaria Gorge on 24th.
Swallow	Common migrant, and among many roosting overnight by the river in Plakias was one of the red-breasted eastern subspecies <i>transitiva</i> .
House martin	Migrants seen in small numbers most days, but large flocks arriving at Damnoni early morning on 22nd.
Tawny pipit	One at Spili bumps on 21st and at least two at Omalós plateau on 24th.
Tree pipit	Small numbers of migrants heard and sometimes seen most days.
Yellow wagtail	Small arrival on 25th with one over Damnoni Bay and four around Frangocastello. No males seen to confirm subspecies.
White wagtail	Small numbers only, including one at the river mouth in Plakias from 23rd to 25th.
Pied wagtail	One on the road near Souda Bay on 23rd.
Wren	Heard singing in gorges and mountains near Omalós plateau.
Nightingale	One heard calling at Souda Bay on 24th.
Whinchat	Small numbers each day from 21st.
Stonechat	Fairly common.
Northern wheatear	Noted at Moní Préveli and Omalós Plateau.
Black-eared wheatear	At Bali on 19th, Moní Préveli on 23rd, Omalós Plateau on 24th and Kotsiphou Gorge 25th.
Blue rock thrush	Seen in gorges and rocky hillsides.
Blackbird	Small numbers each day.
Cetti's warbler	Heard every day.

Sedge warbler	Several at Ayia Reservoir on 24th and one at Frangocastello on 25th.
Great reed warbler	Two at Frangocastello on 25th.
Sardinian Warbler	Common in scrubby areas.
Rüppell's warbler	Two singing males below the Kotsiphou Gorge on 25th.
Whitethroat	One at Bali on 19th, three above Kanevos on 20th and one at Frangocastello on 25th.
Blackcap	Heard and sometimes seen most days.
Wood warbler	About five in the Moní Préveli area on 23rd.
Spotted flycatcher	Three above Kanevos on 20th. Very common migrant from 22nd.
Collared flycatcher	Male at Moní Préveli on 23rd.
Semi-collared flycatcher	Male at Souda (near Plakias) on 23rd.
Pied flycatcher	Good numbers of migrants between 22nd and 24th.
Blue tit	Seen in small numbers each day.
Great tit	Small numbers each day.
Golden oriole	Five seen at Festos on 22nd and four at Moní Préveli on 23rd.
Woodchat shrike	One or two seen most days.
Jay	Two seen on the Omalós plateau on 24th.
Chough	A few seen at gorges on most visits.
Jackdaw	Common.
Hooded crow	Very common.
Raven	A few seen most days.
Italian sparrow	Very common.
Chaffinch	Common.
Serin	One at the bee-eater colony on 23rd and one at Ayia Reservoir on 24th.
Greenfinch	A few seen most days.
Goldfinch	Common.
Linnet	A few seen most days.
Cirl bunting	Single birds seen or more commonly heard singing at several locations.
Ortolan bunting	One singing on roadside midway between Plakias and Frangocastello on 25th.
Corn bunting	Small numbers.

AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES & MAMMAL		
American toad	Cretan marsh frog	Erhard's wall lizard
Balkan green lizard	Balkan (Stripe-necked) terrapin	Stone marten (roadkill)
BUTTERFLIES AND A MOTH		
Swallowtail	Cleopatra	Small copper
Cretan festoon	Painted lady	Holly blue
Large white	Red admiral	Brown argus
Small white	Southern speckled wood	Pine processionary moth (tents)
Clouded yellow	Wall brown	
BEES, WASPS AND A FLY		
<i>Chalicodoma sicula</i> rock mason bee	<i>Polistes gallicum</i> a paper wasp	
<i>Xylocopa violacea</i> violet carpenter bee	<i>Megascolia flavifrons (maculata)</i> a mammoth wasp	
<i>Lomatia</i> sp. a bee fly		
BUG AND BEETLES		
<i>Spilostethus (Lygaeus) pandurus</i> a black and red ground bug	<i>Cicindela littoralis</i> a tiger beetle	
<i>Oxythyrea</i> sp. a black-and-white flower chafer	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i> seven-spotted ladybird	
ODONATA		
<i>Coenagrion intermedium</i> Cretan Bluet	<i>Caleopteryx splendens</i> ssp. <i>cretensis</i> Banded Demoiselle	
<i>Ischnura elegans</i> Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Anax imperator</i> Emperor (Blue Emperor)	
OTHER INVERTEBRATES		
<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i> Egyptian grasshopper	<i>Albinaria (corrugata) inflata</i> Cretan door snail	



The damselfly Cretan Bluet on the walk near Plakias – see www.honeyguide.co.uk/CretanBluet.htm; Cretan door snail at Kourtaliótiko Gorge and paper wasp at nest (CD).

PLANTS

The main references for identification and names of plants are
Mediterranean Wild Flowers (Blamey & Grey-Wilson 1993), *Wild Flowers of Crete* by Vangelis Papiomitoglou,;
Flowers of Crete by J Fielding & N Turland and www.cretanflora.com

* = Endemic to Crete NiF = not in flower
 # = Introduced and not native to Crete, and cultivated or planted species

FERNS & ALLIES	
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair fern
<i>Dryopteris (vilarii) pallida</i>	a rigid buckler-fern
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	giant horsetail
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean club-moss
CONIFERS	
Cupressaceae Cypress Family	
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Cypress
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> var. <i>pyramidalis</i>	Funeral cypress
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> ssp. <i>macrocarpa</i>	Prickly juniper
Pinaceae Pine Family	
# <i>Araucaria araucana</i>	Norfolk Island pine
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Calabrian pine
FLOWERING PLANTS Dicotyledons	
Aceraceae Maple Family	
<i>Acer sempervirens</i>	
Aizoaceae Aizoon Family	
# <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot fig
Anacardiaceae Pistacio Family	
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic tree or lentisc
Apiaceae (=Umbelliferae) Carrot Family	
<i>Apium nidiflorum</i>	Fool's watercress
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i> NiF	Rock samphire
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field eryngo
<i>Ferula communis</i> ssp. <i>communis</i>	Giant fennel
* <i>Ferulago thyrsoiflora</i> NiF	
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel
<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	Corky-fruited water dropwort
<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>	
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's needle
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders
<i>Smyrniolum perfoliatum</i> ssp. <i>rotundifolium</i>	Perfoliate alexanders
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Mediterranean hartwort
Asteraceae (Compositae) Daisy Family	
<i>Anthemis chia</i>	Mayweed
<i>Anthemis rigida</i> ssp. <i>rigida</i>	Rayless chamomile
<i>Bellis longifolia</i>	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field marigold
* <i>Centaurea raphanina</i>	a stemless knapweed
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i> var. <i>coronarium</i> (<i>Glebionis coronaria</i>)	Crown daisy
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i> var. <i>discolor</i>	Crown daisy
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn marigold
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	Crupina
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Aromatic inula
<i>Echinops spinsissimus</i>	Spiny globe thistle
<i>Filago (Evax) pygmaea</i>	Evax
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Mediterranean thistle
<i>Helichrysum (stoechas</i> ssp.) <i>barrelieri</i>	Curry-plant
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	Syrian thistle
<i>Pallenis (Asteriscus) spinosus</i>	Spiny golden star
<i>Phagnalon graecum</i>	Shrubby cudweed
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>	
<i>Scorzonera cretica</i>	Cretan viper's-grass
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk thistle
* <i>Stachelina arborea</i> NiF	
<i>Tragopogon sinuatus</i> (<i>porrifolius</i>)	Salsify
<i>Tragopogon (Geropogon) hybridus</i>	

Apocynaceae Oleander Family	
<i>Nerium oleander</i> ssp. <i>oleander</i>	# Oleander
Berberidaceae Barberry Family	
<i>Berberis cretica</i>	
Boraginaceae Borage Family	
<i>Anchusa italica</i> (<i>azurea</i>)	Large blue alkanet
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage
<i>Cerintho major</i>	Honeywort
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue hound's-tongue
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved bugloss
<i>Echium italicum</i>	Pale bugloss
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple viper's bugloss
<i>Onosma graecum</i>	Goldendrop (<i>Omalós</i>)
<i>Symphytum creticum</i> (<i>Procopia</i> <i>cretica</i>)	Procopia or Cretan gorge comfrey
Cactaceae Cactus Family	
# <i>Opuntia ficus-barbarica</i> (<i>O. ficus-indica</i>)	Prickly pear
Campanulaceae Bellflower Family	
<i>Campanula erinus</i>	
* <i>Campanula tubulosa</i>	
* <i>Petromarula pinnata</i>	Cretan wall lettuce
Capparaceae Caper Family	
<i>Capparis spinosa</i> NiF	Caper
Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family	
# <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
Caryophyllaceae Pink Family	
<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved sandwort
* <i>Cerastium scaposum</i>	Cretan mouse-ear
<i>Petrorhagia velutina</i> (<i>Kohlrauschia velutina</i>)	
<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean catchfly
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered catchfly
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion
Cistaceae Rockrose Family	
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Cretan cistus
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved cistus
<i>Fumana arabica</i>	
<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved fumana
Clusiaceae St John's-wort Family	
<i>Hypericum empetrifolium</i>	Shrubby St. John's-wort
Convolvulaceae Bindweed Family	
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed
<i>Convolvulus elegantissimus</i>	cut leaves, pale in centre of flower
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Dodder
Crassulaceae Stonecrop Family	
<i>Sedum creticum</i> NiF	
<i>Sedum litoreum</i> / * <i>praesidis</i>	yellow flowers
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	Navelwort / wall pennywort
Cruciferae (=Brassicaceae) Cabbage Family	
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i>	Burnt candytuft
<i>Arabis verna</i>	Spring rock-cress
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Aubrieta
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	Buckler mustard
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea-rocket
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary cress
<i>Erysimum raulini</i>	Crete wallflower
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild radish
* <i>Ricotia cretica</i>	Ricotia
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock
Cucurbitaceae Cucumber Family	
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting cucumber
<i>Bryonia cretica</i> ssp. <i>cretica</i>	Cretan white bryony
Dipsacaceae Scabious Family	
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i> ssp. <i>mimica</i>	a two-tone scabious
<i>Scabiosa maritima</i>	Mournful widow
Dioscoraceae Yam Family	
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black bryony
Ericaceae Heather Family	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry-tree
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree-heath

Euphorbiaceae Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnus</i>	Greek spiny spurge
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Mediterranean spurge
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree spurge
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun spurge
<i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i>	
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea spurge
# <i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor oil plant
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual mercury
Fabaceae (=Leguminosa) Pea Family	
# <i>Acacia cyanophylla</i>	Mimosa / blue-leaved wattle
<i>Anthyllus vulneraria</i> ssp. <i>praepropera</i> (= <i>rubriflora</i>)	Red (Mediterranean) kidney vetch
<i>Bituminaria (Psoralea) bituminosa</i>	Pitch trefoil
<i>Calicotome villosa</i>	Hairy thorny broom
# <i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas tree
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob tree
* <i>Ebenus cretica</i>	Shrubby sainfoin (Cretan ebony)
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow vetchling
<i>Lupinus micranthus</i>	Hairy lupin
<i>Medicago arborea</i>	Tree medick
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted medick
<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea medick
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Large disk medick
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne
<i>Melilotus sulcatus</i>	Small melilot
<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	Cock's-comb sainfoin
<i>Ononis reclinata</i>	Small restharrow
# <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False acacia
<i>Securigera (Coronilla) parviflora</i>	yellow or pink flowers
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom
<i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i>	Asparagus pea
<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil
<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>	a common annual white clover
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed clover
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry clover
<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly trefoil
<i>Trifolium uniflorum</i>	One-flowered clover
<i>Tripodion (Anthyllis) tetraphyllum</i>	Bladder vetch
<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	Bithynian vetch (two-tone purple & white)
<i>Vicia cretica</i>	
<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy yellow vetchling
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder vetch
Fagaceae Oak Family	
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes oak
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm or evergreen oak
Deciduous oaks on Crete, both doubtfully native:	
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy oak
<i>Quercus ithaburensis</i> ssp. <i>macrolepis</i>	Valonia oak; acorn cups with long, spreading scales
Gentianaceae Gentian Family	
<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>	Lesser centaury
Geraniaceae Geranium Family	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common storksbill
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved cranesbill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot cranesbill
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little robin
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved cranesbill
Lamiaceae (=Labiatae) Mint Family	
<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i>	
<i>Coridothymus (Thymus) capitatus</i>	Shrubby thyme
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit dead-nettle
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French lavender
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White horehound
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem sage
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Spanish hedge-nettle
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i> (formerly <i>S. triloba</i>)	Shrubby or 3-leaved sage
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild clary
<i>Satureja (Micromeria) nervosa</i>	
<i>Stachys cretica</i>	Mediterranean woundwort
* <i>Scutellaria sieberi</i>	A big white skullcap
<i>Teucrium alpestre</i>	

Linaceae Flax Family	
<i>Linum arboreum</i>	Tree flax
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale flax
<i>Linum strictum</i>	tiny, yellow
Lythraceae Loosestrife Family	
<i>Lythrum junceum</i>	
Malvaceae Mallow Family	
<i>Lavatera cretica</i>	Lesser tree mallow
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common mallow
Meliaceae Persian Lilac Family	
# <i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian bead tree or Persian lilac
Moraceae Fig Family	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig
# <i>Morus alba</i>	White mulberry
Oleaceae Olive Family	
<i>Jasminum fruticans</i>	Wild jasmine
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive
Orobanchaceae Broomrape Family	
<i>Orobanche pubescens</i>	
<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched broomrape
Oxalidaceae Sorrel Family	
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Yellow oxalis
# <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup
Papaveraceae Poppy Family	
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow horned-poppy
<i>Papaver purpureomarginatum</i>	
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy
Pittosporaceae Pittosporum Family	
# <i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	Pittosporum
Plantaginaceae Plantain Family	
<i>Plantago afra</i>	a branched plantain
<i>Plantago weldenii</i>	like a buckshorn plantain
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain
Platanaceae Plane Tree Family	
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
Polygalaceae Milkwort Family	
<i>Polygala venulosa</i>	Eastern milkwort
Polygonaceae Dock Family	
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Horned dock
Primulaceae Primrose Family	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel (scarlet and blue forms)
* <i>Cyclamen creticum</i>	Cretan cyclamen
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Brookweed
Punicaceae Pomegranate Family	
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate
Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family	
<i>Adonis microcarpa</i>	Yellow pheasant's-eye
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown anemone
<i>Anemone hortensis</i> ssp. <i>heldreichii</i>	
<i>Nigella damascena</i>	Love-in-a-mist
<i>Ranunculus asiaticus</i>	Turban buttercup
* <i>Ranunculus cupreus</i>	(scree, open stony ground, calcareous)
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> ssp. <i>chrysocephalus</i>	Lesser celandine
<i>Ranunculus ophioglossifolius</i>	(fen at Frangocastello)
<i>Ranunculus peltatus</i> ssp. <i>fucooides</i>	Pond water-crowfoot
Resedaceae Mignonette Family	
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild mignonette
Rosaceae Rose Family	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ssp. <i>azarella</i>	Hawthorn
# <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Almond-leaved or wild pear
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	Bramble
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i> ssp. <i>verrucosa</i>	Mediterranean salad burnet
<i>Sarcopterium spinosum</i>	Thorny burnet
Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family	
* <i>Asperula pubescens</i> (<i>A. incana</i>)	showy, pale pink, on calcareous cliffs
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Rubia peregriana</i>	Wild madder
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder
<i>Valantia hispida</i>	

Rutaceae Rue Family	
# <i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon
# <i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	Rue
Santalaceae Sandalwood Family	
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris
Scrophulariaceae Figwort Family	
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax
<i>Linaria pelisseriana</i>	Jersey toadflax
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Lesser snapdragon (weasel's snout)
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow bartsia
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Shining figwort
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	Nettle-leaved figwort
* <i>Verbascum arcturus</i>	Hanging mullein
<i>Verbascum macrurum</i>	
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	Water speedwell
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	
Solanaceae Nightshade Family	
<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	Mandrake
# <i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Tree tobacco
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black nightshade
Styracaceae Storax Family	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax
Tamaricaceae Tamarix Family	
# <i>Tamarix smyrnensis</i>	Tamarisk
Thymelaeaceae Daphne Family	
<i>Daphne sericea</i>	
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>	Thymelea
Ulmaceae Elm Family	
<i>Zelcova abelicea</i>	Zelcova or ambelitsiá
Urticaceae Nettle Family	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Membranous nettle
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman nettle
Valerianaceae Valerian Family	
<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	
* <i>Valeriana asarifolia</i>	Cretan valerian
<i>Valeriana rubra</i>	Red valerian
Verbenaceae Verbena Family	
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste tree
Vitaceae Vine Family	
<i>Vitus vinifera</i>	Grape vine
Monocotyledons	
Agavaceae Agave Family	
# <i>Agave americana</i>	Century plant
Amaryllidaceae Daffodil Family	
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i> NiF	Sea daffodil (leaves only)
Araceae Arum Family	
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's cowl
<i>Arum concinatum</i>	
* <i>Arum idaeum</i> NiF	Cretan arum
<i>Arum creticum</i>	Cretan arum
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon arum
Arecaceae Palm Family	
# <i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary date palm
<i>Phoenix theophrasti</i>	Cretan palm
Iridaceae Iris Family	
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field gladiolus
<i>Gynandryis sisyrinchium</i>	Barbary nut
<i>Iris (was Hermodactylus) tuberosus</i>	Widow iris
* <i>Iris (unguicularis) cretensis</i>	Cretan iris
Liliaceae Lily Family	
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow asphodel
<i>Asphodelus ramosus (aestivus)</i>	Common asphodel
<i>Charybdis (Drimia, Urginea) maritima</i>	Sea squill
<i>Gagea graeca</i>	
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth
* <i>Muscari spreitzenhoferi</i>	

<i>Ornithogalum exscapum</i>	
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	A spiked star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	A sand crocus
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's broom
* <i>Tulipa (saxatilis) bakeri</i>	(pink, Omalós)
* <i>Tulipa doerfleri</i>	(red, Spili)
Orchidaceae Orchid Family	
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man orchid
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal orchid
<i>Barlia robertiana</i>	Giant orchid
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee orchid
<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee orchid
<i>Ophrys cretica</i>	Cretan bee orchid
<i>Ophrys (scolopax) heldreichii</i>	Marengo orchid
<i>Ophrys episcopalis/holoserica</i>	Bishop's ophrys
<i>Ophrys phryganae</i>	Phrygana orchid – a yellow bee orchid
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> ssp. <i>cretensis</i>	Early spider orchid
<i>Ophrys (tenthrudinifera) villosa</i>	Eastern sawfly orchid
<i>Orchis boryi</i>	
<i>Orchis fragrans</i>	Bug orchid
<i>Orchis collina</i>	Fan-lipped orchid
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Italian man orchid
<i>Orchis lactea</i>	Milky orchid
<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered orchid
<i>Orchis (provincialis) pauciflora</i>	Few-flowered orchid
<i>Orchis quadripunctata</i>	Four-spotted orchid
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey orchid
<i>Serapias orientalis</i>	
Poaceae Grass Family	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Greater quaking-grass
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed
Posidoniaceae Sea-grass Family	
<i>Posidonia aceanica</i>	Neptune-weed
Smilacaceae Smilax Family	
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Common smilax or sarsaparilla
Typhaceae Reedmace Family	
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	



Few-flowered orchid with 4-spotted orchids (the white flower is *Gagea gracea*) at Spili Bumps (CD); widow irises on Omalós Plateau (JC); bishop's ophrys at Spili Bumps (CD).