

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Crete
9 – 17 April 2024

Participants

Jill Jordan
Val Appleyard and Ron Fitton
Graham Harris
Nick & Michelle Penny, John Titchmarsh
Gwyn McCreanor

Jay and Joanne Whetham
Andy Levitt
Simon Jones
Tricia Williams
Sue Everett

Leaders

Chris Durdin and Rob Macklin

Report by Rob Macklin, plant list by Chris Durdin. Various invertebrate IDs by Ron & Val.

Photos by Jay Whetham (JW) and Chris Durdin.

Cover: part of a big flock of night herons (JW), *Orchis italica* group at 'Splili Bumps'; geranium bronze butterfly in Splili town (the sign for 'gyros' is what we'd call donner kebabs.)



We stayed at the family-run Hotel Sofia in Plakias, www.sofiahotelplakias.com.
Above: shrubby St John's wort. Below: the group, with Kostas and Chrysoula from Hotel Sofia.



As with all Honeyguide holidays, £40 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case raptor study and protection by the Hellenic Ornithological Society. HOS, BirdLife Greece, is based in Athens and its work covers the whole of Greece and its islands: on Crete, its work is in collaboration with the Natural History Museum of Crete. Honeyguide's donation to HOS this year was £1370, from Crete and Lesvos holidays combined. This was made up of £40 per person, an additional donation of £200 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 £16,325. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 is £152,142, to April 2024.

DAILY DIARY

Tuesday 9 April – to Crete

A wet and windy morning at Gatwick was soon a memory as we boarded our Airbus 319/320 Easyjet flight to Chania in western Crete. After collecting the minibuses, we were soon loaded up and on our way to Plakias in the south of the island. Traffic works around Chania slowed us up a bit but did allow some of the group to see an overflying red-rumped swallow, our first swallowtail butterfly and there was our only singing serin of the trip.

On the main road from Chania to Rethymnon we were very fortunate to spot a pale-phase booted eagle as well as many buzzards and hooded crows. The landscape was ablaze with stunning flowers such as giant fennel, Judas trees, crown daisies and Jerusalem sage. We stopped off at Kourtaliótiko Gorge to look for any bird activity but the wind was 'blowing a hooley', making it difficult, although we did get at least four red-billed choughs, our first griffon vultures and plenty of rock doves / feral pigeons, some of these looking close to pure rock dove.

It was still windy as we arrived in Plakias where we quickly settled into our hotel rooms, with several of the group venturing out for a look around the town. The small river that runs through the town turned up a wood sandpiper, two common sandpipers and a little ringed plover. Swallows had already turned up in numbers across Plakias. Our evening meal was at Taverna Gorgona where everyone could relax and enjoy the best of Cretan cuisine.

Wednesday 10 April – Myrthios, Kotsiphou Gorge and Souda

A hot and sunny morning with the wind strengthening throughout the day and temperatures reaching 27°C. Before leaving for our walk up to Myrthios we had a look at the river from the bridge and were delighted to find a tired-looking squacco heron, a purple heron, wood sandpiper, three common sandpipers and six moorhens – an amazing start to the day!

As we began our walk up the hill from Plakias, two purple herons went over and Gwyn spotted five little egrets. We had very good views of our first Italian sparrows and found two woodchat shrikes in the olive groves. Griffon vultures came and went throughout the morning and at least three ravens went over. More birds appeared in the shape of two stunning hoopoes (may have involved the same bird) and two nightingales burst into song from the surrounding scrub. As the morning warmed up, butterflies began to appear including Cretan festoon, swallowtail, mallow skipper and clouded yellow while eastern dappled white was a new species for most of the group. Other invertebrates also appeared such as the most impressive violet carpenter bee and lots of large Egyptian grasshoppers (or locusts).



Egyptian grasshopper, on a step opposite the hotel; *Convolvulus elegantissimus*.

At the start of the walk we found a stunning, yellow-flowering Mimosa shrub plus lots of asparagus pea while a little farther on we came across a small patch of flowering bellardia, yellow bartsia and two eastern tongue orchids *Serapia orientalis*. Our first endemic was Cretan skullcap, then we found small-flowered catchfly followed by our second endemic, the most impressive Cretan ebony. A Cretan wall lizard was spotted by Val on the edge of the concrete road and huge hornet-like invertebrates turned out to be mammoth wasps.

We reached Myrthios a little earlier than expected and had a superb lunch at Taverna Dionysos with spectacular views over Plakias Bay. Several of the group tucked into rather large Cretan salads – only two were finished! As we were settling down in the Taverna a male red-footed falcon flashed past the windows, an astonishing piece of luck! After lunch Rob & Chris went to get the second bus before rejoining the group and heading off to the entry to Kotsiphou Gorge: the gorge itself was closed due to a major rockfall in the winter and might be closed for a year. We looked for Ruppell's warbler but the strong wind made this

impractical although we did see a few more griffon vultures, two ravens and a brief view of a male blue rock thrush.

We decided to move on to Souda, just west of Plakias, where we all admired the amazingly rare Cretan palms. At least four crag martins were on the wing in the shelter of the overhanging rocks then there was a small arrival of four alpine and two common swifts. Three common sandpipers were feeding with a white wagtail among the short vegetation and new butterflies appeared in the shape of scarce swallowtail, holly blue and red admiral, bringing the total number of butterfly species up to 14 so far. Chris found lesser snapdragon in flower as well as the impressive Greek spiny spurge.

The end of an excellent day was marred by a large lorry shooting up a stone which shattered one of the windows of Rob's bus; we drove slowly back to Plakias and arrived without further mishap but the bus would now be out of commission! Another excellent evening meal was at Taverna Muses where our host Takis was on his usual good form.

Thursday 11 April – Plakias and Moní Préveli

The pre-breakfast patrol comprised two groups, with one heading for the river which was very productive with five little ringed plovers on the beach including one bird displaying, three wood sandpipers, two common sandpipers and two white wagtails. At the far end of the town a male whinchat was a new arrival as were two yellow wagtails which could not be assigned to race. Growing on the beach among the clumps of leaves of sea daffodils were Mediterranean catchfly and sea medick. To complete our walk, a flock of 16 little egrets flew west over the sea and we were pleasantly surprised to flush a hoopoe off the beach. The second group searched the area at the back of the hotel and came up with another hoopoe and a flyover ringtail Montagu's harrier.

There was a local walk after breakfast while Chris talked to Kreta Rental about the broken minibus window. Rob spotted a minibus in town owned by a company called Anso who do day tours. Chris and Rob went into reception where we met two men called Giorgos who were able to suggest where we could hire another minibus from nearby Damnoni, starting the following day. With our ongoing bus problems we continued the day by walking up a road from the hotel where we found several plants including the endemic *Solenopsis minuta* ssp *annua* growing together with Jersey toadflax and lesser centaury. Then, with just one minibus for now, we ferried everyone in two groups up to the monastery at Moní Préveli with Rob going back to collect the second group and seeing two cattle egrets and an immature marsh harrier on the way.



Solenopsis minuta ssp *annua* with lesser centaury; bit of a window issue here to tackle ..

The area around the monastery can be good for migrants but the stars of the show were two male black-eared wheatears which gave us all great views. Down the track we found our first chiffchaff and spotted flycatcher and an obliging singing corn bunting. Yet another hoopoe was also seen and a chough flew low across the hillside. Visible migration occurred in the form of many swallows and house martins coming in off the sea plus an amazing 18 alpine swifts and two common swifts.

Our next port of call was the memorial to the Cretan monks who assisted Allied soldiers who were taken off the island here as the German army closed in. A singing woodlark and two crested larks were found by the first group while the second group had more superb views of a male black-eared wheatear and not so good views of a male blue rock thrush. We then moved on the short distance to Turkish Bridge where a greenshank and two wood sandpipers were feeding on the river. Our first dragonflies were seen here, an emperor dragonfly and a male southern skimmer, while Cretan marsh frogs were heard but not seen. The star of the show was a superb squacco heron found by Michelle which everyone saw well. Both adult male and an immature marsh harrier flew through on migration and up to six griffon vultures drifted overhead. Two

jackdaws were a new species and, having dropped one group back in Plakias, Chris saw a purple heron and a cuckoo. Back in Plakias, two night herons were on the river and while we were watching them two green sandpipers flew in, ending another splendid day on Crete. Tonight's dinner was at the more upmarket Taverna Kri Kri where Rob had a huge pizza, taking half away which lasted for two more lunch days!



Squacco heron and flowers on a storax tree, both at Turkish Bridge.

Friday 12 April – Phaestos, Kalamaki Pools and Timbaki Lagoons

Two groups ventured out before breakfast in a strong northerly wind, with one group walking along the front to the river where we relocated two wood sandpipers and a green sandpiper. Farther along the road we found another male whinchat before Tricia spotted a superb male black-headed wagtail that was very obliging, giving us all great views. Mallow-leaved cranesbill was in flower here. The second group took a different direction and came up with a respectable tally of eight migrating grey herons, two purple herons, five little egrets and two more hoopoes.

After breakfast a relatively long drive to Phaestos and Agia Triada, famous Minoan sites on Crete's south coast. On the way there were unfortunate road casualties of a badger and two beech martens. As we arrived at the site, yet another hoopoe flew across the road and overhead we saw at least 20 alpine swifts and several common swifts. Wildlife just kept on coming with our first group of 14 cattle egrets among the sheep in the valley, another hoopoe disappeared into the olive groves, single woodchat shrikes and wheatears put in an appearance and several greenfinches were in song and full display flight. A cuckoo was heard calling in the distance and several clouded yellow butterflies were sallying to and fro across the incredibly dry landscape.

After coffee and apple pie (part of which the local cat appreciated) a few of the group decided to explore the archaeological site while the rest of us wandered slowly down the road towards Agia Triada. Before long, Chris pointed out squirting cucumber complete with the larva of melon ladybird¹, with a blackcap singing in the background. Moving further along the road we soon found another woodchat shrike perched up in full view and we studied a buzzard to see if it might be a steppe buzzard – no luck! Just after this, chukars could be heard calling and we were fortunate to see three of the birds at very close quarters. Topping this was the sighting of two bee-eaters flying around and calling before perching up giving us brilliant views – what a morning at Phaestos!



Some superb birds today: marsh sandpiper and bee-eater (JW).

Our next stop was the wetland at nearby Kalamaki Pools as the day began to cloud up, but at least the wind remained light. As we arrived at the pools, four more bee-eaters flew around the buses and perched in full view; numbers later rose to around 15 birds. Crested larks were very active among the sparse vegetation then Chris found a really special bird, a migrant stone-curlew resting under the shade of a tamarisk tree. Three purple herons then flew over while two ruff bombed over our heads – so much going on, so time for lunch! After lunch we strolled across the sandy grassland towards the pools where we were treated to a fine array of birds. More herons began to appear with eight purple herons, two night herons and two grey herons all flying in. The pools themselves were chock full of waders and we logged 19 more ruffs, marsh sandpiper, two stunning black-winged stilts, two dunlins, little ringed plover, spotted redshank, greenshank, redshank, little stint and snipe. Two more hoopoes were found across the open grassland, a female marsh harrier passed through on its migration and a small party of little brown birds turned out to be nine short-toed larks. Back at the pools, we had another great view of a male black-headed wagtail and a Cetti's warbler burst into song from deep within the reedbed.



Three curlew sandpipers (JW).

¹ Internet sources show 'bryony (or gourd) ladybird' is mostly used for a very similar species in more northerly parts of Europe, with melon ladybird for the species on squirting cucumber.

Our final stop of the day was at Katayki lagoons near the town of Timbaki, a compact area of open water with plenty of muddy edges and spits. As we disembarked from the minibuses, we were astounded to see approximately 45 night herons take flight from the tamarisk trees which surround the lake – an unforgettable sight! Another 13 grey herons moved westwards. A whole host of birds were out on the lagoons including seven garganeys (inc. five males), 16 glossy ibises, at least 50 ruffs, 10 wood sandpipers, five spotted redshanks, three black-winged stilts, three curlew sandpipers and a whimbrel. Perhaps the best bird of all was a stunning marsh sandpiper, a rare bird across Europe but often seen at this site and much closer views than the more distant bird of the same species at Kalamaki Pools. After an unforgettable day we wound our way back to Plakias where we had another splendid meal at Taverna Gio Ma, where we celebrated Joanne's birthday.

Saturday 13 April – Kourtaliótiko Gorge, Honeyguide's Secret Valley and Spili

Our normal pre-breakfast walk was accompanied by a cold and brisk northerly wind, making birdwatching somewhat difficult. We did manage to see little ringed plover, wood sandpiper and common sandpiper at the river. The male whinchat was still at the far end of town while three little egrets flew westwards over the sea and another night heron was back at the river. Chris pointed out corky-flowered water dropwort and we found two large broomrapes apparently parasitising crown daisies².

After breakfast we drove up to the Kourtaliótiko Gorge but decided against walking down the steep steps in such a strong wind. We did manage to see six griffon vultures, a little egret flying up the river deep in the gorge and a kestrel mobbing a raven. We moved on to 'Honeyguide's Secret Valley' off the road to Rethymnon. Our first stop was by the roadside where a little used track wound its way across the hillside. Several species of orchids were in flower including lots of Italian man orchids and loose-flowered orchids, many greenish-yellow man orchids, several fan-lipped orchids and many pyramidal orchids. Chris then found *Ophrys (lutea) phryganae* (a yellow bee orchid) plus bumblebee orchid and a single Cretan bee orchid. More interesting plants emerged including eastern milkwort, shepherd's needle and the striking perfoliate alexanders, with large numbers of field gladioli in the neighbouring fields. A popular find was a nose- cone-headed grasshopper, caught for all to admire, while a paper wasp was resting on its delicate nest.

Birds then began to take centre stage with several corn buntings in song and approximately 17 griffon vultures drifting slowly away over a nearby ridge. Rob then spotted a ringtail (female or immature) Montagu's Harrier over the fields and all the group saw a low-flying male marsh harrier moving through. The star bird of the morning was undoubtedly a male ortolan bunting in full song and we all had great views through telescopes. Butterflies in this area included scarce swallowtail, clouded yellow and small copper.



Cretan bee orchid *Ophrys cretica*; ortolan bunting (JW); loose-flowered orchid.

After this excellent and interesting area, we moved on to an occasional bee-eater colony but there were none to be found here. Gwyn picked up a singing wryneck from the depths of the valley. At least one ciril bunting was singing out of sight, a woodlark sang right over our heads and another blackcap chimed in.

So on to the small town of Spili where we had our packed lunches in the square by the lion-head fountains. The water from the fountains tasted as good as ever (no additives) and it was interesting to see that the café owners filled up their carafes for the tables from here. A small butterfly on garden geraniums turned out to be a geranium bronze, a colonising species from Africa, while fly-past Cretan festoons and large whites added

² *Orobancha minor* ssp. *pubescens*

to the butterfly mix. We had a leisurely coffee in the square then a brief look at the woodland by the car park which hosted singing blackcap, Cetti's warbler, our first wren and several holly blue butterflies.

Time to move on to Spili Bumps in the Kedros foothills, one of the most important botanical sites in Crete. Famous for its variety of orchids, we were not disappointed and found a host of botanical delights including cressa ophrys, marengo orchid [*Ophrys (scolopax) heldreichii*], bishop's ophrys, *Ophrys phryganae* again, eastern sawfly orchid, *Orchis boryi* and few-flowered orchid – a dazzling array of orchids! There were also many of the stunning red tulip *Tulipa doerfleri*, thriving here on lightly cultivated soils, plus Mediterranean kidney vetch, masses of Barbary nut irises and white anemones. The birders weighed in with another ringtail Montagu's harrier, a male marsh harrier, 16 griffon vultures and several singing corn buntings. A great afternoon on the Bumps was rounded off by an obliging singing woodlark and only our second painted lady. Tonight's feast was at Taverna Apánemo where garlic bread and gargantuan portions were provided by our ebullient host. On the way back to the hotel, Graham heard a night heron grunting from the rocks!



Orchis boryi, *Tulipa doerfleri*, bishop's ophrys *Ophrys episcopalis*, all at 'Spili Bumps'.

Sunday 14 April – Kotsiphou Gorge and Frangocastello

Another pre-breakfast walk along the front to the river turned out to be the right choice as we immediately found a Temminck's stint – a rarity in Crete. It had obviously just arrived and was joined by 10 common sandpipers, a green sandpiper, two wood sandpipers and two little ringed plovers. After breakfast the stint had moved on! Eight moorhens were also on the river, a flock of nine little egrets flew west over the cobalt sea while the far end of Plakias turned up four whinchats and a wheatear. Quite a morning.

After breakfast we headed west with a brief stop at the Kotsiphou Gorge where we found a male black-eared wheatear and a yellow wagtail in a very strong northerly wind, though again no sign of a Rüppell's warbler. Our main destination was the old Venetian fort at Frangocastello where in 1828 Cretan freedom fighters were massacred by troops of the Ottoman Empire. Today this site really turned up trumps starting with an incursion of many common swifts, at least 10 alpine swifts and seven of the scarcer pallid swifts. A quick look offshore produced three Cory's shearwaters a long way out and Michelle spotted a squacco heron on the rocks, which quickly moved into cover. Chris then came into his own showing the group pale bugloss, the scarce yet rather dull mandrake and *Anthemis rigida* – a small daisy-like plant.



Mandrake, typically unimpressive; a Bath white is persuaded to perch on Chris's finger.

There was a real abundance of birdlife here with many crested larks and corn buntings, at least four short-toed larks and an amazing sight of about 40 black-headed yellow wagtails feeding in the fields. Another woodlark burst into song and our only whitethroat of the trip popped up next to a crested lark before disappearing from view. Offshore a shag of the scarce Mediterranean race ssp. *desmarestii* was spotted on the rocks, a woodchat shrike provided excellent views and a turtle dove came in off the sea. Chris then came up with two more interesting plants, namely caper and the delicate love-in-a-mist. Time for drinks at Maria's Bakery & Café then picnic lunches by the Venetian fort.

After lunch we took a wander around the beach where we encountered tiger beetles, four dunlins, another short-toed lark and an overflying cormorant. On the river a pair of emperor dragonflies were patrolling the reed edge. We then headed back towards Plakias, stopping off again at the gorge, where the wind was still blowing strongly from the north. We did manage to find two griffon vultures and two kestrels before a superb male Montagu's harrier appeared and seemed to enjoy the wind by skydiving up and down the face of the gorge – a grand way to end another wildlife watching day in Crete! Dinner was a second visit to Muses.



Black-headed wagtails (AW).

Monday 15 April – Agia Reservoir and Omalós Plateau

A very strong northerly wind greeted the pre-breakfast crew, but undeterred we pressed on. At the river, a greenshank was a new arrival joining a wood sandpiper, two common sandpipers and a little ringed plover. A squacco heron was spotted at the far end of town, a little egret was offshore but the highlight of the morning was a nightingale which flew in off the sea and landed on the rocks before quickly moving into cover.

After breakfast, we had a long journey westward to the Chania area with our first stop at Agia Reservoir. This site, once probably the best birdwatching spot on Crete, has deteriorated over the last few years with increasing vegetation cover making it very hard to find little crakes. Plenty of common swifts and over 20 alpine swifts were over the lake with one of the latter taking a drink on the wing. New species for the trip were seven little grebes, mute swan, coots and five mallards. Sedge warblers and blackcaps were singing from deep cover and a great reed warbler was seen very briefly before disappearing into the dense reeds. An adult female marsh harrier then circled the lake before dropping into the reeds on the far side of the lake to a probable nest site.

By now the wind had abated, bringing out several dragonflies in the shape of emperor dragonfly, a black-tailed skimmer, four red-veined darters and a stunning scarlet darter on a small pool at the side of the lake. A new boardwalk had been created around part of the lake and as we explored this a wryneck could be heard calling, but again not seen. Several stunning swallowtails were on the wing across the meadows and a freshwater crab on the weir gained a lot of attention – thankfully the crab made it safely across. Unfortunately, the café was closed so we decided to press on to our main destination, the Omalós Plateau.

Arriving at the plateau, we all admired and were very pleased to see big patches of the endemic tulip *Tulipa bakeri*, with a backdrop of singing corn buntings and woodlarks. The local shepherds came roaring up in a pickup truck spreading corn all over the road and prompting a stampede by the local sheep eager to take advantage of this offering. We scanned the surrounding ridges, picking up at least 17 more griffon vultures and Graham found a new butterfly, a brown argus.

Time for refreshments at the café at the top of the Samaria Gorge – unfortunately closed until Greek Easter, though we were allowed to use the loos! The view from the top of the gorge was breathtaking but no sign of the famous Kri Kri wild goats. We did have ample compensation with a golden eagle gaining height over the highest peaks before drifting out along a snowy ridge and making a couple of stoops before moving out of view! In the car park Chris pointed out the Cretan Zelkova tree, closely related to elms and Crete's only endemic tree with the entire population found in Crete's mountain massifs such as here at Omalós. A cackling of unfamiliar calls on the nearby hillside confused everyone until five jays – the Cretan endemic sub-species – came clattering through the trees.

Moving back down onto the plateau we paused briefly to admire fields full of crown anemones, thankfully fenced off to stop the rapacious sheep devouring the whole lot. Our next stop was a large yet shallow pond (defined as a Mediterranean Temporary Pond) where five wood sandpipers were feeding in the shallows. A turtle dove was singing here while both woodchat shrike and a woodlark were perched on phone wires, offering excellent views. There was time for refreshments at a splendid little taverna on the edge of the plateau before our long journey back to Plakias and dinner at Taverna Sirocco.



Omalo's: wild aubretia with door snails; a break for a drink at a taverna.



Omalo's, again: a very Cretan road hold up; leaves of *Zelcova abelicea*, which usually would still be in bud in early April, showing that spring came early in 2024.

Tuesday 16 April – Damnoni, Kourtaliótiko Gorge and Kanevos

Several of the group ventured out before breakfast with the brisk wind now departed for a delightfully calm start to the day. At the river we logged four little ringed plovers, two wood sandpipers and two common sandpipers, a greenshank, another night heron and eight moorhens. At the far end of town, we found a woodchat shrike, a whinchat, a male black-headed wagtail and two grey-headed wagtails. Perhaps the best find of the morning was a huge rhinoceros beetle right out in the open, quickly moved to safety.

After breakfast we made the short trip to the beach at Damnoni and on the way six squacco herons flew over, plus another grey heron. At the beach two more grey herons moved through, 11 griffon vultures were over the ridge and Andy made a great find of a wood warbler feeding avidly in a tamarisk tree. Several alpine swifts flew over before Chris managed to get the telescope on a male blue rock thrush. Yet another wader, a ruff, was on the beach and some of us had brief views of a Cretan grayling, bringing the list up to an amazing 21 butterfly species – very good for mid-April!

Next up was a return visit to the Kourtaliótiko Gorge where the group split into two parties – one descending the gorge in search of botanical delights while the other remained above looking for birds. For the birders it was a frustrating time with no sign of the resident Bonelli's eagles, just plenty of griffon vultures, small groups of alpine swifts, four choughs, a night heron on the river spotted by Sue way down in the gorge and good views of blue rock thrushes.

The botanical group came up with several delights including goldendrop *Onosma graecum*, the pretty crucifer *Ricotta cretica*, Cretan gorge comfrey and our first Cretan cyclamens, mostly tucked under overhanging rocks. There were also close views of choughs and a new bird in the shape of a grey wagtail. Nick found a freshwater crab in a pool near a rock supporting a single bloom of the endemic *Campanula tuberosa*.



Griffon vultures, Kourtaliótiko Gorge; a wood warbler in a tamarisk at Damnoni (AW).



Rhinoceros beetle in Plakias; endemic bellflower *Campanula tuberosa* in Kourtaliótiko Gorge.

Due to Kotsiphou Gorge being closed we had to take the long way round to get to Kanevos. We found a splendid café in the village for refreshments and had hardly sat down before Rob spotted an immature Bonelli's eagle over the nearby hillside, to the great relief of the leaders and the group – unfortunately Jay was in the loo so missed this one! Six more griffon vultures were added to the tally then a flock of 19 purple herons came up out of the west flying high over the village – what a start to the afternoon!

After lunch we drove out to a woodland site which hosts thousands of the stunning Cretan white cyclamen – cue cameras clicking! As we disembarked from the buses another large bird appeared overhead and was quickly identified as another, more ragged, immature Bonelli's eagle. Another really good find here was a violet birdsnest orchid in fine fettle although several others had already gone over. The woods here were full of birdsong including blackcaps, blackbirds, chaffinches and Sardinian warblers. A turtle dove purred quietly from deep cover, more griffons drifted over and astonishingly another immature Bonelli's eagle was hunting over the open farmland. Cirl buntings were singing across the area and we were able to pinpoint one in the telescope for all to see well. The roadsides were covered in white sage-leaved cistus and we also found three flowering spikes of *Orchis boryi* and a green huntsman spider.

Time to head back to Plakias, to drop off the additional minibuses at Damnoni and refuel the other buses. Our last holiday dinner was at Taverna Apánemo with plates of garlic bread, tomato salads and tzatziki for starters and the usual generous main courses.

Wednesday 17 April – Armeni and home (eventually)

The north wind had finally abated by dawn and a gentle southerly breeze was much appreciated. A final pre-breakfast foray by several of the group turned up another night heron, a greenshank and a new high count of four wood sandpipers. After breakfast, there was time for a group photo outside the Hotel Sofia before bidding our farewells and heading back towards Chania.

On our way north we stopped at the late Minoan cemetery at Armeni, set in Valonia oak woodland. The tombs themselves were very interesting and some of the huge ones must have been for high-ranking Minoans. The tombs were surrounded by flower-rich grassland and we quickly found lots of serapias or tongue orchids, bumblebee orchid, a very few pink butterfly orchids, yellow bee orchid and marengo orchid. Giant, pyramidal and naked man orchids had already gone over.

Time to head to Chania but by now the wind had strengthened considerably and the buses were being buffeted along the main road though all was well, for driving at least, and we arrived at the airport in good time. Sue left us, to stay on Crete for longer. However, we soon found out that the flight home had been delayed due to high winds at Chania, with the plane unable to land and diverted to Athens. The delay lasted over three hours and we were finally on our way after a great week in Crete with heaps of birds and flowers and an excellent group to boot!

Holiday highlights

John	Orchids, the number and range; being in Crete.
Nick	Curlew sandpiper, downy oak.
Michelle	Turkish Bridge and the squacco heron there.
Ron	Nosey grasshopper and rhinoceros beetle.
Val	Mantis, nosey grasshopper and rhinoceros beetle.
Jill	Squacco heron at Moní Préveli; sandpipers and night heron in Plakias; crown daisies and Barbary nut irises.
Sue	herons at Timbaki; orchids at Spili Bumps; Cretan wall lettuce.
Andy	40 night herons; bee-eaters.
Graham	black-eared wheatear; Temminck's stint.
Gwyn	Pools with waders and night herons; "gentle breeze blowing down the gorge".
Jo	Night herons and glossy ibises on birthday!
Jay	Night heron irruption.
Tricia	Black-headed yellow wagtails; nosey grasshopper; sage-leaved cistus.
Simon	Ortolan bunting; views of wood warbler; kestrel chasing ravens in Kourtaliótiko Gorge.
Rob	Three eagle species; six species of herons and egrets; dancing male Montagu's harrier.
Chris	Sheer number of migrants in Plakias; Spili bumps area; Kostas picking a lemon for my tea.



Among the holiday highlights: cistuses, here white sage-leaved cistus and pink *Cistus creticus*; the elegant though clumsily named nosey cone-headed grasshopper.

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

Little grebe	7 at Agia Reservoir 15/04.
Cory's shearwater	3 at Frangocastello 14/04.
Cormorant	Peak of 3 at Agia Reservoir 15/04.
Shag	One of the Mediterranean race at Frangocastello 14/04.
Little bittern	One reported at Agia Reservoir 15/04.
Night heron	Seen on five dates peaking at 45 at Timbaki Lagoon 12/04.
Squacco heron	Singles Plakias 10/04, Turkish Bridge 11/04, Frangocastello 14/04 & Plakias 15/04. Peak of six at Plakias 16/04.
Cattle egret	Two at Plakias 11/04 & 14 at Phaestos 12/04.
Little egret	Seen almost daily max. 16 at Plakias 11/04.
Grey heron	Peak of 23 on migration at Kalamaki & Timbaki 12/04.
Purple heron	3 at Plakias 10/04 & one 11/04, 13 at Kalamaki Pools 12/04 and 19 over Kanevos 16/04.
Glossy ibis	16 at Timbaki Lagoon 12/04.
Mute swan	one at Agia Reservoir 15/04
Mallard	5 at Agia Reservoir 15/04.
Garganey	7 at Timbaki Lagoon 12/04.
Griffon vulture	Seen daily, max.38 at Kourtaliotiko Gorge & Kanevos 16/04.
Marsh harrier	Seen on four days max.3 around Plakias area 11/04.
Montagu's harrier	Ringtail at Plakias 11/04, ringtails at Secret Valley & Spili 13/04 and male at Kotsiphou Gorge 14/04.
Common buzzard	seen daily in small numbers.
Golden eagle	one over Samaria Gorge 15/04.
Bonelli's eagle	3 at Kanevos 16/04.
Booted eagle	one east of Souda Bay 09/04.
Kestrel	small numbers throughout the week.
Red-footed falcon	one at Myrthios 10/04.
Chukar	3 at Phaestos 12/04.
Moorhen	peak of 8 at Plakias 14 & 16/04.
Coot	10 at Agia Reservoir 15/04.
Black-winged stilt	5 at Kalamaki Pools & Timbaki Lagoon 12/04.
Stone-curlew	one at Kalamaki Pools 12/04.
Collared pratincole	one over Plakias 11/04.
Little ringed plover	Seen daily at Plakias max. five 11/04.
Little stint	one at Kalamaki Pools & Timbaki Lagoon 12/04.
Temminck's stint	one at Plakias 14/04.
Curlew sandpiper	3 at Timbaki Lagoon 12/04.
Dunlin	2 at Kalamaki Pools 12/04, 4 at Frangocastello 14/04.
Ruff	c.70 at Kalamaki Pools & Timbaki Lagoon 12/04; one Damnoni beach 16/04.
Snipe	one at Kalamaki Pools 12/04.
Black-tailed godwit	one at Timbaki lagoon 12/04.
Whimbrel	one at Timbaki Lagoon 12/04.
Spotted redshank	7 at Kalamaki Pools & Timbaki Lagoon 12/04.
Redshank	one at Kalamaki Pools 12/04.
Marsh sandpiper	one at Kalamaki Pools & Timbaki Lagoon 12/04.
Greenshank	one at Plakias on several days, one at Turkish Bridge 11/04 & one at Kalamaki Pools 12/04.
Green sandpiper	2 at Plakias 11 & 12/04 then one 14/04.
Wood sandpiper	daily at Plakias max.3 on 11/04, 2 at Turkish Bridge 11/04, 10 at Kalamaki Pools & Timbaki Lagoon 12/04 & five at Omalós Plateau 15/04.
Common sandpiper	seen daily max.10 at Plakias 14/04.
Yellow-legged gull	widespread and common even at Omalós Plateau.
Rock dove/Feral pigeon	common in the gorges and found at Damnoni.
Woodpigeon	widespread but rather scarce.
Collared dove	widespread and common especially in towns and villages.
Turtle dove	one at Frangocastello 14/04, one at Omalós Plateau 15/04 & 2 at Kanevos 16/04.
Cuckoo	one at Plakias 11/04 and one at Phaestos 12/04.
Swift	recorded in small numbers throughout.
Pallid swift	one east of Souda Bay 09/04 & 7 at Frangocastello 14/04.
Alpine swift	recorded in good numbers throughout max.20 Phaestos area on 12/04 & 20 at Agia Reservoir 15/04.
Bee-eater	minimum 15 at Kalamaki Pools & 2 at Phaestos 12/04.
Hoopoe	noted throughout the week max.6 Plakias & Phaestos area 12/04.
Wryneck	calling birds at secret valley 13/04 & Agia Reservoir 15/04.
Short-toed lark	9 at Kalamaki Pools 12/04 & 5 at Frangocastello 14/04.
Crested lark	noted at several sites throughout.

Woodlark	one at Moni Preveli 11/04, 3 at secret valley & Spili 13/04, one at Frangocastello 14/04 & 2 at Omalós Plateau 15/04.
Crag martin	noted throughout but particularly in the gorges.
Swallow	widespread and common.
Red-rumped swallow	one at Chania 09/04, two at Plakias & Moni Preveli 11/04 & one on way to Omalós Plateau on 15/04.
House martin	widespread and common with many migrants moving through.
Black-headed wagtail	noted on four dates max.40 at Frangocastello 14/04.
Grey-headed wagtail	2 at Plakias 11/04 & 16/04.
Grey wagtail	one at Kourtaliotiko Gorge 16/04.
White wagtail	noted in small numbers throughout.
Wren	noted at Spili, Agia Reservoir & Kanevos.
Nightingale	2 heard at Plakias 09/04, one on rocks at Plakias 15/04 and again at Plakias 16/04.
Whinchat	regularly noted at Plakias & several at Frangocastello 14/04.
Stonechat	recorded in small numbers.
Northern wheatear	noted most days max.5 Phaestos area 12/04.
Black-eared wheatear	four at Moni Preveli 11/04 & one at Kotsiphou Gorge 14/04.
Blue rock thrush	males at Kotsiphou Gorge 10/04, Moni Preveli 11/04 & Damnoni 16/04.
Blackbird	widespread and common.
Cetti's warbler	recorded daily in small numbers, more often heard than seen.
Sedge warbler	3 at Agia Reservoir 15/04.
Great reed warbler	one at Agia Reservoir 15/04.
Sardinian warbler	widespread and common.
Whitethroat	one at Frangocastello 14/04.
Blackcap	noted almost daily and several at Agia Reservoir 15/04 and Kanevos 16/04.
Wood warbler	one at Damnoni 16/04.
Chiffchaff	one at Moni Preveli 11/04 & Agia Reservoir 15/04.
Spotted flycatcher	one at Moni Preveli 11/04.
Blue tit	widespread and common.
Great tit	widespread and common.
Woodchat shrike	noted on six days, all single birds apart from 2 Plakias 10/04 & 2 Phaestos 12/04.
Jay	6 at Omalós Plateau 15/04 & one at Kanevos 16/04.
Chough	4 at Kourtaliotiko Gorge 09/04 & 16/04 then one at Moni Preveli 11/04.
Jackdaw	noted in the gorges max.12 at Kourtaliotiko Gorge 16/04.
Hooded crow	widespread and common.
Raven	widespread and common especially in the gorges.
Italian sparrow	widespread and common.
Chaffinch	widespread and common.
Serin	one in song at Chania 09/04.
Greenfinch	relatively widespread with many singing at Phaestos 12/04.
Goldfinch	widespread and common.
Linnet	noted at several locations in small numbers.
Cirl bunting	one at secret valley 13/04 and 3 at Kanevos 16/04.
Ortolan bunting	male in song at secret valley 13/03.
Corn bunting	noted at several sites particularly Moni Preveli, Frangocastello, secret valley & Spili.

AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES, FISH		
Cretan marsh frog	Cretan wall lizard	Balkan green lizard
Balkan (Stripe-necked) terrapin	Grey mullet	
MAMMALS		
Badger (roadkill)	Beech (=stone) marten (roadkill)	
BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS		
Swallowtail	Red admiral	Mallow skipper
Scarce swallowtail	Cretan grayling	Lulworth skipper
Cretan festoon	Southern speckled wood	African monarch
Large white	Wall brown	
Small white	Small copper	MOTHS
Bath white	Geranium bronze	Pine processionary moth (tents)
Eastern dappled white	Holly blue	Grass eggar moth larva
Clouded yellow	Brown argus	<i>Ethmia bipunctella</i> larvae
Painted lady	Common blue	<i>Adela paludicolella</i>
BEES, WASPS		
<i>Apis mellifera</i> honeybee		<i>Polistes gallicum</i> a paper wasp
<i>Xylocopa violacea</i> violet carpenter bee		<i>Megascolia flavifrons (maculata)</i> a mammoth wasp
<i>Andrena thoracica</i> cliff mining bee		
FLIES		
Heath bee fly: <i>Bombylius minor</i>		Fly: <i>Musca domestica</i>
Fly: <i>Lucilia sericata</i>	March fly: <i>Bibio hortulanus</i>	Asilidae sp: Robber fly

BUGS	
<i>Spilostethus (Lygaeus) pandurus</i> a black & red ground / seed bug	Mediterranean red bug: <i>Scantius aegyptius</i> and nymph
Ground bug: <i>Lygaeus equestris</i>	Shieldbug: <i>Carpocoris pudicus</i>
True bug: <i>Calocoris nemoralis</i>	<i>Aquarius najas</i> large pondskater
True bug: <i>Maccevethus corsicus</i>	
BEETLES	
<i>Trichodes creticus</i> a chequered or bee hive beetle	<i>Calomera (Cicindela) littoralis</i> littoral tiger beetle
<i>Tropinota hirta</i> a hairy chafer (=apple blossom beetle)	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i> seven-spotted ladybird
<i>Mylabris kodymi</i> Cretan blister beetle	<i>Oryctes nasicornis</i> Rhinoceros beetle
<i>Oxythyrea cinctella</i> a black-and-white flower chafer	<i>Chnootriba (Henosepilachna) elaterii</i> Melon ladybird & larva
Cretan rose chafer (black) <i>Protaetia cretica</i>	Flower beetle: <i>Psilothrix viridicoerulea</i>
Longhorn beetle: <i>Pseudovadonia livida</i>	Dor beetle: <i>Anoplotrupes stercorosus</i>
Common malachite beetle: <i>Malachius bipstulatus</i>	Leaf beetle: <i>Lachnaia paradoxa</i>
Black carrion beetle larva; <i>Nicrophorus nigrita</i>	<i>Clanoptilus spinipennis</i>
Weevil: <i>Lixus anguinus</i>	Darkling beetle: <i>Pimelia maura</i>
ODONATA	
<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i> Southern Skimmer	<i>Ischnura elegans</i> Blue-tailed Damselfly
<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i> Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i> Red-veined Darter
<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i> Scarlet Darter (Broad Scarlet)	<i>Anax imperator</i> Emperor (Blue Emperor)
ORTHOPTERA	
<i>Cicada</i> sp. a cicada	Nosey cone-headed grasshopper <i>Truxalis nasuta</i>
Cretan bright bush-cricket <i>Poecilimon cretensis</i>	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i> red-winged grasshopper
<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i> Egyptian grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda caerulea</i> blue-winged grasshopper
Mediterranean mantis: <i>Iris oratoria</i>	Cretan Grasshopper: <i>Chorthippus biroi</i>
OTHER INVERTEBRATES, SPIDER	
Freshwater crab <i>Potamon potamios</i>	Cretan door snail <i>Albinaria (corrugata) inflata</i>
Millipede: <i>Pachyiulus asiaeminoris</i>	<i>Micromata virescens</i> green huntsman spider
Bryozoan <i>Phylactolaemata</i> sp 'Fresh water jelly blob' at Spili bumps	



Cretan blister beetle *Mylabris kodymi*; green huntsman spider (female) on loose-flowered orchid; Cretan rose chafer *Protaetia cretica*.

CRETE PLANT LIST 2024

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 P = Planted NiF = not in flower
= Introduced and not native to Crete, and cultivated or planted species

FERNS AND ALLIES		
	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair fern
	<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback fern
	<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	Great 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
Ephedraceae Joint pines	<i>Ephedra distachya</i>	Joint pine
Pinaceae Pine Family	# <i>Araucaria araucana</i>	Norfolk Island pine

	<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Calabrian pine
	# <i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone or umbrella 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
	# <i>Schinus molle</i>	Peruvian peppertree
Apiaceae (=Umbelliferae) Carrot Family	* <i>Chaerophyllum creticum</i> NiF	(Omalós, yellow)
	<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	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>	(in Kotsiphou gorge)
	<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	Corky-fruited water dropwort
	<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> (fruit 5-8mm)	Mediterranean hartwort
	<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	Spreading hedge-parsley
Asteraceae (Compositae) Daisy Family	<i>Anthemis chia</i>	Mayweed
	<i>Anthemis rigida</i>	Rayless chamomile
	<i>Astericus (Bubonium) aquaticus</i>	
	<i>Bellis longifolia</i>	
	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	<i>Daisy</i>
	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	<i>Field marigold</i>
	* <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>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> NiF	
	<i>Scorzonera cretica</i>	Cretan viper's-grass
	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk thistle
	* <i>Staelhelina arborea</i>	
	<i>Tragopogon sinuatus</i> (<i>porrifolius</i>)	Salsify
Apocynaceae Oleander Family	<i>Nerium oleander</i> ssp. <i>oleander</i>	Oleander
Berberidaceae Barberry Family	<i>Berberis cretica</i>	
Boraginaceae Borage Family	<i>Anchusa azurea</i> (=A. <i>italica</i>)	Large blue alkanet
	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage
	<i>Cerintho major</i>	Honeywort
	<i>Cynoglossum columnae</i>	
	<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 erecta</i>	A goldendrop, grows at 200-800m, fls 2-2.5 cm (Omalós)
	<i>Onosma graecum</i>	Goldendrop (v. hairy corolla, fls 1.5 cm and purple-tingled)
	<i>Symphytum creticum</i> (<i>Procopiana cretica</i>)	Procopiana 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
	* <i>Solenopsis minuta</i> ssp. <i>annua</i> (<i>Laurentia gasparrinii</i>)	Solenopsis
Capparaceae Caper Family	<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper

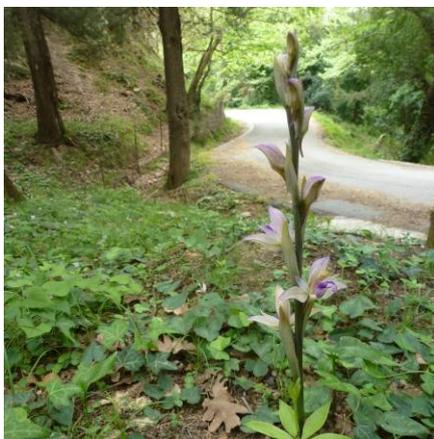
Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family	# <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
Caryophyllaceae Pink Family	* <i>Cerastium scaposum</i>	Cretan mouse-ear
	<i>Minuartia hybrida</i>	Fine-leaved sandwort
	<i>Petrorhagia velutina</i> (<i>Kohlrauschia velutina</i>)	
	<i>Silene bellidifolia</i>	
	<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean catchfly
	<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered catchfly
Chenopodiaceae Goosefoot Family	<i>Arthrocnemum macrostachyum</i> (=A. fruticosum)	Glaucous glasswort
Cistaceae Rockrose Family	<i>Cistus (incanus ssp.) creticus</i>	Cretan cistus
	<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved cistus
	<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved fumana
Clusiaceae St John's-wort Family	<i>Hypericum empetrifolium</i> ssp. <i>empetrifolium</i>	Shrubby St. John's-wort
Convolvulaceae Bindweed Family	<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed
	<i>Convolvulus (althaeoides) elegantissimus</i>	cut leaves, pale in centre of flower
	<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Dodder
Crassulaceae Stonecrop Family	<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	Navelwort / wall pennywort
Cruciferae (=Brassicaceae) Cabbage Family	<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>Erysimum raulini</i>	Crete wallflower
	<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned stock
	<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 acanthothamnos</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>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean trefoil
	<i>Anthyllus hermanniae</i> NiF	(spiny broom-like bush)
	<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>Coronilla</i> (= <i>Securigera</i>) <i>parviflora</i>	yellow or pink flowers
	* <i>Ebenus cretica</i>	Shrubby sainfoin (Cretan ebony)
	<i>Hippocrepis unisiliquosa</i>	Mediterranean horseshoe vetch
	<i>Hymenocarpus circinnatus</i>	Disk trefoil
	<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>	yellow flowers, often red-veined
	<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow vetchling
	<i>Lathyrus articulatus</i>	
	<i>Lotus ornithopoides</i>	(with <i>Solenopsis</i>)
	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater birdsfoot trefoil
	<i>Medicago arborea</i>	Tree 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 (natrix) hispanica</i>	Large yellow restharrow
	<i>Ononis reclinata</i>	Small restharrow
	# <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False acacia
	<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpiurus
	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom
	<i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i>	Asparagus pea
	<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 uniflorum</i>	One-flowered clover
	<i>Tripodion (Anthyllis) tetraphyllum</i>	Bladder vetch
	<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	Bithynian vetch (two-tone purple & white)
	<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy yellow vetchling
	<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow vetch
	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch
	<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder vetch
Fagaceae Oak Family	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes or prickly oak
	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm or evergreen oak
Deciduous oaks on Crete, both doubtfully native:	<i>Quercus ithaburensis</i> ssp. <i>macrolepis</i>	Valonia oak; acorn cups with long, spreading scales
	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy oak
Gentianaceae Gentian Family	<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>	Lesser centaury
Geraniaceae Geranium Family	<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved 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>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>Salvia viridis</i>	Red-topped sage
	<i>Satureja (Micromeria) nervosa</i>	
	<i>Stachys cretica</i>	Mediterranean woundwort
	* <i>Scutellaria sieberi</i>	Cretan skullcap
	<i>Teucrium alpestre</i>	
Linaceae Flax Family	<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale flax
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
Myoporaceae Myoporum Family	# <i>Myoporum laetum</i> P	Ngaio (from New Zealand)
Myrtaceae Myrtle Family	<i>Myrtus communis</i> subsp. <i>communis</i>	Common myrtle
Oleaceae Olive Family	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive
Orobanchaceae Broomrape Family	<i>Orobanche minor</i> ssp. <i>pubescens</i>	Common broomrape, on crown daisy
	<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched broomrape
Oxalidaceae Sorrel Family	# <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup
Papaveraceae Poppy Family	<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow horned-poppy
	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy
Pittosporaceae Pittosporum Family	# <i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	Pittosporum
Platanaceae Plane Tree Family	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane
Polygalaceae Milkwort Family	<i>Polygala venulosa</i>	Eastern milkwort
	# <i>Polygala x dalmaisiana</i>	Sweet pea shrub
Polygonaceae Dock Family	<i>Persicaria senegalensis</i>	Naturalised, from Africa
	<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Horned dock
Primulaceae Primrose Family	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	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>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 e.g. Spili)
	<i>Ranunculus neapolitanus</i> (= <i>R. bulbosus</i> ssp. <i>aleae</i>)	(reflexed sepals)
	<i>Ranunculus ophioglossifolius</i>	(fen at Frangocastello)
	<i>Ranunculus peltatus</i> ssp. <i>fucoides</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>Sarcopterium spinosum</i>	Thorny burnet
Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family	* <i>Asperula pubescens</i> (<i>A. incana</i>)	Kourtaliotiko Gorge
	<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
Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family	<i>Saxifraga carpetana</i> ssp. <i>graeca</i>	Omalós
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>	Southern red bartsia
	<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow bartsia
	<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Shining figwort
	<i>Scrophularia lyrata</i>	a water 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> NiF	Mandrake
	# <i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Tree tobacco
Styracaceae Storax Family	<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax
Tamaricaceae Tamarix Family	# <i>Tamarix smyrnensis</i>	Tamarisk
Thymelaeaceae Daphne Family	<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 pilulifera</i>	Roman nettle
Valerianaceae Valerian Family	<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	
Verbenaceae Verbena Family	# <i>Lantana cámara</i>	Lantana
	<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain
	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste tree
Violaceae Violet Family	* <i>Viola cretica</i>	
Vitaceae Vine Family	<i>Vitis 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> NiF	Friar's cowl
	<i>Arum concinatum</i>	
	* <i>Arum idaeum</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
	# <i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	Washingtonia
Iridaceae Iris Family	<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	
	<i>Gynandrysis sisyrynchium</i>	Barbary nut
	# <i>Iris albicans</i>	
Juncaceae - Rush Family	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp rush
Liliaceae Lily Family	<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow asphodel

	<i>Asphodelus ramosus (aestivus)</i>	Common asphodel
	# <i>Bulbine frutescens</i>	An orange lily, native to southern Africa
	<i>Charybdis (Drimia, Urginea) maritima</i> NiF	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>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>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet birdsnest orchid
	<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee orchid
	<i>Ophrys (fusca) cressa</i>	Cressa ophrys
	<i>Ophrys cretica</i>	Cretan bee orchid
	<i>Ophrys (scolopax) heldreichii</i>	Marengo orchid
	<i>Ophrys episcopalis/holoserica</i>	Bishop's ophrys
	<i>Ophrys (lutea) phryganae</i>	Phrygana orchid – a yellow bee orchid; hairy speculum
	<i>Ophrys (tenthrudinifera) villosa</i>	Eastern sawfly orchid
	<i>Orchis boryi</i>	
	<i>Orchis collina</i>	Fan-lipped or hill orchid
	<i>Orchis italica</i>	Italian man 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 papilionacea ssp alibertis</i>	Albertis's butterfly orchid
	<i>Orchis tridentata</i>	Toothed orchid
	<i>Serapias bergonii</i>	Bergon's tongue-orchid, Armeni
	<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue orchid
	<i>Serapias orientalis</i>	
Poaceae Grass Family	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed
	<i>Avena</i> sp	oats
	<i>Briza maxima</i>	Greater quaking-grass
	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass
	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall barley
	<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>	

Fungus	<i>Inonotus tamaricis</i>	Tamarisk bracket fungus
Galls	an epiphyte pathogen (bacterium) <i>Pseudomonas savastanoi</i>	Olive knot
	Bacterium <i>Pseudomonas syringae</i>	Oleander knot



Violet birdsnest orchid with Cretan cyclamens; *Ophrys cressa*. Spili Bumps; *Anemone hortensis ssp heldreichii*.