

CRETE BIRD REPORT 1988
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Compiled by
Stephanie Coghlan

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WEATHER:

The Winter of 1987 and Spring of 1988 were wet. This resulted in plenty of snow in the mountains and the rivers were very high in April. The Creta Sun Lagoon was deep enough for diving ducks. By the end of March the weather was beginning to settle but there were dull and rainy spells during early to mid April. No spectacular falls were reported. Even into May the weather did not completely settle, May 1st was wet, and this unsettled period continued on and off until mid May.

BIRDS:

This year wildfowl take prominence in the records. with Pintail occurring on several waters, and large flocks of Garganey being recorded of the south coast. New information about the 40+ Marbled Teal in 1987 is followed by two at Georgeoupolis Lake. Ferruginous Duck, Pochard and Tufted Duck were also recorded at the Creta Sun Lagoon. Finally a Greater Flamingo at the Creta Sun lagoon helped to convince the locals that the area was special. Other interesting records include Red Kite, flocks of migrating Cranes, Pygmy Cormorant, Baillons Crake, Avocets, Blue cheeked Bee-eater, Pied Wagtails and last but certainly not least a Duponts Lark seen by the RSPB tour.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED IN 1988

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Common on open water in April, Georgeoupolis Lake 3 19.4. and Aghia Reservoir 3 17.4 and from Georgeoupolis Lake 10.5 and 13.5. Frequent at Georgeoupolis 2.10 - 4.10. 1 Almyros 15.10 and 2 on the pool 16.10. 5+ Ierapetra reservoir 16.10.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* No records received.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricolus* 18 Lake Kournas 2.4. 2 Souda Bay on the sea 18.4.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* Recorded off Plakias early April and 4 or 5 off S. coast in Ierapetra area. 25+ off the north coast at Paleo Gerani in strong winds 15.4. 4 Rethymnon 25.4. Singles off north coast in the first days of May. Offshore at Agios Nikolaos 14.5. In September 29.9 to 13th October in small nos off headlands on N. Coast.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* No records received.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* No records received.

LITTLE SHEARWATER *Puffinus assimilis* No records received.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* No records received.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* 1 off Chania Harbour 17.4.

PYGMY CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* 1 Almyros 16.10.

WHITE PELICAN *Pelicanus onocrotalus* No records received.

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DALMATIAN PELICAN *Pelicanus crispus* No records received.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* No records received.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus* Male at Creta Sun lagoons 14.4. 1m at Damnoni beach. 1m Tavronitis 17.4. 1m and 1f Aghia reservoir 17.4. 3+ 18.4. 2+ Georgeoupolis 19.4. Then recorded as common seen every day 19.4 - 3.5. never more than two together at any site Georgeoupolis Lake and beach, Frangokastelli, Tavronitis, Keritis, Aghia reservoir, Geros river. At Plakias Bay 1f 22.4 and 1m eastern end of Plakias beach 25.4. One Lake Kournas in May and Fodele beach 9.5.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* 4 Aghia Res. 17.4. 1 18.4. 1 Georgeoupolis and Petres river 19.4. Recorded at Georgeoupolis, Frangokastello, Keritis, Souda Beach on south coast during last two weeks of April. 10+ in a tree by the river at Plakias 22.4. Nine Damnoni and 1 Plakias Bay 25.4. On the north coast there were a maximum of 4 adults Georgeoupolis beach 20.4. One Georgeoupolis Lake 12.5. One dead Almyros marsh 3.5. In October at Georgeoupolis 15 over square at dusk 1.10. Next day 8 at same time. Juveniles at Istro 11.10 and Malia 14.10.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides* Recorded Makryalos and Plakias early April. 2 Malia 8.4, 1 Elounda shore 7.4. 1 Plakias 11.4. 5 there early morning 13.4 and later in the day probably the same 5 at Megalopotamos. 1 Phalasarna 16.4. Many in marshy areas particularly 24.4-1.5. also moving through along coast. 7 Recorded Aghia reservoir 18.4, Frangokastello, Malia, Geros river. 6 Plakias Bay 25.4. Maximum in May 8-10 Frangokastello 1.5. but only one possibly injured later in May. One Platis river at Aghia Galini 11.5. and 1 Olous saltpans 14.5. Recorded as common in reed beds in May.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* No records received.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* Recorded Plakias early April. 4 Creta Sun Lagoon 3.4. 5+ 13.4. 14 14.4. Singles seen in most marshy areas in April Maximum flock of 12 Plakias Bay 22.4. and 7 Plakias Bay 24.4. otherwise singles there 20-26.4. 12 Souda Bay 17.4. 2 Petres river 19.4. In May singles present on coast between Plaka and Almyros. Also recorded as common along shore and reed beds in May. In October c.100 Georgeoupolis off the coast. 1.10. 2.10. 11 Georgeoupolis, 4.10. 15 Georgeoupolis and 26 roosted at Bali 12.10. 2 dead at Istro possibly killed by overhead wires 9.10. 1 Sitia Harbour 13.10, 2 Istro 15.10, 2 Almyros 15.10, 1 Ierapetra 16.10.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba* No records received.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* Recorded Plakias early April. 2 in the 1st week at Ag. Nickolaos. 7+ Creta Sun Lagoon 7.4. down to 2 13.-14.4. 23 over Geros river 10.4. 2 Polyrhinia 16.4. 1 Souda Bay 17.4. Flock of c20 Plakias Bay 22.4. Singles on several marshes during last two weeks of April. Maximum 3 1.5. Frangokastelli. One Olous saltpans 7.5. and River Platis 11.5. Single Creta Sun Lagoon 9.5. and Georgeoupolis 10.5. In October small groups over the sea on N.coast. 15 Georgeoupolis 9.10. 2 Elounda 19.10.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* Recorded Plakias early April. 1 Makryalos first week in April. 2+ Creta Sun marsh, 1 Megalopotamos valley 13.4. 1 Aghia res. 17.4. 5 there 18.4. Flock of 15 Plakias Bay 22.4 plus single same date. Also 2 Megalopotamos 24.4. and 3 Damnoni 25.4. Slightly more numerous than Grey

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at end of April. Maximum 3 off sea 1.5 Frangocastello. 1 Georgeoupolis Lake 2.10.

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* No records received.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* No records received.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* Parties of 14, 50 and 1 recorded Makryalos 5-12.4. Three flew east over Rethymnon 7.4. 1 Creta Sun lagoon 8.4. rising to 3 9.- 10.4. and 8 13.4. 1 Plakias 12.4. 1 Frangocastello 14.4. At Phaestos 13 in a field below site, and later 12 flew west. At Malia 6 on 22.4, 5 at pool east of Heraklion 23.4, 9 Ierapetra res. 26.4. Also recorded at Tavronitis river in April and at Aghia reservoir.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* No records received.

GREATER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus ruber* One Georgeoupolis beach mid April. One Creta Sun lagoon 27.4. and 7.5-17.5.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* No records received.

WIGEON *Anas penelope* No records received.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* No records received.

TEAL *Anas crecca* 1f Ierapetra reservoir 16.10.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* Pair at pool at Lassithi in late April. 150+ on sea in Istro Bay 22.10.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* Two ms Creta Sun Lagoon 3.4. 1m Creta Sun 6.4, 1m 2fs Creta Sun 8.4. also 9.4. 1 Tavronitis river 15.4. 2m & f Aghia 17.4. 2f 1m Aghia 18-19.4. 4 Keratokamos 8.5 Single m Creta Sun lagoon 7.5 -16.5.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* Recorded from Plakias early April. Parties of up to 120 Makryalos 5-12.4. Creta Sun Lagoon 5 ms 3.4. 2 there 6.-8.4. rising to 5 9.4. and 17+ 10.4. 14 there 13-14.4. 200+ Agia Galini Bay 10.4. 15 off Plakias bay 11.4. 11 there 12.4. Singles during April at Georgeoupolis Lake, Lassithi pool and Aghia reservoir but also rising to 20+ here 17.4. down to 10+ next day. but 50+ 19.4. Flock of 20+ Plakias Bay 23.4 and 60+ 24.4. 5 at Aghia reservoir 2.5. Three females and three males Creta Sun lagoon 7.5. 1m Ag. Galini end of April beginning of May.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* 3 on the Creta Sun lagoons on 13.4 and at least 2 the next day.

MARbled TEAL *Marmarenetta angustirostris* Two for several days up to 18. 4 at Georgeoupolis Lake.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* 1f Aghia reservoir 17-19.4. 1m Creta Sun 7.4. 1f there 27.4.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* One f and m at Creta Sun Lagoon 3.4. and 6-8.4. 1 male Creta Sun lagoon 13-14.4. 1 Aghia res. 18.-19.4. One Georgeoupolis Lake 2.10. 4 Ierapetra Reservoir 16.10.

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TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* 1m 27.4 Creta Sun lagoon.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 Aposelemis river 8.4. 1 Ag. Roumeli 14.4. 4 near Georgeoupolis mid April.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* 1 over Ag. Nikolaos 7.4. and 3 Tavronitis 15.4. Single at Lytos 16.5, in the autumn 1 Lassithi on 30.9. and 1 Georgeoupolis moving along the coast 3.10. 2 just S. of Paleokastro on Zakro road 13.10.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* 2 in valley behind Kotsiphos Gorge 12.4. 2 on route to Phalasarna 16.4.

LAMMERGEIER *Gypaetus barbatus* 1 Ambouseli Col to Lassithi 8.4. 1 Kourtaliotiko Gorge 10.4. and one over Plakias the same evening. 3 Phalasarna 17.4. One in gorge on Spili - Plakias road 25.4. Two Linoseli Col 29.4. 1 Anogia 1.5. possibly the same bird 1 Tilisos to Gonies gorge 11.5. One attacking Griffon Vulture Kourtaliotiko gorge 12.5. Above Kera on route to Lassithi 2 adults spent some time on ground mobbed by Griffons, flew low only, never above horizon. 6.10. 3 Lassithi plateau 19.10.

EGYPTIAN VULTURE *Neophron percnopterus* No records received..

GRIFFON VULTURE *Gyps fulvus* Recorded from Plakias early April. 4 Lassithi 8.4, 1 Mt Youchtas 9.4. 4 over the American Listening Station 13.4. 6 there 14.4. 5 thermalling at Moni Preveli 15.4, 8 over Plakias 16.4. and 8 over Petres river gorge 16.4. 3 there 19.4. 4 Kato Syri 26.4. 1 or 2 soaring above Kotsiphos gorge 23.-25.4. Described as quite common Lassithi, Omalos, and foothills of the White Mountains. 10 Petres river Gorge 2.5. In October frequent in mountain areas. Max 21 above Gonies on 6.10. 5 over Istro 9.10, 11 by Skopi, 10 by K62 post both on 13.10, 30 over road to Sitia 17.10, 5 above Plaka 18.10 with one juv. 17 on road to Karidi 18.10.

BLACK VULTURE *Aegypius monachus* No records received..

SHORT-TOED EAGLE *Circaetus gallicus* 1 in hills above Malia 30.9.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* 1 Agia Irini 3.4. 2 Malia 6.4. 2fs Tavronitis 15.4, A cream crowned f came in off the sea, following a rain shower on 15.4. at Plakias beach. 1m Maleme 16.4, a f at Georgeoupolis 16.4, 1m Agia 17.4, and a cream crowned female at Aghia 18.-19.4. f 27.4 Creta Sun Lagoon. Singles at several north coast sites Malia, Kalives during late April, passing through. Two Falasarna 26.4. 1 Stavromenos 1.5. 1m Elounda 2.5. and 2 over Elounda 7.5. 1 Creta Sun lagoon 9.5.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* Single Creta Sun lagoon 9.5.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus* No records received.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* f by road near Rethymnon 19.4. Pair near Malia Palace 22.4. 1 below Gonies 30.9.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* No records received.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* One over Creta Sun 8.4. mobbed by gulls. One near Heraklion 19.4. 1 mobbing a Golden eagle Kotsiphos Gorge Plakias 21.4.

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BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* Common over most of the island in April and May. Rarer in east eg. 1 only Tenta Bay 5-12.4. In October frequent in both mountain and coastal areas. Many pale individuals then reported as bearing superficial resemblance to Long-legged Buzzard.

LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus* Two individuals on wires noted as appearing long legged 9.10. possibly this species.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* No records received.

LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila pomarina* No records received.

SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila clanga* No records received.

TAWNY/STEPPE EAGLE *Aquila rapax* No records received.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* Recorded from Plakias, Lassithi and Ag. Stephanos early April. 3 above Kotsiphos gorge, Plakias 11.4. 1 over Samaria gorge 18.4. Recorded from hills near Imbros 13.5. 2 near Neapoli 14.5 and 1 Tilisos to Gonies gorge 15.5. In October 1 adult 7.10. Kotsiphos Gorge. Two adult and juv. near Anogia 10.10.

BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraaetus pennatus* 1 only Ag. Stephanos early April. 1 over Istro 9.10 and 1 pale form over Istro 15.10.

BONELLIS EAGLE *Hieraaetus fasciatus* Recorded from Plakias early April. A pair in the Embros gorge late April. Two adults west of Selia near Plakias 7.10.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 at mouth of Tavronitis river 15.4.

LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni* 2+ Petres river Gorge and 1 Spili- Plakias road in late April. Another observer recorded in the same area 1 20.4 and 26.4. Plakias, and 1 Selia above Plakias 21.4. Also Kourtaliotiko Gorge 12.5. 4 Selinari gorge 14.5. 1 with kestrels Agarates Moni 16.5. In October one in Tilisos to Heraklion valley 10.10.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* Widespread and common seen everyday during April. Highest count 8 14.4. Always 1 or 2 around Plakias, and in Kotsiphos gorge. One over mountainside at Monastiraki 6.5. Frequent in October. Records from Istro and Selinari gorge in October.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* 1 adult m flying across Rethymnon harbour and north out to sea 12.4. 3 m at Malia 22.4. Reported as commonest bird of prey in May. Flocks of 30-60 over Heraklion 5.5, 9.5, and 12.5.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* 1 Phaestos 14.4.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* 2 between Ag. Galini and Spili 10.4. 1 coming in off the sea took a yellow wagtail at Plakias 12.4. 2 Kalives 20.4, 1 Matala 24.4, 1 Vai - Paleokastro same date. 1 near Paleochora 28.4. 1 Amyretha and 1 Elounda 2.5.

ELEONORAS FALCON *Falco eleonora* 1 Agia Irini 8.4. 8+ at Heraklion airport 3.5. Two over coast east of Heraklion 5.5. Two at Nipidites 8.5. In October at Gournes one in off the sea 1.10. One west of Heraklion 6.10. Omalos 8.10. c.25

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hawking insects. 4 Aghia reservoir 8.10. 1 over Ag. Nikolaos 9.10. 1 10.10 Istro, 3 2 light phase Ierapetra reservoir 16.10, 3 Lassithi 19.10. 1 22.10. Istro.

LANNER *Falco biamicus* One over Rethymnon Pines 4.4.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* One Agia Irini 3.4. 1 Tenta Bay early April. 2 Mt Youchtas 9.4. 1 Kotsiphos Gorge 14.4. possibly same pair near the old corn mill Plakias 23.4. 2 at the head of Petres gorge 19.4. One in hills behind Georgeoupolis in late April. 1 Elounda 7.5. In Autumn 1 Lassithi 30.9. 1 Omalos 3.10, 1 Rethymnon - Georgeoupolis by roadside showing markedly rufous breast 9.10. Med. race? 2 Gournia, 1 Ierapetra res. 16.10. 3 Lassithi 19.10. 1 Istro 22.10.

CHUKAR *Alectoris chukar* Heard in mountain areas in April. 2 near Lakki 17.4. Singles Ideon Antron 11.5 and 15.5. One calling 7.10 Selia. One Petres gorge 8.10.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* Calling on Lassithi plateau first part of May.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* 1 Creta Sun lagoons 14.4. 1 Almyros 16-17.10.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* No records received.

LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva* 4 Aghia reservoir 17.4. rising to 7 18.4. down to 2+ 19.4. 2 Georgeoupolis lake m and f 26.4 had been there for two days. 2 m there 27.4. 1f 27.4 and 2f at Aghia reservoir 2.5. One Lake Kournas in May.

BAILLONS CRAKE *Porzana pusilla* One at Aghia Reservoir 29.4 - 2.5. Described as a well marked bird giving good views probably a m.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex* No records received.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Recorded from Kalo Horio and Plakias early April. Lots on open water sites also most marshes last two weeks of April. 100+ Aghia and 70+ Georgeoupolis 17-19.4. but only singles by 29.4. Recorded from Almyros marsh 3.5. but only 1 Aposelemis river 7.5 and only 2 Georgeoupolis 12.5. Frequent at river mouths in October but only small nos at each site.

COOT *Fulica atra* Only recorded from lake Kourna in late April. Several at Georgeoupolis Lake 4.10. 500+ Ierapetra res. 16.10

CRANE *Grus grus* 3 Flocks flying east off south coast at Makryalos between 5-12.4. of 18, 12 & 70 birds.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus* Recorded from Plakias early April. Elounda 1m 7.4. 1m 25.4. 6 Creta Sun lagoon 8.4. 3 Creta Sun lagoon 9.4. 6 again 10.4. rising to 10 13.4. Down again to 6 14.4. 1 at Frangokastello 27.4. 4 Creta Sun lagoon 7.5-16.5.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* 6 Plakias beach 12.4. later the same day only 3.

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STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* 1 Makryalos and 1 Arvi early April. 4 Malia 6.4. One flushed from Creta Sun lagoons 13.4. One from river at Damnoni 16.4.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola* One Chania Harbour 17.4. One sp. flushed from stream mouth at Frangokastello flew straightout to sea 27.4. 3 Creta Sun lagoon 7.5.

BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE *Glareola nordmanni* No records received.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* Recorded from Plakias and Makryalos early April. 5 pairs on territories at Creta Sun Lagoon 3.4. still in residence 10.4. However 6+ recorded 13.4 and only 3-4 14.4. Seen at many shingly localities, beaches and riverbanks in April, with 1 Petres river 16.4. 2 Tavronitis 17.4, 2 Petres river 19.4. 1 at the river mouth Plakias 21.-22.4. 2 Agia Triada 5.5. Creta Sun lagoon 4 on 7.5. 6 on 12.5.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* 1 Creta Sun 8.4. 1 Georgeoupolis beach 20.4. 2 Geropotamos and 2 Tavronitis 1 at the river mouth Plakias 26.4. 1 town beach Agios Nikolaos 3.5.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* 1 Creta Sun 10.4.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* 1 in winter plumage Creta Sun lagoon 7.5.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* 1 in summer plumage Creta Sun lagoon 7.5. 1 Elounda 19.10.

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER *Hoplopterus spinosus* No records received.

SOCIABLE PLOVER *Vanellus gregarius* No records received.

WHITE-TAILED PLOVER *Chettusia leucura* No records received.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* 1 Tavronitis River 15.4.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* No records received.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Single Georgeoupolis beach 2.5.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* 5 Creta Sun Lagoon 3.4. 10+ Creta Sun 6.4. 20+ 7.4. 5+ 8.4. 10+ 9.4. 11 10.4. reaching 25+ by 13-14.4. The common *calidris* of beach areas like Georgeoupolis and Frangokastello etc. maximum 23 Georgeoupolis 20.4. 1 Plakias Bay 21.- 22.4. 2 Aghia 18.4. Several Creta Sun lagoon 7.5-16.5.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* 1 Creta Sun lagoon 9.5.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* 1 Creta Sun lagoon 6.4. 3 Elounda 7.4. 3 Plakias beach 15.4. 1 there 17.4. 3 Creta Sun lagoon 27.4. 1 Creta Sun lagoon 7.5 and 8 on 12.5. 1 Elounda 18-19.10

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* 1 Skoutalonas river 28.4. 2 Creta Sun lagoon 7.5. 2 Georgeoupolis beach 2.10. One adult and one juv.

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RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* 30+ Creta Sun Lagoon 3.4. varying between 5&10 6-10.4. Up to 30 Creta Sun lagoons 13.-14.4. 15 Aghia 18.4. 2 Georgeoupolis 19.4. 10 Agia reservoir 29.4. 20+ Creta Sun lagoon 7.5.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyrtus minimus* one freshly dead found at Plakias beach 16.4.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 Plakias stream mouth 12.4. 3 Creta Sun lagoons 13.4. 1 14.4. 1 Tavronitis 15.4. 4 Aghia Reservoir 18.4. Also seen at several wetland sites Georgeoupolis, Frangokastello and Lassithi pool in April. 3 Lassithi pool on 23.4. 1 Ierapetra 16.10.

GREAT SNIPE *Gallinago media* No records received.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* No records received.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* No records received.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* One on beach Frangokastello 27.4 and 1.5.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* One long dead individual found at Creta Sun lagoons 14.4. 1 live at Chania harbour 18.4.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* One Creta Sun Lagoon 3.4. 1 Petres river 16.4.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* 2 Creta Sun lagoon 8-10.4. Rising to 4 13.4. 1 Tavronitis 15.4. 2 there 17.4. Singles near Heraklion and Georgeoupolis 23.-30.4. 6 Creta Sun lagoon 7.5. 1 Ierapetra Res. 16.10, 3 Elounda 18.10, 4 Elounda 19.10.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* 1 Creta Sun 9.4. Single at Georgeoupolis lake 19.20. 26.4. 1 at the river mouth Plakias Bay 21.-23.4. 1 Megalopotamos 24.4.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* 1 Makryalos early April. 3 Creta Sun lagoon 3.4. 1 Creta Sun lagoon 7.4.-10.4. 2 there 13-14.4. 3 Aghia res. 17.4. 1 there 18.4. 2 Georgeoupolis 19.4. 1 Petres 27.4. 2 Frangokastello 27.4. Singles Georgeoupolis beach, Malia and Agia reservoir last two weeks of April.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* 3 Creta Sun lagoon 3.4. 1 there 6-8.4. 2 Elounda 7.4. 1 Plakias 13.4. 3+ Creta Sun lagoons 13.4. at least 2 14.4. Geros river had 4-5 on 14.4. 1 Almyros river near Vrises 20.4. and rivermouth at Kalo Horio 5.5. 3 Agia Triada 5.5. 1 Olous saltpans 7.5.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Recorded from Plakias and 2 Makryalos early April. 12 Creta Sun Lagoon 3.4. 10-20+ there 6.-10.4. with 15 there 13.-14.4. 2 Elounda 7.4. Very common and present at all suitable localities, Georgeoupolis lake 2 19.4, and 2 Frangokastello, Agia reservoir 6+ 17.-18.4 and Lassithi pool in April. 5 Plakias beach 15.4. with 2 at the river mouth Plakias Bay 20.4. One there 21.4 and 26.4. and 1 Damnoni 25.4. Max 20 Lassithi pool on 23.4. 2 Almyros 23.4. 1 Olous saltpans 7.5. and 1 Creta Sun lagoon same date, 1 beach at Ierapetra 8.5.

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus* No records received.

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COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos* Recorded from Plakias and Makryalos early April. 1 Creta Sun lagoon 6.4. and 10.4. 2 Plakias 12-13.4. 2 12.4. Damnoni, 2 Georgeoupolis harbour 19.4. 1 Petres river 19.4. Common 19.4.- 26.4. Decreasing nos 27.4-3.5. One Almyros marsh 3.5. 4 Agia Triada 5.5, 2 Creta Sun lagoon 7.5. and 1 on beach at Ierapetra 8.5. 4 Almyros 15.10. 2 there 16.10.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* Two Creta Sun lagoon 7.5, One Ierapetra beach 8.5.

GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ichthyaetus* No records received.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* Recorded from Plakias early April. 8 immatures Rethymnon beach 30.3. 4 Sitia harbour 17.10.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* 1 subadult 30.3. Rethymnon beach

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* 2 Makryalos early April. 1 adult 7.4. Ag. Nikolaos. 1 dead Creta Sun 13.4, 2 Chania 17.4. 3 18.4. and 1 19.4. 6+ Souda Bay 18.4. 2 first summer birds Ag. Nikolaos harbour 22.4. and 1 Souda Bay on 28.4. In October 1 Ierapetra harbour 16.10.

AUDOUIN'S GULL *Larus audouinii* 1 immature Rethymnon beach 31.3. One 1 immature Sitia Harbour wall 28.3. 1 3rd year 7.4. Ag. Nikolaos harbour. 3rd year on Georgeoupolis beach near Camping George 25.4. 1 Sitia Harbour 13.10.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* No records received.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* Recorded from Plakias early April. 5-6 seen along south coast. 1 Elounda 7.4. 1 south coast 14.4. 1 flying west Creta Sun 14.4. 2 Plakias Bay 20.4. One very dark backed bird Frangokastello 27.4.

HERRING GULL (YELLOW LEGGED) *Larus argentatus michahellis* Recorded from Plakias early April. A few in Plakias Bay every day 20-26.4. 9 on 25.4. Very common elsewhere max. about 100 Frangokastello 14.4. and 27.4. Common on coast between Almyros beach and Plaka in May. In October small numbers along N. coast.

GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* A second year bird flying west offshore at Creta Sun 13.4.

GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica* 1 Porou Bay in second week in April.

CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia* 4 on harbour wall at Sitia 28.4.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* Two adults Rethymnon beach 30.3. 1 Gorouras Bay early April. 2 Creta Sun lagoons 13.4. 1 Souda Bay 17.4. 4 Chania Harbour 18.4. and 1 Chania harbour 18.4. 2 first summer birds Souda Bay 28.4. 3 Ierapetra Harbour 16.10.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* 1 Almyros 23.4 on beach in early morning.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* No records received.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida* 1 fine adult 17-18.4. Aghia res.

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BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* 1 Tavronitis 17.4. 1 Ierapetra res. 26.4.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* 1 Georgeoupolis lake 22.4, 1 Aghia reservoir 29.4 and 2.5. One offshore at Agios Nikolaos 5.5.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* Recorded from Plakias early April. Some pure looking birds in wilder areas including Kourtaliotiko Gorge and Kotsiphos Gorge c6 21.4

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* No records received.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* Recorded from Plakias early April. Singles usually also up to 6 in upland areas in April. In May described as common in small numbers. In October small numbers low in mountains.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* No records received.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 Erimoupolis between 5-12.4. Singles and pairs in many areas in April and May. 2 Plakias 13.4. 2 Phalasarna, 2 Damnoni, 2 Petres river all 16.4. 2 Kato Zakro 24.4. 2 20.4. and 1 25.4. Plakias. 1 Megalopotamos 24.4. 1 Damnoni 25.4. In May near Ag Galini, 1 Keratokamos 8.5. 1 Georgeoupolis 10.5. In Oct. 1 Georgeoupolis 8.10 on wires.

LAUGHING DOVE *Streptopelia senegalensis* No records received.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 Creta Sun 6.4. 1 16.4. Phalasarna, 2 Souda Bay cemetery 18.4, 2+ Aghia Triada on Akrotiri 18.4. 2 Kato Zakro 24.4 one a rufous phase. Quite common 19.-26.4. 5 in an open field in the olive groves Plakias 21.4. including a rufous phase also 3 25.4. and 26.4. Plakias. 4 Georgeoupolis 25.4. 1 Georgeoupolis 10.5.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* Pair reported as breeding on eastern headland near Istro.

SCOPS OWL *Otus scops* Very numerous Almyretha 19.4-3.5. 1 calling 4.30am Plakias 20.4. and 9.30am 21.4. Heard near Cretan Village Amoudara end of April. Also numerous Georgeoupolis in April. Still present calling regularly in first part of October in Eucalyptus trees around Georgeoupolis.

TAWNY OWL reported heard again. This time from Georgeoupolis. Has anyone got records of positive sightings with notes?

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* No records received.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* No records received.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* No records received..

SWIFT *Apus apus* Recorded from Plakias and very small parties reported on south coast early April. Arrived in Aghios Nikolaos 7.4. A few in Plakias in the evenings 22. and 23.4. 5-600 over Aghia 18.-19.4. Very common in Chania and Rethymnon in April and May although smaller nos. recorded in May. In early October in small numbers in mountains and coast.

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PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus* 3 Rethymnon town 11.4. Breeding records from Chania around the town centre and harbour in April.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* Recorded from Plakias and Makryalos early April. 10 Aposelemis river 8.4. Then seen in small nos. on south coast 8-19.4. Seen in Plakias 20.-26.4. increasing daily. Very common last week in April. Breeding in cliffs at Aghia Galini. 6 Matala 5.5, 4 Keratokamos 8.5, 3 Gouverneto Gorge 10.5.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* 1 Ag. Nikolaos harbour 7.4. 1 Geros river 15.4. One at small river mouth at Gournas 22.4. In October frequent in river mouths, rocky coast and sandy beaches also perching on boats in Rethymnon harbour. Singles 11-13.10. Istro, 13.10. Sitia harbour, 15-16.10. Almyros, Elounda 18-19.10.

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster* 1 Elounda 7.5. 7 flying over Skepasti 12.5. 2 over K62 post 13.10.

BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER *Merops superciliosus* One bird seen very well on the south coast in olive grove below Komatides near Chora Sfakion on 27.4.

ROLLER *Coracias garrulus* One Frangocastello 27.4. In early May recorded from villages near Kamares cave. One in the hills behind Elounda 7.5.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 Arvi and 1 Makryalos between 5-12.4. 3 Malia 6.4. 2 Megalopotamos 13.4. near Turkish bridge. Small nos. recorded on south coast from 13.4 onwards otherwise not very common. Recorded Tavronitis, Frangocastello in late April. One Lassithi 30.9 and 1 Fodele 1.10. 1 Istro 12.10.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 behind Rethymnon 10.4. Two heard calling Lassithi plain 22.4. Selia 1 7.10 and Bali 1 12.-13.10.

DUPONTS LARK *Chersophilus duponti* A Single believed to be a juvenile feeding with a party of short-toed larks at Damnoni beach on 16.4. (Doug Ireland, J Osborne & RSPB holiday tour.)

CALANDRA LARK *Melanocorypha calandra* One Georgeoupolis beach camping George area mid April.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* Recorded from Plakias early April. c35 on north coast Misiria/Perivolias 31.3. 5 Malia 6.4. 25+ Megalopotamos 13.4. 40+ Falasarna 18.4. In second half of April small groups in a few areas of suitable habitat reported, including Plakias, 16 Damnoni 16.4, Elounda, Falasarna, Georgeoupolis, 20+ Malia 22.4.

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata* Very very common in coastal areas and very common throughout the island.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* 1 Elounda 8.4. 1 15.4. on north coast. Reported as not uncommon in rocky open country with scattered cover and song posts. 2 Omalos plateau 18.4. Singing on Lassithi road and plateau, Askifou pass, Akrotiri peninsula in April and from near Ag. Galini in early May. 1 singing 18.10 above Plaka. 3 Lassithi 18.10.

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SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* 1 Creta Sun lagoon 6.4. 1 Malia 6.4. 1 Elounda 7.4. 1 Creta Sun lagoon 10.4. 1 Phaestos 15.4. 1 Damnoni singing 25.4. Described as relatively common in May. 1 Malia 14.10.

THEKLA LARK *Galerida theklae* One identified in hills behind Elounda 7.5. (John Barker)

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* Common in small nos. in April. 20+ Aghia reservoir 17.-18.4. 10+ over Georgeoupolis lake 19.4. 2 Hersonissos 4.5. 1 over Georgeoupolis 4.10. Last record Istro 12.10.

CRAG MARTIN *Hirundo rupestris* Breeding on suitable cliffs from sea level to high mountains. 3 Kaosa 5-12.4. Also at the head of the Samaria Gorge. Single at Myrthios 12.5. Recorded from Kotsiphos gorge 21.4. and 7.10, Omalos 8.10. and Bali 12.10.-13.10.

PALE CRAG MARTIN *Hirundo obsoleta* No records received.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* Recorded from Plakias early April. Abundant in bursts during late April. c3000 and c2000 on 18-19.4 Aghia, 100+ Tavronitis, Georgeoupolis 16.-19.4. Visible migration observed along coast. Recorded in Plakias 20.-26.4 decreasing. Common in small nos. in May. Many moving along coast in early October. At Istro very common 9.10-16.10. Declining in nos. by 22.10.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* 3 west 8.4. Otherwise singles seen regularly with Swallows. Maximum 20 hawking insects around cliff at Plakias 15.4. 10+ Aghia 17.4. 5+ Kalives 20.4. several Plakias 21.4. 1 Creta Sun lagoon 7.5. 2 Istro 9.10.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delicon urbica* First record 10.4. Recorded from Plakias early April. Then common in small nos. in April with other migrant hirundines throughout the island including Plakias, Megalopotamos. Small nos. in Agios Nikolaos in May. Still present Kera 6.10.

RICHARDS PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae* No records received.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris* Recorded from Plakias early April. 2 seen in fields near Plakias beach on 16th and 2 Omalos plateau. 4 Malia 6.4. Then recorded Malia, Falasarna, and Georgeoupolis beach in April. Single Gouvernato Gorge 10.5. One at Plakias on headland 7.10. 1 juv. 12.10 Istro.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* Singles during first part of April, 1 Creta Sun lagoon 14.4. 5 Falasarna 16.4. 4 Plakias 22.4. then main passage of thousands recorded during third week in April.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* 4 on s. coast early April. 1 Creta Sun 7.4. and 15.4. c6 seen on Omalos plateau 18.4. One Elounda 14.5.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* 3+ Malia 6.4. 3+ Creta Sun 6.4. 2 Creta Sun 13.4. 4+ there 14.4. 8 Malia 22.4, 1 Frangokastello 27.4. 2 Georgeoupolis beach (Camping George area) 30.4. 1 on road near Selia 22.4. Three feeding in vegetation on rare irrigated plot Selia 7.10.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* No records received.

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YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Flocks common in April including Blue-headed, Grey-headed and Black-headed. Recorded from Plakias early April including *flava*, *beema*, *feldeggi*, *thunbergi*, *cinerocapilla*. Largest 80+ Elounda 7.4. More usual size of flocks 10-20. Later in the month 20+ Frangokastello 27.4. 20+ Agia reservoir 29.4. Black-headed wagtails in May at Kalo Horio beach 5.5 and Ierapetra beach 8.5. Two yellow wagtails in flock of 30+ Blue-headed and Black-headed at Malia marsh 6.5. Three Black-headed Keratokampos 8.5. One Rethymnon 1.10. 1 Bali 5.10. Three Petres bridge 8.10. *Motacilla f. flava*. Small flock 10+ Istro 10.10.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* 1 west over Creta Sun lagoons 14.4. also in April one by old Turkish bridge on route to Moni Prevelli, on Megalopotamas river. In October 1 Istro area 12.10, Almyros 15.10, 22.10 Istro area.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* Recorded from Plakias early April. 20+ Elounda 7.4. Otherwise reported as fairly common with small nos. everyday eg. Plakias 20-26.4. Breeding at Frangokastello. Flock Rethymnon beach 2.4. 6 St Georges Point, Hersonisos 9.5. Present Kalo Horio beach 10.5. One Bali 5.10, 1 Petres bridge 8.10. 1 Istro 12.10, 1 Elounda 22.10.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla a. yarrelli* One f or first winter bird with white wagtails on Rethymnon beach 2.4. Present again 11.4. Another record of a black backed bird on south coast at Komatides on 27.4. Another record at Almyros marsh 3.5.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* Small nos. in upland areas such as Omalos. Recorded from Kotsiphos gorge 21.4. Described as locally common in May. Recorded sparsely from mountain areas and from Elounda 8.5 and Imbros gorge 13.5. Similar records in October.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* No records received.

ALPINE ACCENTOR *Prunella collaris* 1+ singing males at Linoseli Col in the White Mountains. One gave excellent views 29.4. 3 Skinakas Observatory 15.5.

RUFUS BUSH CHAT *Cercotrichas galactotes* No records received.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* 1 Almyros 15.10, 1 Vai 16.10. Spinalonga Island 21.10. 22.10 Istro.

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia* Singing Geros river 23.4.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* Recorded from Plakias and Makryalos early April. One Lake Kournas 2.4. 1 Plakias 12.4, 1 Megalopotamos 13.4, 2 Ag. Roumeli 14.4. 3 singing Moni Prevelli 3 singing Plakias beach, 1 Damnoni 15-17.4. 2 Aghia res. 17.4. 1 18.4. Later in April recorded as quite common in several lush areas particularly Geros river 23.4 and in the NW. Singles passing through Plakias 20.4-23.4.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus* One singing m by path to Linoseli col in the White Mountains 29.4. One m Frangokastelli also in April.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* 1m and 1f at the Aghia Triada Monastery Akrotiri 17.4. 1f 18.4. Souda Bay cemetery, 1f Omalos plateau 18.4. 2f Moni Prevelli 24.4, and Frangokastelli 1.5. Two Omalos 3.10. 1 Malia 14.10.

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WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Recorded from Plakias early April. 4 Creta Sun 6.4. Very common migrant 19.4 - 26.4. 8+ Georgeoupolis 19.4. In May recorded from Agios Nikolaos 3.5. In October 4 Georgeoupolis 4.10, also Istro, Malia, 14.10.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* Very common breeder in April and May. Common and widespread in October.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina* 1 Rethymnon beach and south of town 7.4 and 8.4. One Frangokastelli mid April.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* Recorded from Plakias early April. Small numbers moving through throughout April. 2-3 usually recorded. 5+ Malia 6.4, 5+ Creta Sun 6.4. 18 Omalos 18.4. One Plaka 4.5. otherwise described as common in the mountains in May. Three Gournes 29.9, Lassithi 1 6.10. Petres gorge 1 9.10. 1 Malia 14.10. 1 Lassithi 18.10. 2 Elounda 19.10.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica* Recorded from Plakias early April. Fairly common in rocky areas breeding, plus coastal migrants from early April including black throated forms. One Plaka 4.5. other singles in May, Phaestos 5.5, Nipiditos 8.5, Ideon Antron 11.5. In October on Lassithi 2 30.9 and 1 6.10.

ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis* No records received.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius* Common in the east and in the mountains, fewer in west? Recorded from Plakias early April and by mid April breeding records received. on cliffs with f carrying food. Recorded from Ag.Galini and as common outside towns in May and at Plaka 4.5 and Imbros gorge 13.5. Frequent on rocky coasts and mountains in October. 1 above Plaka 18.10, Lassithi 18.10, 1 Spinalonga island 21.10.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* No records received.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* Small nos common in lowland areas throughout the island.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* No records received.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* No records received.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* Recorded from Plakias early April. Very common in all obviously suitable areas and some unsuitable looking ones. Still calling in first half of October.

FAN TAILED WARBLER *Cisticola juncidis* 1 Malia marsh 6.4, Recorded Plakias beach 11-13.4. 2 25.4. 1 26.4. Georgeoupolis area and Keritis river 15.4. in April and May. One Georgeoupolis 4.10.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides* No records received.

MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Acrocephalus melanopogon* Small nos. 5+ moving through Aghia res. 17.4. 18.4 not present 19.4.

AQUATIC WARBLER *Acrocephalus paludicola* No records received.

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SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Heard Aposelemis river 8.4. Aghia res. 17.4. 4 Tavronitis 21.4. Increasing to many at Aghia 18-19.4 still present at reservoir 27.4 and 2.5.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* One heard at Aghia reservoir on 18.4. enticed into song by a nightingale.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* 1 Aposelemis 6.4. 1 Plakias 11.4. 1 Megalopotamos and Creta Sun 13.4. 1 Tavronitis river 15.4. 1 Aghia 17.4. but recorded as present in good nos. 18.-19.4. Single Georgeoupolis beach 22.4. Singles recorded also in second half of April on north coast.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 Skoutalonas river 29.4. Recorded as present in most reed beds 19.4 - 3.5. 2 Aghia 19.4. Singles Malia 6.5 and Vathianos Kambos 14.5.

OLIVACEOUS WARBLER *Hippolais pallida* Single in reeds Aghia res. Triada 5.5.

OLIVETREE WARBLER *Hippolais olivetorum* One Georgeoupolis May. One Lake Kournas May.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* Two arrived after rainstorm at Frangokastello 1.5. One Gournes 29.9.

MARMORA'S WARBLER *Sylvia sarda* No records received.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* A male at Moni Prevelli, 2 at Damnoni beach. Recorded from Plakias and Makryalos early April. 1 Aghia Triada on Akrotiri 18.4. 1 Plakias 21.4. 1m Arkadi 30.4

SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala* Abundant breeding over most of the island.

RÜPPELL'S WARBLER *Sylvia rüppelli* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1m Moni Prevelli 13.4. 1m Ag. Roumeli 14.4. Singing males Kritsa, Moni Prevelli, Askifou-Chora Sfakion road and Frangokastelli 23.4 - 2.5.

ORPHEAN WARBLER *Sylvia hortensis* No records received.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* 1 Plakias 25.4.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* Small numbers moving through from early April. Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 Lassithi 8.4. 2 Mt Yuchtas 8.4. 3+ Gortys 10.4. Singles Plakias 12.4, 15.4, Moni Prevelli 15.4. 5+ Phalasarna 16.4. 1 Georgeoupolis and Aghia res. 19.4, 1 Plakias 21.4. One Kalo Horio 5.5. 1 Malia 6.5.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* 1 Frangokastello 1.5.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* 1 Istro 12.10, 1f Almyros 15.10.

BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* Recorded from Plakias early April. 2+ 18.4. Souda Bay cemetery.

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WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* 1 in olive groves below Phaestos 14.4. 3+ Moni Prevelli 15.4. 2 Megalopotamos 14.4. 5+ at monastery at Aghia Triada. 2+ Phalasarna 16.4. 2+ Aghia res. 17.4. 1 Aghia res. 18.4. Many in olive groves behind Plakias 21.4. then declining 24.4. Recorded as singles infrequently elsewhere from 19.4.- 3.5. 1 Malia 14.10

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* 1 Lake Kournas 2.4. 1 Phaestos 10.4. 1 Kalo Horio 10.5. One Bali 5.10 and 12.10.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 singing Plakias 25.4. 3+ Frangokastelli 1.5. Singles Lassithi 30.9. In October Gournes 1.10, Bali 5.10 and 12.10, Istro 12.10, 15.10, and 22.10, 14.10 Malia, 19.10 Knossos, 21.10 Spinalonga.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* No records received.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus* No records received.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* First record 23.4 Turloti. Large movement through after 23.4. In May recorded at Plaka 4.5. Single Malia marsh 5.5 and 6.5. Gournes 1 29.9, 2 Lassithi 6.10. 1 Istro 9-12.10.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* 1 Istro 12.10.

COLLARED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula albicollis* Recorded from Plakias early April. 3m at Moni Prevelli 15.4. 2 Souda Bay cemetery 18.4. 2-3 mm at Aghia Triada monastery on Akrotiri. Males at several south coast sites from 1 12.4. 21.4 Plakias, 23.4. Matala, Frangokastelli, Moni Prevelli. One f Moni Prevelli 23.4. Many Pied/Collared fs along south coast. One male Georgeoupolis in May

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 12.4 and 2 13.4. & 2 Megalopotamos 24.4. 2ms Keritis river 15.4. 1m Phalasarna 16.4. 1f Georgeoupolis 19.4. 2+ Moni Prevelli 24.5. 2 Kera on road to Lassithi 30.9.

SOMBRE TIT *Parus lugubris* No records received.

COAL TIT *Parus ater* Small nos at Knossos 13.4, Gortyna 14.4. and River Megalopotamos 15.4.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus* Recorded from Plakias and Makryalos early April. Fairly common in well wooded areas away from coast. However recorded on coast at Kalo Horio 10.5. Georgeoupolis to Rethymnon mountain road 4.10.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* Recorded from Plakias and Makryalos early April. Very common from sea level upwards. In October described as frequent in lowland scrub.

ROCK NUTHATCH *Sitta neumayer* No records received.

SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER *Certhia brachydactyla* Recorded from Plakias early April. One in Samaria gorge 17.4. One singing in the scattered trees above top of Samaria gorge on walk to Linoseli col 29.4.

PENDULINE TIT *Remiz pendulinus* 2 adults 1juv. in phragmites behind beach at Istro 22.10.

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GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* Recorded from Plakias early April. 2 olive groves Plakias 23.4. 2 Megalopotamos 24.4. Small passage late April. 5+ Geros river 24.4, 4 Georgeoupolis 26.4. also recorded Moni Preveli, Skoutalonas river and near Chora Sfakion. Heard near Aghia Galini early May. Single f Aghia Reservoir and Ag. Triada also m Kalo Horio 5.5. and at Lake Kournas also in May.

ISABELLINE SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus* Between Georgeoupolis and Rethymnon on the old road one adult on wires 4.10. One juv. on east side of Lassithi plateau 6.10.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* Recorded from Plakias early April. One adult on northern highway E. of Bali in roadside bushes 10.10. Juveniles in October at Malia 14.10, Istro 15.10, Elounda 19.10.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor* Single Malia Marsh 6.5.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* Recorded from Plakias early April. 3 Malia 6.4. 1 Ag. Roumeli 14.4. 1 Aghia res. 18-19.4. 1 Georgeoupolis 19.4. Singles during 20-26.4 Plakias and elsewhere in late April. 1 Aghia Galini early May. One Agios Nikolaos 3.5 and Plaka 4.5. Pair Hersonisos 4.5, Singles Keratokampos 8.5, Thrapanos 16.5, Agaratos Moni 16.5.

MASKED SHRIKE *Lanius nubicus* 1f Fodele beach 19.4.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* Recorded from top of Samaria gorge 29.4 and Askifou - Chora Sfakion road

ALPINE CHOUGH *Pyrhocorax graculus* Recorded from Plakias early April. 4+ Linoseli Col 29.4. 7 Ideon Antron 11.5.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* No records received.

CHOUGH *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Recorded from Plakias early April. 40+ Omalos 17.4. In April many on Omalos/ Linoseli Col area. 2+ Spili - Plakias road. In May 12.5. Plakias and two Ideon Antron 11.5. In October 2 Omalos 8.10. 2 Lassithi 18.10.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* Recorded from Plakias and Mt Yuchtas early April. 50+ at Bridge near Knossos. Mainly in colonies in gorges such as Kourtaliotiko. In October groups of 20+ near cliff faces.

HOODED CROW *Corvus corone cornix* Common throughout the island.

RAVEN *Corvus corax* Regularly seen in mountains. Recorded from Plakias early April. One pair Plakias beach 20-26.4. 12 on Lassithi 8.4. 2 seen near American Listening Station 13.4. Single 14.4. Pairs recorded through the island everyday 9-17.4. but also singles recorded as widespread in April and May. In October recorded as frequent in mountain and rocky coastal areas. 2 Skopi 13.10, 2 Selinari Gorge 14.10, 2 Spinalonga Island 21.10.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* One Lassithi 30.9. In October 50+ Almyros 16.10, and Istro 22.10.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* Recorded near Heraklion, Makryalos, Lassithi, Creta Sun 6-8.4, Rethymnon.

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ITALIAN SPARROW *Passer domesticus italiae* Commoner than House Sparrow.

SPANISH SPARROW *Passer hispaniolensis* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 Plakias beach 20.4. A few Almyretha 21.4. One m Georgeoupolis 26.4. One Bali 5.10. One Istro 10.10.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* 1 Souda Bay Cemetery 18.4.

ROCK SPARROW *Petronia petronia* No records received.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* Abundant everywhere.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* 2 at Knossos 14.4. 1 Phaestos 15.4. 4+ Souda Bay cemetery 18.4. at Aghia Triada, Akrotiri and Tavronitis. 6 Keritis river mouth 21.4. and Aghia reservoir 1.5. Westerly records only?

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* Fairly common.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* Very common. 100s on Lassithi 18.10.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* No records received.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* Quite common in small flocks.

TRUMPETER FINCH *Bucanetes githagineus* No records received.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* No records received.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* One Meso Potomi 6.4.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* No records received.

CIRL BUNTING *Emberiza cirlus* Recorded from Plakias early April. 1 singing above Dikti cave 6.4. 4+ Lassithi 8.4. also 3+ on the Lassithi plateau 23.4. Kera on Lassithi 30.9 and Lassithi 6.10.

ROCK BUNTING *Emberiza cia* One female Lassithi west side. 6.10.

ORTOLAN *Emberiza hortulana* Pair at Lake Kournas 2.4. Single male on south coast in mid April. A male at Moni Preveli and 1 Plakias beach. 2 Phalasarna 16.4. Breeding pair on road to Selia 21.4. In October 1 3.10 Omalos.

CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING *Emberiza caesia* No records received.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* Female Istro 22.10.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala* 1 Aghia Galini early May.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra* Fairly widespread. 3 Elounda 7.4, Recorded from Plakias early April. Singing Plakias beach and Damnoni 11.4. and 15.4. Small nos. scattered throughout the island as well as 6 behind Rethymnon 10.4. 1 Souda Bay cemetery 18.4. Relatively common in May.

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BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail
Scarce Swallowtail
Southern Festoon
Easton Festoon
Large White
Small White
Bath White
Gruner's Orange Tip
Clouded Yellow
Powdered Brimstone
Cleopatra
Two-tailed Pasha
Small Tortoiseshell
Southern Comma
Painted Lady
Red Admiral
Meadow Brown
Speckled Wood *P aegeria aegeria*
Wall Brown
Small Copper
Baton Blue
Holly Blue
Brown Argus
Common Blue
Skipper sp.

MOTHS

Humming Bird Hawk Moth

REPTILES

Green Toad
Stripe-necked Terrapin
Marsh Frog
Turkish Gecko
Ocellated Skink
Balkan Green Lizard
Erhards Wall Lizard
Balkan Whip Snake

INSECTS

Grasshopper sp.
Praying Mantis
Locust
Bush Cricket
Spider *Cresus niger*

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Compiled by

Stephanie Coghlan
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This report is a re-formatted version of the original report.
The text is unchanged apart from some minor amendments.

J J Coghlan
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