

CRETE
BIRD
REPORT

2005

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Introduction to Crete Bird Report 2005

Crete Bird Reports began in 1986 in response to the many people who sent in their records. These reports have been produced annually and are now available as an online archive. Past reports have usually only indicated exceptional winter records but with more birders resident on the island, year round recordings are available via websites.

Please note that these records are usually unauthenticated and rare bird information should be submitted to the Hellenic Rarities Committee on an Unusual Record Report Form for formal acceptance.

Since 2004 the internet has revolutionized the availability of information and the Hellenic Ornithological Society has a website www.ornithologiki.gr, where you can download a form or look up identification photographs and current status.

For Crete there is a site in Greek www.facebook.com/groups/birdsofcrete.

The Crete archive is on www.honeyguide.co.uk/cretebirdreports.htm and there is also a link on Fatbirder www.fatbirder.com/links_geo/europe/greececrete.htm. Roy Robinson when resident in Western Crete started www.cretewww.com in 2004.

This site is devoted to records and sites in Western Greece. www.crete-birding.co.uk and gullsofcrete.blogspot cover photography, latest news and identification problems.

Many thanks to everyone, who provided their records for the year 2005.

As usual Crete has produced plenty of surprises.

Names and Spelling: The spelling used is from the Harms Verlag Part 1 and 2 1:100,000 with some names used as in "A Birdwatching Guide to Crete" Coghlan.

CRETE BIRD LIST

The Bird List follows the order in "The Birds of Greece" Handrinos/Akriotis. 1997.

Status:

RB – resident, PM – passage migrant, AV- vagrant, MB- migrant breeder, WV - winter visitor.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **RB WV PM**

Jan: 2 recorded on Georgiupolis Lake on 26th and in **March** 50 on Lake Kournas on 12th. Then from Agia reservoir on 26th April with more than 20 rising to 30 on 23rd and less on 24th. At Georgiupolis reservoir there were 6+ on 25th and 1 at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd May.

In **August**, there were c40 including some feeding grown young on 22nd and 1 on river Kiliaris, west of Kalives on 27th.

In **Oct** 10 on Georgiupolis reservoir on 18th. In **Nov** and **Dec**, singles at Kiliaris river mouth 26th and on 1 Lake Kournas 13th Dec.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* **WV PM**

Seen at Lake Kournas on 1st **Jan**, then 170+ there on 12th **March**.

In **Dec** there were 150 there on 13th.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* **MB PM**

In **Aug** 10+ off Falasarna on 25th and two groups of 10 and 25 on 29th off the Gramvousa peninsula.

MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER *Puffinus yelkouan* **WV? MB PM**

April: 3 very distant off Plakias beach in late April believed to be this species.

GANNET *Morus bassanus* **AV**

5 off Kouremenos Bay in January with 4 juveniles and 1 adult.(AV)

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* **RB**

April: 2-4 off Silver Beach Gerani and river Skoutelonas mouth between 19th and 26th April. **May:** 3 off Itanos beach near Vai on 5th **Aug:** 6 off Gramvousa on 29th.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus* **PM**

Only recorded in **May** with 8 at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd and two there on 5th. There were two at Sitia on 4th and three at Kato Zakros on 5th. Last was a single at Agia Reservoir on 7th **May**.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* **PM WV**

In **April** 6 at Stylos on 12th and singles at Georgioupolis reservoir on 25th and Kiliaris river on 26th. One at Bramiana reservoir on 29th and in **May** twelve there on 2nd.

August: One juvenile seen at Agia reservoir on 25th.

In **Sept**, flights of 80, 30 and 150 at Provarma on 15th.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola purpurea* **PM**

Movement was recorded in **April** with 2 seen at Agia reservoir on 16th and 1 at Lake Kournas. 1 perched in a tree at the Turkish bridge in the Preveli Valley on 17th and there were 7 in off the sea at Frangocastello on 18th. 1 at Ag Triada Moni 19th. There were three at Agia on 23rd and singles there and at Georgioupolis and Elounda until the end of the month.

In **May** there were 4 at Elounda on 7th and a single there on 9th. Bramiana reservoir had 4 in late April but c30 on 2nd May. 1-3 around until 7th, when 15 at Bramiana reservoir were the last record.

August: 14 flew east of Petres river on 23rd.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* **PM WV**

3 at Bramiana reservoir on 29th April and 2nd May. Four there on 7th May.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* **PM WV**

March: Visible migration in March on 17th in Amari valley and 1 at Petres on 24th.

April: Passage recorded from 12th April from Plakias, Agia reservoir, Silver Beach Gerani, and Georgioupolis reservoir, and flocks of 2-5 until the end of the month.

May: In May flocks of 8-15 until May 7th.

August: Return passage from 22nd, with 30 circling over Cape Drapano on 22nd. There were 35 west of Almirida on 23rd and 10 west over Kalives on 24th.

In **October** 10 northwest off Rethymnon harbour on 16th, 8 west off Georgioupolis beach on 18th, and 6 west off Rethymnon beach on 20th.

Singles, in **Nov** and **Dec**, at Kiliaris river mouth and Lake Kournas.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba* **PM** **WV**

One at Elounda on 26th, 27th, and 30th of April, and still there on 1st May.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* **OB** **PM** **WV**

April: Few records this year with one at Georgioupolis reservoir on 16th April and 3 at Bramiana reservoir on 29th. In **May** there were c6 there on 2nd and c4 there on 7th.

1, at Xerocambos coastal pool, on 6th May and 1 at Elounda on the 8th & 9th May.

August: 13 circling bay and headland over Almirida on 17th. 1 circled and headed out to sea and there were 3 perched on rocks. On 23rd Aug 2 at Petres river and 2 at Almerida at dusk. 24th Aug, 10 west over Chania at dusk.

Sept: 82 heron sp. Over Provarma on 20th and a single Agia Reservoir on 30th.

Oct: 1 at Rethymnon harbour on 17th and 18th, and 12 over Aptaera on 29th.

Nov and **Dec**, singles at Kiliaris river mouth and Lake Kournas.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* **PM**

April: Singles in April and early May, with 1 at Plakias river on 13th, 1 in Moni Prevelli valley on 17th and 1 at Aposelemis river and saltmarsh on 26th and one there 3rd May. There was more movement at the end of April and early May with, 4 at Kato Zakros on 4th May and 3 at Bramiana reservoir on 29th April and c15 there on 2nd May and 2 there on 7th, which was the last Spring record.

August: Autumn movement began on 21st with 2 over Almirida and 1 at Agia reservoir on 22nd followed by 21 west over Chania on 24th and 2 at Agia reservoir on 25th and 8 east across the bay from Kastelli on 29th August.

Sept: 13 at Georgioupolis Lake on 1st and 6 over Provarma on 16th

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* **PM**

One at Kefalao on 13th Feb. (RR)

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* **PM**

20+ flew in off the sea during dust storms at Plakias 17.4. 2 seen at Platanes river near Rethymnon on 25.4. Three at Bramiana reservoir 29.4. and 1 there on 2nd May.

In August, 1 west of Kalives on 16th.

WIGEON *Anas penelope* **WV** **PM**

1 at Agia Reservoir on 16th **April**, and 1 pair at Georgioupolis on 26th **Jan**.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* **WV** **PM**

One at Itanos from 25th Dec 2004 until 1st January 2005. (AV).

TEAL *Anas crecca* **WV** **PM**

There was a pair at Bramiana reservoir on 29.4 and one male there on 2.5 and 7.5.

In **Sept** seen at Agia Reservoir on 30th and in **Dec** 30 at Lake Kournas on 13th.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* **RB** **WV** **PM**

A few at Agia reservoir on 16.4. There were 2 males and 1 female, there 23.4. and 2 there 24.4.

At Bramiana reservoir, several pairs from 29.4 – 7.5.

In Autumn, a few at Agia Reservoir on 30th **Sept** and 1 male Georgioupolis Lake on 18th **Oct** and in **Dec** 8 at Lake Kournas on 13th.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* **OB** **PM**

In **April** there were about six at Agia reservoir on 16th and 23rd. There were four there on 24th. At Georgioupolis reservoir there were two on 25th April.

In **May** one female was at Kato Zakros on the 4th and 5th, and 1 Agia Reservoir on 7th.

August: 50 east across Petres Bay on 23rd and 5 at Agia Reservoir on 25th.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* **WV** **PM**

April: A few at Agia reservoir on 16th and a pair there on 23rd. There was one male at the long pool at Aposelemis delta on 25th and 26th April.

Sept: Seen Agia Reservoir on 30th.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* **WV** **PM**

Jan: Seen Georgioupolis Lake and Lake Kournas on 1st.

One at Agia reservoir on 6th and 16th **April**.

In **Dec** seen at Lake Kournas on 13th.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* **OB** **WV** **PM**

Jan: 1 pair at Georgioupolis Lake on 26th.

Sept: Seen at Agia Reservoir on 30th.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* **WV** **PM**

One past Kalives on 11th **March**.

BEARDED VULTURE (Lammergeier) **RB**

One in Kourtaliotiko Gorge on 14th April. In August one adult and an immature at the top of the Samaria Gorge. In October one over Kourtaliotiko Gorge on 24th.

GRIFFON VULTURE *Gyps fulvus* **RB**

Winter records from Petres Gorge in **Jan**, and 3 there including a juvenile being fed on 24th **March**. Also seen in March in Kourtaliotiko Gorge.

In the south birds were recorded in the nest with juveniles at the south end of the Kourtaliotiko Gorge in mid **April**. Twenty plus birds recorded here and over Kotsiphos Gorge. 3 seen over Omalos plateau on 23rd April and 1 near Petres Gorge on 25th. In **May** recorded as seen daily with 10+ at Plaka and 12 over Katheron Plateau.

In **August** recorded from Lakki and Samaria Gorge on 19th, Koutsamatades on 20th, 3 at Petres river on 23rd and 13 over Falasarna on 25th.

In **October** recorded over Omalos and Samaria and 16 over Kourtaliotiko Gorge.

6 over Petres Gorge on 18th and 1-4 over Melidoni on 25th.

In **Dec** seen in Aradena Gorge on the south coast on 2nd and on 2 on Rodopos peninsula on the North coast on 30th Dec.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* **WV** **PM**

In **April** one at Plakias on 13.4. and 1 female at Agia reservoir on the 16th and 23rd and 24th.

In **May** one female at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd and two there on 7th. There were 6 females over Vai on 4th and 2 there on 5th. One at Plaka on 9th and on the 10th one quartering the olive groves and scrub at Xerocambos.

In **August** one immature in off the sea at Almirida on 26th and 2 immatures circling between the Gramvousa peninsula and the mainland on 29th.

Sept: 2 males over Provarma on 19th and 1 adult at Agia Reservoir on 30th.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* **WV** **PM**

One male at Itanos Beach on 4th **May**. 2 females, on Rodopos peninsula on 30th **Dec**.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* **PM**

April: One male over road close to Frangocastello flying N on 18th.

One flying N near Geropotamos(N) on 19th.

May: One at Itanos beach and one at Vai on 4th and 5th.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* **WV** **PM**

One female on 23rd January at Kouremenos Bay.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* **OB** **WV** **PM**

Oct: 1 fighting with a Hooded Crow at Provarma on 8th and one there on 17th and one at Melidoni on 25th/26th.

In **Dec** 1 in Aradena Gorge on 2nd and 1 female in Provarma Gorge on 9th.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* **RB** **WV** **PM**

A common resident, seen daily by recorders in most habitats and every month.

LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus* **RB** **WV** **PM**

One adult remained in Kouremenos area over January. In April one over Spili on 14th, and in May one at Bramiana reservoir on 7th.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* **RB**

In **May** one at Kalamavka on 7th. In **October** two including an immature over Imbros Gorge on 16th. On 24th one over Kourtaliotiko Gorge at 12.45, and a pair came over at 2.30pm. In **Dec:** One imm in Provarma Gorge on 28th.

BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraetus pennatus* **PM** **WV**

One over Gouves on 3rd **May**. In **Sept** 1 at Provarma on 15th.

In **Nov** one pale phase N of Stylos on 8th.

In **Dec** there were 3 records with another pale phase near Provarma on 7th, and two pale phases over Georgiupolis on 17th and one near Almirida-Kalives road on 29th.

BONELLI'S EAGLE *Hieraetus fasciatus* **RB** **PM?**

One juvenile, hunting regularly over Kouremenos Bay in early **January**. (AV)

There were pairs in Kourtaliotiko Gorge on 14th and Imbros Gorge on 18th April.

In **Sept** one over Provarma on 26th.

In **October** 2 over Imbros Gorge 16.10 and 31.10. One adult near Ayia Marina, Ag Theodori island on 19th.

- OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus* **PM**
 One at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd May.
- LESSER KESTREL** *Falco naumanni* **OB** **PM**
 There were 3 at Kouremonos (Plakapoyles) on 15th January.
 One male at Petres Gorge on 23rd August.
- KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus* **RB** **WV** **PM**
 Common and widespread throughout the island. Recorded at nest holes in Afrata and Therisso Gorges in April.
- RED-FOOTED FALCON** *Falco vespertinus* **PM**
April: 3 over Kourtaliotiko Gorge on 14th.
May: 7 near Kastelli on 3rd, 45 at Vai on 4th and 32 there on 5th,
 9 on migration near Vamos and 4 near Provarma on 2nd. 10 there and 20 nearby on 4th.
- HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo* **PM**
 One Provarma 20th April. One at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd May.
- ELEANORA'S FALCON** *Falco eleonora* **MB**
 Recorded on eight days from 26th April until 12th May, with 4 at Bramiana reservoir on 7th. There were many at Xerocambos on 10th May.
 In **Aug** 1 Koutsamatados Ravine on 20th. 6 hawking along ridge, above Falasarna, on 25th 1 Gramvousa and 2 circling the strait between Gramvousa and mainland on 29th.
 In **Sept** over Provarma on 20th. In **Oct** on 19th 5 at Ayia Marina over Ag Theodori island soaring and diving at western end of steep cliffs.
- PEREGRINE** *Falco peregrinus* **RB** **WV** **PM**
April: One from Panorama restaurant Myrthios on 13th and 1 in Therisso Gorge, seen twice on 24th. One male, seen food passing to female on 30th at Plaka (KB).
October: One seen near Rethymnon Pine Woods carrying prey on 20th. On the same day, one seen at Ag Irini and one at Kourtaliotiko Gorge on 24th.
Dec: 1 Provarma Gorge on 9th and 28th.
- CHUKAR** *Alectoris chukar* **RB**
 One behind Kotsiphou Gorge 13th April and one in Kourtaliotiko Gorge on 14th April. In the east there was one on Spinalonga on 27th and 2 near Ag Ioannis near Spinalonga on 30th April. Also heard on Katheron plateau and at Kato Zakros and Mt Oxa.
- QUAIL** *Coturnix coturnix* **RB** **PM** **WV**
 One flushed from undergrowth at Frangocastello on 18th April was the only report.
- WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus* **OB** **WV** **PM**
April: 1 at Stylos 12.4.
- SPOTTED CRAKE** *Porzana porzana* **PM**
January: One at Kato Zakros on 20th. (AV)

LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva*

PM

There were several at Agia reservoir on 16th April and up to 3 there on 23rd and 24th. In **May** 1 Almyros on 4th and 1 Agia Reservoir on 7th.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*

AV

April: One heard calling on Lassithi plateau on 28th April. (KB)

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

RB

WV

PM

Common, with one or two at wet areas and small pools in April and May, but 80 plus at Agia reservoir on 23rd April. Described as common in August and 27 seen on Georgiopolis reservoir on 18th October.

COOT *Fulica atra*

RB

WV

PM

Many at Agia Reservoir on 16th April and 50 + there on 23rd and 24th including one pair with five chicks. Described as numerous at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd and 7th May.

In August 30+ at Agia Reservoir on 22nd and in October there were 42 at Georgiopolis reservoir on the 18th. Seen at Kiliaris river mouth in Nov and at lake Kournas in Dec.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

PM

One at Agia Reservoir at the dam on 16th and 23rd April. One at Almyros, Ag. Nikolaos on 29th April and 2nd May. 4 in a coastal pool at Xerocambos, on 6th May and at Bramiana reservoir on 7th. Single at Agia Reservoir on 7th May.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola*

PM

One at Vai on 4th May, assumed to be a collared. (KB)

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

MB

WV

PM

April: One at Plakias Bay on 13th and at Agia Reservoir on 16th, then common on beaches and river mouths throughout April. In **May** seen at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd and Aposelemis delta on 3rd. Breeds around Crete on suitable beaches.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

WV

PM

Only recorded in **May** with 4 at Aposelemis delta on 3rd and 4 at Xerocambos coastal pool on 6th.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

WV

PM

One at Aposelemis delta on 3rd May and 2 on shoreline at Xerocambos on 5th, and 9th and 2 more in a coastal pool on 9th May.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

AV

Sept: 3 on Melindaou (2,133m) just short of summit, east of Xyloskala at head of Samaria Gorge on 22nd September. (GS) Record submitted to the Rare Records Committee.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

PM

May: One at Aposelemis delta on 3rd and one at Xerocambos coastal pool on 6th.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

WV

PM

April and May: 1 at Agia reservoir 16.4. 5 at Tavrontis river 20.4. One at Silver Beach, Gerani. 4+ at Aposelemis delta on 25th and 26th. Up to seven at Almyros,

Bramiana reservoir, Elounda, Aposelemis delta and Makryalos river 26.4.-10.5. and several at Xerocambos coastal pool on the 6th May was the last Spring record.

Aug: 7 at Agia reservoir on 23rd.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*. **PM**

May: 2 at Aposelemis delta on 3rd and 1 at Almyros (Ag.N) on 4th.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* **PM**

May: 2 at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd, 1 at Almyros(Ag,N) on 4th and several at Xerocambos coastal pool on 6th.

Aug: 2 juveniles on beach at Agia Marina on 21st.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* **WV** **PM**

One adult on the beach at Agia Marina on 21st Aug.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* **PM**

Single at Agia reservoir on 23rd April and 2 Aposelemis saltflats 26th April. 10+ at Bramiana reservoir on 29th April. 100 there on 2nd May and 50+ on 3rd, down to 20 there on 7th. Singles seen at Elounda, Katheron plateau, Makryalos river and Sitia until mid May.

August: One at Agia Reservoir on 25th.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* **WV** **PM**

Aug: 1 at Agia reservoir on 25th.

GREAT SNIPE *Gallinago media* **PM**

May: One at Kato Zakros on 4th May.(KB)

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* **WV** **PM**

Oct: One on road from Preveli Beach, flushed from underfoot from vegetated slope on 30th.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* **PM**

One at Bramiana reservoir on 29th April.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* **AV**

One at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd May.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* **PM**

One at Agia Reservoir on 16th April and one at Aposelemis long pool on 25th.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* **WV** **PM**

April: One at Frangocastello on 18th April, One at Aposelemis long pool on 25th.

May: One at Xerocambos coastal pool on 6th.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* **PM**

April: Singles at Tavronitis river on 20th, and Silver Beach, Gerani on 21st. Two at Aposelemis delta on 25th and 26th April.

May: 2 at Aposelemis delta on 3rd, and one at Xerocambos coastal pool on 6th.

Aug: 2 at Agia Reservoir 25th.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* WV PM

One behind Plakias on river on 13th April, and one at Aposelemis river on 25th.

Aug: c20 at Agia Reservoir on 25th Aug.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* PM

One heard at Agia Reservoir on 16th and common in small numbers at Tavronitis, Agia, Georgiopolis reservoir and Aposelemis river. c15 at Bramiana reservoir 29th April. c20 there on 7th May. 10 Katheron plateau on 1st May and one there 6th May.

30+ Aposelemis delta on 3rd May and 10+ Sitia on 4th May and 3 at Kato Zakros on 5th May.

Aug: c30 Agia reservoir on 25th August.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleuca* WV PM

April: Recorded on Plakias beach and river mouth 12th- 19th April. 1-2 on shores and rivers in April. 21 at Agia Reservoir on 23rd.

In **May** recorded at Almyros (Ag.N), Bramiana reservoir, Elounda, Kato Zakros and Xerocambos until 10th.

Aug: 6 at Agia Reservoir on 25th.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* PM

Nov: 2 Kalives on 26th.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* WV PM

Jan: 26 in Kouremenos Bay on 8th Jan.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* WV

April: One at Agia Reservoir 16th April.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* WV PM

May: One at Elounda on 10th May. (KB)

YELLOW LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans* MB WV PM

Common and widespread daily in small numbers. 50+ nesting on Agia Theodori island and large flocks seen at rubbish tips were the only counts. Common from August with 600c in Kalives Bay in Dec.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* PM

May: One at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd May.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybridus* PM

50 at Bramiana reservoir on 29th April and 3 there on 2nd May.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* PM

May: Several at Georgiopolis Lake on 2nd.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* PM

20+ at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd May, and 1 there later in the day. Single at Georgiopolis Lake 2nd May. There was one at Aposelemis river on 3rd May. Another single at Xerocampos coastal pool on 6th May.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*

RB

Some wild type birds seen at Kotsiphos and Kourtaliotiko Gorges. Domesticated birds common around towns and villages. 10 Petres Gorge on Oct 18th.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

RB

WV

PM

A thinly spread species only reported from below Myrthios on the south coast and c.20 near the top of the Samaria Gorge. One in Sept at Provarma Gorge.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto.*

RB

Common and widespread in towns and countryside villages. 100+ east at dawn and west at dusk at the east end of Rethymnon 15-21.10.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

MB

PM

April: One in Afrata Gorge on 20th, and also recorded on 7 days 2-3 until 10th May.

Largest flock was 10+ at Kato Zakros on 4th May.

Aug: Common around Almirida ,17th-30th August.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

PM

One flying over fields below Ag. Triada archaeological site on 15th April and Two near Ag. Ioannis on 30th. One on the Katheron plateau on 1st May.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET

Escape

5 seen on 17th October at dawn over Rethymnon beach.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

RB

WV

PM

1 Provarma on 30th Sept.

SCOPS OWL *Otus scops*

RB

PM

April: Heard in gorges, Samaria on 16th, Therisso on 24th and Kato Zakros on 5th May.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

MB

PM

August: 3+ seen and heard around hotel in Almirida, 19th- 30th Aug.

SWIFT *Apus apus*

MB

PM

April and May: Good numbers seen daily from 12th. Breeding in the large towns of Chania, Rethymnon, Iraklion.

Sept: Returning migration seen over Provarma.on 16th.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*

MB

PM

April: Seen daily from 12th April. Small flocks in April, larger groups 20-30 in early May until 10th May.

August: Up to 10 over Almirida every evening. **Sept:** 100's over Provarma on 16th.

And 23rd with other hirundines. 300+ over on 25th. Last record 150 over Provarma on 7th Nov.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

WV

PM

Jan: Seen at Georgiopolis Lake and Lake Kournas .

April: One at Plakias during the week 12th-19th April.

August: Common on coast around Souda Bay, Almirida and up to 4 at Agia reservoir from 17th- 30th August. **Sept:** 1 at Lake Kournas on 17th.

Oct: 1 in Rethymnon harbour and one at Georgioupolis reservoir, both on 18th.

Dec: 1 river Kiliaris, nr Kalives, river mouth on 16th.

BEE-EATER *Merops superciliosus* **MB** **PM**

Heard passing over Plakias during a duststorm 17th **April.** 2+ heard and seen over Aposelemis river on 24th and 25th April.

In **May** 28 at Vai on 5th. and 10 at Stylos on 6th and on the 7th at Agia Reservoir

Sept: Recorded at Georgioupolis Lake on 8th, 9th, 25 there on 17th.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* **MB** **PM**

April: 2 birds behind Kotsiphos Gorge on 13th. Reported breeding in valley behind Plakias along footpath to Mirthios. 1 Agia Triada Moni on 19th.

Aug: 1 at Chania 22nd August. **Sept:** 1 at Mathes on 1st.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* **MB?** **WV** **PM**

Sept: 1 near Falasarna archaeological site on 29th.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* **MB** **WV** **PM**

April: A few at Spili on 14th and at Frangocastello on 18th.

May: 2 on Katheron plateau on 1st and 10 there on 6th.

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata* **RB**

Common and widespread breeding bird, in fields and coastal scrub. Reported in April, May and in August and Rethymnon Fortezza on 16th Oct and 2 near Rethymnon Pines on 17th.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* **RB** **PM**

April: Recorded at Spili 'bumps' on 14th and Omalos plateau on 16th and 23rd.

May: 4 on Katheron plateau on 1st and 6 there 6th. 1 at Mt Oxa on 8th and near Kato Pines on 9th.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* **OB?** **WV** **PM**

April: 1 small flock c15 birds on Spili 'bumps' on 14th.

Oct: 2 near Rethymnon Pines on 20th.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* **PM**

April: Several at Agia reservoir on 16th and 200+ there on 23rd, down to 50 there later in the day. Then small numbers daily throughout the month.

May: Many on passage 30th April until 7th May with maximum numbers at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd.

Aug: Reported as common.

CRAG MARTIN *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* **RB** **WV** **PM**

Jan: Seen at Georgioupolis Lake, Lake Kournas and Vamos. **March:** in flocks with House Martins over Vamos.

April: Regular in Kourtaliotiko and Kotsiphos and Samaria Gorges.

May: Singles on Katheron plateau on 1st and Selinari Gorge on 3rd, and Kato Zakros Gorge on 5th. In **Aug** and **Oct** still in the Samaria Gorge and Imbros Gorge.

In **Dec** seen in Provarma Gorge on 28th.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* MB PM

First record from 15th **March**. Many small flocks passing through daily from 12th April until 26th. 30+ at Aposelemis river on 26th. Numbers built up from 27th until 2nd May. None recorded after 10th May.

In **August** common and small flocks in **October** until 18th.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* MB PM

April: One at Moni Prevelli on 17th and 6 at Knossos valley 25th.

May: One near Kalamavka on 2nd and 7th.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* MB PM

March: Some over Vamos and Georgiopolis on 12th and 24th.

April: Many hundreds passing through daily from 12th – 19th. Recorded over Afrata, nr Laki, Therisso and Aposelemis river. Many on passage from 30th April until 8th May with peak numbers at Bramiana reservoir on 2nd May. Last records moving through on 4th May.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris* MB PM

One on 11th **January** at Kouremenos, Plakapoyles. In **April** singles recorded at Spili on 14th and at Plakias on 17th and at Gouvenatou Moni on 22nd.

In **August** one flew from beach at Petres river on 23rd.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* WV PM

April: Increasing common throughout the week 12th – 19th. Two on Omalos plateau and one at Gerani on 23rd.

Oct: 5 in stubble at Georgiopolis reservoir on 18th Oct.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* WV PM

April: One at Phaestos on 15th and another with a Yellow Wagtail flock at Plakias on 17th, after a dust storm.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* MB PM

April: Small flocks seen from 12th onwards. Largest flock was 40+ at Elounda on 27th with both *flava* and *feldegg* races.

August: Returning migrants common in August. **Sept:** Singles seen at Stylos and Agia Reservoir on 26th and 30th.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* RB? WV PM

October: Several singles at Rethymnon and Georgiopolis reservoir in the 3rd week of October. Single in Kalives on 26th November.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* RB WV PM

Jan: Seen 1st Jan at Georgiopolis Lake and at Lake Kournas.

April: One male Pied adult *yarrelli* at Plakias river mouth on 13th, possibly the same as recorded in the previous October. One white at Kourtalioitiko on 18th. 1+ seen at Petres river 21.4. and 1 at Elounda 27.4. and 1 at Ag Ioannis on 30th.

May: 1 Sitia harbour 4th and one at Itanos on 5th.

August: Common.

October: Singles recorded in October. 1 at Kiliaris river mouth on 26th **November.**

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* RB WV PM

Heard and occasionally seen throughout and recorded in gorges and on the Lassithi and Katheron plateaus.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* RB

Resident but no reports in 2005.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* WV PM

Jan: Seen on 1st Jan at Lake Kournas.

October Recorded from 7th onwards from Rethymnon, Georgiopolis, Agia Irini and Provarma.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* MB PM

April: One at 'Spili bumps' on 14th April. One heard in full song at bridge over stream at Agia Reservoir 23rd.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* WV PM

Oct: One at Imbros Gorge on 31st.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* MB? PM

April: Several in Plakias bay after rain on 14th. Seen on reeds at Agia Reservoir on 16th. 1-2 recorded daily from 20th. 2 at Spinalonga peninsula on 27th.

May: c6 at Kato Zakros on 4th and 2 there on 5th. 4 on Katheron Plateau on 6th.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* RB WV PM

Resident. Common breeding bird, pairs seen at Afrata, Petres river mouth, Spili fields and Knossos.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* MB PM

April: 4 at Frangocastello on 18th. Individuals elsewhere during week 12th-19th April. 10+ moving through on the 23rd. 1 on Lassithi plateau on 28th.

In **May** on Katheron plateau on 6th.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica* MB PM

April: First record in Kourtaliotiko Gorge on 14th. 2 at Moni Prevelli on 17th. 1 at Frangocastello on 18th. 2 males at Gouvenatou Moni on 22nd, singles on 23rd on Omalos, at Therisso on 24th, Lassithi plateau on 28th and 2 at Ag Ioannis on 30.4.

May: 2 Katheron plateau on 1st and 6 there on 6th. 2 Kato Zakros 5th and 3 at Bramiana reservoir on 7th, 1 Mt Oxia on 8th, and at Xerokambos from 4th-10th.

August: Recorded during the month.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius* RB PM WV?

March: Seen in Kourtaliotiko Gorge on 29th.

April: A pair at Kourtaliotiko Gorge and Kotsiphos Gorge on 13th and Moni Prevelli on 17th. Seen at Afrata Gorge on 20th and Kotsiphos Gorge on 21.4.

May: Up to 3 seen daily. 10+ Kato Zakros Gorge on 5th and seen at Xerokambos 5th-10th May.

August: Recording throughout the month. In **Sept** at Provarma on 8th.

October: 1 male at Perivolia Rethymnon on 19th and 2 males and 1 female at Agia Irini on 20th.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* **RB PM WV**

Resident and common in many habitats.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelus* **WV PM**

Jan: 1 at Vamos on 1st.

October: 1 at Imbros Gorge on 31st.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* **WV PM**

80+ remaining from 20th December 2004 and until end of **January** 2005 around Palekastro. Also in **Jan** 7 at Litsandi in west on 21st, later 14 there. In **Feb**, 9 and 20 there on 9th.

Dec: A flock seen at Meldoni on 26th.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* **RB**

Common breeding bird. Heard but rarely seen from a variety of habitats, except on the high plateaus. Recorded **Jan – August**.

FAN-TAILED WARBLER (Zitting Cisticola) *Cisticola juncidis* **RB**

May: Two on the Aposelemis delta on 3rd May. (KB).

MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Acrocephalus melanopogon* **PM WV**

Jan: One at Kato Zakros on 20th January (AV).

AQUATIC WARBLER *Acrocephalus paludicola* **PM**

Sept: One at Agia Reservoir on 30th.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus paludicola* **PM**

April: Several at Agia Reservoir on 16th.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* **MB PM**

One at Damnoni on 14th April and one at Tavronitis river mouth on 20th April.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* **OB PM**

April: 1 at Damnoni on 14th, one at Agia Reservoir on 16th, one at Almyros(Ag. Nik) on 29th. In **May** singles there on 4th May, at Vai on 5th and Elounda on the 10th May.

OLIVACEOUS WARBLER *Hippolais pallida* **MB PM?**

April: Seen and heard at Agia Reservoir on 24th. Heard at Aposelemis river on 26th. 10+ singing there on 3rd **May**.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* **PM**

Sept: One at Provarma on 27th.

SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala* **RB PM WV**

Common and widespread. Breeding pairs reported daily. Seen from a variety of habitats including in towns, except in the far east.

- WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis* **MB** **PM**
Sept: 8 at Georgiopolis Lake on 16th.
- BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla* **RB?** **PM** **WV**
Jan: Seen at Vamos, Georgiopolis and Lake Kournas on 1st.
April: One singing in Spili carpark 14th April and one female at Souda on 17th.
- WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* **PM**
April: One at Moni Prevelli on 17th April. One at Ag Triada Moni on 19th.
 In **August** one in Therisso Gorge on 19th.
- CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita* **PM** **WV**
Jan: Recorded at Vamos, Georgiopolis Lake and Lake Kournas on 1st.
April: One at Souda on 17th April was a late record.
Oct: One at Perivolia, Rethymnon on 16th Oct.
Dec: Seen in Kalives centre on 16th.
- WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus* **PM**
 One at Kato Zakros on 4th May.
 In **October** 1 at Perivolia , Rethymnon on 20th.
- GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus* **RB?** **PM** **WV**
April: One in Imbros Gorge on 18th April. and there on 31st **October**.
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata* **MB** **PM**
 Only 3 sightings during 12th-19th April. In **May** 10+ at Kato Zakros on 4th and 4 there on 5th. Two at Bramiana reservoir on 7th and 2 near Kato Pines on 9th.
 In **Sept** 1 at Georgiopolis Lake on 16th.
- COLLARED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula albicollis* **PM**
April: One male at Moni Prevelli on 17th and one male and female at Gerani on 21st.
May: 4 males and 2 females at Kato Zakros on 4th.
- PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca* **PM**
April: 1 at Provarma on 8th. Seen at Mirthios on 13th and Moni Prevelli on 17th.
May: 1 male at Kato Zakros on 4th.
- SEMI-COLLARED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula semitorquata* **PM**
April: One male at Afrata Gorge on 20th April.
- BLUE TIT** *Parus caeruleus* **RB**
 Common and widespread in the uplands, in gorges and on plateaus.
- GREAT TIT** *Parus major* **RB**
 Common and widespread. Usually lower than Bluetit.
- SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER** *Certhia brachydactyla* **RB**
Oct: One in Imbros Gorge on 31st.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

PM

April: 2 males at Phaestos on 15th. 2 Stylos stream on 18th and 27th. 1 seen in Armeni woods on 21st and 1 at Agia Reservoir on 24th. 2 at Meso Potemi on route to Lassithi on 28th, and Provarma on 29th

In **May** 3 on Katheron plateau on 1st, and near Kalamavka on 2nd. One Kato Zakros on 4th and 6 there on 5th. One nr Vai on 5th and in Xerocambos area between 4th and 10th.

In **Sept** recorded in Provarma with singles on 8th, 15th and 23rd.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

PM

August: One male near Garalochori(Almirida) on 27th and one male near Chania airport on 30th.

Sept: One at Georgioupolis on 1st, 1 Provarma on 16th and also at Georgioupolis and at Lake Kournas the next day.

Oct: 1 Melidoni in first winter plumage on 25th/26th.

Last record **Nov** 1 male at Provarma on 8th.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*

PM

August: 2 males on Omalos plateau on 19th August.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator ssp badius*

MB

PM

April: First records from 8th. Singles at Plakias during 13th and 19th April. Two Makryalos river and 1 at Bramiana reservoir all on the 29th.

May: 4 at Kato Zakros on 5th, and 3 on Katheron plateau and one at Plaka on 6th. 1 Mt Oxa on 8th and nr Haugas on 9th and in Xerocambos area near 10th.

August: 3+ Omalos plateau and 1 near Lakki on 19th.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

RB

One seen in pines near top of Imbros Gorge road and in Samaria Gorge and in the foothills on 23rd April.

RED-BILLED CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

RB

Flocks of 40-45 birds over Samaria Gorge in April, Aug and Oct.

Small flocks seen over Katheron plateau and Kourtaliotiko Gorge.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

RB

Common in gorges and 20+ at Bramiana reservoir 29th April. Breeding in the Morosini viaduct nr Knossos. Recorded in Petres Gorge in Oct and 12 in Provarma on 1st November.

HOODED CROW *Corvus corone corone*

RB

Common and widespread resident. 100+ Provarma on 6th.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

RB

Common in small numbers daily. Recorded in gorges and singles and pairs in the mountains. In Oct seen at Ag Irini, Omalos /Samaria Gorge, Kourtaliotiko Gorge, Petres Gorge, Aptera, Imbros Gorge, Aradena Gorge, Melidoni and Provarma.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

WV

PM

April: One at Aposelemis river on 25th April was a late migrant.

Sept: Seen at Agia Reservoir on 30th.

Nov: 4 Provarma on 8th.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* **RB WV**

Less common than Italian Sparrow.

ITALIAN SPARROW *Passer domesticus x italiae.* **RB**

Common breeding everywhere. Breeding colonies in holes in concrete posts and hotel walls. Roosting flock of 1,000 flying west at dusk over Perivolias towards Rethymnon, in late October, with some greenfinches.

SPANISH SPARROW *Passer hispaniolensis* **OB WV PM**

Seen in **April** in small flocks during 12th-19th week. In **May** 3 at Aposelemis river on 3rd May.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* **RB WV PM**

Common and widespread resident.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* **RB WV PM**

Jan: Recorded Vamos, Georgiopolis, Lake Kournas on 1st.

April: One recorded in Plakias in mid April, and seen and heard at El Venizelou Graves Park, above Chania on 22nd. Singles at Lassithi plateau on 28th and Skinias on 30th.

Aug: 1 Limonopolis Water Park on 22nd. **Oct:** 1 Georgiopolis Lake on 18th

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* **RB WV PM**

Common and widespread resident.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* **RB WV PM**

Common and widespread in small flocks in April and May and in August and October.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* **RB WV PM**

Small flocks widespread throughout the island reported in Jan, April and May.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* **WV? PM**

One at Kouremenos on 21st Jan.

CIRL BUNTING *Emberiza cirrus* **RB**

April: Recorded behind Plakias on 13th and also seen behind Kotsiphos Gorge on the same day. . 3+ at Omalos plateau in different areas on 23rd. 2 on Lassithi plateau on 28th.

May: Recorded on Katheron plateau in early May.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* **PM**

April: One at Spili on 14th April and another west of Plakias on 17th April.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra* **RB WV PM**

April: Large flock at Spili on 14th and heard at Spili bumps on 21st. 6+ singing males on Lassithi plateau on 28th April.

In **May** 4+ on Katheron plateau on 1st and 6th.

MAMMALS:

Mammal List follows 'The Mammals of Britain and Europe' Corbet/Ovenden. Collins 1980.

Eastern Hedgehog *Erinaceus concolor* Recorded live in April and dead on the road.

Beech Marten *Martes fiona* Several dead on the road in April One Ag. Constandinos Lassithi 5.10.

Badger *Meles meles* One dead on road.

Kri Kri Wild Goat *Capra aegagrus* Samaria Gorge seen from taverna.

AMPHIBIANS

Amphibian and Reptile List follows 'Reptiles and Amphibians of Britain and Europe. Arnold/Burton. Collins 1978.

Green Toad *Bufo viridis* Agia Reservoir

Common Tree Frog *Hyla arborea* Agia reservoir.

Cretan Marsh Frog *Rana cretensis* Agia reservoir.

REPTILES The order follows Arnold/Burton as above.

Stripe-necked Terrapin *Mauremys caspica* April at Agia reservoir.

Balkan Green Lizard *Lacerta trilineata* Common around Agia Reservoir.

Erhard' s Wall Lizard Recorded on north and south coast in April.

Ocellated Skink *Chalcides ocellatus* One found sadly dead.

Dice snake *Natrix tessellata* Tavronitis river

BUTTERFLIES The order follows 'The Butterflies of Greece' Pamperis 1997.

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*

Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius*

Cretan Festoon *Z. cerisyi f. cretica*

Large White *Pieris brassica*

Small White *Pieris rapea*

Mountain Small White *Artogeia ergane*

Western Bath White *Pontia daplidice*

Eastern Dappled White *Euchlonia simplonia*

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Southern Comma *Polygonia egea*

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* .

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Southern Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*
Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*
Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*
African Grass Blue *Zizeeria knysna*
Lang's Short-tailed Blue *Syntarucus pirithous*
Baton Blue *Pseudophilotes baton*
Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*
Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*
Lulworth Skipper *Thymelicus acteon*
Mallow Skipper *Carcharodus alceae*
Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages*

INSECTS

Egyptian Grasshopper *Anacridium aegyptian* Common
Hungarian Grasshopper *Acrida ungarica*
Cicada *Cicada orni*
Italian Bug *Graphosoma italicum* Red and black shield bug.
Cretan Soldier beetle *Lygaeus saxatilis* Common.
Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa violacea* Common.
Paper Wasp *Polistes gallicus*
Pharoah's Ant *Monomorium pharaonis*
7 spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* Common
10 spot Ladybird *Adalia 10-punctata*
Pollen beetle *Oxythyrea funestra*
Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumethopoea pityocampa*
Hummingbird Hawkmoth *Macroglossom stellatum*
Emperor dragonfly *Anax imperator*
Scarlet Darter *Crocothemis erythraea*
Banded Demoiselle *Agrion splendens*
Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*
Beautiful Demoiselle *Calopteryx virgo*

OTHER TAXA

Freshwater Crab *Potomon potamios*
Pill Woodlouse *Armadillidium vulgare*
Cretan Door Snail *Albinaria inflata*
Mediterranean White Snail *Albae candidissima*

CRETE BIRD REPORT 2005

CONTRIBUTORS DATES OF RECORDS: CRETE 2005

January 2005	Alan Vittery
1 st Jan – 29 th March 2005	Roy and Raye Robinson
28 th April – 31 st December	Roy and Raye Robinson
12 th April – 19 th April 2005	HONEYGUIDE, Ivan Nethercoat and Chris Gibson
19 th April – 26 th April 2005	THE TRAVELLING NATURALIST, Stephanie Coghlan
26 th April – 10 th May 2005	Rosie and Keith Barnes
4 th May – 10 th May 2005	Mari Roberts and Christian Gotsch
17 th August – 30 th August 2005	Richard Allen
Sept 2005	Gary Steele
Early Sept – 3 rd November 2005	Derek Walduck
15 th October- 21 st October 2005	Tom Dougall and Gill Arbuthnot
18 th October – 25 th October 2005	Kenneth Beint