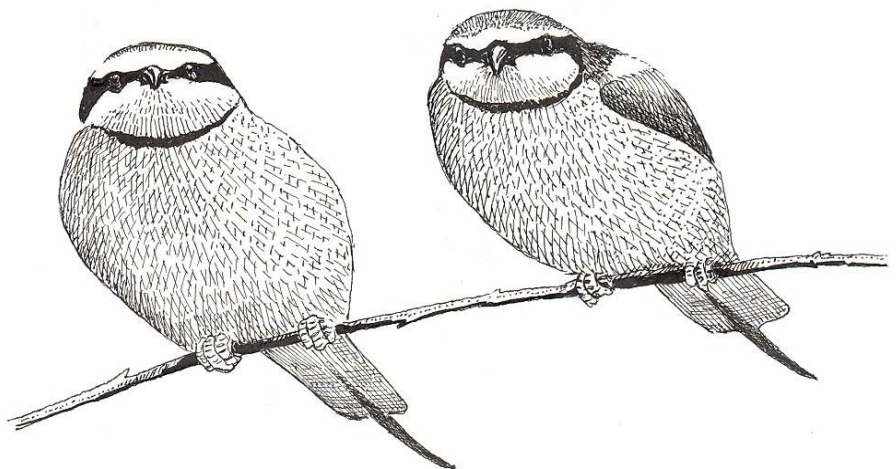


CRETE BIRD REPORT 2004

Compiled and edited by:
Stephanie Coghlan
25 Thorpe Lane
Huddersfield
HD5 8TA



Introduction to Crete Bird Report for 2004

Crete Bird Reports began as a courtesy to those who sent in their records for 1986, so we now have a good database of migration dates and rarities as Reports have been produced almost annually. Many thanks to everyone who has provided their records for 2004. As usual Crete has produced plenty of surprises over the year. Apologies for the great delay in compiling your records.

Weather: For six weeks from early March onwards until 21st April it was hot and sunny, meaning migrants passed over in the clear weather. The remainder of the month and May was very variable, often overcast, showers, windy, cold and cloudy until it settled and became hot again by the start of June.

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.

Illustrations: Many thanks to Ken Baldridge for his illustrations.

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

Latin names have been changed to current usage, but species order has not yet been changed to aid comparison of yearly reports.

STATUS: rare, scarce, common, locally common, introduced.

RB - resident, PM - passage migrant, MB - migrant breeder,

WV - winter visitor, AV - vagrant

CRETE BIRD LIST

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

RB WV PM

First record from Agia reservoir on 11.4, 20+ there 17.4 and many records from Thrapsano, Georgiopolis and Lake Kournas throughout April.

In May 1-3 recorded at Bramiana and Agia reservoir. Breeding records in June and July with juveniles being seen at Agia and Georgiopolis reservoirs.

In September 1 on the sea 22.9 off Georgiopolis and 6 on the reservoir 21.9.

In Oct c50 at Agia reservoir 1.10 and 100+ there 16.10, 5 at Georgiopolis reservoir on 14.10 and 10+ there 21.10.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

WV PM

1 Kouremenos Bay 24.11. (AV)

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

WV PM

1 Kournas Lake 27.9.(GS)

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*

MB PM

April: 2 at Frangocastello 19.4. and 2 off Aposelemis delta 14.4 and several offshore Silver Beach, Gerani 21.4. 150 following fishing boat off Panormo 21.4. and 40 there on 24.4.

May: They were recorded as common off Xerocampos between 4-18.5.

1 seen from boat on E side of Gramvousa peninsula on return from Imeri 23.5.

Sept: In Sept 5 off Falasarna 24.9. (CH)

MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER *Puffinus yelkouan* WV? MB PM

April: 3 off Plakias beach 18.4. and recorded off North coast near Chania 21.4.

Seen from fishing boats off Gerani 21.4. and 22.4.

May: 1 off Cape Plaka 7.5.

December: 1 flying east off Cape Mavros 2.12. (AV)

GANNET *Morus bassanus*

AV

Dec: 1 juvenile flying N off Itanos 23.12. (AV)

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

WV PM

No records in 2004.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

RB

April: 1-2 off Kolimbari on 21.4.- 26.4. 1 near Kissamos 23.4. Small numbers offshore Cape Plaka and Elikas Bay 4.-18.5.

May: Recorded west off Chania offshore 17.5.- 23.5.

Sept. One immature off Falasarna 24.9.

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

PM WV

No records in 2004

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus*

PM

April: Singles from 15.4 Lassithi pools, 1 at Agia reservoir 20 & 21.4. 4 at Agia 24.4. 8 there 25.4. and at 2 at Georgiopolis Lake 26.4.

May: 1 male Kouremenos pools 5.5. and 1 female there 9.5. 1 male there 13.5. 1 Bramiana reservoir 12.5. 6-7 at Agia reservoir in 3rd week in May.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

PM WV

April: 1 dead and 1 flying at Agia reservoir 11.4.

May: 1 at Sitia river 8.5. 2 at Agia reservoir 30.5.

Oct: c20 juveniles at Georgiopolis at midday 2.10. and 35 at dusk there.

2 flying west over sea at Georgiopolis 3.10.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralliodes*

PM

April: Records from 13th with singles seen on most days on south coast and 5 at Plakias beach on 18.4. Recorded at Kournes, Geropotamos river, Aposelemis delta, Agia Reservoir, Petres river, Georgiopolis Lake and Lake Kournas. There were singles at Kato Zakro on 14th and Silver Beach, Gerani on 16th.

May: Up to 10 daily at Palekastro in first half on May, also records from Bramiana reservoir, Agia reservoir during the rest of May.

June: 1 at south end of Agia Reservoir at 25.6. No Autumn records.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

PM WV

Feb: 8 at Geropotamos river on 26th. **May:** 1 at Kouremenos /Chiona on 5. and 6.5. 3 there 7.-15.5.

Nov: 1 Kouremenos 15.-22.11. and 1 Sitia 29.11. **Dec:** 1 Itanos 19.12.(AV)

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

PM WV

April: Largest flock 24 at Plakias on 20th. Singles recorded from 7th and small numbers 1-4 recorded daily until end of May.

June: 3 at Agia reservoir 25.6. and there were 2 there on 1st July.

In **September** 1 at Elounda salt pans on 11.9. 5 east at Georgiopolis 21.9 and 19 east there 21.9.

Oct: 103 circling over Georgiopolis 1.10 and 19 west there 3.10.

1 Souda Bay 6.10 and 11 flying offshore El Greco hotel, Rethymnon 9.10. 6 roosting Petres river on 14.10 and 1 near Rethymnon 15.10 and 1 west offshore there was the last record on 18th.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba*

PM WV

April: 2 flying over Panormo 27.4. and in **May** 1 Kouremenos Bay on 6.5.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

OB PM WV

April: Recorded daily in April from 11.4. in small numbers 1-4. Largest flock was 20 off Frangocastello on 19th.

May: A large flock of 23 flew N at Xerocampos 16.5.

Sept: 1 at Bramiana reservoir 10.9. 12 landed on Mochlos Island 21.9. and on the same day there were flocks of 125, 9, 35 east over Georgiopolis. 17 over Elaphonisi 23.9.

Oct: 5 Agia reservoir 1.10 and 105 west over Georgiopolis 2.10 and 17 west there on 4th. 4 at Agia reservoir on same date. Singles and flocks around until 21.10.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*

PM

April: Singles at Agia Reservoir 17.4. 6 at Frangocastello 19.4. 1 perched in trees by Moni Prevelli valley 18.4. 1 at Gouves 20.4. then 1-2 at wet areas until 16.5.

Sept: Flocks c15 and 17 flying E Georgiopolis on 21.9.

Oct: 36 flying W over Georgiopolis 3.10. **Dec:** 1 Kouremenos 4.11. (AV)

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* **PM**

Two records 1 on Geropotamos river(N) on 26.4. One in November near Vai on 12th.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* **PM**

May: Flock of 40 over Palekastro on evening of 4th and 24 circling high there on the morning of 5th.
1 seen over Chania Camping in late May.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* **PM**

Only one record with one at Kouremenos pools 5th – 9th **May**.

Spoonbill. *Platalea leucorodia* **PM**

No records for 2004

GREATER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus ruber* **WV?** **PM**

1 at Aposelemis lagoon 11.- 20.4.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* **OB** **WV** **PM**

3 at Agia reservoir 30.5.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* **AV**

No records for 2004

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* **WV**

No records for 2004

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* **WV**

No records for 2004

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* **AV**

No records for 2004

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* **AV**

One first winter bird in Iraklion old port 28.12. (MD) (photo)

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* **AV**

One female at Bramiana reservoir on 13th November was a first record for Crete.(MD)

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

One at Thrapsano 15.4.

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

Two at Thrapsano on 15th April.

In October 5 at Agia Reservoir 8.10 building up to 18 there, on 16.10.

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

1 at Itanos 25.12. (AV)

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

Two at Aposelemis delta 14.4 and also, several seen at Agia reservoir 11.4. and, throughout April. In May there were 5 at Bramiana reservoir on 12th.

In Autumn recorded at Georgiopolis reservoir 21.9. and at Agia reservoir 3-10 seen there in October.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* **WV** **PM**

May: 1 male at Bramiana reservoir 12.5. **Sept:** 8 at Georgiopolis reservoir 21.9.

Oct: c60 off Georgiopolis on the sea 4.10 and 1 on Georgiopolis reservoir 5.10.

2 at Agia reservoir 10.10 and 1 there 16.10.

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

April: 2 at Thrapsano 15.4. and c6 at Agia reservoir on 17.4. and 3 there on 18.4 and small numbers there until 25th. **Sept:** 2 at Agia reservoir 26.9.

Oct: 1 at Georgiopolis reservoir 5.10. 1 at Agia reservoir 8.10 and 2 there 10.10.

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

April: 2 at Thrapsano 15.4. **Sept:** 2 pairs at Agia reservoir on 26.9.

Oct: 8 at Agia reservoir 1.10. 6 there 4.10 and 7 on 8.10. Last record was 6 on 16th.

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RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* **WV** **PM?**

No records from 2004

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

Sept: 3 pairs at Bramiana reservoir 10.9.

October: 1 at Agia reservoir 1.10 and then 1-6 there until until 16th October.

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

Only recorded in the Autumn this year, with 5 at Agia reservoir 26.9.

Oct: 3 at Agia Reservoir on 1st Oct rising to 15 on the 4th, then 8 there till on 16th.

Nov: 75 at Agia reservoir on 10th, and 1 female at Diaskari beach pool 26th.

In **Dec** 28 at Inia reservoir on 8th.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* **AV?**

1 at Kouremenos with a flock of Mallard 29th/30th November.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus* **AV**

No records for 2004

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* **PM**

First records of up to 8 birds during 13.-20th April. In May 1 N of Itanos 5.5. and 1 west over Palekastro on 10th and 15 flying west/northwest on 11th.

1 north on 12th and 28 west/northwest on 16th May.

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

Recorded on passage west at Palekastro from 7th – 15th May.

In **Sept** 1 south over Omalos 27.9. In **Nov:** a small influx on 4 days at the end of the month in the east.

BEARDED VULTURE (Lammergeier) *Gypaetus barbatus* **RB**

Seen at Kourtaliotiko Gorge 10. & 18.4. and Imbros Gorge 19.4.

1 over Iron Gates, Samaria Gorge in late May and 1 over Samaria Gorge 29.5.

In **Sept** 1 over Linoseli Col on 27.9. 1 Gramvousa peninsula 23.9

In **Oct** 1 Askifou plateau 4.10. and 2 Samaria Gorge 11.10.

GRIFFON VULTURE *Gyps fulvus* **RB**

Seen daily from 6th –13th April with a max of 10, recorded nesting in Selinari Gorge 11.4. and in Kourtaliotiko Gorge 13.-20.4. 15 at Selinari Gorge and in the mountains. Recorded at Lassithi 15.4. Petres Gorge, Ag. Irini crossroads, Seli Ambelou pass, Samaria Gorge, Rodopos peninsula, Mt Youchtas, Mt Psiloritis and between Chania and Falasarna.

EGYPTIAN VULTURE *Neophron percnopterus* **PM**

2 juveniles North of Zagros 12.11. (AV)

BLACK VULTURE *Aegypius monachus* **AV**

No records in 2004

SHORT-TOED EAGLE *Circaetus gallicus* **WV** **PM**

Sept: 1 Falasarna 23.9. **Nov:** Up to 3 over Kouremenos/ Kato Zakros until 28.11.

Dec: 1 Kouremenos 8.12.

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

April: Recorded almost daily from 11th, with 1-4 seen, mainly females.

May: Up to 1-3 Palekastro until 15th. **Sept:** 1 Omalos 26th and 30th Sept.

Oct: 1 Agia reservoir 1st and 1 male and female on 10th.

Dec: 1 NW over Kouremenos 25.12.

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

Records from **May & December.** 1 male flew west over Peak Sanctuary ridge 10.5.

In December males and females seen in the far east at Vai, Kouremenos and Zakros.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus* **rare** **PM**

1 first summer female south of Vai 6.5.(AV)

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygarrus* **rare** **PM**

April: 1 on route to Iraklion 13.4. 1 female at Moni Prevelli 18.4. 1 male at Kourtaliotiko Gorge and 1 at Imbros Gorge on 19.4.

May: 1 female S of Vai 8.5. and 1 west of Palekastro 11.5.

Sept: 1 juvenile S of Omalos 28.9.

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

Nov: 1 male over the Kouremenos –Vai road 11.and 19.11.

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

June and July: Sightings over Kalives headland.(MRB)

Oct: 1 Askifou plateau 4.10. 1 below Nida Plateau 9.10. 1 below Omalos plateau 11.10. 1 at Armani 15.10 1 below Omalos Plateau 16.10.

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

A common resident and widespread seen daily by recorders in most habitats.

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

April: 1 near Rodakino during 3rd week.

May: 1 Cape Plaka 7.5. 2 Palekastro 11.5. 1 SW of Vai 13.5. 2 pairs above Babonas 14.5. 1 Sw of Xerocampos 16.5. 1 Palekastro 17.5. 1 west edge of Chania in mid May.

Oct: 1 Lassithi plateau 19.10. and **Nov:** 1 adult Vai 9.11.

Dec: Recorded from Vai 12.12. 3 ad and 2 immatures Kouremenos 22.12. with adult remaining until Jan 2005.

ROUGH –LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* **PM**

1 Adult male opposite Voila Archaeological Site (Handras) 17.12.

STEPPE EAGLE *Aquila nipalensis* **PM**

1 juvenile mobbed by gulls at Bramiana reservoir 26.11. Same bird seen west over Kouremenos on 27.11, a coastal circuit of ca.70km.(AV)

SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila clanga* **PM**

Nov: 1 adult Kouremenos 16.11-19.11. (photo AV)

One juvenile flew SW at Kouremenos 26.11. (AV)

LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila pomarina* **PM**

1 flying N over Agia reservoir 17.4. with other reports that day from Agia.

1 immature Palekastro 15.5.

Nov: 1 juv NW over Kouremenos 4.11. 1 adult Vai 9.11. 1 adult Kouremenos 25.11.

Sub adult at Kato Zakros from roost in gorge with 2 Short-toed and 2 Booted Eagles 28.11. (AV)

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* **RB**

In April recorded behind Plakias and 2 over Frati. 5 over Lassithi plateau. 3 over Kourtaliotiko and Kotsiphos Gorges, 2 over Omalos and in May over Toplou in east.

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

April: 1 light phase over Agia reservoir 11.4. Singles over Omalos 24.4. and Theriso 25.4. and at Agia reservoir 25.4.

In **May** one dark phase Palekastro 5.5. 1 pale there 10 - 11.5. and 1 dark phase 15.5.

Sept: 1 Sougia 24.9. and 2 there 25.9. **Oct:** 1 pale phase Amari valley 12.10.

Nov: 6 individuals in Kouremenos, Vai area in early November with two remaining until 28th and one there on 30th.

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

Resident breeding pairs in gorges. 1 male flying and 1 female perched in Imbros Gorge 9.4. One at Prevelli in second week in April. 1 at Kourtaliotiko Gorge 17.4. 3 at Agia reservoir after a rain

shower 21.4.

In **Sept** a pair over Mesa Lassithi 19.9. and in **Dec**: 1 juvenile Kato Zakros 9.12.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* **PM**

Two sightings in April and Oct: One early in the morning over Plakias 9.4. and one at Ierapetra, Bramiana Reservoir 20.10 (MB).

LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni* **OB** **PM**

April: Five sightings during the week in Plakias area in 3rd week of April.

May: 2 Cape Plaka 7.5. and 3 flying N of Palekastros 11.5. **Oct**: 1 Imbros Gorge 4.10.

Nov: 3 Kouremenos 15th-17th Nov. 3 there 28.11.- 5.12. and 3 at Xerokambos 11.12.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* **RB** **WV** **PM**

April, May and June: Common and widespread.

In **July** 1 over headland at Kalives. In **Sept** and **Oct** recorded as frequent.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* **PM**

April: First record of 2 at Panormo 24.4. Next day a male at Gerani 25.4. and 16 at Agia reservoir on the same day.

May: 1 male N of Palekastros 5.5. 10 at Vai 8.5. and singles there 11.5. and 13.5.

3 at Palekastros 16.5. and 5 at Vai/Elikas Bay 17.5.

Sept: There were 3 on Omalos 27.9. and in **Oct**: there was one juvenile at Georgioupolis Reservoir 2nd and 3rd October.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* **PM** **WV**

Dec: 1 female at Vai 16.12. (AV)

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* **scarce** **PM**

1 seen in April on S coast near Frangocastello 19.4. and 1 on N coast at Panormo 27.4.

ELEONORA'S FALCON *Falco eleonora* **MB**

First seen near Moni Preveli 18th April. In May small numbers daily at Palekastros 4th – 18th and then flocks 10 – 25 coming in along the east coast throughout the first half of the month.

In June only 1-2 seen near Tzermiado 11.6, 2 over Mt Youchtas 15.6. 1 near Stalos opposite Theodorii island 28.6.

In the Autumn 1-2 recorded from mid Sept to mid Oct only large group reported was 7 over Omalos 29.9.

LANNER *Falco biarmicus* **scarce** **RB** **PM**

1 adult male at Xerocampos 10.5. and 1 in Samaria Gorge in late May.

Sept: 1 Bramiana reservoir 10.9. and in **Nov** one at Kato Zakros 12.11.

SAKER *Falco cherrug* **PM**

April: 1 adult female west over Palekastros 11.4. on migration (AV)

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* **RB** **WV** **PM**

Singles recorded from 8.4. in the central gorges around Plakias and Panormo.

In May recorded in the east around Palekastros, Zakros. In the west one over Agia reservoir in 3rd week in May. In June over Seli Ambelou Pass 11.6.

In Sept and Oct seen in the last week of Sept and 1st week in Oct.

CHUKAR *Alectoris chukar* **RB**

In April seen and heard at Moni Preveli, Kourtaliotiko Gorge, Omalos and Samaria Gorge, Panormo and Aloides.

In May, seen with young at Cape Plaka 7, and small numbers seen and heard until mid May. Then recorded as common in early September.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

RB

PM WV

April: 1 flushed from undergrowth at Frangocastello 19.4. and 1 Roumeli 24.4.

In **Oct:** 1 at Aposelemis river pools 17.10. In **Nov:** and **Dec:** several sightings of 1-3 at Xerocampos.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

OB

WV PM

In **Spring** 1 at Agia reservoir 18.4. In **Autumn**, 1 at Kato Zakros 14.11. and there was an influx at the end of Nov with 6 at Kouremenos 30.11, and at least 3 wintering at Kouremenos/ Chiona beach. 3 Itanos 10.12.(AV)

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*

rare

PM

Dec: 1 Kouremenos (Plakapoyles) 26.12. (AV)

LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva*

PM

April: Several males and females at Agia reservoir on 11.4. 1 there 16.4. and 6+ there 17.4. There were 2 there the next day and a single on 20th. Then 5+ there 21.4. Passage of between 2 and 8 were reported on 25th and 26th.

In **May** one was seen at Kouremenos pools on 5th.

In **September** one at Agia reservoir 26.9. and one still there on 10th November.

BAILLON'S CRAKE *Porzana pusilla*

rare

PM

Two at Agia Reservoir 20.4. (IH)

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*

rare

AV

No records in 2004

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

RB WV

PM

100 – 150 Flocks seen at Lake Kournas, Georgiopolis, Agia, Bramiana Reservoirs, while there were singles and 1-5 at wetlands and river mouths in April from 11th.

In May recorded from Sitia river, Kouremenos pools and Bramiana reservoir.

Recorded from Agia and Georgiopolis with young in June and July.

In October there were 100 at Agia reservoir from 4th –16th and up to 14 at Georgiopolis reservoir 21.10.

COOT *Fulica atra*

RB

WV

PM

A few at Agia reservoir on 11.4. then many recorded at Agia reservoir 17.4.-27th April. There were huge numbers there in June and July many with young.

In September recorded as frequent at Agia and Georgiopolis reservoirs.

The high numbers had returned in October with 250 –300 at Agia reservoir and 20-30 at Georgiopolis reservoir.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

PM

No records for 2004

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

PM

April: 12 flying around Plakias Bay on morning of 20.4. 2 at Tersanas pools 21.4. and 2 at Tavronitis river on the same date.

May: 3 Kouremenos pools 5th-7th and 1 there 8th-18th. 6 at Bramiana reservoir 12.5. and 1 Xerokambos 16.5. **July:** 2 at Agia reservoir 1.7.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

PM?

1 juvenile at Kouremenos beach 24.11. (photo A.V.)

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicanus*

RB

WV

PM

April: 2 at Gerani on beach in early morning 23.4. and 1 at Aposelemis delta 27.4 again in the early morning. In **May** one at Xerocambos 10.5.

CREAM COLOURED COURSER *Cursorius cursor*

AV

One on Lassithi plateau 15.4. (GH) Record awaiting confirmation details.

- COLLARED PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola*** *PM*
 1 hawking insects at Agia reservoir 17.4. and 21.4.
- LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*** *MB* *WV* *PM*
 Common breeding on beaches and river mouths in April, May and June. Also on passage in early May at Palekastro and Kouremenos until 17.5.
 1 at mouth of Tavronitis river on 28th June was the last record.
- RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*** *WV* *PM*
April: One on beach at Plakias 8.4. was the only record for the month.
May: All race *tundrae* recorded. One arrived at Palekastro from the south with Little Ringed Plover on 4.5. and remained at Kouremenos pools until 7.5. There was another there on 17th. 1 at Xerocampos 10.5. and there were 2 there 16.5. (*AV*)
- KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus*** *WV* *PM*
Sept: 1 at Bramiana reservoir 10.9. and in **Oct:** 5 at Frangocastello 15.10.
- GREATER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius leschenaultii*** *PM*
 One at Elafonisi on 10th November. (*MD* via *BW*)
- GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*** *WV* *PM*
 1 juvenile at Akrotiri at Hersonissos beach on 16.10. (*MB*)
- GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*** *WV* *PM*
 2 Kouremenos beach 7th–11th 11. A flock of 12 in from sea east of Ierapetra 26.11.
 1 at Toplou 7.12 and 1 there 19.12. 4 at Xerocampos 29.12.
- SPUR-WINGED PLOVER *Vanellus spinosus*** *AV*
 No records for 2004.
- LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*** *WV* *PM*
Nov: 6 at Vai 19.11, 4 there 29.11. and 6 there on 30.11.
Dec: 1 at Xerokambos on 17th.
- SANDERLING *Calidris alba*** *WV* *PM*
 3 at Platanes river 13.4.
- LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*** *WV* *PM*
 Small flocks of 3-20 seen at Aposelemis river delta, Agia reservoir and Geropotamos river (N) during April from 14th onwards.
 In May small numbers recorded daily at coastal pools in the east and 3 at Bramiana reservoir on 12th were the last Spring records.
- TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*** *scarce* *PM*
April: 1 at Geropotamos river (N) on 21.4. and a different bird there 26.4.
May: 2 at Kouremenos pools 5.5. and 5 there 6.5. A single also there on 15.5 and 1 at Xerocambos 10.5. **Oct:** 1 juvenile at Aposelemis river pools 17.10.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*** *PM*
 1 at Agia reservoir 18.4. and 3 there 21.4. and 6 at Tavronitis river on the same date.
 1 on the Geropotamos river (N) on 21.4. and 2 there 26.4.
 In May small numbers at coastal pools with a max. of 15 at Palekastro and Vai on 13.5. 1 at Bramiana reservoir 12.5. and 6 at Kouremenos pools 15.5
- DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*** *WV* *PM*
April: 1 at Aposelemis delta 20.4. and **May:** 1 Kouremenos pools 5.5.
- RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*** *PM*
April: Passage reported from 14.4. at Aposelemis delta and Thrapsano, Agia reservoir 17.4. until 24.4. and 1 female at Geropotamos river (N) on 21st.
 In **May** records from the east at Kouremenos pools until 18th.

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In **Sept** 1 at Agia reservoir 26.9. and in October 1 there on 4th.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus* **WV** **PM**

In December one recorded at Kouremenos, Plakapoyles on 14th. (AV)

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

1 flushed from a puddle on rough ground in Plakias during 3rd week in **April** and 1 at Omalos pool on 19th were the only records.

GREAT SNIPE *Gallinago media* **PM**

April: 1 at Bramiana reservoir on 20th and on Geropotamos river(N) on 22nd (BW) and again on 26th (PW). **May:** 1 over Aeolos studio, Palekastro at dusk on 9.5.

In **Nov** and **Dec:** 2 at Kouremenos pools 6.11. and 7.12. (AV)

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

Records from **Nov** with 1 at Kato Zakros 28.11. and **Dec** 1 Xerokambos 2.12. (AV)

BLACK TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* **rare** **PM**

3 at Bramiana Reservoir 10.9. (BT)

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* **WV** **PM**

1 along the coast west of Chania with an injured wing, during 3rd week in May.(TK)

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda* **AV**

Recorded in November on 23rd at Agia reservoir (via Birding World.) (Photo)

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* **rare** **PM**

2 at Geropotamos river (N) 16.4. (PW)

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

No records in 2004

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatalis* **PM**

April: One at Geropotamos river(N) on 22.4, and a single at Aposelemis long pool 27.4. were the only records.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* **PM**

April: Several on the Geropotamos river (S) on 10.4. and still 1 there on .4. 2 at Tersanas pools 21.4. and 1+ at Aposelemis delta 27.4. 1 at Geropotamos river (N) on 21.4. A different bird there 22.4. and 3 there 26.4. (PW)

May: 1 Kouremenos pools 5.5.- 13.5. 2 there 6.5. and 1 there 17.5.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* **WV** **PM**

April: 1 at Geropotamos river (S) 10.4. 1 Agia reservoir 11.4. 2 at Aposelemis delta 14.4. 1 Lassithi pool 15.4. 1 Omalos pool 19.4. and recorded at Agia reservoir 21.4.

In **May** 2 were flushed from small pond S of Vai by Pallid Harrier on 6.5.(AV)

Sept: 1 at Agia reservoir 26.9.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* **PM**

April: Recorded daily throughout from 10th, with small flocks seen at Plakias, Aposelemis lagoon, Lassithi pool, Geropotamos river mouth(N) and (S), Damnoni, Agia reservoir, Tersanas Pool, Tavronitis river mouth

May: 3 at Kouremenos pools 5.5. and 1-2 there until 13.5.2 Bramiana Reservoir 12.5.

Oct: 4 Agia reservoir 1.10.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleuca* **WV** **PM**

Recorded daily with singles up to 9 in flocks from 8th April around coasts, beaches, river mouths, in harbours, at reservoirs and inland at upland pools such as Lassithi, usually until 18th May.

In **September** singles at Elounda salt pans 11.9. and Tholos 15.9.

Oct: 3 first winters west of Georgioupolis on 1st. and 1 in the harbour 21st.

Nov/Dec Single birds winter Chiona and Xerokambos (AV)

- MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus* **PM**
Sept: 1 Kournas Lake 27.9. (GS)
- BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus* **WV**
 3 1st winters, west at Georgiupolis reservoir 1.10.
- SLENDER BILLED GULL** *Chroicocephalus genei*
 2 an adult and a 1st year winter at Kouremenos Bay 20.11.(AV)
- AUDOUIN'S GULL** *Larus audouinii* **MB**
May: 1 3rd year at Hohlakia Bay 8.5. and 3 adults Tendas Bay 11.5. (AV)
- LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus* **rare WV PM**
April: 2 following a fishing boat off Panormo 24.4. and in **May** 1 at Xerocambos 10.5. and 1 at Bramiana reservoir 12.5.
Oct: 1 adult and 1 juvenile Georgiupolis Bay 4.10.
- YELLOW LEGGED GULL** *Larus michahellis* **MB WV PM RB**
 Common and widespread.
- CASPIAN GULL** *Larus cachinnans*
 1 west over Ag. Nikolaos harbour 13.12.
- GULL BILLED TERN** *Sterna nilotica* **PM**
April: 1 flew SE off Xerocambos 10.5. (AV)
- SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis* **WV PM**
 No records in 2004
- COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo* **PM**
 No records in 2004
- LITTLE TERN** *Sterna albifrons* **rare PM**
Sept: 1 juv at Tholos (BT)
- WHISKERED TERN** *Chlidonias hybridus* **PM**
 No records in 2004
- BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger* **PM**
 1 juvenile west over Georgiupolis Bay 4.10.
- WHITE –WINGED BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias leucopterus* **PM**
 No records in 2004
- ROCK DOVE** *Columba livia* **RB**
 Feral birds are common around villages and towns. Genuine wild type birds seen in the gorges in the mountains.
- WOOD PIGEON** *Columba palumbus* **RB WV PM**
 Small numbers seen away from the coast and in the mountains throughout the island.
- COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto.* **RB**
 Common and widespread in towns and countryside villages throughout the island.
- TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur* **MB PM**
 Recorded on passage from 18th April at Moni Prevelli and Frangocastello on 19th. Small number recorded for the rest of April. The main passage was during the first two weeks of May. A few seen in the third week in May.
 In the Autumn 3 were at Falasarna 22.9. and in October a single at Aposelemis pools 17th and 1 at Rethymnon Fortezza 19th.
- GR SPOTTED CUCKOO** *Clamator glandarius* **rare PM**
 No records in 2004
- CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus* **PM**
 First record from Moni Prevelli 7.4. and Omalos plateau on 11.4. Then at Agia Triada 17.4 and 1 in Kourtaliotiko Gorge on the same day. Two on Omalos 19.4. and 1 there 20.4. Heard on Omalos on

24.4. and Therisso 25.4. 1 at Aposelemis delta 27.4. and 1 at Margarites 26.4.

In September 1 Omalos 27.9. was the only report.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* *RB* *WV* *PM*

One seen at Plakias 12.4. Another heard at Panormo most nights 20th-27th April, and seen there on 21st perched on a lamppost. A dead one on road near Chania on 23rd. 1 seen west edge of Chania in late May. One Agathia/ Chiona road on 17th May.

EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo* *RB?*

No records in 2004.

SCOPS OWL *Otus scops* *RB* *PM*

1 Omalos on evening of 19.4.1 heard at Silver Beach, Gerani on 24th and 25th April.

1 heard at midday below Bebonas 14th May were the only reports.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* *WV* *PM*

One record in December at Vai on 19th.(AV)

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* *MB* *PM*

No records in 2004

SWIFT *Apus apus* *MB* *PM*

Widespread and recorded from 11th April with good numbers everyday. Good numbers breeding in Rethymnon and Chania. A movement of 100.s daily from early May until 18th. Good numbers recorded in June at Agia reservoir and at Ag Triada Moni .

PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallida* *MB* *PM*

Good numbers with Common Swift at Frangocastello 15.4. and at Rethymnon harbour on 17.4. A single with many Common Swifts at Panormo 22.4.

In May 5 at Palekastro 5.5. and 10+ there with Common Swifts 8.5. and 1 over peak Sanctuary 17.5. Also recorded between 17-22.5 on the edge of Chania.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* *MB* *PM*

Small numbers recorded daily on the south coast 7th April onwards. Recorded throughout the rest of the month and throughout May and June.

In July very good numbers at Agia reservoir on 1st and at the Izzedine Fort, Kalami.

In September c50 over Xyloscala 30.9, 20+ Megali Horafia 23.9.

In October 6 at Georgiopolis reservoir on 3rd.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* *WV* *PM*

In **April** 1 at Turkish Bridge, Moni Prevelli valley 7.4. and 1 at Agia reservoir 11.4.

In **Sept** first record with one at Tholos 16.9, and then singles recorded throughout the month by the sea at Georgiopolis and Sougia.

In **Oct** there were up to 3 at Agia reservoir between 4th-16th and 2 at Lake Kournas on 4th and 1 at Georgiopolis reservoir 14th.

BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER *Merops persicus* *AV*

1 recorded at Mahara, Crete 2.4. (Birding World)

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

April: 16 perching in trees at Geropotamos, Aghia Triada 16th April. 13 in Moni Prevelli valley on 18th.

Main passage in the east in **May:** 14 at Palekastro 4th May and 24 there on 5th and 6th. 35 at Xerocambos on 10th. 25 Palekastro 11th and 12 there 14th. There were 20 at Vai on 17th.

Sept: Lots around Mesa Lassithi 19th and 2 at Georgiopolis reservoir on 27th.

ROLLER *Caracius garrulus* *PM*

Oct: 1 on Lassithi plateau 7.10.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* *MB* *PM*

April: 1 near Ag. Ioannis 8.4. and 1 in the olive groves behind Plakias 12.4. 2 at Phaestos 'fighting' 16.4. also 1 Geropotamos (S) river valley on the same day . 1 at Venizelou Graves Park above

Chania 23.4.

May: 1 in pines on coast E of Ierapetra 12.5. but not recorded in the Palekastro area.

June: 1 Pretoria 15.6. 1 Pyrgos 15.6. and 1 Aredena Gorge 30.6.

Sept: 1 Mesa Lassithi 18.9 and 2 Souda Bay cemetery 25.9.

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

April: 1 on Omalos plateau 11.4. 2 on Lassithi on 15th with singles on Omalos from 18th – 20th. 3+ at Venizelou Graves Park, Chania 23rd.

Oct: 1 below Nida plateau on 9th and 1 at Eleftherna on 14th and near Imbros Gorge on 15th.

CALANDRA LARK *Melanocorypha calandra* **OB?** **PM**

1 at Moni Prevelli valley between 13th-20th April. 4 at Vai 5.11. and 1 there 10.-12.11.

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

April: A flock of 6 at Plakias beach on from the 6th-14th. There were 46 at Malia marsh on 14th and 7 on Omalos plateau on 19th, while at Panormo there were 10+ on 21st

May: 2 flew north of Cape Plaka on 7th. There were 2 singing males south of Palekastro on 15th and 4 at Xerocambos on 16th. No Autumn records.

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata* **common** **RB**

Common and widespread breeding bird, in fields and coastal scrub as well as on the high plateaus.

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

April: Recorded during April from Omalos and Lassithi plateaus, and from sea level at Panormo, Xerocambos, Damnoni and Moni Prevelli valley, and Aposelemis river.

May: 10+ singing males in the Orno Mts and 2 on the Peak Sanctuary Ridge.

Sept: Recorded as frequent on Omalos plateau and Gramvousa peninsula.

Oct: Several recorded on the Homo Sapiens trail below Lassithi plateau, 2+ on Nida plateau on 9th Also recorded from Omalos plateau, Akrotiri, Imbros Gorge and Frangocastello.

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

April: 1 small flock c15 birds at "Spili bumps" on 15th were late visitors.

Oct: 1 in stubble field Perivolia on 17th and 1-2 there on 22nd.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* **PM**

No large flocks recorded throughout. Small flocks 10-30 recorded from 7th April from Prevelli, Agia reservoir, and Tavronitis river and throughout May until 18th.

In **Sept** a few flew south over Sougia on 25th, and 40+ were recorded at Agia reservoir on 26th. In

October 6+ seen over Agia reservoir on 4th and below Lassithi on 7th.

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

Breeding colonies in Imbros, Kourtaliotiko, Aradena and Samaria Gorges, near Spili, and on Omalos plateau recorded in April and May.

In September many over Linoseli col, Lassithi on 30th and in October recorded as numerous at top of Samaria Gorge and 2 at Kourtaliotiko Gorge on 12th.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* **MB** **PM**

Common records from April 7th, with no large flocks reported until May when large numbers were recorded heading N over Cape Sideros, Cape Plaka and Xerocambos.

In **April** and **June** reported as very common breeding birds in villages.

In **September** many birds heading South. **October** had small flocks daily until 19th.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* **MB** **PM**

Only small numbers seen, with first record Moni Prevelli bridge 7.4. Singles reported 1 at Rodakino, 1 at Damnoni on 16th April and 3 at Moni Prevelli on 17th. There was 1 at Agia reservoir on 18th and another at Aliodes on 26th.

In **May** only seen on days with NW winds with 2 on 7th, 3 on 10th and 4 on 11th and a single on 15th at Palekastro. 1 on the edge of Meskla on 28th.

In **September** 1 south of Sougia on 24th and 2 at Xyloskala 27th.

In **October** 1 amongst Barn Swallows at Agia reservoir on 16th and the last record was in November at Kato Zakros on 28th.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* **MB** **PM**

There was a small flock over Agia reservoir on 11.4. Many 100's passing through during the week 13th-20th April, then small numbers recorded daily until 23rd May.

In **June** several over headland at Kalives on 23rd and good numbers at Agia reservoir on 25th. They have bred at Souda but there are few breeding records.

Sept: A few singles reported and in **Oct** good numbers at Agia reservoir until 4th.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* **PM** **WV?**

1 reported at Kouremenos (Plakapoyles) on 21st and 22nd Nov. (AV)

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris* **MB** **PM**

April: Seen at Plakias most mornings 7.4.-13.4. 1 at Preveli 14.-19.4. and 1 at Samaria Gorge, Omalos on 19th. 1 on Omalos plateau 24.4. and 1 at Panormo on 22nd and 2 there 26th. **Sept:** 2 on Omalos plateau on 30th September.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* **WV** **PM**

April: Sightings become more common throughout the week from 13th. 9+ on Lassithi plateau 15.4. and on Omalos 19.4.-21.4. Seen on passage on 21st at Silver Beach, Gerani and on Akrotiri 23rd.

Recorded daily, largest flock 7 at Panormo up to 27th. **Sept:** c10 Omalos 27th-30th and in **Oct:** c10 Georgiopolis 1st - 4th.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* **OB** **WV** **PM**

April: 2 sightings at Plakias in the 3rd week in April and at Aposelemis river 20th. 2 still wintering at Armeni Cemetery on 22nd.

Oct: 2 close to El Greco Hotel on 5th. 10+ in a mixed flock of pipits and wagtails in newly mown field near the El Greco Hotel, old road Rethymnon on 17th.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* **rare WV** **PM**

April: 3 at Aposelemis delta and Malia on 14th, 1 Thrapsano 15.4. and Preveli 17.4. and several on Omalos on 19th. 8+ at Panormo on 21st, and 1 still on Omalos on 24th.

In **May** 2 singles flew N over Agathia 5.5.

Sept: 2 on Omalos plateau 28th. In **Oct** 10+ in mixed flocks of pipits in newly mown field near El Greco Hotel, Rethymnon on 17th. In **Nov** 10+ at Vai in the middle of the month and 2-3 over wintering there.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* **rare WV**

1 at Vai (nominate race) 4.11. 1 Xerocambos 7.11. 1 Chiona 8.11. 1 Xerocambos 23.11. and then 4 there 2nd Dec increasing to 6 on 17th and 8 there 29th.

There was a single at Sitia on 6th and 1 at Kouremenos also on 6th Dec.

Another *A.s. coutellii* 1 at Xerocambos 23.11.-11.12. (AV) photo record.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* **MB** **PM**

April: Small flocks of 'Blue headed' and 'Black headed' *feldegg* from 7th April. Passage of larger flocks from 15th - 20th. In **May** small flocks of 1-15 until 23rd.

Races included *flava*, *beema*, *thunbergi*, and *feldegg*.

September: 40+ at Souda Bay cemetery on 25th and c20 on Omalos 27th-30.9.

October: c10 Georgiopolis 1st-4th then singles at El Greco Hotel 5.10. and 1 Moni Preveli 6.10. 20+ in mixed flock of pipits and wagtails on newly mown field near El Greco Hotel, Rethymnon on 17th was the last record.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* **RB?** **WV** **PM**

October: 1 at Agia reservoir on 4th and 10th Oct. 1 on Omalos plateau on 11th.

1-2 daily around Perivolias 16th -22th. 2 along river into Georgiopolis reservoir 21st.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* RB WV PM

April and May: Records of 1-2 daily throughout from 7th April until 18th May, 1 male *yarrelli* at Vai 6th May.

October: Singles from Georgioupolis, Plakias, Moni Prevelli, El Greco Hotel and Agia reservoir, Perivolias and Hora Sfakion until 22nd October.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* RB WV PM

Common in the mountains, plateaus and gorges.

ALPINE ACCENTOR *Prunella collaris* RB

Heard at the head of Samaria Gorge on 20th April. 1 on Mt Psiloritis on 13th June.

In **Sept.** 6 below Linoseli col on 30th. 2 on Gingalos Mt summit, Omalos on 28th.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* WV

1 Kato Zakros Gorge 9.12.(AV).

RUFOUS BUSH ROBIN *Cercotrichas galactotes*

1 on Lassithi plateau 19th April. (IH) (D.Ireland)

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* WV PM

October 2 on Akrotiri peninsula 14th. 1 near Vrisses and 1 at Frangocastello both on 15th. A few in scrub behind Perivolias daily 16th-22nd and at Georgioupolis reservoir on 21st.(TD)

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* MB PM

First record Kakomauri headland, Plakias 7.4. Common in small numbers from 16th April until 23rd May in any suitable scrub or wet land area.

In September 1 at Lissos on 26th.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* PM WV

One at Kato Zakros from 14th-18th November. (AV).

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* WV PM

In October one male was seen on a fence post at the edge of scrub at Perivolias on 19th.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* WV? PM

April: One at Frangocastello in olive grove on 19th. One at Moni Prevelli on 20th.

May: 1 male in garden near Palekastros on 6th.

Sept: 1 female at Mochlos on 19th. One on Omalos 27th and 29th and at Linoseli Col on 30th. **Oct:** 1 at Askifou on 4th and 2 below Nida plateau on 9th.

Nov: The last record was at Toplou Moni on 16th.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* MB? PM

April and May: Singles passage recorded from 7th April. Then rising to 10-20 daily and then described as numerous until end on April and similar numbers until 6th May. Then small numbers daily until 16th.

September: c30 on Omalos plateau on 27th-30th.

October: recorded on 7 dates until 11th. Last record one at Cape Plaka on 15th **Nov.**

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* RB WV PM

Resident. Common breeding bird locally widespread.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina* MB? PM

In September there was one on Mesa Lassithi on 19th. (BT)

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* MB PM

Common from 6th April until the end of June.

September: Many recorded on Omalos plateau 27th-30th September.

October: 1 record below Nida plateau on 9th and 2 at Rethymnon Fortezza on 19th.

PIED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe pleschanka* AV

One between Theriso and Drakona perched on wire flying backwards and forwards in vineyards on 7.5.(DD) Record awaiting confirmation details.

BLACK EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica* MB PM

April: Sightings from early April from 7th onwards with small numbers daily. Main passage in **May** with up to 15 daily until the third week then small numbers in the last week. Common in **June** until 17th.

September: 1 at Kallergi hut on 28th, and in

October: 1 with 3 Northern Wheatear at Rethymnon Fortezza on 19th.

ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis* PM

No records in 2004

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius* RB PM WV?

Common with singing males from 7th April along suitable coastal cliffs and valleys and in Gorges such as Kourtaliotiko, Selinari, Afrata, Gouvernatou, Theriso, Imbros, Diktamnos, and Petres and on the Akrotiri peninsula as well as the Drapanos and Rodoupou peninsulas.

Still singing in September and October and 2 in Imbros Gorge seen feeding young on 15th Oct.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* RB PM WV

Resident and common and widespread in many habitats, mainly in the hills.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* WV

November: 1st record at Kouremenos(Maridati) on 5th. 22 at Toplou Moni on 8th.building to 19 there on 22nd and 56 on 29th.

December: Flocks of 20- 270 seen throughout the month,which reflected the hard winter in NE Europe. 3 at Vai newly arrived with 1st Mistle Thrushes on 10th.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* WV

1 heard near Sitanos on 23rd Nov and 1 seen at Toplou Moni on 29th. In December 1 at Sitanos and 1 at Handros on 17th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelus* WV PM

No records in 2004.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* WV PM

December: 2 at Vai on 10th, 1 Sitanos on 17th and 1 near Zagros on the same day.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* common RB

Common breeding bird. Heard in a variety of habitats except high in the mountains. Rarely seen.

Fan-tailed Warbler (Zitting Cisticola) *Cisticola juncidis* locally common RB

No records in 2004.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella lusciniodes* PM

No records in 2004.

MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Acrocephalus melanopogon* PM WV

One singing at Agia Reservoir in 3rd week in May (TK)

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus paludicola* PM

Several at Agia reservoir on 11th and 17th and 18th/20th April. Singles recorded until 16th May at a variety of sites. In June records at Agia on 25th and Tavronitis river mouth on 28th. In October 1 at Agia reservoir on 4th.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* MB PM

Singles in April at Agia and Geropotamos(N) on 24th. 2 at Agia reservoir on 30th May.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* OB PM

Singles recorded from 7th-13th April at Plakias, Aposelemis river on 14th and at Damnoni on 18th then until 20th May at Palekastro, Bramiana reservoir, near Chania and at Agia reservoir.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* PM

May: Records from Palekastro on 6th and 7th and a single there on 11th May. 2 at Xerokambos on 16th and 1 on Peak Sanctuary ridge on 17th.

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

May: Reported from 5th May, and **September:** 4 at Lissos feeding on berries on 26th.

Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum* **PM**

No records in 2004.

SPECTACLED WARBLER *Sylvia conspicillata* **AV**

2+ at Frangocastello on 19th April. (HG)

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* **MB** **PM**

Probably under recorded. 1 male on territory singing and in flight at Phaestos 10.4. 1 at Lassithi pool on 20th April(IH) and 1 male near Achladia on 14th May.(AV)

In October 1 at Georgioupolis on 3rd.(CH)

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

Common and widespread. Breeding. Seen in a variety of habitats including in towns.

Ruppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppelli* **MB** **PM**

No reports from 2004

ORPHEAN WARBLER *Sylvia hortensis* **MB** **PM**

May: Two records. 1 at Bramiana reservoir on 12th and 2 singing in Orno mountains on 14th.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* **PM**

October: 1 at Eleftherna on 5th and 2 just below Omalos plateau on 11th.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* **MB** **PM**

Reported from 8th April until 14th May.

Sept: 1 N of Sougia 27th, 1 on Omalos 27th to 29th and 1 on Linoseli Col on 30th.

Oct: 1 Georgioupolis on 2nd, and 1 between Anogia and Nida plateau on 9th.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* **PM**

May: 2 at Palekastro 8th and 1 there on 9th. 2 in beach tamarisks at Xerocambos on 16th.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* **RB?** **PM** **WV**

2 singing on 8th April at Spili and in Spili car park on 15th April, 1 at Agia reservoir on 11th. 1 at Spili on 16th and 1 in Therisso Gorge on 25th April.

Oct: Birds singing at Eleftherna on 5th and 14th, and at Agia reservoir on 8th and 10th and 16th and in the Amari valley on 12th.

EASTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* **PM**

Nov: A very late bird with chiffchaffs, on Cape Plaka on 15th.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* **PM**

Passage recorded from 13th until 23rd April. In **May** only 1 record at Zakros on 10th.

In **Oct:** 2 at Askifou on 4th and 1 Vamos on 3rd.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* **PM** **WV**

Few records. 1 at Agia reservoir on 24.4, and 1 Kouremenos pools on 17.5.

In **Sept:** single at Sougia on 25th, 1-2 Omalos on 27th. There were a few at Kallergi hut on 28th. In

Oct: 1 at Agia reservoir on 8th, and several on Cape Plaka on 15th Nov.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* **PM**

Passage migrants recorded in early April from Moni Prevelli and Frangocastello on 19th and at Agia reservoir 21st.

Autumn passage records of birds at Kallergi and Omalos on 28th & 29th Sept. In early Oct records from Homo sapiens trail, below Lassithi plateau, Nida Plateau, Omalos plateau and from grounds of El Greco Hotel, Rethymnon during 7th – 12th October.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* **RB?** **PM** **WV**

1 singing in Samaria Gorge in 3rd week in May.(TK) and 1 at Vai on 12th Nov.(AV)

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* **RB?**

In May at least 3 singing in the upper part of Samaria Gorge in 3rd week. (TK)

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* MB PM

Common migrant from 13th April until 17th May, with 'falls' Palekastro on 5th and 6th and at Xerocambos on 16th.

In Autumn lots recorded on Mesa Lassithi on 18th Sept. and singles recorded throughout the month. Last record at Georgioupolis reservoir in scrub on 21st Oct.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* rare PM

No records in 2004

COLLARED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula albicollis* PM

April: Passage reported from 13th April until 23rd with small groups of up to males, from Myrthios, Spili 'bumps', Moni Prevelli, Frangocastello, Samaria gorge, Afrata, Armeni, Ag Triada Moni and Panormo.

No Autumn records.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* PM

Reported throughout April from 13th with records from the south coast Moni Prevelli and Frangocastello and from the north coast from Afrata, Venizelou Graves Park, and Akrotiri, Agia reservoir and Therisso Gorge until 25th April.

In May 2 females recorded at Palekastro on 9th.

Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata* PM

No records in 2004

SOMBRE TIT *Poecile lugubris* RB?

1 singing in Samaria Gorge in 3rd week in May. (TK)

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* RB

Common and widespread in the uplands.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* RB

Common. Recorded widely throughout the island.

SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER *Certhia brachydactyla* RB

Probably underrecorded. One in Samaria Gorge in 3rd week in May.(TK)

Coal Tit *Periparus ater* PM?

No records in 2004

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* WV PM? PM?

No records received in 2004.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* PM

Passage from 14th April from Plakias, Phaestos, Rodakino, Rethymnon and near Roumeli. In **May** records from the east from Palekastro, Kakros and Zakros and Bebonas, until 14th.

In **Sept.** 2 from Lissos on 26th (CH) and 2 at Megalo Horafia also on 26th.(GS)

RED BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* PM

Usually an Autumn passage migrant.

September: 2-3 juveniles at Falasarna 22.9. 1 adult on Omalos 28th and 1 juv. 29th, and 1 adult female 29th. In **October** recorded from Homo sapiens trail below Lassithi plateau on 7th and 2 below Nida plateau on 9th and 2 at Frangocastello on 15th.

The last record was from Xerocambos on 14th **Nov.**

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor* PM

One first year on Omalos on 29th September.(CH)

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator ssp badius* MB PM

Spring passage recorded from 7th April until 20th May with 1-3 seen daily in April and heavy passage 15-30 in early May. Good numbers with young reported in June on Omalos plateau and top of Aradena Gorge.

In **Sept** 1 first year bird on Omalos on 27th.

MASKED SHRIKE *Lanius nubicus* PM?

One male at Spili on 16th April. (AJS).

- JAY** *Garrulus glandarius* **RB**
 Seen at Imbros, and Samaria Gorges and over Omalos plateau.
- ALPINE CHOUGH** *Pyrrhonorax graculus* **RB**
 Seen over Samaria Gorge between 17th-23rd May.
 5 Linoseli Col on 30th September.
- RED-BILLED CHOUGH** *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax* **RB**
 Flocks over Lassithi, Samaria Gorge, Xyloskalo and Omalos plateau usually 10-20 in April.
 Largest flock 150+ on Omalos plateau on 26th Sept.
- JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula* **RB**
 Recorded from Petres Gorge, Kourtaliotiko and Kotsifos Gorges, Morosini viaduct nr Knossos and Geropotamos river mouth, Monastiraki, Bramiana reservoir, Eleftherna and Agia Irini Gorge.
- HOODED CROW** *Corvus corone corone* **RB**
 Common and widespread resident in a variety of habitats.
- RAVEN** *Corvus corax* **RB**
 Common in small numbers daily in gorges and mountains as well as coastal sites
- STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris* **WV** **PM**
April: 1 on wires at Frangocastello on 15th April. was a late winter visitor.
October: c30 at Georgiopolis on 2.10 and a flock of 90-100 at Agia reservoir and 20 there 16th. 2 at Perivolias on 17th and 38 east over Georgiopolis on 21st.
- HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus* **RB** **WV**
 Less common than Italian but males seen at Agia reservoir, Platanes and Knossos.
- ITALIAN SPARROW** *Passer italiae*. **RB**
 Common breeding everywhere. Breeding colonies in holes in concrete posts and hotel walls and sea cliff crevices. Large roosting flocks in El Greco Hotel garden, Rethymnon between 4th – 10th October.
- SPANISH SPARROW** *Passer hispaniolensis* **OB** **WV** **PM**
April: A pair at Plakias 7.4. and small flocks at Plakias from 13th and at Gerani, Silver Beach 21st – 26th April in early morning going west.
 3 at Kouremenos bay on 5th May and rare on east edge of Chania in late May.
Sept: 8 on Omalos plateau on 30th.
- TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus* **RB** **WV** **PM?**
 4 around gravestones in Souda Bay War Cemetery on 21st April.
 1 at Aposelemis delta 20.4. and 1 + near Roumeli 24.4.
- CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs* **RB** **WV** **PM**
 Common and widespread resident.
- BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla* **WV**
 Singles at Kouremenos on 10th and 11th November, and 10th December. Flock of 10 there on 16th, and singles on 26th and 31st December.
- COMMON ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus erythrinus* **AV**
 1 juvenile at Kouremenos on 6th November and 1 juvenile at Xerocambos on 2nd December in beach tamarisk. (AV)
- SERIN** *Serinus serinus* **RB** **WV** **PM**
 In **April** recorded on Lassithi on 14th and 15th, at Spili on 15th and on Phaestos – Ag Triada road on 16th. 2+ at Venizelou Graves Park, Chania, Akrotiri and Daratsos on 23.4. 3+ Therisso Gorge on 25.4. Common near Chania camping 17.-23.5.

In **June** singing at Souda Bay War cemetery. In **Sept 1** on Omalos on 27.9.

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.

In September and October larger flocks of 200+.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus* **WV PM**

No records in 2004

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

Small flocks 1-6 in April, in the Spring, in the mountains. Flocks of 10-20 in September and October in the hills and plateaus.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* **AV**

1 seen and heard in olive trees at Falasarna in 3rd week in May. (TK)(record awaiting confirmation details)

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

1 at Kato Zagros on 18th November.(AV)

CIRL BUNTING *Emberiza cirius* **RB**

1-2 recorded daily from 7th April from route to Lassithi, Omalos plateau, Armeni, Kotsifos, Moni Preveli and Palekastro

In October 2 on Lassithi and 1 on Omalos plateaus on 11th Oct.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* **PM**

April: Small flocks on 12.4. and still there with 2-3 at Spili 16.4. A pair of birds below car park at Moni Preveli on 18.4.

May: 1 at Chiona beach on 7th, 2 in breeding habitat east of Karydi on 12th and at least 6 singing males between Chrysopigi and Bebonas 14th.

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia* **OB PM**

No records received in 2004.

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

Locally common, with a few at Plakias 7.4.-12.4. . Flock of 10 at Plakias on 18th April. Recorded as widespread Plakias – Frangocastello, records from Lassithi, Moni Preveli, Omalos, Spili 'bumps', Vai, and Xerokambos in April and May. Seen on Omalos on last few days of September.

PINE BUNTING *Emberiza leucocephalos* **AV**

1 male at Kouremenos on 6th November. (AV)

MAMMALS:

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

Great White-toed Shrew *Crocidura russula* One seen near Silver Beach Gerani 21.4.

Eastern Hedgehog *Erinaceus concolor* April & Oct sadly dead.

Beech Marten *Martes fiona* Several seen dead on roads in April. 12 road kills reported in Oct.

Weasel *Mustela nivalis* Seen April & Oct.

Badger *Meles meles* A young badger dead at side of road above Therisso in April. 2 other records from Vrises and Loutra in Oct.

Cretan Spiny Mouse *Acomys cahirinus* One seen near Silver beach Hotel, Gerani could have been this species. One freshly dead at Phaestos.

Hare *Lepus capensis* In April one seen being hunted by dogs below Moni Preveli car park (HG)

Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* Seen off Plakias on 8th April.

AMPHIBIANS

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

Green Toad *Bufo viridis* April

Common Tree Frog *Hyla arborea* April, several records from Agia Reservoir.

Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda* April, Records from Silver Beach, Petres river and Agia.

Cretan Frog *Rana cretensis* Heard at Silver Beach Hotel Gerani in April.

REPTILES

Stripe-necked Terrapin *Mauremys caspica* April. Common

Oscillated Skink *Chalcides ocellatus* April

Balkan Green Lizard *Lacerta trilineata* April

Erhard' s Wall Lizard *Podarcis erhardii* April

Balkan Whip Snake *Coluber gemonis* April

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

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon* April & Oct

Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius* April & Oct

Cretan Festoon *Z. cerisyi f. cretica* April

Large White *Pieris brassica* April & Oct

Small White *Pieris rapea* April & Oct

Bath White *Pontia daplidea* Oct

Eastern Dappled White *Euchlonia simplonia* April

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea* April & Oct

Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni* April

Cleopatra *Gonepteryx cleopatra* April

Nettle tree *Libythea celtis* April in Imbros Gorge

Wood White *Leptidea sinapis* Oct

Plain Tiger *Danaus chryippas* Seen on 4.10 at Agia reservoir.

Southern Comma *Polygonia egea* April

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* April & Oct

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* April & Oct

Cretan Grayling *Hipparchia cretica* Oct

Great Banded Grayling *Briatesia circe* Oct

Large Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis polychlorus* One record 24.4. on Omalos plateau.

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina* Oct

Southern Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* April & Oct

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* April & Oct

Baton Blue *Pseudophilotes baton* April

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas* April & Oct

Long –tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus* Oct

Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus* April & Oct

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis* April

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* April & Oct

Mallow Skipper *Carcharodus alceae* Oct.

Med Skipper *Gegenes nostradamus* Oct

INSECTS

Egyptian Grasshopper *Anacridium aegyptian* April, Common recorded April & Oct
Hungarian Grasshopper *Acrida ungarica* April
Italian Shield Bug *Graphosoma italicum* Red and black shield bug. April
Cretan Soldier beetle *Lygaeus saxatile* April
Green Tiger beetle *Cicindela campestris* Seen 21.4. and 22.4.
Pollen Beetle *Oxythyrea funestra* Seen 21.4, 22.4. and 24.4.
Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa violacea* April
7 spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* April
10 Spot Ladybird *Adalia 10-punctata* 21.4.
2 Spot Ladybird *Adalia bipunctata* 25.4
Dor Beetle *Geotrupes stercorarius* 22.4.
Honeybee *Apis mellifera* Common.
Pharaoh's Ant *Monomorium pharaonis* Very small ant, pest in heated buildings.
Green Parent Bug *Elasmucha grisea* 22.4.
Pond Skater *Gerris lacustris* Petres pools 26.4.
Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumethopoea pityocampa* April
Hummingbird Hawkmoth *Macroglossom stellatum* October
Emperor dragonfly *Anax imperator* April
Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ishnura elegans* April

OTHER TAXA

Banded Snail *Ceriuella virgata*

DATES OF RECORDS: CRETE 2004

Michalis Dretakis Highlights throughout the year
 Ian Andrews 6th-13th April 2004
 Peter Dunn 10th April- 17th April 2004
 Chris Durdin 13th April – 20th April 2004
 Doug Ireland 13th April- 22nd April 2004
 Stephanie Coghlan 20th April – 27th April 2004
 Peter Wilkinson 20th April – 27th April 2004
 Alan Vittery 4th May – 18th May 2004
 Dan Derrick 4th May – 18th May 2004
 Tommy Kane 17th May – 23rd May 2004
 Anthony J Wood 21st May – 29th May 2004
 Olli Kanerva 10th June – 17th June 2004
 Mike & Rita Burstow 22nd June – 6th July 2004
 Brian Thompson 10th Sept – 21st Sept 2004
 Chris Hind 21st Sept – 5th Oct 2004
 Garry Steele 23rd Sept – 6th Oct 2004
 Peter and Barbara Murray 4th Oct – 17th Oct 2004
 Mats Bjorklund 14th Oct – 21st Oct 2004
 Tom Dougall 16th Oct – 22nd Oct 2004
 Alan Vittery 3rd Nov – 31st Dec 2004
 Michalis Dretakis 28th Dec 2004

RESIDENT
 GULLIVERS HOLIDAYS
 NATURETREK
 HONEYGUIDE
 ISLAND HOLIDAYS
 SNAIL'S PACE
 BTO REP

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Apologies for any omissions of records or for any mistakes in the recording of the records.