

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

Crete 2012



Crete species lists and trip report, 17th to 24th April 2012

| # | DATE | LOCATIONS & NOTES |
|---|------------------------|---|
| 1 | 17 th April | London to Chania. Agia Reservoir, then to Plakias Bay Hotel |
| 2 | 18 th April | lanes around Plakias |
| 3 | 19 th April | Spili 'bumps' |
| 4 | 20 th April | Preveli Monastery and Kourtaliotiko Gorge |
| 5 | 21 st April | Mirthios |
| 6 | 22 nd April | Festos and Agia Triada |
| 7 | 23 rd April | Frangokastello Castle and Imbrou Gorge |
| 8 | 24 th April | Return to UK |

Leaders

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A gallery of some of Philip's photos from the holiday can be seen on Wildlife Travel's Flickr site, at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/sets/72157629503611254/>

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17th April. Arrival and Agia Reservoir. An (extremely) early start and an uneventful flight over a cloud-cloaked Europe saw us arrive at Chania Airport just after midday local time. Bags gathered, we boarded our coach and headed west to Agia Reservoir, with a short stop on the way to gather provisions.

From the patio of a handily-located restaurant, we ate our lunches while checking the birds around the small reservoir. Coot, Moorhen and Little Grebe predominated, but we did start to pick out some more interesting species: a couple of Squacco Herons and a Little Egret hunted the edges, a male Ferruginous Duck hid at the back, 3 Alpine Swifts zoomed overhead and single Glossy Ibis and Black-winged Stilt were found, but the best were 3 or 4 Little Crakes picking their way over the floating mats of algae.

From here, it was a 2 hour drive across an increasingly windy island to our hotel at Plakias.

18th April. Plakias. Overnight the wind had picked up, and by breakfast the bay was full of white horses and a sand storm was blowing across the coast road. The howling gale put paid to any plans of walking around the headland: storm force winds and cliff-top paths don't generally go well together. So instead we ambled about the lanes and fields immediately around the hotel and behind Plakias.

Our first introduction to the flora of Crete was a good one (despite the wind!) and included plenty of interest, including some nice endemics: the lovely yellow and blue hyacinth *Muscari spreitzenhoferi* on a sandy patch of hillside; the impressive blue *Petromarula pinnata*, a member of the Campanulaceae growing on vegetated rocky slopes behind the village; the white skullcap *Scutellaria sieberi*. We also found our first orchids in the form of two species of Tongue Orchids, *Serapias bergonii* with larger, darker flower spikes and *Serapias parviflora* a small-flowered species that nearly always self-fertilises, as well as several spikes of the dark bee orchid *Ophrys gortynia*.

Coming back into the village through an area of old olive groves, after a couple of heavy rain showers had passed through, Bill suddenly said 'Bee-eater in the tree!', and there in a dead tree just next to the path a few metres in front of us was the obvious silhouette of a bee-eater, against the (finally!) blue sky. "He must be resting out of the wind", says I, raising my binoculars... but instead of being greeted by the crazy rainbow of a European Bee-eater, we found ourselves looking at an almost all green bird, with sleek black mask, orange and yellow throat and beautiful sky-blue eyebrow and cheeks. An adult Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, a bird certainly not on the radar for this week! With only around 40 previous records for Greece, a VERY nice start to our trip!

19th April. Spili 'Bumps'. Low grey clouds hanging over the hilltops, so low that the occasional soaring Griffon Vulture would disappear in and out of them – not the perfect weather for a day of botanising... but at least the clouds stayed up there and didn't empty onto us, and the wind had abated a fair bit.

And so to Spili, one of those classic wildflower destinations: every natural history group that comes to western Crete spends some time tramping the famous "bumps", and we were of course no exception. 6 hours and 21 orchid species later, including two Cretan endemics, we returned to Plakias, tired but content!

There is more to Spili than just the orchids of course, and we enjoyed the fields full of *Tulipa doerfleri*, the single beautiful *Iris cretensis*, a small patch of *Cyclamen creticum* (all, of course, endemics) and several bushes of the lovely scented *Daphne sericea*. Griffon Vultures drifted overhead most of the day, along with singing Corn Buntings and Wood Lark in the afternoon.

20th April. Preveli Monastery and Kourtaliotiko Gorge. A sunny day! From the atmospheric Preveli Monastery, with its interesting double-fronted iconostasis and history of warrior monks, we spent the day ambling back along the road.

The soundtrack to our morning was made up of the buzzing song of Eastern Black-eared Wheatear, the Yellowhammer-lite of Cretschmar's Bunting, the Kestrel-like keekeekee of Alpine Swifts and the lovely sound of a Mediterranean summer coming from a group of about 30 Bee-eaters (just the European norm,

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this time!) gathered in the valley. A pair of Southern Skimmers, the male a lovely powder blue, were hanging around a damp roadside ditch, while two species of shieldbug were sat side by side, the black and red striped *Graphosoma lineatum* next to the orangey Cretan endemic *Graphosoma creticum*.

For the botanists, the highlight was simply the profusion of flowers: road verges and hillsides were covered in flowers, with something interesting at almost every step: tall yellow spikes of *Verbascum macrurum*; the small flowered *Malva cretica*; the squat, purple *Centaurea raphanina* and the nearby 'caged flower' of *Atractylis cancellata*; and a single elegant spike of *Anacamptis papilionacea* ssp *alibertis*, yet another Cretan endemic (as if we needed more!).

After an ice cream at the riverside café, with a male Pied Flycatcher flitting in the trees and both Emperor and Vagrant Emperor dragonflies hawking the banks, we were shuttled up to the gorge. Some of us took the steps down to the chapel and waterfall at the bottom, enjoying *Ricotia cretica*, *Cyclamen creticum* and *Procopiana cretica* along the way, while others stayed at road level and had a fly past Lammergeier with the Griffons. A couple of Chough flew around the gorge and a male Blue Rock Thrush sang overhead.

21st April. Mirthios. A day of blue skies and sunshine, as we made our way slowly up the hill to the village of Mirthios and then (after a delicious taverna lunch) a somewhat speedier walk down again.

Along the way we enjoyed a migrating Honey Buzzard being chased by a Common Buzzard, plenty of butterflies including our first Swallowtails, three handsome leopard-spotted Cretan Frogs sunning themselves around a drinking trough, a patch of the lovely little lobelia-like *Solenopsis annua* and several bushes of Cretan Ebony *Ebenus creticus*.

22nd April. Festos and Agia Triada. Today we boarded our coach and headed east for the Minoan sites of Festos and Agia Triada. While most attention was on the historical nature of the sites, there was plenty of wildlife to keep us entertained at the same time, with both Spotted and Pied Flycatchers fly-catching from the pine trees, a Wood Warbler flitting through, a sunbathing Ocellated Skink amongst the rocks and a fly-past from a Hoopoe.

Walking the lane between the two sites, we enjoyed hillsides of *Ebenus creticus*, the smaller-leaved endemic *Phlomis lanata* and some nice stands of *Serapias cordigera*. Plenty of Sardinian Warblers sang from the scrub, as well as a couple of shy Eastern Subalpine Warblers and a noisy (but unseen) Great Reed Warbler. And back to Plakias for yet another delicious Cretan meal.

23rd April. Frangokastello and Imbrou Gorge. After a spectacular drive along the coast eastwards from our hotel, we arrived at the Venetian castle of Frangokastello. As well as the historical ruins we found plenty of wildlife to interest us too, including the stiff little *Anthemis rigida*, Rough Poppy and White Henbane in the castle itself, and a stream with several Balkan Terrapins down by the beach.

After a refreshment break, we continued east and then up the zigzag roads to the top of the Imbrou Gorge. The rest of the day was spent walking down the gorge (with some taking the more leisurely option of a bus ride down and an afternoon in the taverna!).

The gorge walk gave us the opportunity to enjoy several special 'chasmophytes', amongst them the Tree Flax and Tree Medick and *Brassica cretica* growing alongside the shrubby daisy *Staehelina petiolata*. Butterflies were fairly abundant down here, including Brown Argus and Southern Comma showing well. A pair of Peregrines called noisily above us, while a day-calling Scops Owl gave a brief 'poop poop' further down. Poking around under the bark on a fallen tree revealed a lovely scorpion, as well as a bright red click beetle. While at the bottom of the gorge, the Dragon Arums were in full bloom. Well worth the effort.

24th April. Plakias Bay and home... All too soon, our week is up! One last breakfast, and then we have to bid farewell to Yiannis and to Aris and Natassa, our wonderful hosts at Plakias Bay, before the bus journey back across the island to Chania and our flights home.

CRETE 2012: some highlights



Top: Adult Blue-cheeked Bee-eater at Plakias, 18th April. (photo by Dick Endecott)
First row, l to r: Cretan Frog, *Graphosoma creticum*, *Anacamptis papilionacea* ssp *alibertis*
second row, l to r: *Ophrys ariadnae*, *Iris cretensis* and *Muscari spreitzenhoferi*
All of course endemic to Crete

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E = endemic species. H = heard only. D = dead

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | ENGLISH NAME | Notes | Seen |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| FERNS | | | |
| <i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i> | Maidenhair Fern | | 20 th |
| <i>Anogramma leptophylla</i> | Annual Fern | | 20 th |
| <i>Asplenium ceterach</i> | Rusty-back Fern | | 20 th |
| CONIFERS | | | |
| Cupressaceae | | | |
| <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> | | | 21 st |
| Pinaceae | | | |
| <i>Pinus brutia</i> | Calabrian Pine | | 22 nd |
| DICOTYLEDONS | | | |
| Aceraceae | | | |
| <i>Acer sempervirens</i> | | The tree in the gorge | 23 rd |
| Anacardiaceae | | | |
| <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i> | Mastic Tree | | 22 nd |
| Apiaceae | | | |
| <i>Apium inundatum</i> | | on the mud near the chapel | 19 th |
| <i>Apium nodiflorum</i> | Fool's Water Cress | in the stream behind Plakias | 18 th |
| <i>Daucus carota</i> | Wild Carrot | | 18 th |
| <i>Ferula communis</i> | Giant Fennel | | 22 nd |
| <i>Lagoecia cuminoides</i> | | Lacy pretty, at lunch | 20 th |
| <i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i> | | In the ditch at Spili | 19 th |
| <i>Orlya daucooides</i> | | spiky fruits | 20 th |
| <i>Scaligeria cretica</i> | | growing on rocks | 20 th |
| <i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i> | Shepherd's Needle | | 18 th |
| <i>Smyrniium rotundifolium</i> | | | 19 th |
| <i>Tordylium apulum</i> | | disc fruits | 20 th |
| Aristolochiaceae | | | |
| <i>Aristolochia sempervirens</i> | | | 21 st |
| Asteraceae | | | |
| <i>Anthemis chia</i> | | Black margins to bracts: in gorge | 23 rd |
| <i>Anthemis rigida</i> | | In the castle | 23 rd |
| <i>Atractylis cancellata</i> | | "cage" knapweed | 20 th |
| <i>Centaurea raphanina</i> | | low growing knapweed on rocks | 20 th |
| <i>Cichorium intybus</i> | Chicory | | 22 nd |
| <i>Crepis sancta</i> | | small yellow composite | 20 th |
| <i>Crupina crupinastrum</i> | | cerise-coloured on rocky slope | 18 th |
| <i>Filago pyramidalis</i> | | the small cudweed on sand | 18 th |
| <i>Geropogon hybridus</i> | | Mini Goat's Beard | 21 st |
| <i>Glebionis coronarium</i> | Crown Daisy | | 18 th |
| <i>Helichrysum barrelieri</i> | | | 19 th |
| <i>Notobasis syriaca</i> | | the tall roadside thistle | 20 th |
| <i>Onopordum tauricum</i> | | the 'donkey fart' thistle | 20 th |
| <i>Pallenis spinosa</i> | | yellow, spiny bracts | 20 th |
| <i>Phagnalon rupestre ssp graecum</i> | | Shaving-brush flower | 18 th |
| <i>Picris sp</i> | | with hooked hairs | 22 nd |
| <i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i> | | The knapweed bush | 18 th |
| <i>Reichardia picroides</i> | | with the swollen seed head | 18 th |
| <i>Scorzonera cretica</i> | | yellow composite in the gorge | 20 th |
| <i>Sonchus asper</i> | Prickly Sow Thistle | | 22 nd |
| <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> | Smooth Sow Thistle | | 22 nd |
| <i>Staelina petiolata</i> | | The tree daisy, in gorge | 23 rd |
| <i>Tragopodon sinuatus</i> | Goat's Beard | | 18 th |

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|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Boraginaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Anchusa azurea</i> | Large Blue Alkanet | | 18 th |
| | <i>Anchusella variegata</i> | | white & magenta striped flowers | 23 rd |
| | <i>Cerinthe major</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Cynoglossum creticum</i> | Cretan Hound's-tongue | Blue flowers, round fruits | 18 th |
| | <i>Echium angustifolium</i> | Narrow-leaved Bugloss | magenta flowers | 22 nd |
| | <i>Echium italicum</i> | Pale Bugloss | pale flowers | 18 th |
| | <i>Echium plantagineum</i> | | blue and purple flowers | 18 th |
| | <i>Neostema apulum</i> | | Yellow, near the monastery | 20 th |
| | <i>Onosma erecta</i> | | Golden drop | 20 th |
| E | <i>Procopiana cretica</i> | | In the gorge | 20 th |
| Brassicaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Arabis verna</i> | | purple crucifer in the gorge | 23 rd |
| | <i>Biscutella didyma</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Brassica cretica</i> | | in the gorge | 23 rd |
| | <i>Erucaria hispanica</i> | Spanish Pink Mustard | | 22 nd |
| | <i>Rapistrum rugosum</i> | Bastard Cabbage | | 22 nd |
| E | <i>Ricotia cretica</i> | | mauve crucifer in the gorge | 20 th |
| Campanulaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Campanula erinus</i> | | tiny campanula on sandy field | 18 th |
| E | <i>Petromerula pinnata</i> | | Rock Lettuce | 18 th |
| E | <i>Solenopsis annua</i> | | tiny purple 'lobelia' | 21 st |
| Caryophyllaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Silene bellidifolia</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Silene colorata</i> | | Small and pinky red | 18 th |
| | <i>Silene cretica</i> | | Pinky red on the steep hill at Spili | 19 th |
| | <i>Silene dichotoma</i> | | White and furry | 19 th |
| | <i>Silene gallica</i> | | White and pink | 18 th |
| Cistaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Cistus creticus</i> | | Pink flowers | 18 th |
| | <i>Cistus salviifolius</i> | Sage-leaved Cistus | White flowers | 18 th |
| | <i>Fumana thymifolia</i> | | | 20 th |
| Clusiaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Hypericum empetrifolium</i> | | | 18 th |
| Convolvulaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i> | | Dark centre | 22 nd |
| | <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> | Field Bindweed | In the castle | 23 rd |
| | <i>Convolvulus elegantissimus</i> | | Pale centre | 18 th |
| Crassulaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Sedum litoreum</i> | | | 20 th |
| | <i>Umbilicus parviflorus</i> | | In the gorge | 23 rd |
| | <i>Umbilicus rupestris</i> | Navelwort | | 19 th |
| Dipsacaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Knautia integrifolia</i> | | | 19 th |
| | <i>Lomelosia brachiata</i> | | Funny scabious-type flower | 20 th |
| Euphorbiaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Euphorbia acanthophamnos</i> | Greek Spiny Spurge | Chicken wire spurge | 18 th |
| | <i>Euphorbia characias</i> | | | 19 th |
| | <i>Euphorbia paralias</i> | Sea Spurge | | 21 st |
| | <i>Ricinus communis</i> | | | 18 th |
| Fabaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> | Mediterranean Kidney Vetch | | 19 th |
| | <i>Aspalathium bituminosa</i> | Pitch Vetch | Smells of tar | 18 th |
| | <i>Astragalus boeticus</i> | | In the castle | 23 rd |
| | <i>Calycotome villosa</i> | Spiny Broom | (in flower on 22 nd) | 18 th |

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|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| | <i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> | Carob | | 18 th |
| | <i>Coronilla seguridaca</i> | | A crown vetch | 18 th |
| E | <i>Ebenus creticus</i> | Cretan Ebony | Pinky red flowered bush | 21 st |
| | <i>Hippocrepis biflora</i> | | Horseshoe-shaped pods | 20 th |
| | <i>Lotus ornithopodioides</i> | | With long narrow seed pods | 22 nd |
| | <i>Medicago arborea</i> | | Tree medick, in the gorge | 23 rd |
| | <i>Medicago coronata</i> | | | 20 th |
| | <i>Medicago maritima</i> | | On the beach | 18 th |
| | <i>Medicago orbicularis</i> | | Large disc pods | 18 th |
| | <i>Medicago polymorpha</i> | | Spiny spiral pods | 18 th |
| | <i>Ononis pubescens</i> | | Big yellow flowers | 22 nd |
| | <i>Ononis reclinata</i> | | | 20 th |
| | <i>Ononis viscosa</i> | | Small yellow flowers | 22 nd |
| | <i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i> | | | 21 st |
| | <i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i> | Asparagus Pea | | 21 st |
| | <i>Trifolium angustifolium</i> | | Tall, pink flowers | 18 th |
| | <i>Trifolium boissieri</i> | | Brown and yellow 'flowers' | 18 th |
| | <i>Trifolium campestre</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Trifolium grandiflorum</i> | | Big pinky flowers in the gorge | 23 rd |
| | <i>Trifolium resurbinatum</i> | | Small pink flowers | 18 th |
| | <i>Trifolium stellatum</i> | Star Clover | | 19 th |
| | <i>Trifolium uniflorum</i> | | Single white flowers | 18 th |
| | <i>Vicia bithynica</i> | | Lilac and white flowers | 18 th |
| | <i>Vicia cretica</i> | | Tiny creeping, purple flowers | 20 th |
| | <i>Vicia hybrida</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Vicia lutea</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Vicia sativa</i> | | Purple flowers | 18 th |
| | <i>Vicia villosa</i> | | Bunches of purple flowers | 21 st |
| Fagaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Quercus coccifera</i> | Kermes Oak | In the gorge | 23 rd |
| Lamiaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i> | | round downy leaves in the gorge | 23 rd |
| | <i>Marrubium vulgare</i> | White Horehound | In the castle | 23 rd |
| | <i>Micromeria nervosa</i> | | common pink flowers | 20 th |
| | <i>Phlomis cretica</i> | | short shrub, near Prevelli | 20 th |
| | <i>Phlomis fruticosa</i> | | the common Jerusalem sage | 18 th |
| E | <i>Phlomis lanata</i> | | small round leaves | 22 nd |
| | <i>Prasium majus</i> | | | 20 th |
| | <i>Salvia triloba</i> | | large pale-flowered sage | 18 th |
| | <i>Salvia viridis</i> | | tiny annual sage | 20 th |
| | <i>Satureja thymbra</i> | | | 18 th |
| E | <i>Scutellaria sieberi</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Sideritis curvidens</i> | | annual, white flowers | 20 th |
| | <i>Stachys cretica</i> | | downy | 18 th |
| | <i>Corydothymus capitatus</i> | | bushy thyme | 18 th |
| Linaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Linum strictum</i> | Upright Yellow Flax | Yellow | 18 th |
| | <i>Linum arboreum</i> | Tree Flax | In the gorge | 23 rd |
| | <i>Linum bienne</i> | Pale Flax | Pale blue | 18 th |
| Lythraceae | | | | |
| | <i>Lythrum junceum</i> | | | 18 th |
| Malvaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Lavatera cretica</i> | Small-flowered Tree Mallow | | 21 st |
| | <i>Malva cretica</i> | | Very small, pink flowers | 20 th |
| | <i>Malva sylvestris</i> | Common Mallow | | 20 th |

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| | Myrtaceae | | | |
| | <i>Myrtus communis</i> | Myrtle | | 18 th |
| | Oleaceae | | | |
| | <i>Olea europea</i> | Wild Olive | | 21 st |
| | Orobanchaceae | | | |
| | <i>Orobanche ramosa</i> | Branched Broomrape | Purple | 18 th |
| | Oxalidaceae | | | |
| | <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> | Bermuda Buttercup | Very common weed | 18 th |
| | Papaveraceae | | | |
| | <i>Glaucium flavum</i> | Yellow Horned Poppy | | 18 th |
| | <i>Papaver hybridum</i> | Rough Poppy | In Frangkocastello | 23 rd |
| | <i>Papaver purpleomarginatum</i> | | In the gorge | 23 rd |
| | <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> | Corn Poppy | Blood red | 18 th |
| | Plantaginaceae | | | |
| | <i>Plantago afra</i> | Branched Plantain | | 18 th |
| | <i>Plantago coronopus</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Plantago cretica</i> | | | 20 th |
| | Platanaceae | | | |
| | <i>Platanus orientalis</i> | Eastern Plane | Big tree | 20 th |
| | Primulaceae | | | |
| | <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> | Scarlet Pimpernel | | 19 th |
| E | <i>Cyclamen creticum</i> | Cretan Cyclamen | | 19 th |
| | <i>Samolus valerandi</i> | Brookweed | | 20 th |
| | Ranunculaceae | | | |
| | <i>Ranunculus asiaticus</i> | Turban Buttercup | | 18 th |
| | <i>Anemone hortensis</i> | | | 19 th |
| | Rosaceae | | | |
| | <i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i> | Thorny Burnet | A chicken-wire plant | 18th |
| | Rutaceae | | | |
| | <i>Ruta chalepensis</i> | Fringed Rue | | 23 rd |
| | Saxifragaceae | | | |
| | <i>Saxifraga chryso-splenifolia</i> | | in the gorge | 23 rd |
| | Santalaceae | | | |
| | <i>Osyris alba</i> | | | 18th |
| | Scrophulariaceae | | | |
| | <i>Bellardia trixago</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Linaria micrantha</i> | | tiny, Festos | 22 nd |
| | <i>Misopates orontium</i> | Weasel's Snout | | 22 nd |
| | <i>Parentucellia latifolia</i> | Southern Red Bartsia | | 19 th |
| | <i>Parentucellia viscosa</i> | Yellow Bartsia | | 18 th |
| | <i>Scrophularia lucida</i> | | Figwort along verges, cut leaves | 21 st |
| | <i>Scrophularia peregrina</i> | | Annual figwort | 23 rd |
| | <i>Verbascum arcturus</i> | | on the gorge cliffs | 22 nd |
| | <i>Verbascum macrurum</i> | | big mullein on hillsides | 20 th |
| | <i>Verbascum sinuatum</i> | | not in flower yet | 22 nd |
| | <i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i> | Blue Water-speedwell | In the stream behind Plakias | 18 th |
| | Solanaceae | | | |
| | <i>Hyoscyamus albus</i> | White Henbane | in the castle | 23 rd |
| | Thymelaceae | | | |
| | <i>Thymelea hirsuta</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Daphne sericea</i> | | | 19 th |
| | Valerianaceae | | | |
| | <i>Centranthus calytrapa</i> | Annual Valerian | Small pink valerian on rocks | 20 th |
| E | <i>Valeriana asarifolia</i> | Cretan Valerian | Big round leaves, near stream | 19 th |

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|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| MONOCOTYLEDONS | | | | |
| Alliaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Allium subhirsutum</i> | | small delicated Allium | 22 nd |
| Amaryllidaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Pancratium maritimum</i> | Sea Daffodil | Leaves all over the dunes | 21 st |
| Araceae | | | | |
| | <i>Arisarum vulgare</i> | Friar's Cowl | | 19 th |
| | <i>Arum concinatum</i> | | purplish, in the olive groves | 21 st |
| | <i>Arum italicum</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i> | Dragon Arum | | 18 th |
| Asparagaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Drimia (Urginea) maritima</i> | Sea Squill | | 18 th |
| | <i>Muscari comosum</i> | Tassel Hyacinth | | 18 th |
| E | <i>Muscari spreitzenhoferi</i> | | yellow at bottom, blue at top | 18 th |
| | <i>Ornithogallum narbonense</i> | | | 18 th |
| Iridaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Gladiolus italicus</i> | Field Gladiolus | | 18 th |
| E | <i>Iris cretensis</i> | Cretan Iris | | 19 th |
| | <i>Gynandiris sisyriuchium</i> | Barbary Nut | | 18 th |
| Liliaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Gagea graeca</i> | | the white 'lily' | 19 th |
| E | <i>Tulipa doerfleri</i> | | | 19 th |
| Palmaceae | | | | |
| E | <i>Phoenix theophrasti</i> | Cretan Palm | | 20 th |
| Xanthorroaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Asphodelus ramosus</i> | Common Asphodel | | 19 th |
| | <i>Asphodeline lutea</i> | Yellow Asphodel | | 19 th |
| Orchidaceae | | | | |
| | <i>Anacamptis boryi</i> | = Orchis | | 19 th |
| | <i>Anacamptis fragrans</i> | = Orchis coriophora ssp fragrans | | 21 st |
| | <i>Anacamptis laxiflora</i> | = Orchis | | 19 th |
| | <i>Anacamptis papilionacea ssp alibertis</i> | = Orchis | | 20 th |
| | <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> | Pyramidal Orchid | | 19 th |
| | <i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i> | = Barlia, Giant Orchid | | 19 th |
| | <i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i> | | Small and dark | 19 th |
| | <i>Ophrys ariadnae</i> | | Early flowering | 19 th |
| | <i>Ophrys cretica</i> | | Late flowering | 19 th |
| | <i>Ophrys episcopalis</i> | | | 19 th |
| | <i>Ophrys creberimma</i> | | | 19 th |
| | <i>Ophrys heldreichii</i> | | Egyptian beard | 19 th |
| | <i>Ophrys iricolor</i> | | Pink underneath lip | 19 th |
| | <i>Ophrys phryganae</i> | | Yellow with a kink, fresh | 19 th |
| | <i>Ophrys sicula</i> | | Yellow, flat, going over | 19 th |
| | <i>Ophrys gortynia</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i> | | | 19 th |
| | <i>Orchis anthropophora</i> | = Aceras, Man Orchid | | 19 th |
| | <i>Orchis italica</i> | Naked Man Orchid | | 19 th |
| | <i>Orchis lactea</i> | Milky Orchid | | 19 th |
| | <i>Orchis pauciflora</i> | | Pale yellow and white | 19 th |
| | <i>Orchis quadripunctata</i> | Four-spotted Orchid | | 19 th |
| | <i>Orchis sitiaca</i> | | | 19 th |
| | <i>Serapias bergonii</i> | | | 18 th |
| | <i>Serapias cordigera ssp cretica</i> | | | 22 nd |
| | <i>Serapias lingua</i> | | | 19 th |
| | <i>Serapias parviflora</i> | | | 18 th |

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|--|-------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Family Podicipedidae (Grebes) | | | | | | | | | |
| Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| Family Ardeidae (Herons) | | | | | | | | | |
| Squacco Heron | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | | | | | X | | | |
| Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises) | | | | | | | | | |
| Glossy Ibis | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| Family Anatidae (Swans, geese and ducks) | | | | | | | | | |
| Ferruginous Duck | <i>Aythya nyroca</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| Family Accipitridae (Hawks and Eagles) | | | | | | | | | |
| Griffon Vulture | <i>Gyps fulvus</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Lammergeier | | | | | X | | | | |
| Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Honey Buzzard | <i>Pernis apivorus</i> | | | | | X | | | |
| Family Falconidae (Falcons) | | | | | | | | | |
| Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Peregrine | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | | | | | | | H | |
| Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges) | | | | | | | | | |
| Chukar | <i>Alectoris chukar</i> | | | | | | | H | |
| Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes) | | | | | | | | | |
| Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| Coot | <i>Fulica atra</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| Little Crake | <i>Porzana parva</i> | At least 4 at Agia Reservoir, 17 th | | | | | | | |
| Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers) | | | | | | | | | |
| Wood Sandpiper | <i>Tringa glareola</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| Family Laridae (Gulls) | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow-legged Gull | <i>Larus michahellis</i> | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves) | | | | | | | | | |
| Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon | <i>Columba livia</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Woodpigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | | | | | | | X | |
| Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos) | | | | | | | | | |
| Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | | | X | | | | | |
| Family Strigidae (Owls) | | | | | | | | | |
| Scops Owl | <i>Otus scops cyprius</i> | | | | | | | H | |
| Family Apodidae (Swifts) | | | | | | | | | |
| Swift | <i>Apus apus</i> | | | | | | X | | |
| Pallid Swift | <i>Apus pallidus</i> | | X | | | | | | |
| Alpine Swift | <i>Apus melba</i> | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Family Upupidae (Hoopoes) | | | | | | | | | |
| Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | | | | | | X | | X |
| Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters) | | | | | | | | | |
| Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | | | | X | | | X | |
| Blue-cheeked Bee-eater | <i>Merops persicus</i> | An adult in olive groves behind Plakias, 18 th | | | | | | | |
| Family Alaudidae (Larks) | | | | | | | | | |
| Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | | | | X | X | X | X | |
| Woodlark | <i>Lullula arborea</i> | | | X | | | H | | |
| Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins) | | | | | | | | | |
| Sand Martin | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | | X | | X | | X | | |
| Crag Martin | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> | | | | | | | X | X |

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|--|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| House Martin | <i>Delichon urbica</i> | | X | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Red-rumped Swallow | <i>Hirundo daurica</i> | | | | | X | | | |
| Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Family Motacillidae (Pipits and Wagtails) | | | | | | | | | |
| Tawny Pipit | <i>Anthus campestris</i> | | | X | | | | | |
| White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | | | | | | X | | |
| Black-headed Wagtail | <i>Motacilla (flava) feldegg</i> | | X | | | | | | |
| Family Troglodytidae (Wrens) | | | | | | | | | |
| Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | | | X | | | | X | |
| Family Turdidae (Thrushes and Chats) | | | | | | | | | |
| Stonechat | <i>Saxicola torquata</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Whinchat | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | | X | X | | X | X | | |
| Eastern Black-eared Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe (hispanica) melanoleuca</i> | | | | X | | | X | |
| Blue Rock Thrush | <i>Monticola solitarius</i> | | | | X | | | X | |
| Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Family Sylviidae (Warblers) | | | | | | | | | |
| Sardinian Warbler | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Eastern Subalpine Warbler | <i>Sylvia (cantillans) albigriata</i> | | | | X | | X | | |
| Great Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> | | | | | | H | | |
| Cetti's Warbler | <i>Cettia cetti</i> | H | H | | | | H | | |
| Wood Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> | | | | | | X | | |
| Family Muscipidae (Flycatchers) | | | | | | | | | |
| Spotted Flycatcher | <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | | | | | | X | X | |
| Pied Flycatcher | <i>Ficedula</i> | | | | X | X | X | X | |
| Collared Flycatcher | <i>Ficedula albicollis</i> | | X | | | | | | |
| Family Paridae (Tits) | | | | | | | | | |
| Blue Tit | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Family Laniidae (Shrikes) | | | | | | | | | |
| Woodchat Shrike | <i>Lanius senator</i> | | | | | | X | | |
| Family Corvidae (Crows) | | | | | | | | | |
| Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | | | | | | | X | |
| Chough | <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> | | | | X | | X | | |
| Jackdaw | <i>Corvus monedula</i> | | | | X | | X | | |
| Hooded Crow | <i>Corvus cornix</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | | X | X | X | | X | X | |
| Family Passeridae (Sparrows) | | | | | | | | | |
| Italian Sparrow | <i>Passer italiae</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Family Fringillidae (Finches) | | | | | | | | | |
| Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Linnet | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> | | | | X | | X | X | |
| Greenfinch | <i>Carduelis chloris</i> | | X | | X | X | X | X | |
| Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Family Emberizidae (Buntings) | | | | | | | | | |
| Cretzschmar's Bunting | <i>Emberiza caesia</i> | | | | X | | | | |
| Corn Bunting | <i>Miliaria calandra</i> | | | X | X | X | X | X | |

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| AMPHIBIANS | | | | | | | | | |
| Green Toad | <i>Bufo viridis</i> | | | | | D | | | |
| Cretan Water Frog | <i>Pelophylax cretensis</i> | | | | | X | | | |
| American Bull Frog | <i>Lithobates catesbeiana</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| REPTILES | | | | | | | | | |
| Family Lacertidae (Lizards) | | | | | | | | | |
| Balkan Green Lizard | <i>Lacerta trilineata</i> | | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Cretan Wall Lizard | <i>Podarcis cretensis</i> | | | | | | | X | |
| Family Scincidae (Skinks) | | | | | | | | | |
| Ocellated Skink | <i>Chalcides ocellatus</i> | | | | | | X | | |
| Family Colubridae (Terrapins) | | | | | | | | | |
| Balkan Terrapin | <i>Mauremys rivulata</i> | | D | | | | | X | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| BUTTERFLIES | | | | | | | | | |
| Family Papilionidae (Swallowtails) | | | | | | | | | |
| Swallowtail | <i>Papilio machaon</i> | | | | | X | X | X | |
| Scarce Swallowtail | <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i> | | | | X | | | | |
| E Cretan Festoon | <i>Zerynthia cretica</i> | | | | X | X | | X | |
| Family Pieridae (Whites) | | | | | | | | | |
| Large White | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> | | | | X | X | X | | |
| Small White | <i>Pieris rapae</i> | | | | | X | X | X | |
| Eastern Dappled White | <i>Pontia edusa</i> | | X | | X | | X | | |
| Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias croceus</i> | | | | X | X | X | X | |
| Cleopatra | <i>Gonopteryx cleopatra</i> | | | | X | | | | |
| Family Nymphalidae (Admirals and Fritillaries) | | | | | | | | | |
| Painted Lady | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> | | | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Red Admiral | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> | | | | | | | X | |
| Southern Comma | <i>Polygonia egea</i> | | | | X | | | X | |
| Family Satyridae (Browns) | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern Speckled Wood | <i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i> | | X | | X | X | X | X | |
| Meadow Brown | <i>Maniola jurtina</i> | | | | | X | | | |
| Wall | <i>Lassiomata megera</i> | | X | | | | X | X | |
| Family Lycaenidae (Blues & Coppers) | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Blue | <i>Polyommatus icarus</i> | | | | X | X | X | X | |
| Small Copper | <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> | | | | | | X | X | |
| Brown Argus | <i>Aricia agestis</i> | | | | | | | X | |

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | |
| | Striped Hawkmoth | <i>Hippotion celerio</i> | One looking very tired, Plakias, 18 th |
| E | Cretan Shieldbug | <i>Graphosoma creticum</i> | The orangey shieldbug on the hillside near Preveli |
| | a shieldbug | <i>Graphosoma lineatum</i> | the black and red stripy shieldbugs, Preveli |
| | an oil beetle | <i>Meloe sp</i> | Spili, 19 th |
| E | a longhorn beetle | <i>Agapanthia probsti</i> | Mirthios, 21 st |
| | Violet Carpenter Bee | <i>Xylocopa violacea</i> | the flying black olive |
| | a solitary wasp | <i>Megascolia flavifrons</i> | The large 'hornet', a parasite of big scarab beetles |
| | Egyptian Grasshopper | <i>Anacridium aegyptium</i> | seen several times, the big grey locust |
| | Nosed Grasshopper | <i>Acrida hungarica</i> | the stick-insect grasshopper, 18th |
| | Giant Centipede | <i>Scolopendra cingulata</i> | under flat stones |
| | a scorpion | | Three seen under bark in the gorge, 23 rd |
| | The Emperor | <i>Anax imperator</i> | the big blue dragonfly hawking the river, 20 th |
| | Vagrant Emperor | <i>Anax ephippiger</i> | the large dull brown hawk |
| | Southern Skimmer | <i>Orthetrum brunneum</i> | a pair in a roadside ditch near Preveli, 20 th |