

WILDLIFE TRAVEL



LESVOS

8th to 15th May 2022

Leaders

Philip Precey

Derbyshire



A gallery of photos from the trip is at www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72177720298854728

Front: Holy Orchid (*Anacamptis sancta*). Above: Greater Flamingos

Day One: 8th May. Arrival in Lesvos

An early start had us on our way to Greece, and the blue seas and blue skies of Lesvos. The bus whisked us across the island to our 'home' in Skala Kallonis, where, after settling into our rooms, we headed straight out for a wander around the local area.

In the hotel grounds, the palm trees were home to nesting colonies of Spanish Sparrows, while House Sparrows were setting up home under the eaves. A Nightingale singing at full throttle from a pine in the garden was the first of many during the week.

Down to the 'pool', where what was once a small lake has in recent years silted up and filled in with rushes and grasses, and is now a damp swampy meadow. There is now no open water visible from the surrounding roads, although the site was still damp enough to attract a passing Marsh Harrier, with singing Reed Warblers from the taller reeds. A similar but more cyclical scratchy song was coming from the tamarisk bushes, and the particularly un-prepossessing Eastern Olivaceous Warbler.

Amongst the rushes, we also found good numbers of Dark Spreadwing, an interesting little damselfly with a fondness for shallow, brackish waters that dry up during the summer... exactly the conditions they find here! Alongside plenty of the dark, bluey Dark Spreadwings was a single, paler Migrant Spreadwing, with a smartly striped thorax and no blue 'pruinescence'.

After reading about them on one of the town's interpretative panels, a request was made for a terrapin, and almost immediately afterwards we found terrapins aplenty in a ditch: stripe-necked Balkan Terrapins of all sizes, from a couple of tiny, beady-eyed youngsters to some decent sized old animals; and a single European Pond Terrapin, with his spotty chin and rather blank expression.

After a full circuit of the pool, and not entirely certain what time zone or meal time we were in, we headed back to the hotel.

Day Two: 9th May. Skala Kallonis

Skala Kallonis is sandwiched in between two rivers: the Christou River to the west, and the Tsiknias River to the east. Our wanderings today took us to both.

We started by heading west, walking along the beach where a pair of Little Ringed Plovers were down on the shoreline, and we admired the red *Silene colorata*, purple *Matthiola tricuspidata* and the grey foliage and yellow-and-white daisy flowers of *Anthemis tomentosa* all growing together at the back of the beach.

A Bee-eater posed nicely out on a small tamarisk bush, the first of many, with the trilling flight calls a frequent sound throughout the day, and indeed the whole week.

Crested Larks were singing out on the saltmarsh, with a family of Stonechats and a male Kentish Plover nearby, a handful of Red-rumped Swallows were amongst the abundant House Martins and Barn Swallows, and a Black Stork soared overhead.

We then made our way back eastwards, through the village and out to the 'East River' on the other side, where we spent the rest of the day.

Before we even caught sight of the river, a surprise came in the form of a Dalmatian Pelican, flying slowly low overhead, as it made its way downstream towards the sea. A not-quite-annual visitor to Lesvos, there was no sign of it on the water once we got to the riverbanks...

The muddy margins were home to a good variety of waders, pausing to feed up on their way northwards: during the afternoon we found 9 Ruff, 8 Little Stint, 3 each of Common Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper and Little Ringed Plover, and single Green Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Kentish Plover and, best of the lot, a Spur-winged Lapwing, another local scarcity. A handful of herons were also seen, with a Great White Egret and a pair of Little Egrets by the ford, single Squacco and Purple Herons flying upriver, and two sightings of Little Bittern, a male and a female, both seen in flight before landing in the riverside vegetation and disappearing from sight.

Black-headed Buntings were singing from bushes in the fields, Eastern Olivaceous Warblers from the tamarisks, a single chuntering Great Reed Warbler, and plenty of Cetti's Warblers, Reed Warblers and Nightingales from the denser reeds and bushes.

The warm day had plenty of insects on the wing: butterflies included Swallowtail, Turkish Meadow Brown, Lesser Spotted Fritillary and Eastern Dappled White, along with one or two speedy (and unidentified) blues and coppers. Dragonflies included a pair of Small Skimmers, flying along the track: as the name suggests, a small 'skimmer', similar in size to the 'darters' we are familiar with at home, and an essentially Asian species, which just sneaks into Europe here, in Rhodes and on Cyprus. Lesser Emperor and Southern Skimmer were down over the water.

Interesting and attention-grabbing plants included the tall, white-flowered woundwort *Stachys spinulosa*; the striking black-purple loosestrife *Lysimachia atropurpurea*; Large Venus's-Looking-Glass; and the odd little yellow-flowered *Hypechoum procumbens*, a strange poppy-relative.

Back in the village square, we paused for a very welcome cold drink, before heading back Malemiwards.

Day Three: 10th May. Kalloni and Metochi

Today we headed off eastwards in the bus, ably chauffeured by Maria who dropped us at the entrance to Kalloni saltworks, where we spent the morning making our way slowly around the edge of the saltpans and down to the coast.

Out on the saltpans themselves were good numbers of Avocet and Greater Flamingos, along with a pair of Shelduck and smaller numbers of Black-winged Stilts. The 'moat' was obviously less saline than the pans themselves, with a scattering of Little Stints feeding along the muddy margins.

Away from the water, Bee-eaters were adorning the bushes, fences and wires around the sandier fields, with several birds starting to make their burrows in the soft soil.

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The Alykes 'wetlands' were anything but wet: after a dry winter and an increasingly warm spring, the pools here were all dried up, with a handful of White Storks stalking through the longer grass the only 'waders' to be found, and five White-winged Terns passed through at speed, without pausing for a rest, while a pair of Short-toed Eagles were hunting over the fields.

Flipping stones and other detritus revealed a couple of interesting arachnids: a shy solifuge, and a boisterous scorpion.

Heading down to the sea, we found some interesting coastal vegetation, most notably the grey hummocks of *Centaurea spinosa*, along with a trio of plants familiar from English coasts: Yellow horned Poppy *Glaucium corniculatum*, Sea Holly *Eryngium maritimum* and Sea Rocket *Cakile maritima*.

A couple of Little Terns were roosting on the breakers, with butterflies on the wing including a familiar quartet of Small Copper, Small Skipper, Common Blue and Painted Lady, alongside the less familiar Lesser Spotted Fritillary.

We took the opportunity to have lunch in the shade of the hotel garden, before heading back out for our afternoon visit to Metochi. A circular walk took us around the small lake, and then through the olive groves and small arable fields, passing an interesting rocky slope before heading back to the bus.

A roosting Night Heron and a flushed female Little Bittern were found on the lake, along with a family group each of Coot and Little Grebe (including a trio of Tiny Grebes). Lesser Emperor dragonflies were quartering the open water, damselflies include Common Bluetail and Blue Featherlegs, and seemingly every available scrap of shore line was home to a clutter of Balkan Terrapins, especially in the channels and ditches. A handful of Levant Water Frogs were calling from the lake, and we found a group of at least 20 making themselves at home in a small concrete water tank.

A male Woodchat Shrike was the first of a trio of shrikes to put in an appearance, hunting from a fence amongst the trees. A little later a stunning male Masked Shrike was found, feeding from just below the canopy of the olives, a slimmer, longer-tailed bird, with peachy flanks. Finally, a female Red-backed Shrike popped up on a hedge in the arable fields.

Three Eastern Black-eared Wheatears were on the rocky slope, including two adult males, one each of the white-throated and black-throated forms. An impressively-constructed Rock Nuthatch nest was spotted amongst the rocks, but alas not its owner.

Butterflies were enjoying the ever-increasing afternoon warmth, with Turkish Meadow Brown especially numerous, all looking incredibly fresh. A handful of Eastern Festoons were nectaring on the lilac Knautia flowers, with Clouded Yellow, Large White and a single Black-veined White all passing by.

Day Four: 11th May. Ipsilou and Sigri

Westwards ho! Our drive took us from the oak- and olive-cloaked hillsides of the central parts of the island to the dry hillsides of the west, and the impressive hill-top monastery of Ipsilou.

As we walked slowly up the track, we began to find the special birds of this dry, rocky part of the island. The short grassland was attractive to wheatears, and alongside several Eastern Black-eared and a couple of Northern Wheatears we found the first of our 'targets', with two or three of the larger, blonde Isabelline Wheatears on territory. Next up, a pair of Cretzschmar's Buntings spent some time around the track, the male a subtle ginger-and-grey concoction. Nearby, a Western Rock Nuthatch was found, visiting his nest in the shade beneath an overhang. A male Blue Rock Thrush appeared in the distance, while soaring overhead we had first a lovely Eleonora's Falcon followed a little later by a pair of Levant Sparrowhawks, heading north.

As we came into the trees, we could hear another unfamiliar song, which was eventually tracked down to the top of a nearby oak tree: a male Cinereous Bunting, an unassuming grey and yellow bird but one of the stars of the island, restricted to the mountains of Turkey stretching into the Zagros mountains of Iran, and just three Greek islands: Skyros, Chios and Lesvos.

Spotted Flycatchers, Eastern Subalpine Warblers, Blackcap and a single Wood Warbler were flitting about in the trees, finishing off our bird list for the morning.

From Ipsilou, we continued out to the western end of the island, and the museum at Sigri, where we learned something of the 'complicated' (for which, read bewildering) geology of the island, and admired the superb fossils found in the area, most notably the sequoia and oak trees of the 'petrified forest', and some spectacular proboscideans (ancestral cousins of the modern elephants).

We had lunch in the shade of the museum gardens, whilst enjoying several spikes of the pretty pink Holy Orchid *Anacamptis sancta*.

With orchids on our mind, we headed back eastwards, and stopped for an afternoon walk through the olive groves in an area of limestone amongst the otherwise volcanic countryside, where we found a small population of Monkey Orchid *Orchis simia*. In the same area we found the impressive Dragon Arum *Dracunculus vulgaris* not quite unfurled; the bizarre Hairy Birthwort *Aristolochia hirta*, the foodplant of the Eastern Festoon; and a variety of members of the pea family, including the lovely False Sainfoin *Vicia onobrychioides* and numerous clovers.

A single Sombre Tit was found, our first of the week, although it soon disappeared amongst the olive trees.

Day Five: 12th May. Petri and Molyvos

Today was our trip northwards: we started with a walk through the scenic little village of Petri, looking down towards the sea over the nearby town of Petra, with its church on a volcanic plug, stood proud above the town.

Our wandering took us through the lanes beyond Petri, where along with the now-'usual' Nightingales singing, we also heard a Golden Oriole, a couple of song-fighting Common

Whitethroat and the purring of a couple of Turtle Doves, one of which was perched up on his song post, posing nicely.

Several shrikes also put in an appearance during the morning, with Masked Shrike, Woodchat Shrike and Red-backed Shrike all posing nicely for us in the olives and small oaks. Less obliging were the Sombre Tits, who just would not come out from behind the densest patches of twigs...

At a rocky outcrop, we found a very obliging Western Rock Nuthatch, building his nest, an impressive mud construction underneath a rock overhang, while a pair of Eastern Black-eared Wheatears flitted about nearby.

As the morning warmed up, so the butterflies came out, and the morning provided sightings of several new species for the week's tally: Small Heath, Oriental Marbled Skipper, Orbed Red-underwing Skipper and Aegean Fritillary, while plenty of Eastern Festoons were on the wing. We also had great views of another impressive insect, *Nemoptera sinuata*, with the less-than-impressive English name of Thread Lacewing or Spoon-wing Lacewing.

Reptiles included Snake-eyed Lacertid and Balkan Green Lizard; a couple of Starred Agama put in an appearance, sunbathing on the top of rocks; a Spur-thighed Tortoise appeared on the track, before making a speedy get-away; and some rock-turning finally paid off, with a lovely Worm Snake.

Back on board the bus, we headed to the lovely town of Molyvos, where we walked down from the Byzantine castle, through the narrow, cobbled streets, to the harbour, passing another trio of new butterflies along the way, in the form of Geranium Bronze, Long-tailed Blue and Lattice Brown.

After a delicious lunch by the harbour, we headed back down the coast a little way, to the headland at Kavaki. The heat of the day was probably not the best time to look for small birds, but a couple of Peregrines put in a decent performance, and a handful of warblers were glimpsed flitting through the bushes, before we headed back to the shade of the bus, and drove homewards...

Day Six: 13th May. Achladeri and Agiassos

First stop of the day was a marshy area close to the road (a little too close, for Maria's liking), where huge numbers of Dark Spreadwing damselflies were perched up in the reeds, waiting for the day to warm up. Out on a shallow pool, a Squacco Heron was preening, with a pair of Mallard and a fly-past from a Grey Heron. Red-backed Shrike sang from the wires, and trackside plants included Holy Orchid, Lax-flowered Tongue Orchid and the beautiful yellow and white *Iris orientalis*.

Next, we headed to the pine forests at Achladeri, where we followed the very precise directions past a red-painted tree to a bench-like fallen log, and sat in wait...

We didn't have long to wait, as a couple of minutes later our 'target bird' appeared on the dead tree opposite us and stuck its head into a small hole on the trunk: Krüper's Nuthatch, checking how close to fledging his brood for this year was. This handsome little nuthatch, with a black cap, white eye stripe and brick-red chest patch, is pretty much restricted to Asia Minor, with Lesvos its one European outpost.

With the nuthatch successfully 'under the belt', we headed up through the pine forests into the mountains, successfully (if only just) negotiating the narrow streets of Agiassos and making our way up into the chestnut forests on the slopes of Mount Olymbos. Our time here was spent enjoying some pretty special wild flowers... *Tulipa hagleri*, *Arum rupicola*, *Paeonia mascula*, *Ornithogallum nutans*, *Euphorbia rigida*, *Fritillaria pontica* and *Anemone pavonina* all added splashes of bright colour, and a variety of orchids were found amongst the trees: Provence Orchid *Orchis provincialis*, Toothed Orchid *Neotinea tridentata*, Green-winged Orchid *Anacamptis morio* subsp *caucasica*, Sword-leaved Helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia* and Holmboe's Butterfly Orchid *Platanthera holmboei* all added to our orchid list for the week.

After lunch amongst the trees, and our fill of the botanising, we headed back down to the coast, where some of us walked back along the Tsiknias River, a good choice as it turned out, with 6 very showy Little Bitterns and a bonus male Citrine Wagtail the rewards for our efforts.

Day Seven: 14th May. Lafionas and Petras

For our final day, we headed back towards the north of the island, and the lovely hilltop village of Lafionas, from where we walked a circuit of Roudi hill.

An adult Eleonora's Falcon put in an appearance first thing, circling slowly over before heading westwards. The trees were full of singing Chaffinches and Eastern Subalpine Warblers, while family groups of Blue and Great Tits fed in the pines. A couple of noisy Peregrines were hanging around the rocks above us, with a pile of feathers on the path evidence that at least one of this year's young didn't fledge successfully...

Down at ground level, new flowers included the lovely Spotted Rock-rose *Tuberaria guttata* growing along the track sides, and a few spikes of Violet Bird's-nest Orchid *Limodorum abortivum* and French Lavender *Lavandula stoechas* were found amongst the pines. Less obliging were the two Caucasian Squirrels who were glimpsed running off through the rocky scrubland.

With the day warming up, butterflies were on the wing: Eastern Festoon were plentiful, along with Black-veined White, Lesser Spotted Fritillary, Balkan Fritillary, Wall, a smart Southern Comma, a fleeting Scarce Swallowtail (surprisingly our only sighting of the week) and both Turkish (with two small spots on the hindwing) and Aegean (with four small spots) Meadow Brown.

At a small water tank, we found several Broad-bodied Chasers patrolling the water. And we had good sightings of two large, rather un-jewel-like jewel beetles, in the family Buprestidae: *Chalcophora detrita* flew in to share the shade with us, and the Peach Flat-head Borer *Capanodis tenebrionis* was spotted on a dead bush towards the end of our walk.

After making our way back through the maze of narrow cobbled streets, we re-joined Maria in the village square, and then headed down to the seaside town of Petra for some afternoon refreshments, before returning to Skala Kallonis.

Day Eight: 30th March. Departure

One last breakfast, and then it was time to bid farewell to Skala Kallonis, and make our way back to Mytilene, and to Manchester, at the end of a lovely (if a little warmer than planned) week.

Philip Precey, Wildlife Travel. May 2022



Above (left to right): Monkey Orchid, Holmboe's Butterfly Orchid, Toothed Orchid

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ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th
BIRDS									
Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese & Swans)									
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>				X	X	X		
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			X			X		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		X				X		
Family Procellariidae (Shearwaters)									
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			X			X		
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)									
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		X				X	X	
Family Pelecanidae (Pelicans)									
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>		1						
Family Phoenicopteridae (Flamingoes)									
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	X		X			X		
Family Ciconiidae (Storks)									
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		1	X			1		
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2	1	1					
Family Ardeidae (Hérons)									
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		2	1			6	2	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			1					
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		1				1		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		3				1		
Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>		1		1		1		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		1						
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					1	1		
Family Accipitridae (Hawks and Eagles)									
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		1	2	2		2		
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>				2				
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1							
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				2	2	1	X	
Family Falconidae (Falcons)									
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					2		2	
Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>				1			1	
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				1	2			
Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)									
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		1	X			X	x	
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			X			X		
Family Recurvirostridae (Avocets and Stilts)									
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	X		X			X		
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	X		X			X		

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Family Charadriidae (Plovers)									
Spur-winged Plover	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		1						
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		3				6	X	
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>		2			1			
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)									
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa</i>		3				3		
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		1						
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		3						
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		8	X			10	4	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		1						
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	X	9	1					
Family Laridae (Gulls)									
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>						1		
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Sternidae (Terns)									
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	1						1	
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>			X					
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		1	1	1	1	9	6	
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>		1	1					
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			4					
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)									
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>					2	1	1	
Family Strigidae (Owls)									
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	H							
Family Apodidae (Swifts)									
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>		X						
Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)									
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Upupidae (Hoopoes)									
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			1			3	1	
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)									
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus medius</i>				X			X	
Family Alaudidae (Larks)									
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				X				
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)									
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>							X	
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

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Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		X	X		X	X		
Family Motacillidae (Pipits and Wagtails)									
Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (f.) flava</i>			X					
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (flava) feldegg</i>		X	X			X	x	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (a.) alba</i>			X					
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>						X		
Family Muscicapidae (Flycatchers and Chats)									
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		X	X	X		X		
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>			X	X	X		X	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				X				
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>				X				
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				X				
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		X	X	X		X	X	
Family Turdidae (Thrushes)									
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)									
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				X				
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>					X			
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia albistriata</i>				X	X		X	
Rüppell's Warbler	<i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>					X			
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)									
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				X				
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>				X				
Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers)									
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		X	X			X		
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	X	X	X			X	X	
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Cettiidae (Bush Warblers)									
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Cisticolidae (Cisticolas)									
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		X				X		
Family Paridae (Tits)									
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>				X	X			
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)									
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus tephronotus</i>						H		

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Family Sittidae (Nuthatches)									
Krüper's Nuthatch	<i>Sitta krueperi</i>						X		
Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			S	X	X			
Family Troglodytidae (Wren)									
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>						H		
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)									
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>				1				
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			1	X	X	X		
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			1		X	X	X	
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>			1		X	X	X	
Family Oriolidae (Orioles)									
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>					H		H	
Family Corvidae (Crows)									
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandularius atricapillus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	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	X	
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)									
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>								X
Family Passeridae (Sparrows)									
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Fringillidae (Finches)									
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				X	X	X	X	
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>					X	X	X	
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		X		X				
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>						X		
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)									
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cinereous Bunting	<i>Emberiza cineracea</i>				3				
Cretzschmar's Bunting	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>				2				
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>				2	X	X	X	
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>		X	X		X	X	X	

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ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th
MAMMALS									
Caucasian Squirrel	<i>Sciurus anomalus</i>							X	
Beech Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>				D				
Lesser Mole-Rat	<i>Nanospalax leucodon</i>			S				S	
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>				1				
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	X	X	X	X				
AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES									
Green Toad	<i>Bufotes viridis</i>							D	
Levant Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax bedriagae</i>			X	H			X	
Eastern Tree Frog	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>					X			
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	X							
Balkan Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Starred Agama	<i>Laudakia stellio</i>					X		X	
Snake-eyed Lacertid	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>				X	X			
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>			X	X	X	X	X	
Glass Lizard	<i>Pseudopus apodus</i>			X					
Worm Snake	<i>Xerotyphlops vermicularis</i>					X			
Coin-marked Snake	<i>Hemorrhois nummifer</i>							S	
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>						D		
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>						X		

BUTTERFLIES									
Family Papilionidae (Swallowtails)									
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		X	X					
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>							X	
Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisyi</i>			X		X	X	X	
Family Pieridae (Whites)									
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	X	X	X		X		X	
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>			X		X		X	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	X	X	X		X		X	
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>							X	
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>				X	X	X	X	
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>		X					X	
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	X							
Family Nymphalidae (Admirals and Fritillaries)									
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	X			X	X	X	X	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			X	X	X			
Southern Comma	<i>Polygonum egea</i>							X	
Aegean Fritillary	<i>Melitaea telona</i>					X			
Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>		X	X		X		X	

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Family Satyridae (Browns)									
Balkan Grayling	<i>Hipparchia senthes</i>						X	X	
Lattice Brown	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i>					X			
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>							X	
Aegean Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola telmessia</i>							X	
Turkish Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola megala</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>					X		X	
Family Lycaenidae (Blues & Coppers)									
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			X	X	X	X	X	
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>						X		
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>				X	X	X	X	
Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>					X			
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	
Family Hesperidae (Skippers)									
Hungarian Skipper	<i>Spialia orbifer</i>					X			
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>					X			
Oriental Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus orientalis</i>					X			
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>			X	X	X		X	

ODONATA - DRAGONFLIES		
Dark Spreadwing	<i>Lestes macrostigma</i>	Skala Kallonis pool, and Achladeri
Migrant Spreadwing	<i>Lestes barbarous</i>	one, Skala Kallonis pool
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Metochi
Blue Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	Metochi
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	Tsiknias River; Metochi
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	Lafionas, in the water tank
Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>	Female perched, Metochi
Small Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum taeniolatum</i>	Along track, by Tsiknias River

MISCELLANEOUS/ADDITIONS		
a sun spider	Order Solifugae	one under a rock at the salt pans
a scorpion	<i>Mesobuthus gibbosus</i>	under litter at the salt pans
Eastern Hornet	<i>Vespa orientalis</i>	
Mammoth Wasp	<i>Megascolia maculata</i>	
Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa sp.</i>	
Spoon-wing Lacewing	<i>Nemoptera sinuata</i>	Petri
Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>	
Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	
Shore Tiger Beetle	<i>Calomera littoralis</i>	on the shore at the salt pans
Peach Flathead Borer	<i>Capanodis cf tenebrionis</i>	Lafionas
a jewel beetle	<i>Chalcophora cf detrita</i>	Lafionas
a carrion beetle	<i>Silpha obscura</i>	The 'woodlouse' beetle larve at Skala

SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
DICOTYLEDONS	
Apiaceae	
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot. Common road verge weed
<i>Echinophora spinosa</i>	Very spiny umbellifer, not yet in flower, at coast by the salt pans
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel. Common roadside weed, yellow 'ball' flowerheads
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel. Common roadside weed, not yet in flower
<i>Lagoecia cuminoides</i>	Small annual with feathery leaves and 'pompom' seed head, at edge of road up to Ipsilou
<i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Water Dropwort. Common along the damp roadsides around Skala Kallonis
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's Needle
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders. Field edge weed, Skala Kallonis
<i>Smyrniolum perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders. eg Metochi
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Disk-shaped seeds with raised bobbly ridge, eg nr Andissa
<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	Upright Hedge-Parsley. Taller plant, with ovoid seeds covered in hooked bristles, nr Andissa
<i>Torilis nodosa</i>	Knotted Hedge Parsley. Field edge weed.
Anacardiaceae	
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Turpentine Tree. The bush with the very furry caterpillars
Platanaceae	
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane
Apocynaceae	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander.
Aristolochiaceae	
<i>Aristolochia hirta</i>	Hairy Birthwort. Nr Andissa
Asteraceae	
<i>Anthemis rigida</i>	The ray-less 'daisy'
<i>Anthemis tomentosa</i>	Grey-leaved 'daisy' on the beach, Skala Kallonis
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Corn Marigold. Common roadside/field edge weed
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Slender Thistle. Common field edge weed
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower
<i>Centaurea spinosa</i>	grey, fleshy-stemmed 'hummocks' at the beach, Kallonis
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory
<i>Crepis rubra</i>	Pink Hawk's-beard
<i>Glebionis coronaria</i>	Crown Daisy. Field edge weed, eg Skala Kallonis
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	Syrian Thistle. Multi-headed thistle, along 'East River'
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Holy Thistle. Common roadside weed around Skala Kallonis
<i>Tragopogon sinuatus</i>	Southern Salsify. Common field edge weed: giant 'clock'

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
Boraginaceae	
<i>Anchusa undulata</i>	Deep blue flowers
<i>Echium italicum</i>	Pale Viper's Bugloss.
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	the low-growing, darker flowered viper's bugloss
Brassicaceae	
<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned Stock. Lilac flowers, on the beach at Skala
Campanulaceae	
<i>Campanula lyrata</i>	Walls and rocky cliffs
<i>Campanula sp</i>	Tall spike, Lafionas
<i>Legousia pentagonia</i>	Large Venus's-looking-glass. Tsiknias, track sides
Caprifoliaceae	
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i>	Tall lilac-flowered 'scabious'. Common roadside weed.
Caryophyllaceae	
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	Corncockle. Common in arable fields around Skala Kallonis
<i>Dianthus sp</i>	Above Agiassos
<i>Petrorhagia sp.</i>	A childing pink. Skala Kallonis
<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean Catchfly. Short, red-pink, at back of beach
<i>Silene dichotoma</i>	Forked Catchfly. Field edge weed, hairy
<i>Silene italica</i>	Sticky Catchfly. Ipsilou
<i>Spergularia bocconeii</i>	A rock spurrey. Kallonis saltpans
Cistaceae	
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Pink cistus on hillsides
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	White cistus, through the pine forest
<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Spotted Rock-rose. Lafionas
Crassulaceae	
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort. Walls around Metochi
Cucurbitaceae	
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber. Skala Kallonis
Euphorbiaceae	
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
<i>Euphorbia rigida</i>	the spurge above Agiassos
Fabaceae	
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean Trefoil. Shrub, with long 'bean pods', nr Andissa
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree. Planted roadside shrub near Skala Kallonis
<i>Hippocrepis emerus</i>	Scorpion Vetch. Yellow 'crown vetch', nr Andisa
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling. Pale yellow flowers, large stipules, no leaves
<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>	pea with two-tone red and pink flowers, nr Andissa
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Large Disk Medick. Seedpods a flat, spiral disc. eg nr Andissa
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Hairy Medick. Very spiny, spiral seedpods, nr Andissa
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot
<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	Cock's-comb Sainfoin. saltpans

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
<i>Securigera cretica</i>	Small pink & white crown vetch, nr Andissa
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom. Large yellow flowered broom, sweet smell
<i>Tifolium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Clover. Tall flower head, nr Andissa
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover eg nr Andissa
<i>Trifolium grandiflorum</i>	The trifolium with pinky-tipped flowers, nr Andissa
<i>Trifolium pilulare</i>	Calyx as inflated ball, nr Andissa
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover carmine pink, common in waste place. Calyx tip with 2 points
<i>Trifolium scabrum</i>	Rough Clover. Large white flower head, nr Andissa
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Star Clover. Calyx long-pointed stars
<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly Clover eg nr Andissa. Calyx round woolly balls
<i>Trifolium uniflorum</i>	Single white flowers, Ipsilou
<i>Vicia onobrychioides</i>	False Sainfoin. Vetch with long purple flower spikes, nr Andissa
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch. Rich purple vetch, nr Andissa
Fagaceae	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak. Small scrubby oak with holly leaves
<i>Quercus ithaburensis ssp macrolepis</i>	Valonia Oak. Tree with large acorn-cups, covered in large 'scales'. Leaves with pointed lobes.
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak. Tree-forming oak, with 'normal', round-lobed oak leaves
Frankeniaceae	
<i>Frankenia hirsuta</i>	saltpans
Lamiaceae	
<i>Ballota acetabulosa</i>	a horehound, Metochi
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle. Roadside weed
<i>Lamium garganicum</i>	Large pink-and-white flowers, Petri
<i>Lamium moschatum</i>	Musk Dead-nettle. Large white dead-nettle with pale-blotched uppermost leaves, Tsiknias river banks
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender
<i>Origanum onites</i>	White Oregano. on rocky hillsides around Petri
<i>Stachys cretica</i> subsp <i>lesbiaca</i>	Pale pink flowers, narrow leaves, Kalloni saltpans
<i>Stachys spinulosa</i>	Large white-flowered woundwort, Tsiknias riverbanks
Moraceae	
<i>Althaea pallida</i>	Turkish Wild Hollyhock. Tall pale pink hollyhock, eg Lafionas
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow.
Moraceae	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig
Oleaceae	
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive

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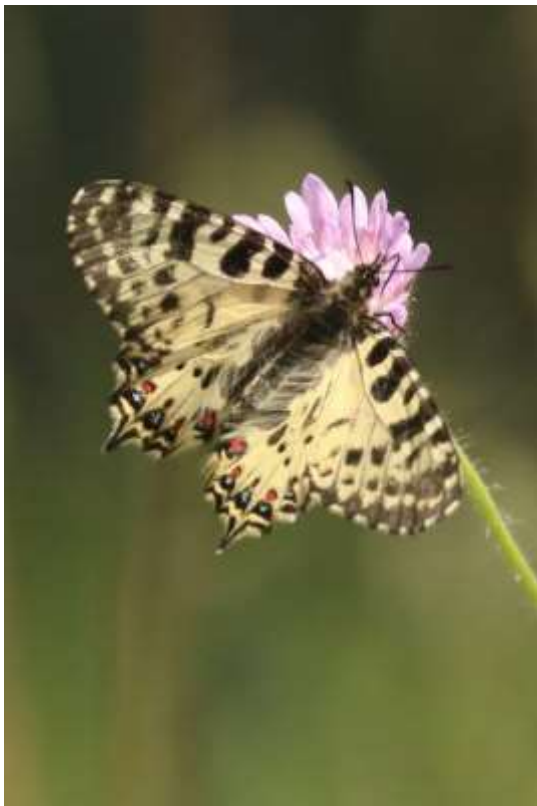
SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
Orobanchaceae	
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia
<i>Orobanche spp</i>	at least three different broomrapes
Paeoniaceae	
<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	above Agiassos
Papaveraceae	
<i>Glaucium corniculatum</i>	Yellow-horned Poppy.
<i>Hypecoeum procumbens</i>	The small yellow flower, Skala Kallonis
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Corn Poppy
Primulaceae	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Lysimachia atropurpurea</i>	Dark Purple Loosestrife. Along rocky shore of 'East River'
Plantaginaceae	
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax
<i>Veronica catenata</i>	Pink Water Speedwell
Plumbaginaceae	
<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	Sea Lavender. Sigri museum grounds
Ranunculaceae	
<i>Anemone pavonina</i>	Peacock Anemone above Agiassos
<i>Clematis sp</i>	Lafionas
<i>Ranunculus muricatus</i>	the common buttercup in ditches/field edges
<i>Ranunculus cf ophioglossifolius</i>	Adder's-tongue Crowfoot. Ditches around Metochi
Resedaceae	
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette. Kavaki
Rosaceae	
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	Quince. nr Andissa
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond. nr Andissa
<i>Pyrus cf pyraster</i>	Wild Pear. A broad-leaved pear, nr Andissa
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Almond-leaved Pear. The wild pear tree with narrow leaves
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Spiny Burnet. Chicken wire bush
Rubiaceae	
<i>Theligonum cynocrambe</i>	Dog Cabbage. Walls around Metochi
Santalaceae	
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris. Broom-like shrub, with small yellow flowers. Metochi
Solanaceae	
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	White Henbane. Molyvos
Ulmaceae	
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Smooth-leaved Elm. Metochi hedges
Urticaceae	
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman Nettle. eg Metochi

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
MONOCOTYLEDONS	
Amaryllidaceae	
<i>Allium sphaerocephalon</i>	Round-headed Leek. Kallonis salt pans
Aracaceae	
P <i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	The palm tree in the garden, with Spanish Sparrow colonies.
Araceae	
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon Arum nr Andissa
<i>Arum rupicola</i>	above Agiassos
Asparagaceae	
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	Wild Asparagus
<i>Muscari commutatum</i>	The little grape hyacinth above Agiassos
<i>Muscari (=Leopoldia) comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth. Olive groves around Metochi
<i>Muscari (=Leopoldia) weissii</i>	The tassel hyacinth above Agiassos
<i>Ornithogalum nutans</i>	above Agiassos
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	Achladeri
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom. Agiassos and Lafonias
Iridaceae	
<i>Iris orientalis</i>	Yellow and white 'flag', Metochi & Achladeri
Liliaceae	
<i>Fritillaria pontica</i>	above Agiassos
<i>Gagea graeca</i>	white Gagea in the chestnut forest, above Agiassos
<i>Tulipa hageri (=T orphanidea)</i>	above Agiassos
Orchidaceae	
<i>Anacamptis morio ssp caucasica</i>	Green-winged Orchid. above Agiassos
<i>Anacamptis sancta</i>	Holy Orchid. eg Sigri museum garden, Molyvos
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine. above Agiassos
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Bird's-nest Orchid. Lafonias
<i>Neotinea tridentata</i>	Toothed Orchid. above Agiassos
<i>Orchis provincialis</i>	Provence Orchid. above Agiassos
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid. nr Andissa
<i>Platanthera holmboei</i>	Holmboe's Butterfly Orchid. above Agiassos
<i>Serapias laxiflora ssp bergonii</i>	Achladeri marhes
Asphodelaceae	
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Ipsilou: still in flower
Poaceae	
<i>Aegilops cf geniculata</i>	The 'spreading spiky flowered' grass, nr Andissa
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed. eg Tsiknias River
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Kallonis salt pans
<i>Hordeum bulbosum</i>	Roadsides towards Christou River
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-foot Grass



Flowers of Lesvos (clockwise, from top left):
Fritillaria pontica, *Tulipa hageri*, *Paeonia mascula*, *Iris orientalis*



Inverts of Lesvos (clockwise, from top left):
Eastern Dappled White, Dark Spreadwing, Aegean Fritillary, Eastern Festoon



Birds of Lesvos (clockwise, from top left):
Krüper's Nuthatch, Cinereous Bunting, Spur-winged Lapwing, Masked Shrike