WILDLIFE TRAVEL



#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	26 th April	London to Lesvos
2	27 th April	Skala Kallonis
3	28 th April	Kalloni salt pans. Metochi Lake
4	29 th April	Ipsilou Monastery, Petrified Forest and Sigri, Limonas Monastery
5	30 th April	Achladeri Forest, Agiassos, Kalloni mini-soccer pitch
6	1 st May	Kavaki Headland, Molyvos, Kalloni Raptor Watchpoint, Tskinias River
7	2 nd May	Alykes wetlands & Kalloni salt pans. Napi Valley
8	3 rd May	Skala Kallonis, and return to airport

LIST OF TRAVELLERS

Leaders

Mike Russell Sussex Philip Precey Derbyshire

A gallery of Philip's photos from this year's Lesvos trip can be found online at https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72157681539227170



Above: Starred Agama (Molyvos) and Cinereous Bunting (Ipsilou)

Day One: Wednesday 26th April. London to Lesvos

We all met and negotiated check-in and security at Heathrow with consummate ease though we didn't manage to connect with John until Athens Airport having previously accosted two other gentlemen who might have fitted the bill as a Wildlife Traveler but when we found the real thing our party was complete, as was the transfer to Mytinini Airport where a minibus was awaiting us to whisk off in the darkness to the Malemi Hotel.

As we settled into our rooms for the night, we were introduced to the Lesvos night chorus of barking dogs, gobbling turkeys, a loudly 'poioowing' peacock and other noises one of which could have been emanating from the nearby emu. As a pre-cursor to a wave of towel sculptures, Claire had the gift of an **Eastern Tree Frog** in her bed and summoned Charles and Philip to witness and remove it having considered whether to give it a good night kiss in case it might turn into a prince, but decided on the whole she preferred frogs anyway.

Meanwhile, the night temperature had failed to recognise that we were meant to be in a warm southern European climate and nearly everyone had to find extra warmth to pile on the beds, some resorting to various floor coverings, but this problem was sorted out over the rest of the holiday.

Day Two: Thursday 27th April. Around Skala Kallonis

Only Charles and myself made the pre-breakfast walk around the lanes, where one of the first birds we heard was an **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler**, the song of which became one of the sounds of the week and whose name has to be pronounced in your best Alan Bennett voice. A colony of **Spanish Sparrows** was noted amongst the plentiful **House Sparrows**. A **Black Stork** drifting towards the hotel and a very splendid male **Whinchat** were the highlights of this walk.

After breakfast, we set out for our fairly casual day around Skala Kallonis but it delivered some wonderful birds to set us on our way. First up was a great view of a **Stone Curlew** down at the marshy area at the mouth of the Christou River, just west of the village, while it gave us a chance to compare and contrast **Kentish Plo**ver with **Little Ringed Plovers**. Two other birds, **Corn Bunting** and **Crested Lark**, were birds first noted here but were very common everywhere we went, as were the abundant **Swallows** and **House Martins**, including a number of **Red-rumped Swallows**. Another bird we first encountered here and then every day were the **Bee-eaters**, incredibly colourful and acrobatic and usually announcing their presence first with wonderful soft but audible call, and they enchanted Annette and Marie-Claude so much and enough for them to both make it their favourite bird of the holiday.

Following a very nice coffee in the town, we then went to walk east out of the village and along the River Tsiknias and so began a wonderful afternoon walking up the banks where birds and butterflies abounded. We had already heard **Nightingales** but the intensity of them along this stretch of river meant that there was a constant serenade as we passed prompting Lindsay to pronounce that it was her bird of the trip for providing the soundtrack to the holiday, whereas for John, the walk along the river was for him the most memorable moment of the trip. Meanwhile, a pair of **Citrine Wagtails**, the male in resplendent lemonyellow plumage caused great excitement, as did a **Squacco Heron** as it glided up river. A few minutes later we were enjoying splendid views of both male and female **Little Bitterns** as they probed along the opposite bank. These views and an incident later in the week at the same point and involving removal of socks when Charles encountered another one almost face-to-face prompted Charles to vote it his favourite bird. In a field further up the river, a **Woodchat Shrike** sat nearby on a fence allowing us all to admire this very striking bird.

Other wildlife we enjoyed were the **Balkan Terrapins** loafing on the river banks and also a very large, evident **Levant Marsh Frog** while Charles and Philip began to assemble a butterfly list as both **Common** and **Scarce Swallowtails** were seen and then on most succeeding days as was the rather pretty **Lesser Spotted Fritillary**.

A long day walking, the call of a beer and our first dinner of the trip and so ended our first full day in Lesvos.

Day Three: Friday 28th April. Kalloni Saltpans and Metochi Lake.

Pre-breakfast walk this morning produced a close **Black-headed Bunting**, more of which we saw later in the week. Then off to the Kalloni Saltpans and a superb mornings birding. This following our introduction to a Lesvos version of Mike, our minibus driver, who didn't really speak much English whereas I didn't speak any Greek, so we had some interesting conversations during the week. However, we got to the saltpans and immediately enjoying views of many waders and the **Greater Flamingo's** looking resplendent in the sun. John was entranced by the very close **Black-winged Stilts** enough and so declared that this was his favourite bird of the holiday. Among the flamingos, we managed to pick out some **Gull-billed Terns** on a sand bar while **Little and Common Terns** fished nearby. The tern feast continued when a beautiful **White-winged Black Tern** floated majestically over our heads, definitely qualifying it as my bird of the week.

Walking down the track alongside the dyke, between us the group were looking at the landscape at different levels. Some of us were scanning the skies, and the saltpans for birds, Charles was mid-level and along the vegetation for butterflies and other insects while Philip was working at the micro-level, turning over rocks to see what he could find. He was rewarded and much delighted to find a **Worm Snake** under one of the stones, a new species for him and his favourite moment, though for some reason I allowed him two favourite moments!

Those of us with our eyes looking to the distance noticed a flock of about 30 dark birds that were slowly making their way towards us that eventually reached the saltpans and revealed themselves to be **Glossy Ibis** and such a splendid sight that Annette said it was her magical moment as it represented such freedom and elegance in the natural world. Eventually we made it to the Alykes wetlands and spent a wonderful hour or so enjoying brilliantly close views of the birds, particularly the waders. With the sun behind us we were able to compare the subtle differences between both **Temminck's** and **Little Stints** while **Ruff** and **Wood Sandpipers** were the most numerous. Four splendid **Spotted Redshanks** paraded and a bit of a surprise were the **Turnstones** amongst them. Another great sighting here was a single **Whiskered Tern** that hovered right in front of us which was a lovely moment

Slightly more distant was a **Ruddy Shelduck** and looking back onto the saltpans there plenty of **Avocets** and we managed to pick out three **Slender-billed Gulls** on the water. Sun, heat and an overwhelming desire for a coffee sent us back into Skalla Kallonis where we enjoyed our very nice packed lunch and Hugh declared the whole morning at the Saltpans and Wetlands was so enjoyable that he declared it his most memorable moment of the trip.

After lunch, a few decided that an afternoon back at the hotel by the pool was too attractive to resist so the rest of us went to find the Metochi Lake not very far away but trying to communicate with Mike to where it was proved to be, well, challenging. Thanks mainly to Philips sat nav we eventually found it, but one false stop did at least provide a really good view of a **Long-legged Buzzard** over our heads. Searching for a particular bird took a while but Philip eventually located a **Little Crake** but then had the task of getting everyone to see it, which was not easy but in the end, everyone got onto it......except Michael! Luckily before we got back onto the bus later on, we went to look for it again but this time Michael was the first to see it and then turned around to point out a **Hen Harrier** flying behind us! Definitely his most magical moment. While looking at the crake the first time, Charles and I managed to get onto a large warbler moving around in the vegetation which we established to be an **Olive-tree Warbler**, not a common bird here.

A walk along the road produced some excellent sightings, none more so than the **Starred Agamas** that looked on from the boulders up the hills. A **Short-toed Eagle** cruises overhead we then saw our first **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear** of the holiday which looked very majestic amongst the rocks. Another great sighting at this point was **a Western Rock Nuthatch** and finding the mud pointed nest of this bird amongst the crags earned it the prize of being Claire's favourite bird. Also, a pair of **Masked Shrikes** moving about in an olive grove provided an interesting few minutes trying to get good views of them.

Back at the hotel in the evening, Charles enthusiastically took on the task of teaching the resident African Grey parrot to become the 'Wildlife Travel' representative for Lesvos, and throughout the rest of the holiday repeated this mantra with great regularity and causing enormous hilarity amongst the group!

Day Four: Saturday 29th April. Ipsilou and Sigri

Spreading our wings today, we headed out to the west of the island it took about 45 minutes to get to the parking spot at the bottom of the road that led up to the Ipsolu Monastery and just a wonderful morning's birding. As soon as we were off the bus we were comparing three wheatears. As well as the already seen Black-eared Wheatear, we were trying to sort out the difference between the familiar **Northern Wheatear** and the **Isabelline Wheatear** which do look similar but it was interesting trying to sort the subtle differences between them. No sooner had we got them sorted then one of the target species showed really well and getting prolonged views of a **Cinerous Bunting** gave Philip his bird of the trip and brought the confession from him that the only reason he came on this trip was to see this bird!

Claire really enjoyed more good views of a Western Rock Nuthatch and very soon, the second of five buntings was recorded, the difficult to pronounce **Cretzschmar's Bunting**. A black and white bird gave us a bit of a run-around but eventually we got good enough views of a **Collared Flycatcher** to confirm identity. A butterfly highlight on this walk was a splendid **Queen of Spain Fritillary**. A bird sitting in a distant bush was nailed as a **Cirl Bunting** while from deep down in the valley the mellifluous sound of a **Golden Oriole** drifted up, but sadly no sighting today or any other come to that.

Two raptors appeared and for the next few minutes we were highly entertained by a **Short-toed Eagle** and a fabulous **Eleanora's Falcon** that zoomed through the sky, a brilliant aerial display and Hugh had no trouble nominating this as his best bird of the week. The whole walk of about 500 metres took us about three hours and so by the time we got to the top we sought shade for our lunch but struggled to find convenient bushes for a convenience stop! This morning proved to be Claire's most memorable moment of the holiday, remembering it as being the same as when she came on the trip three years ago, saying there was just so many things to see!

Hunger and thirst appeased, we then moved on a few miles to the Petrified Forest where those who had exercised greater bladder control were rather alarmed to find that the loos in the Visitor Centre were closed! It was very hot by now and so the lack of shade curtailed walking somewhat but very soon we managed to catch a key species here, a **Chukar**, which looks very like the Red-legged Partridge.

Good views of whinchats on the fence were enjoyed and on the way back a lump just the other side of a fence turned out to be a **Spur-thighed Tortoise** rather looking out of place amongst a load of plastic. The heat enforced the decision to go down to nearby Sigri on the coast and a very welcome drink at a café and from the cool of the terrace we added **Jackdaw** to the list and some reasonable views of some **Mediterranean Shags**. Making our way back we had a break at the lovely Limonas Monastery and I think everyone enjoyed having a look around and a chance to enjoy a welcome ice cream.

Day Five: Sunday 30th April. Achladeri Forest and Agiassos.

Another warm day, and decided to swap days so headed out west with a first stop to admire the staggering field of poppies along the side of the road and great photographic opportunity. Soon after we arrived at our first destination for the day, the Achladeri Forest, a lovely mixed deciduous forest. A particular Lesvos speciality was what we wanted to see here so senses were heightened as we moved slowly through the forest. Some people got a brief view of a **Middle Spotted Woodpecker**, the only woodpecker on the Island, but soon after, the presence of a huge camera lens revealed the potential location of our target bird. Very soon we were being treated to great views of a pair of **Kruper's Nuthatch** busily bringing food back to their nest. A wonderful little bird that just creeps into Europe by being a resident on Lesvos. Both Michael and Sheila enjoyed this spectacle so much that the Kruper's was crowned bird of the holiday by both of them, while watching the behaviour of these 2 birds at the nest enthralled Charles enough to make it has memorable moment. Watching this was so enjoyable that the nearby **Serin** in the wood was almost overlooked.

Another field of poppies required more photographs before we moved on and headed off to Agiassos and after our wonderful views of Kruper's we deserved a coffee which was easier said than done as we chose a café where trying to get 12 drinks sorted out was a task of epic proportions, even with Mike the driver trying his best to interpret our various requirements to the rather bemused young lady in charge of the café. In the end, we all got some liquid refreshment of some sorts and them made our way to the chestnut forest. Here the flora outshone the fauna as Philip went about identifying a range of flowers including six varieties of orchids and the locally endemic *Fritillaria theophrasti*. New butterflies to add to the list included **Knapweed Fritillary** and a **Green-underside Blue** while a new bird that we enjoyed was a **Robin.** A few people also got good views of a **Balkan Wall Lizard** as well. This whole experience in the Chestnut Forest was for Marie-Claude her abiding memory of the holiday, the overall peacefulness of the place, the variety of the plants all contributing to this decision.

Leaving this idyllic place, we headed back to Skalla Kallonis but not before stopping at the mini-soccer pitch outside Kallonis, much to the bemusement of Mike the driver. Again, the presence of a ridiculously big camera lens pointing at a tree and it looked like another target place was probably there, which indeed it was, a splendid **Scop's Owl** right out in the open on the branch of a Eucalyptus tree in full view of everyone, though it thought it was well camouflaged! It was brilliant to see this wonderful bird that we had been hearing outside the hotel rooms but had yet to see. A second one was also located and Liz had no qualms in nominating this the bird of the holiday.

Another splendid day out in the field in the ever-increasing heat merited a beer or two!

Day Six: Monday 1st May. Kavaki headland and Molyvos

Easter Monday and a public holiday in Lesvos and we headed up northwest and our first stop was at Kavaki looking for another island speciality. Not evident straightaway we did see a raft of **Yelkouan Shearwaters** on the sea. However, the bird we particularly wanted to see soon put in an appearance and we all got really good views of **Ruppell's Warbler** sitting on the top of bushes, though it was pretty mobile moving from bush to bush. We then got a bit of a warbler festival and an **Eastern Orphean Warbler** was noted moving backwards and forwards and obviously had a nest nearby and then, not to be outdone, an **Eastern Subalpine Warbler** starting showing very well and a good few minutes were enjoyed in the presence of their company. Another new species here was **Blue Rock Thrush**

I hadn't anticipated us seeing the Ruppell's quite so easily, so the only thing to do was to go and have a coffee in the rather nice restaurant where we got even better views of a Ruppell's Warbler and a few couldn't resist sampling some of the splendid confectionary on display! We then moved onto Molyvos and the chance to actually relax and actually do some shopping before making our way down to the lovely Seahorse Hotel on the seafront and a very pleasant leisurely lunch. We parked at the Castle and soon found the both a **Little Owl** and a **Kestrel** perched in the holes of the wall. The town was very busy and I think some of us wouldn't have mind spending time at the party that was beginning to get going and enjoy the views that were on display! However, I was having none of it as we had spent a lot of time already not birding, so on the way back we first stopped at the Raptor Watchpoint which was notable for its lack of raptors so moved onto the north side of Tsiknias River.

The river level was very low but we did get great views of Nightingale and a number of Wood Sandpipers were moving up and down the river as were both **Ringed** and **Little Ringed Plovers**. Another Citrine Warbler, a female, showed well. Heat and thirst sent us back to the hotel, with Philip and Charles deciding to walk back when a Little Bittern provided Charles with his moment of the holiday.

Day Seven: Tuesday 2nd May. Kalloni saltpans and Napi Valley

Our last full day and a very productive pre-breakfast walk down to the wetlands at the front of the lines of the hotel and great views of Black Stork, Little Bittern, Purple Heron, Glossy Ibis and Squacco Heron. **Reed, Sedge** and **Cetti's Warblers** were all plentiful as well. The briefest view of a **Garganey** meant at least it got on the list.

Back to the saltpans and wetlands and it was great to see a field of **White Storks** opposite where we parked, a bird we hadn't seen all week. Even better views of both White-winged and Whiskered Terns were enjoyed as were the waders. New birds were added that were all pretty familiar to us, **Snipe**, **Redshank** and **Black-headed Gull** while an **Osprey** was spotted in the distance making its way towards us, not a common bird seen in Lesvos. Both **Blue-headed** and **Black-headed Wagtails** came very close to us and we also got really good views of a fully summer-plumaged **Red-throated Pipit** which was a great sighting.

Lunch beckoned, so we headed back into town and found an excellent restaurant which made it harder to get going again, but somehow, we managed it and so went to explore a footpath through the Napi Valley. It was by now very hot and I think some of us were beginning to wilt a bit, but there were still new birds to see! A **Nuthatch** was nice to see but not really the target bird, which indeed was eventually located a **Sombre Tit,** which is a bit of a misnomer as the bird didn't really seem that miserable! Some new butterflies were also found by Charles along this track, a **Spotted Fritillary**, a **Turkish Meadow Brown** and a **Hungarian Skipper**. As we made our weary way back to the minibus, a raptor flew fairly overhead which we identified as a **Booted Eagle** a very rare visitor to Lesvos, while a **Peregrine** also put in an appearance.

In the evening, it was a great to go through your favourite birds and most memorable moments, a very varied selection was made, and the three moments that are missing are from Liz who just that being back in Lesvos and the love she has for this Island and enough for her and will be her best memory of the week, while for Lindsay, she also just loved the Island as well, particularly the wild flowers that were everywhere, not just in a few designated meadows as they are in the UK. As for Sheila, what she is going to remember most from this trip was the laughter, which indeed there was plenty of.

Day Eight: Wednesday 3rd May. Back to the airport

Our last morning, so most of us managed the pre-breakfast walk and enjoyed the last views of the Stone Curlew and up to 10 Kentish Plovers on the beach and then wandering along to the marshy area where a **Great Reed Warbler** was being mobbed by 3 Reed Warblers and then a new bird for the trip, a **Black-crowned Night Heron** sitting prominently in a tree.

So, one last walk past the snarling dogs and back to the hotel, breakfast, goodbye to George and the hotel staff, the parrot and assortment of cats and our fairly uneventful but somewhat tedious journey back home began.

By the sound of it, you all enjoyed your adventure in Lesvos. Comfortable accommodation, good food, great weather, brilliant birds, lots of fun and wonderful company, sums up the week fairly well I think.

Mike Russell, Wildlife Travel





Above: Kruper's Nuthatch (Achladeri) and Peacock Anemone Anemone pavonina (Agiassos)

LESVOS 2017: some highlights



Top row, I to r: White-winged Black Tern and Whiskered Tern, both at Alykes Wetlands First row, I to r: Citrine Wagtail and Little Bittern on the Tsikias River second row, I to r: Masked Shrike (Napi Valley), Scops Owl (Kalloni) and Ruppell's Warbler (Kavaki)

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1st	2nd
BIRDS								
Family Anatidae (Ducks, C	Geese & Swans)							
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor							Χ
Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea			Χ	Χ		Χ	Χ
Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna			Χ				Χ
Mallard	Anas platyrhnchos			Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Wigeon	Anas penelope			Χ		Χ		
Teal	Anas crecca						Χ	Χ
Garganey	Anas querquedula						Χ	Χ
Family Phasianidae (Phea								
Quail	Coturnix coturnix							
Chukar	Alectoris chukar				Χ	Н		
Family Procellaridae (She								
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis			Х	X	<u> </u>		1
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus				Χ	Χ		
Family Sulidae (Gannets)	D 63							
Yelkouan Shearwater	Puffinus yelkouan						Χ	
Family Phalacrocoracidae								
(Mediterranean) Shag	Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii			Х			Х	<u> </u>
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo							Χ
Family Phoenicopteridae								
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus			Χ		Χ		Χ
Family Ciconiidae (Storks								\ /
White Stork	Ciconia ciconia					.,		X
Black Stork	Ciconia nigra		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Family Threskiornithidae			\ <u>'</u>	V	V		V	V
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus		Χ	Χ	Χ		Χ	Χ
Family Ardeidae (Herons)			V	V	V		V	Χ
Little Bittern Black-crowned Night Heron	Ixobrychus minutus		Х	Х	Х	-	Х	^
	Nycticorax nycticorax Ardeola ralloides		V	~	Х	-	~	Χ
Squacco Heron Little Egret	Egretta garzetta		X	X	X	Х	X	Λ
Purple Heron			X	Λ Χ	<u>^</u>	^	^	Λ
Grey Heron	Ardea purpurea Ardea cinerea		X	X	^ X	Χ		Λ
Family Pandionidae (Ospr			Λ	^	^	^		Λ
(Western) Osprey	Pandion haliaetus							Χ
Family Accipitridae (Hawl								Λ
Short-toed Eagle	Circaetus gallicus			Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Booted Eagle	Aquila pennata		Н		<u> </u>			X
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus					Χ		
Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus		Х	Х		X	Х	Χ
Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus		<u> </u>	X				<u> </u>
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo				Χ	Χ	Χ	Х
Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus			Χ	X		,	<u> </u>
Family Falconidae (Falcon				, `				
Peregrine	Falco peregrinus		Χ					Χ
Eleonora's Falcon	Falco eleonorae		Ė		Χ			Ť
Hobby	Falco subbuteo				<u> </u>		Х	1
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus		Т	Χ	Χ		X	Х
Family Rallidae (Rails and								
Little Crake	Porzana parva			Χ				
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus		Х	X	Χ	1	Χ	Х
Coot	Fulica atra			X	X	Χ	ľ`	X

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30th	1st	2nd
Family Burhinidae (Sto	ne curlews)							
Stone Curlew	Burhinus oedicnemus		Х	Х	Н	Χ		
Family Recurvirostridae	e (Avocets and Stilts)							
Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta			Χ		Χ		Χ
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus		Х	Χ	Х	Χ	Χ	Χ
Family Charadriidae (Pl	overs)							
Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius		Х				Χ	Χ
Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula			Χ				Χ
Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus		Х	Χ		Χ		
Family Scolopacidae (Sa	andpipers)							
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago		Х					Χ
Curlew	Numenius arquata							Χ
Spotted Redshank	Tringa erythropus			Χ				Χ
Redshank	Tringa totanus							Χ
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus							Χ
Wood Sandpiper			Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos		Χ	Χ		Х		Χ
Turnstone	Arenaria interpres			Χ				
Little Stint	Calidris minuta			Χ				Χ
Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii			Χ				Χ
Ruff	Philomachus pugnax			Χ		Χ		Χ
Family Laridae (Gulls)								
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus							Χ
Slender-billed Gull	Chroicocephalus genei			Χ				
Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis		X	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus			Χ				
Family Sternidae (Terns						ļ.	4	
Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica		X	Χ		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Х
Little Tern	Sternula albifrons		X	Χ		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Χ
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	X
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida			X		\bot	₩	X
White-winged Black Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus			Х				Χ
Family Columbidae (Pig			V	V	V	V	V	V
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	Columba livia		X	X	X	X	X	X
Collared Dove Turtle Dove	Streptopelia decaocto		^	X	+	X	X	Н
Family Cuculidae (Cuck	Streptopelia turtur			Λ	Χ	۸	Λ	П
Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus					Н		
Family Strigidae (Owls)						111		\vdash
Scops Owl	Otus scops		Н	Н	Н	Χ	Н	
Little Owl	Athene noctua		-	1.	Х	X	Х	Χ
Family Apodidae (Swift					Λ	^	^	/
Swift	Apus apus		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Family Meropidae (Bee-				/	Λ.	^	^	/\
Bee-eater	Merops apiaster		Χ	Н	Н		Χ	Χ
Family Upupidae (Hoop								
Ноорое	Upupa epops				Н	Н		Н
Family Picidae (Woodpe								
Middle Spotted Woodpecke						Χ	Χ	Χ
Family Alaudidae (Larks								
Crested Lark	Galerida cristata		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Wood Lark	Lullula arborea				Н			

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	26 th	27th	28 th	29th	30 th	1st	2nd
Family Hirundinidae (Swallo	ws and Martins)							
House Martin	Delichon urbica		Х	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х
Red-rumped Swallow	Hirundo daurica		Х	Х	Χ		Χ	Χ
Swallow	Hirundo rustica		Х	Х	Χ	Х	Χ	Χ
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia			Х	Χ		Χ	Х
Family Motacillidae (Pipits a	nd Wagtails)							
Blue-headed Wagtail	Motacilla (f.) flava		Χ					Χ
Black-headed Wagtail	Motacilla (flava) feldegg		Х				Χ	Х
White Wagtail	Motacilla (a.) alba			Х				Χ
Citrine Wagtail	Motacilla citreola		Х				Χ	T
Water Pipit	Anthus spinoletta		Х					
Red-throated Pipit	Anthus cervinus			Χ				Х
Family Muscicapidae (Flycat								
Robin	Erithacus rubecula					Н		Т
Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos		Χ	Χ	Н	Х	Χ	Χ
Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra		Х		Χ			Х
Stonechat	Saxicola torquata		Ė		X		Χ	Ť
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe (hispanica) melanoleuca			Х	X		Χ	Х
Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe				X		Χ	Ť
Isabelline Wheatear	Oenanthe isabellina				X			T
Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius						Χ	T
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata				Х			T
Collared Flycatcher	Ficedula albicollis				Х			+
Family Turdidae (Thrushes)	recaula dibiconis				Λ.			
Blackbird	Turdus merula		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Wa	rblers)							
Whitethroat	Sylvia communis				Χ	Χ		
Eastern Orphean Warbler	Sylvia crassirostris						Χ	
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia (cantillans) albistriata				Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Rüppell's Warbler	Sylvia rueppelli						Χ	
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf	Warblers)							
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus				Н			
Family Acrocephalidae (Ree			_					
Great Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus		X	Н			Χ	Χ
Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus		Χ	Χ	Χ			Χ
Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus		Χ	Χ	Χ		Χ	
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	Iduna pallida		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Olive-tree Warbler	Hippolais olivetrorum			Χ				
Family Cettiidae (Bush Wart	·							
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Family Paridae (Tits)								
Great Tit	Parus major		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х
Sombre Tit	Poecile lugubris							Χ
Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus		Χ		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Family Sittidae (Nuthatches	T							F
Nuthatch	Sitta europaea		\vdash					Χ
Krüper's Nuthatch	Sitta krueperi					Χ		1
Western Rock Nuthatch	Sitta neumayer			Χ	Χ			
Family Troglodytidae (Wren								
	Troglodytes troglodytes					Н		
Wren	rregiou/tee tregiou/tee							
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)				,	,	,		
	Lanius senator		X	X	Χ	Χ	Χ	X

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1st	2 _{nd}	
Family Oriolidae (Orioles	s)								ľ
Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus				Н	Н			
Family Corvidae (Crows)									ı
Jay	Garrulus glandularius atricapillus		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	
Jackdaw	Corvus monedula				Χ				
Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	
Raven	Corvus corax				Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	
Family Passeridae (Spar	rows)								
Spanish Sparrow	Passer hispaniolensis		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	
Family Fringillidae (Finc	hes)								ı
Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs				Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	
Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis		X	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	
Serin	Serinus serinus					Χ			
Family Emberizidae (Bur	ntings)		_						ı
Corn Bunting	Miliaria calandra		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	
Cinereous Bunting	Emberiza cineracea				Χ				
Cretzschmar's Bunting	Emberiza caesia				Χ		Н		
Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus				Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	
Black-headed Bunting	Emberiza melanocephala		X	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ		

MAMMALS								
Persian (=Caucasian) Squirrel	Sciurus anomalus				Χ			
Lesser Mole-Rat	Nanospalax leucodon				S			S
Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus							Χ
AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES								
Green Toad	Bufotes viridis				Χ			
Eastern Spadefoot Toad	Pelobates syriacus							D
Levant Marsh Frog	Pelophylax bedriagae		Χ	Χ	Н	Н	Χ	Н
Eastern Tree Frog	Hyla orientalis	Χ	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н
Spur-thighed Tortoise	Testudo graeca				Χ			
Balkan Terrapin	Mauremys rivulata		Х	Χ			Χ	Χ
Starred Agama	Laudakia stellio			Χ	Χ		Χ	
Turkish Gecko	Hemidactylus turcicus						Χ	
Snake-eyed Lacertid	Ophisops elegans		Х	Χ	Χ			Χ
Balkan Green Lizard	Lacerta trilineata				Χ	Χ		Χ
Snake-eyed Skink	Ablepharus kitaibelii					Χ		
Worm Snake	Xerotyphlops vermicularis			Χ				Χ
Caspian Whip Snake	Dolichophis caspius				D			
Grass Snake	Natrix natrix							D
Dice Snake	Natrix tessellata		Х					

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30th	1st	2 _{nd}
BUTTERFLIES								
Family Papilionidae (Swa								
Swallowtail	Papilio Machaon		X		X		X	
Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalirius		X				Χ	Χ
Eastern Festoon Family Pieridae (Whites)	Zerynthia cerisyi			Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Clouded Yellow	Colias croceus		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ		Χ
Black-veined White	Aporia crataegi				X	Χ		Ť
Large White	Pieris brassicae				1	Χ	Χ	
Small White	Pieris rapae		Х	Χ	Х	Χ	Х	Χ
Green-veined White	Pieris napi		Х	X				Ħ
Orange Tip	Anthocharis cardamines			X	Х	Χ		Χ
Eastern Dappled White	Euchloe ausonia				Х			Χ
Eastern Bath White	Pontia edusa		Х	Х	Х		Х	Χ
Family Nymphalidae (Ad	mirals and Fritillaries)							
Southern White Admiral	Limenitis reducta					Χ	Χ	
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta					Χ	Χ	
Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui		Х	Х	Χ		Χ	Χ
Queen of Spain Fritillary	Issoria lathonia				Χ			
Knapweed Fritillary	Melitaea phoebe					Χ		
Spotted Fritillary	Melitaea didyma							Χ
Lesser Spotted Fritillary	Melitaea trivia		Χ	Χ	Χ			Χ
Family Satyridae (Brown	s)		_					
Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera		Х		Χ			
Turkish Meadow Brown	Maniola megala							Χ
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus		Χ	Χ	Χ			Χ
Family Lycaenidae (Blues	s & Coppers)							
Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas		X	Χ	Χ	Χ		Χ
Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus					Χ		
Green-underside Blue	Glaucopsyche alexis					Χ		
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus			Χ		Χ		
Family Hesperiidae (Skip								
Hungarian Skipper	Spialia orbifer			1				Χ
Small Skipper	Thymelicus sylvestris			Χ			Χ	Χ

ODONATA - DRAGONFLIES		
White-legged Damselfly	Platycnemis pennipes	Achladeri woods, in the stream, 30 th
Blue Emperor	Anax imperator	eg Metochi Lake, 28 th
Black-tailed Skimmer	Orthetrum cancellatum	Kallonis salt pans
Southern Skimmer	Orthetrum brunneum	Metochi Lake, 28 th
Small Pincertail	Onychogomphus forcipatus	Along Tsiknias River, 1st
Red-veined Darter	Sympetrum fonscolombii	Metochi Lake, 28 th
OTHER INVERTEBRATES		
a tiger beetle	Calomera (Cicindela) littoralis	The tiger beetles running around on damp
a tiger beetie	Calofficia (Cicinacia) littoralis	mud at Kallonis salt pans, 28 th
a longhorn beetle	Dorcadion quadimaculatum	The sturdy longhorn beetle seen a couple of
a longilom beede	Dorcadion quadimacaiatam	times around the hotel
Egyptian Grasshopper	Anacridium aegyptium	The large, beige 'locust' with venetian-blind
Едуриан стазэпоррег	Tinachaiam acgyptiam	eyes.
Lesvos Bush-cricket	Poecilimon mytelensis	Common
		The flying black olive. There are three
a violet carpenter bee	Xylocopa sp.	species of similar-looking common, black
		Xylocopa bees on the Turkish

		Mediterranean mainland, with which Lesvos shares much of its fauna.
Giant Centipede	Scolopendra cingulata	Large centipede with a poisonous bite, under rocks
'Yellow spotted' Millipede	Melaphe vestita thracia	Under rocks
a jumping spider	Philaeus chrysops	the bright red-backed spider with black 'bat man mask' and 2 white spots on the thorax, on the roadside at Kallonis salt pans, 28 th
a ladybird spider	Eresus kollari	near the Petrified Forest, 29 th
Oriental Hornet	Vespa orientalis	The large hornet, seen frequently during the week
a tangle-veined fly	Fallenia fasciata	A large bee-fly-like fly, feeding on Holy Thistle flowers near the river mouth, 27 th . A mimic of a female <i>Xylocopa olivieri</i> carpenter bee. The larvae parasitize large grasshoppers, emerging from between the head and the thorax to pupate.
Mammoth Wasp	Megascolia maculata	Very large, chunky wasp with yellow spots on black abdomen. Parasite of Minotaur Beetles. eg near Metochi Lake, 28 th
scorpion	Buthus sp	Medium-sized, yellowish scorpion under a rock at Kellonis salt pans, 28 th .
a mourning bee	Melecta sp	The black-and-white cuckoo bee, patrolling solitary bee holes by the roadside above Agiassos, 30 th



Top (L to R): Scarce Swallowtail, Lesser Spotted Fritillary and Knapweed Fritillary Bottom: Worm Snake and a scorpion

SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES	First seer
SOME SELECTED PLANTS		
DICOTYLEDONS		
Apiaceae		
Oenanthe silalifolia	Narrow-leaved Water Dropwort Common white-	27 th
	flowered umbellifer along the damp roadsides near	
	Skala Kallonis	o =th
Ferula communis	Giant Fennel Tall umbellifer with yellow 'ball'	27 th
Foonisulum vulgara	flowerheads eg in the fields around Skala Kallonis	27 th
Foeniculum vulgare Scandix pecten-veneris	Fennel Common roadside weed eg Skala Kallonis Shepherd's Needle Small white-flowered arable weed	27 th
Scandix pecten-veneris	with long needle-like seeds	27
Smyrnium perfoliatum	Perfoliate Alexanders Roadsides eg Agiassos	27 th
Aristolochiaceae	Terroriate Alexanders Rodusides eg Agidssos	21
Aristolochia hirsuta	Hairy Birthwort roadsides above Agiassos	27 th
Asteraceae	Tidily Difficultive Country and Country an	_,
Silybum marianum	Holy Thistle leaves marbled white, large stout spines	27 th
•	around flower-head. Roadside weed, eg at the river	
	mouth, Skala Kallonis	
Calendula arvensis	Field Marigold Common weed in the arable fields	27 th
Tragopogon sinuatus	The lilac 'Goatsbeard': common roadside weed	27 th
Boraginaceae		
Echium italicum	Pale Viper's Bugloss pale flowers, very bristly	27 th
	stem/leaves, forming 'christmas trees' at roadside	
Echium plantagineum	Purple Viper's Bugloss roadside plant, smaller than	27 th
D	'our' Viper's Bugloss	
Brassicaceae	Three-horned Stock Skala Kallonis	27 th
Matthiola tricuspidata Campanulaceae	Inree-norned Stock Skala Kallonis	27 ^a
Campanula lyrata	The bellflower growing amongst the rocks, Ipsilou	29 th
Legousia pentagonia	Large Venus's Looking-Glass The purple	27 th
zegousia peritugeriia	'bellflowers' on sandy/gravelly bank along the river,	_,
	Skala Kallonis	
Caryophyllaceae		
Silene colorata	Mediterranean Catchfly the small, pink-flowered	27 th
	campion, common roadside plant eg Skala Kallonis	
Silene gallica	Small-flowered Catchfly flowers clustered along one	27 th
OI	side of a single stem. eg Skala Kallonis	0 th
Silene italica	Italian Catchfly white flowers, sticky, common	27 th
Agreetemma githaga	roadside plant eg Skala Kallonis	27 th
Agrostemma githago Cistaceae	Corncockle tall, arable weed, eg Skala Kallonis	2/**
Cistus creticus	Pink-flowered rock rose, amongst the pine woods	27 th
Cistus salvifolius	White-flowered rock rose, amongst the pine woods	27 th
Euphorbiaceae	White nowered rock rose, amongst the pine woods	27
Euphorbia helioscopia	Sun Spurge common arable weed	27 th
Euphorbia myrsinites	Broad-leaved Glaucous Spurge pink-flowered	27 th
The state of the s	spurge, in the pine woods	
Fabaceae		
Melilotus indicus	Small Melilot roadside weed, eg Skalla Kallonis	27 th
Vicia villosa	Fodder Vetch similar to Tufted Vetch, in arable fields	27 th
Trifolium repens	White Clover eg Skalla Kallonis	27 th
Trifolium resupinatum	Reversed Clover small, carmine-pink flower heads, eg	27 th
	Skalla Kallonis	
Trifolium stellatum	Star Clover common roadside plant, eg Metochi	28 th

SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES	First seen
Trifolium tomentosum	Woolly Clover common roadside plant, eg Kallonis	28 th
Trifolium spumosum	Bladder Clover eg Metochi	28 th
Trifolium arvense	Hare's-foot Clover Salt pans	28 th
Trifolium uniflorum	One-flowered Clover Ipsilou	29 th
Trifolium pilulare	Cotton-ball Clover Ipsilou	29 th
Tifolium angustifolium	Narrow-leaved Clover roadside near Achladeri	30 th
Trifolium clypeatum	Shield Clover woodland above Agiassos	30 th
Fagaceae		
Castanea sativa	Sweet Chestnut woodland above Agiassos	30 th
Quercus coccifera	Kermes Oak evergreen shrubby oak with holly leaves,	30 th
Quercus ithaburensis ssp	eg Achladeri and above Agiassos Large-scaled Oak The tree-forming oak with soft	29 th
macrolepis	furry leaves, eg at Ipsalou	
Frankeniaceae	ranny rearrest of the speakers	
Frankenis hirsuta	Hairy Sea-heath Around the salt pans	28 th
Lamiaceae	Hally Sea Heath Albana the Sale pans	20
Lavandula stoechas	French Lavender under the pine trees along the roadside	30 th
Moraceae		
Ficus carica	Common Fig A common roadside tree, including some very big specimens along the river, Skala Kallonis	27 th
Oleaceae		
Olea europaea	Olive	27 th
Papaveraceae		
Papaver rhoeas	Corn Poppy Common in the fields, much deeper red	27 th
Tapaver mocas	than at home	27
Hypecoeum procumbens	Oddly-shaped 'rectangular' flowers: roadsides around Skala Kallonis	27 th
Primulaceae		
Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel both red and blue flowering forms	27 th
Ranunculaceae	Scarice i imperior both rea and blue nowening forms	27
Anemone pavonina	Peacock Anemone The red or pink flowered anemone in the woodlands above Agiassos	30 th
Ranunculus arvensis	Corn Buttercup very common around Skala Kallonis	27 th
MONOCOTYLEDONS	Com Duttercup very common around skala kallonis	<i>L1</i>
Amaryllidaceae		
	Dound handed Look on Alukon Dool	2 nd
Allium sphaerocephalon	Round-headed Leek eg Alykes Pool	Zna
Aracaceae Washingtonia filifera	The palms in the hotel garden, home to Spanish Sparrow colonies: native to S America	27 th
Araceae		
Dracunculus vulgaris	Dragon Arum One young plant by the river at Skala Kallonis	27 th
Arum rupicola	The tall, narrow Arum in the woods above Agiassos	30 th
Asparagaceae	The tally harrow Aram in the woods above Agiassos	
Asparagus acutifolius	The thorny wild asparagus, common at the roadsides	27 th
Muscari commutatum	The small, dark-flowered grape hyacinth in the woods	30 th
riuscaii cuiiiiiulaluiii	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	30
Loopoldia comocum	above Agiassos	29 th
Leopoldia comosum	Tassel Hyacinth The taller by spirith in the weeds above Asiasses, like a	30 th
Leopoldia weissii	The taller hyacinth in the woods above Agiassos, like a Tassel Hyacinth but without the tassel	
Ornithogalum nutans	Drooping Star-of-Bethlehem in the woods above Agiassos, large white lily flowers with green stripes under the petals	30 th

SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES	First seen
Iridaceae		
Gladiolus ilyricus	The wild gladiolus at the roadside	30 th
Iris albicans	The blue iris above Agiassos: a garden escape	30 th
Iris orientalis	White and yellow iris in the wet grassland near the salt pans	2 nd
Liliaceae		
Fritillaria theophrasti (= F. pontica ssp substipelata)	Lesvos Fritillary in the woods above Agiassos	30 th
Gagea graeca	Small white lily in the woods above Agiassos	30 th
Orchidaceae		
Anacamptis morio ssp caucasica	Caucasus Green-winged Orchid above Agiassos	30 th
Anacamptis sancta	Holy Orchid Just coming into flower around the Petrified Forest site	29 th
Cephalanthera longifolia	Sword-leaved Helleborine above Agiassos	30 th
Limodorum abortivum	Violet Birds-nest Orchid the purple spike, just coming into flower, parasitic on chestnut tree roots: above Agiassos	30 th
Neotinea tridentata	Toothed Orchid two small pink spikes, above Agiassos	30 th
Ophrys reinholdii	Reinhold's Bee Orchid One spike on the roadside above Agiassos	30 th
Orchis provincialis	Provence Orchid The pale yellow orchids above Agiassos	30 th
Platanthera holmboei ssp lesbiaca	Holmboe's Butterfly Orchid Just coming into flower, above Agiassos	30 th
Serapias bergonii	Long-lipped Tongue Orchid One spike near the Petrified Forest	29 th
Poaceae		
Lagurus ovatus	Hares-tail Grass	28 th
Xanthorrhoeaceae		
Asphodelus ramosus	The tall asphodel, going over, on dry, grazed hillsides	28 th







(above, L to R): Reinhold's Bee Orchid *Ophrys reinholdii,* Holy Orchid *Anacamptis sancta* & Lesvos Fritillary *Fritillaria theophrasti*