

Lesvos

Thursday 27th April - Thursday 4th May 2006

Leaders:

Rebecca Nason

Philip Harris

Introduction

We are grateful to you all for making the holiday such a successful and memorable experience! Thank you all for your good company throughout the week and for sharing with us some incredible Lesvos birding and natural history highlights. We hope to see you all again on trips with us in the not-too-distant future.

The full Travelling Naturalist Lesvos itinerary was undertaken with the utmost success this year. Again, with only four group members and two leaders with a small minibus, new and exciting areas were visited adding a huge bonus to the trip. Otherwise inaccessible areas were visited again with ease this year and proved invaluable, notably the Napi Valley, Inland Lake, Upper East River and Melodia Valley. The total bird species seen on the trip was a very respectable 162 species and we could not have timed our visit better with respect to the number of migrants passing through and breeding birds arriving back after a Winter further South.

A pleasant surprise this year, was the better state of the Kalloni Pool, which had been dry and virtually birdless this time last year. On arrival at the Kalloni II Hotel and adjacent Kalloni Pool this year however, we were swarmed with incoming Glossy Ibis, Herons and Waders and the pool was still wet and in good condition. The pool thus proved to be a great balcony birding and pre-breakfast birding hot-spot, coupled with pre-breakfast excursions to the Inland Lake every other morning. All group members joined the leaders on the pre-breakfast walks every day from 7am until a much deserved breakfast at 8am. We left at 9am each morning along with packed lunches and plenty of water for our exciting days out in the field. The easy/moderate pace of the Travelling Naturalist itinerary left time on our return between 6.00 - 6.30pm each day, for several 'optional' pre-dinner excursions to the Inland Lake and Saltpans. These 'snatched' early evening periods proved to be hugely successful with different bird species and behavioural activities noted in cool conditions and beautiful evening light. We had to drag ourselves away from these superb sites to return for dinner around 8pm and relax over our buffet selection and a few glasses of local red wine! Our daily log was carried out after dinner each night.

Both Phil and I would like to give special thanks to the staff at the Kalloni II Hotel and to Lena, our local Agent with Erossos Travel.

Diary

Thursday 27 April

Mytilini Airport, Energetoulas/Kalloni Saltpans/Skala Kalloni.

Weather: Warm and sunny. 60% + cloud.

Rebecca and Phil met the group at Gatwick Airport and after checking in, we made our way to a Café for coffee and to purchase sandwiches and drinks for our group's flight lunch (great Crayfish and Rocket sandwiches!) We arrived at Mytiline Airport on time after a pleasant flight and were met briefly by Lena, our Eressos Agent. We were soon boarding our 'maroon jumpy' mini-bus and a separate taxi took our luggage, leaving the mini-bus with lots of room for a comfortable journey to Kalloni. Phil followed the taxi out of Mytilini before we diverted off for a couple of quick stops en route to the hotel. The first bird of the trip was a splendid male **Blue Rock Thrush** sat on palettes on the outskirts of Mytilini.

We stopped briefly at Energetoulas marsh and reedbed outside Mytilini and again at the beginning of the Kalloni Salt pans. The marsh provided us with our first sightings of **Purple Heron, 20+ Alpine Swifts, 1 Red-rumped Swallow, 5+ Black-headed Wagtails, 2+ Blue-headed Wagtails, 2 White Wagtails, 6+ Whinchats, 6 Little Egrets, and a Squacco Heron. Olivaceous Warblers and Cetti's** called from nearby Tamarisks and a **Small Heath, Large Wall Brown, Clouded yellow, Small White and Small Copper** were observed in the roadside scrub. The Salt pans were home to over **50 Greater Flamingos** and our first views of **Ruff, Little stint, White-winged Black Tern, Little Tern, Common Tern and Whiskered Tern**. Many **Pied Avocet** and **Black-winged Stilts** were visible and a **Common Sandpiper** was noted amongst numerous **Wood Sandpipers**.

After checking in the Kalloni Hotel and relaxing, we soon found ourselves wandering around the immediate thriving area! Here we noted **3 Purple Heron, 1 Great Bittern, 4+ Little Bittern, 4+ Squacco Heron, 1 Black Stork, 5 Garganey (4 males), 1 Whiskered Tern**, several **Cetti's Warblers, 43+ Glossy Ibis** wheeling their way into roost and many **Spanish Sparrows** and **Wood Sandpipers**. **Crested Larks** sang heartily from the roadside and a nearby **Nightingale** was in full song near the Hotel. Many chattering Hirundines flooded the skies over the pool as dusk approached. We enjoyed our first log call, cool Lesvos beer and a good buffet dinner before an early night.

Friday 28 April

Skala Kalloni, West River, Derbyshire, Achladeri, Upper East River, Kalloni Salt Pans/Sheep Fields.

Weather: Overcast, warm and breezy, deteriorating later.

A pre-breakfast walk along the West River revealed a female **Citrine Wagtail**, a pair of **Peregrine, 50+ Little Stint, 50+ Ruff, 2 Little Ringed Plover, 2 Kentish Plover, 1 Common Sandpiper** and **Dunlin, 3 Greenshank, 2 Stone Curlew, 2 Black-headed Wagtails** and a **Little Egret**. A beautiful morning as we strolled back for breakfast along with several local friendly dogs and the odd puppy! After breakfast we got the packed lunches together, asked for more blankets in all the rooms, and headed off to see one of the local Scop's Owls in Papiana. One of our sites for this species had unfortunately been destroyed since last year along with the felling of a tree which had housed a breeding pair of Middle-spotted Woodpeckers the year before. However, our other site proved a success with a sleeping **Scop's Owl** enjoyed by all.

By 10.00am we had arrived at the 'Derbyshire', area close to the Salt pans. From here we took a short walk along a small **Thorny Burnet** and **Spanish Broom** bordered track by shallow, open wetland on one side with many **Loose-flowered Tongue Orchids** evident, and an open scrub-vegetated hillside on the other. These two contrasting areas provided us with some excellent species, the highlight being the **3M and 1F Golden Oriole** and a pair of close **Masked Shrikes**. Other species seen included **1M Cirl Bunting, Great Tit, Chaffinch, 1 Purple Heron, 3 Black-headed Wagtails, 2 Red-backed Shrike, 1 Woodchat Shrike, 1 pair of nest building Nightingales, 1 Siskin, 4 Turtle Doves, 1 Black-headed Bunting, 4 Black Stork, Sedge Warbler** and **Blackcap, 1 Common Buzzard, 1 Eurasian Sparrowhawk, 2 Subalpine Warblers, 6+ Whinchat**, many **Corn Bunting** singing and **Hoopoe** and **Common Cuckoo**

heard. We also identified **Winged Sea lavender, Cretan Cistus, Pink Hawksbeard, Greek Mullein, Oriental Iris** and **Common Mallow** before we had to tear ourselves away and on towards Achladeri.

We stopped briefly at the pools near the Achladeri turn-off. Here we observed **4 Great White Egret, 18 Little Egret**, a large count of **24 Ruddy Shelduck, 5 Common Shelduck, 3 Black Stork, 1 European Shag, 1 Black-eared Wheatear** and **5 Great-crested Grebes**.

Around mid-day we had reached Achladeri where we were to look for Krüper's Nuthatch. We were soon enjoying excellent views of a nesting pair of **Krüper's Nuthatch** feeding young in a nearby tree trunk, quite some distance from the stump nest site last year and not as far to walk!. After I expressed concern and irritation at a photographer who was within about 4 feet of the nest hole (the birds may appear not to mind but that isn't the point!) we found a more comfortable distance from the nest site and enjoyed excellent views of a pair coming and going regularly with food for the young. A wonderful opportunity to see this Lesvos speciality at close quarters! We also heard another pair calling and feeding up in the Pines close-by. An incredible sight was a **Empusa pennata (praying mantis spp)** nymph which was found walking on the ground! This nymph has a tail like a scorpion! Also present were **4+ Spotted Flycatchers, 2 Short-toed Treecreepers, 2 Serin** (one singing in full view!) **2 Long-tailed Tit (Eastern race), 2 Subalpine Warblers**, a **Masked Shrike** and a distant **Hoopoe** 'hooping'. We had lunch of cold chips, meatballs and vine leaves under the cool shade of the Pines and later found some **Violet Birds Nest Orchids**, only just coming into flower further up the forest track.

Early afternoon we made our way along the Upper East River, where there were displaying **Little Ringed Plover** in the drying river bed, to look for Rufous Scrub Robin. Unfortunately, these stunning birds were not yet back on their territories across Lesvos, the Upper East River included. However, we enjoyed **Common Buzzard, Cretschmar's Bunting, a Rock Nuthatch** and **Orphean Warbler, Cirl Bunting, 2 Peregrine, Black-eared Wheatear**, a couple of **Red-backed Shrike**, a brief **Middle-spotted Woodpecker, Purple Heron** and **Jay**. We also spotted a **Greek Spur-thighed Tortoise!**

We decided to hit the Saltpans late afternoon for the rest of the day and the weather was slowly deteriorating as we arrived at the pans. We were met with large numbers of **Black-winged Stilts, Avocet, Greater Flamingos, Ruff, Little Stint, Common and Little Tern, Wood Sandpipers and Marsh Terns (20+ White-winged Black Terns)**. New birds included **12 Spotted Redshank**, a male **Montagu's Harrier** (which we chased in the minibus in reverse!), as well as 13 distant **Collared Pratincoles** sat out on a spit. We also noted a **Stone Curlew, 80+ Glossy Ibis, 2 Ruddy Shelduck, a Purple Heron, Greenshank** and **18 Garganey**. Phil took the minibus to the Sheepfields and some of us opted to walk. On arrival at the fields an unexpected pale phase **Arctic Skua** was seen pursuing a **Common Tern** before powering out to sea. This observation turned out to be the 3rd record for Lesvos, the first two records were of two pale phase birds seen together elsewhere on the island the week before. The Sheepfields proved very productive in the breezy conditions, with **4 Short-toed Larks** feeding amongst the dunes, **3 Red-throated Pipits** and **2 Marsh Sandpipers** seen. We arrived back at 6.45pm, tired but happy after an incredible first day.

Saturday 29 April

Skala Kallonis/Inland Lake, Vatousa Gorge, Ipsilou Monestery. Sigri - Melodia Valley.

Weather: Overcast most of day (100%) Rainy and cool AM, sunny and warm periods PM.

Before heading out on our pre-breakfast trip to the Inland Lake, several of us enjoyed a **Great Reed Warbler** in the light morning rain along with **10 Squacco Herons, 1 Little Bittern, 1 Purple Heron, 50+ Glossy Ibis, 1 male Garganey** and a **Whiskered Tern**. A **Water Rail** was

also heard screeching in the reedbed.

The Inland Lake is never a disappointment and this morning was no exception, with **4 Little Crakes** seen well along the back bank and **21 Black-crowned Night Herons** stood in various stony stances at the Lake fringes. **2 Little Grebes, 5 Little Bitterns, 2 Great Reed Warblers, Reed and Sedge Warblers** and one male **Common Whitethroat** were also noted. The lake was fringed with **Balkan Terrapins** and we found **2 Tree Frogs** motionless in the vegetation.

After breakfast we headed towards Sigri, stopping off at Vatousa Gorge en route next to the main road. This sudden split in the landscape with inland craggy rock faces and steep vegetative gullies provides an excellent viewing spot with no walking involved. Within minutes we were enjoying at least **4 Crag Martins** fly-catching below us. A loud singing took our attention towards the gully base and to a single large rock some distance away. Telescopes revealed a male **Rock Sparrow** displaying beautifully to a female. We enjoyed great views of the subtly attractive Rock Sparrow and some behavioural activities too! We also saw **4 Blue Rock Thrushes, a pair of subalpine Warblers, 1 Cretzschmar's Bunting, 1 Red-rumped Swallow, 1 Black-eared Wheatear** and a **Rock Nuthatch**.

A superb sighting of a **Chukar** stood up and silhouetted on a hillside broke up the journey to Ipsilou. The weather conditions were not the best for scenic viewing as we climbed up towards the hill grounds and Ipsilou monastery. However, a stop half way up to the Monastery saw some excellent views of **2 Cinereous Buntings, a female Pied Flycatcher, a few Linnet, Woodlark** and several **Cretzschmar's Buntings**. A pair of **Blue Rock Thrush** were seen well and were clearly feeding young nearby and another **2 Rock Sparrows** were noted. This stop also provided us with our first sightings of **Sombe Tit (2)**. We had a forgettable lunch in the mini-bus to escape the rain and the persistent cats! **2 Peregrines** sped through whilst we were having lunch and at the bottom of the Monastery hill on our way out, we had great views of **Isabelline Wheatear (3)**.

We headed towards Sigri where we joined another road into the Melodia Valley. As we approached Sigri from Ipsilou, we were greeted by **15 Red-footed falcons** sat on telegraph wires and hunting over a ridge. **3 Lesser Kestrels** also joined them! Further into Sigri, another **10 Lesser Kestrels** were observed hunting over a windy ridge and a dark phase **Eleonora's Falcon** flew past the mini-bus. A large flock of over **50 Jackdaws** took off amongst the houses, one of the only places to see them in Lesvos is here in Sigri. Also of note were **3 European Shags, 1 Lesser Whitethroat** and a smart male **Stonechat**.

On the Sigri to Eressos road we encountered a female **Montagu's Harrier, 1 Raven, a male Collared Flycatcher, 2 Red-backed Shrikes, a Woodchat Shrike, 8+ Black-headed Buntings, a fall of maybe 50+ Yellow Wagtails including Grey-headed and Blue-headed!, a pair of Lesser Whitethroat and Blackcaps, 2 Long-legged Buzzards** and **2 Short-toed Eagles**.

Our main aim of entering the Melodia Valley was for the rare White-throated Robin! A male had been seen on several occasions within the valley and we were keen to try and catch up with this rare Lesvos species! Within a short walk of the mini-bus we were soon overlooking the recommended site and after no more than twenty minutes of waiting, we were rewarded by great 'scope views of a stunning male **White-throated Robin**. A while later, on our way back to the vehicle, we spent time in the beautiful sunny afternoon light, overlooking a small spring pool and surrounding vegetation which was dripping in birds. Species seen included a smart **Wood Warbler, 6+ Collared Flycatchers, 1 Pied Flycatcher, 1 Little Crake, 2 Great Reed Warblers, 1 Willow Warbler, Stonechats** and **Orphean Warblers**. Raptors included **3 Long-legged Buzzards, 1 Marsh Harrier, 1 Kestrel** and **2 Short-toed Eagles. 2 Mallard** were also noted here in flight before we headed back towards Eressos and on to Kalloni. On our return journey we had a great view of a **Lesser Grey Shrike**.

Sunday 30 April

Skala Kalloni/West River, Parakila/Chapel of the Holy Cross, Potamia Valley/Upper East River/Salt pans/Sheepfields.

Weather: Broken cloud 50%, warm and sunny.

As we gathered for our pre-breakfast walk, we noted **5 Purple Heron, 6+ Squacco Heron, 2 Little Egrets, 1 Little Bittern and 4 Whiskered Terns**. A good number of **Glossy Ibis** were still present and **Great Reed Warbler, Cetti's and Olivaceous Warbler** gave fleeting views but were constantly singing around us. A **Little Grebe** was also heard calling on the pool. A surprise at the West River was a **2nd Summer Slender-billed Gull** out on the saltmarsh. We also saw **1 Dunlin, 5 Curlew Sandpipers, Ruff and Little Stints, Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers, 2 Stone Curlew, 2 Little Egrets and 3 Common Sandpipers**.

Our first stop after breakfast was at the Chapel of the Holy Cross at Parakila. Our known **Rock Nuthatch** nest site from last year was thankfully in use again this year and enabled superb views of a pair popping in and out of their incredible tunnel-fronted mud nest on the rock face. A gentle walk up to the Chapel in the sunshine saw a wealth of butterflies on the wing. We managed to catch a couple of Skippers with a butterfly net and placed them in magnified plastic see-through boxes. These beautiful Skippers were identified as **Orbed Red Underwing Skipper** and **Southern Marbled Skipper**. Other species included **Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Large Wall Brown and Small Copper**. Several **Marsh Frogs** and an obligatory **Turkish Gecko** in the Chapel provided us with a variety of 'other' species to enjoy as well as birds such as **Subalpine Warbler, Cretzschmar's Bunting, Common Buzzard, Long-legged Buzzard, a pair of Cirl Bunting** and a **Sombre Tit**. A great little 'hot-spot'. We also saw a beautiful male **Ladybird Spider**.

Our next port of call was the Potamia Valley where we parked up and had a good hour of walking slowly along the river bank amongst Olive Groves looking for birds and insects before we found a suitable spot for lunch. We had up to **4 Nightingales** along the way, one showing extremely well as it sang from an Olive Tree. Other species included several **Turtle Doves, 1 Cirl Bunting, 1 Hoopoe** and a **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**. **1 Crag Martin** skimmed the river as it hunted flies and the odd **Jay** gave brief glimpses. The only Odenata of note was **White-legged Damselfly**. Butterflies seen included **Eastern Festoon** and **Scarce Swallowtail** which added a splash of colour along the dirt track.

After lunch on the river bank, we headed out of the Potamia Valley and back to the Upper East River to see if the **Rufous Bush Chat** had returned to its territory. Amazingly it had now returned and we were soon enjoying a charismatic male enthusiastically perching high on scrub as it inquisitively approached us. An old grain silo on the way out gave us a new Owl for the trip – **Little Owl**. **2 Little Owls** were seen looking out of a broken glass window at us.

Late afternoon we headed for a last stop at the Salt pans. More unusual sightings here included our only **2 Temminck's Stint** of the trip and a good Lesvos record with a **Bar-tailed Godwit**. We also saw a **Black-tailed Godwit, 6 Marsh Sandpipers, 7 Spotted Redshank, 1 Grey Plover, 4 Grey Heron, 2 Great White Egrets, 17 Garganey, 1 Mallard, 2 Black-headed Gulls, 1 Marsh Harrier** and a **Ruddy Shelduck**. On the sheepfields we all had excellent views of **2 Collared Pratincoles, 6+ Red-throated Pipits** (very close!) and **2 Short-toed Larks**.

Monday 1 May

Skala Kalloni/Inland Lake/Panorama View Point, Eftalou, Molivos Castle, Salt pans

Weather: Overcast 100%, cool AM. Clearing 30% and sunny with light breeze PM.

The pre-breakfast walk by the leaders to the Inland Lake saw of particular note, **4 Little Crakes**,

4 Little Bitterns, 11 Black-crowned Night Herons, 2 Purple Heron, 1 Turtle Dove, 1 female Teal, 1 Peregrine, 1 Song Thrush, 18 Bee-eaters, 3 Golden Orioles (which Phil called to and they called back!) and a pair of **Masked Shrike**. Lots of **Sedge Warblers** were present as was **1 Reed Warbler** and a singing **Great Reed Warbler**. The bird of the morning however was one seen from the Kalloni II carpark as we returned for breakfast! An **Osprey** swept over the Kalloni Pool much to the annoyance of many Waders who alarmed and especially the **Black-winged Stilts** which rose to take chase!

After breakfast we drove towards the Panoramic Viewpoint, stopping en route to view an active **Middle-spotted Woodpecker** nest we managed to locate (we had been told there was a tree to look out for along this road!) and the adult pair coming and going with food for their young! It was here we also got excellent views of a **Common Cuckoo** which landed briefly as it was being chased by a **Chaffinch** and 2 noisy **Jays**.

2 stunning male Ruppell's Warblers were seen by all at the Panoramic Viewpoint, One individual stood bolt upright on a bush not far from us, allowing superb views in the morning sunshine. Also seen from this location, further out and low over the sea, were **over 100 Yelkouan Shearwaters** moving along the coast in small rafts. We got a real sense of migration here too as there were hundreds of Hirundines following the coastline with the odd **Red-rumped Swallow, Crag Martin** and up to **3 Alpine Swifts** also noted in this spectacular movement. Looking down over the coastal scrub also allowed us good views of a pair of **Orphean Warblers, 2 male Blue Rock Thrushes, 1 pair of Black-eared Wheatear, a Common Whitethroat, Cirl Bunting, Subalpine Warbler** and a singing **Great Reed Warbler**. Apart from the Ruppell's Warbler though, the highlight here was surely the pale phase **Eleanoras Falcon** and the **2 Cream Spot Tiger** moths.

A stroll before lunch along the coastal track at Eftalou was productive as we had a **Hobby, 1 Levant Sparrowhawk** (Phil only) and an **Eleanora's Falcon**. Many butterflies included **Red Admiral, Brown Argus, Clouded Yellow, Painted Lady** and **Common Blue**. **Another Cream Spot Tiger** was also seen in flight. We had a splendid lunch at the coastal Taverna in Eftalou, with Greek Salad and bread to start and fresh fish for our main courses ranging from baby Red Snapper to Tuna Steaks. We had not moved more than a few feet from the Taverna after our meal before we spotted **6 Eleanora's Falcons** high up on a ridge top hanging and hunting on the wing with a slate-grey stormy weather front backdrop – an incredible sight! There were 3 pale phase and 3 dark phased birds. A great sight for helping Raptor identification came with **2 Common Buzzards**, one of which proceeded to chase a **Long-legged Buzzard** which was great for size comparison! We then took the vehicle up the coastal track a little further than we had walked. Here we had **6+ Golden Orioles, 4 Sombre Tits**, a pair of **Little Owls, a Red-backed shrike** and a fly-over **Red-throated Pipit**.

We worked off lunch with a slow walk down the quaint steep lanes running down from Molivos Castle during an hour or so of free time in this stunning town. **2 Lesser Kestrels** hung over the Castle and a **Southern Comma** and **Southern White Admiral** were also noted in the town. Ice-cream was enjoyed by several members of the group just before we left!

We arrived back at the Hotel early and in good time and gave an optional Saltpan/Sheepfields visit for those keen before dinner. Arriving at the pans we were soon watching a female **Marsh Harrier** tucking into a dead **Yellow-legged Gull** and our first **Common Redshank** of the trip. As well as the usual Waders, **Flamingos and Terns**, there was also **1 Greenshank, 3 Spotted Redshank, 1 Common Sandpiper, 14 Garganey** counted (all males), **5 Grey Herons, 1 Black** and **1 White Stork**. Walking onto the Sheepfields, we were able to dabble in photography with **3 Collared Pratincoles** down to about 10 metres and some (6+) very obliging **Red-throated Pipits**. We also saw our first and only **Tawny Pipit** of the trip, **2 Short-toed Larks** and **2 Ruddy Shelduck**. The highlight however was just as dusk approached, on our return through the Saltpans where we soon ground to a halt! Over a large brackish pool adjacent to the pans, there were up to **16 Collared Pratincoles** hunting over the water, in their element and so much better

to watch than on land. We enjoyed them, silhouetted against the mountainous pink evening backdrop for some time, not able to tear ourselves away back for dinner (we arrived back half an hour late but very happy!) A truly memorable experience.

Tuesday 2 May

Skala Kalloni/West River, Paraskevi/Napi Valley/Upper East River/Salt pans.

Weather: Sunny and Warm, 30%- cloud cover. Light breeze - cooling later.

Our early morning walk started at the West River, where we had a concentration of **7 Grey Herons** and **5 Black Storks** on the river next to the bridge as well as **3 Black-headed Wagtails**, **1 Squacco Heron**, **4 Little Egrets** and a calling **Stone Curlew**. We walked back slowly to the Kalloni Pool and Hotel from here. The **Great Bittern** was still exciting onlookers in sparse reeds close to the road and **8+ Little Bitterns** and **8+ Squacco Herons** were counted out in the pool and surrounding fringes. **20+ Whiskered Terns** cruised by as they hunted over the pool and several **Purple Heron** and **Garganey** were also seen. We managed to get fleeting views of one of the main pool food sources too – enormous fat tadpoles, which many of the birds seem to be gorging themselves on!

Our plan for today was to head off into the Napi Valley. En route we stopped to view a pair of **White Stork** on the nest on top of a huge chimney in Paraskevi and a female **Marsh Harrier** was seen on the approach into the village. Soon we were bumping along the track into the Napi Valley where we spent the morning. Our main aim was to see the elusive Olive Tree Warbler at a known location in the valley, where birds had apparently just arrived back from their Wintering grounds. The search for the **Olive Tree Warblers** proved a tricky one and we had to work hard to track them down once we had heard them! But eventually, all got brief but good views of these large, plain Warblers. We wandered up and down the track enjoying butterflies and a good number of birds in this thriving habitat. **8+ Masked Shrikes** (song very like Olive Tree Warbler!), **6+ Woodchat Shrikes** and **2 Red-backed Shrikes** were noted. **4 Turtle Doves** purred, one showed well, **3 Hoopoes** sang in the distance and a **Peregrine**, **3 Short-toed Eagles** and **3 male Red-footed Falcons** were seen overhead. We also managed to call in several **Golden Orioles** with a total of 8 being noted throughout the morning. We had lunch amongst the Olive groves and singing **Olive Tree Warblers**, a tranquil and pleasant spot. Other species seen included a pair of **Blackcap**, **2 Subalpine Warblers**, **1 Tree Pipit**, a pair of **Woodlark**, **1 Sombre Tit**, **2 Middle-spotted Woodpeckers** and a **Common Buzzard**. We also had good views of several butterfly species and a couple of good reptiles with **1 Starred Agama** and several **Balkan Wall** and **Green Lizards**. By far the most stunning creature seen today was the yellow and black **Ascalaphid** discovered near the track. This beautiful species was **Libelloides macaronius**, one of 15 species in Europe. We managed to get good photographs of this incredible insect too.

We later crossed the main road to the other side of the Napi Valley and headed off along another dirt track towards a good known viewing area. Here we saw 2 pairs of **Orphean Warblers**, **4 Bee-eaters**, **2 Turtle Doves**, **1 Cretzschmar's Bunting** and one singing **Olive Tree Warbler**. As we left the Napi, we were stunned to see a huge **Glass Lizard** crossing the track in front of us. We lept out of the minibus and Phil managed to catch the 1.40 metre long creature! On our way back along the main road between Napi and Paraskevi a stunning male **Montagu's Harrier** was seen from the mini-bus and a short stop on viewing a high thermal of birds revealed **9 White Storks** and **15+ Red-footed Falcons**, a **Short-toed Eagle** and **Long-legged Buzzard!**

We decided to return again to the Upper East River, where Martin was keen to photograph the charismatic Rufous Bush Chat which had only shown briefly during our last visit and we also hoped to maybe see more raptors on the move across the hills. Of note was the second **Hobby** of the trip, **2 Bee-eaters**, **1 Olivaceous Warbler**, **2 White Storks**, **1 Rock Nuthatch** and **6 Whinchats** and a pair of **Red-backed Shrikes**. We were also rewarded with excellent views of

the **Rufous Bush Chat** again, this time in beautiful afternoon sunshine and Martin got his shots! Although we did see the Robin when we first arrived here, it did not show well for photographs. However, just before we boarded the mini-bus to leave the site, Martin discovered a very colourful large ground beetle. This rainbow **Ground Beetle** was **Calosoma sycophanta** and stalled us for a few more minutes at the site. Suddenly the **Rufous Bush Chat** appeared along the track, really close and in beautiful light, allowing Martin and myself to get some great shots! Success thanks to the ground beetle!

We spent the rest of the afternoon at the Saltpans, eager to see the Collared Pratincoles hunting over the brackish lagoon again and share the experience with those who had not come out the evening before and enjoyed the spectacle. Out on the pans we had **2 2nd Summer Mediterranean Gulls, 7 Black-headed Gulls and 4 Slender Billed Gulls!** A **Curlew Sandpiper** in stunning Summer plumage stood out amongst the other numerous waders. Out on the marsh **4 Gull-billed Terns** were a welcome trip 'tick' and many **White-winged Black Terns** and **Whiskered Terns** were present. Just before dark, **11 Collared Pratincoles** appeared (not all at once but a few at a time) and hunted over the lagoons again, agile and bat-like in the fading light. **1 Turkish Gecko** was seen at the Kalloni II hotel after dinner.

Wednesday 3 May

Skala Kalloni/Inland Lake/Derbyshire/Achlideri to Agiasos/Petra/Saltpans.

Weather: Sunny and breezy day. Cloud - 40%.

We overlooked Kalloni pool before breakfast where a **Great Reed Warbler** was singing loudly and Phil managed to catch a **Red Veined Darter** which had been dropped from the bill of a **Spanish Sparrow!** **2 Little Bitterns** were seen along with **15+ Glossy Ibis, 2 Garganey** and **6+ Squacco Herons**. We also identified a small moth from our balcony as a **Clay Triple Lines**.

The Inland Lake was visited after breakfast. Again this site proved good for crakes, with **1 Spotted Crake** showing well along the back bank and **1 Little Crake** also observed. There was a good number of **Black-crowned Night Herons**, today totalling 21 individuals. A **Cetti's Warbler** gave good views as it sang from a Tamarisk and several **Red-rumped Swallows** passed overhead. **1 Tree Frog** and several **Balkan Terrapins** were also seen.

A quick stop off along the roadside at Derbyshire en route to Agiasos, revealed **1 Lesser Grey Shrike, 1 female Red-footed Falcon** and **1 Lesser Kestrel. 21 Ruddy Shelduck** were also counted.

We had all been hoping to come across a Roller this trip, so we were delighted to find **2 Rollers** on telegraph wires towards Achlideri. Agiasos was a beautiful red-tiled village nestled in the mountains under Mount Olympus. We drove through the town, just managing to fit the mini-bus through the narrow streets and avoiding an awkwardly parked police car! We spent an hour and a half wandering around the flower-filled areas under a canopy of **Sweet Chesnuts**. A good known spot for flowers, particularly Orchids, we were not to be disappointed with **Provence Orchid, Toothed Orchid, Narrow-leaved Helliborine, Violet Birds Nest Orchid** and **Loose-flowered Orchid** all present. Other interesting plants included stunning **Pontic Fritillaries, Wild tulips, Common Dragon Arum, Eastern Arum** and **Crowned Anemones. Tassel Hyacinth, Common Grape hyacinth** and **Large Star of Bethlehem** were also identified. A few birds were seen, notably **3 Middle-spotted Woodpeckers, 2 Song Thrush, a pair of Mistle Thrush, a Wren, Robin** and **Serin**. As we departed for Petra where we were to have lunch in the Woman's Cooperative, we stopped to photograph fields awash with red poppies.

We were all very hungry when we arrived for lunch in Petra at 1.30pm and were soon tucking into Greek salad, fresh bread, cool beer and our chosen main dishes of fresh fish or rather oily Moussaka. The couple who run the restaurant were as welcoming and friendly as always and we left very full and satisfied an hour or so later. Phil took Martin and Mary back to the Panoranic

Viewpoint nearby to try for Ruppell's Warbler photographs. The rest of us enjoyed wandering around Petra and buying the odd gift before we all met up and had coffee in an open-air café.

Our last port of call for the day was our last visit to the Salt pans. Here Martin and Rebecca photographed Terns near the entrance to the pans where there was now also a **Black Tern**, and Phil took other members of the group further into the salt pans for a walk. Later we all met up and drove to the Sheepfields area. Here we had **3+ Red-throated Pipits, 5 Collared Pratincoles** and **1 Short-toed Lark** before ending our excursion back at the brackish pool. The highlight here was a scarce **Great Snipe**, a superb species and one we all got to enjoy scope views of and mulled over the viewable identification features. Other birds of note included **4 Spotted Redshank, 1 Greenshank, 100+ Little Stint, 70+ Ruff, 10 Garganey, 2 Common Snipe** and over **200 Greater Flamingos** in the main Salt pan area. One **2nd Summer Mediterranean Gull** was also present.

We were due to meet Lena our Agent at the Hotel at 7pm, but we were going to be late back at the Hotel after our Great Snipe delay! Lena however was also stuck in traffic and was going to arrive back at around the same time as us, which worked out well. Whilst the other group members prepared to get ready for our dinner out in a local Taverna, the leaders met Lena in the Hotel bar and discussed the trip and details for confirming flights and airport transportation. At around 8.15pm we walked down to a local Taverna we had booked and enjoyed our last night and meal together.

Thursday 4 May

Salt pans, Mytilini Airport

Weather: Warm and sunny. Sunny spells and breezy pm.

On our departure day we enjoyed a pre-breakfast birdwatch outside the Hotel. Species seen included a **Lesser Grey Shrike** which Martin photographed well, a **Little Grebe, 80+ Common Swifts** and **3 Alpine Swifts** passing overhead, **9 Squacco Heron, 1 Little Bittern, 2 Purple Heron, 2 Great Reed Warblers** and singing **Cetti's** and **Olivaceous Warblers**.

Before departing for Mytilini after breakfast, we spent an hour at the Inland Lake, our final stop before our return to England. Final birds of the trip included **2 Black Storks, 6 Beeeaters, 12 Black-crowned Night Herons, 2 Red-rumped Swallows, 3 Short-toed Eagles, 1 Common Sandpiper, 1 Purple Heron** and **2 Little Crakes. 1 female Golden Oriole** flew over and a **Reed Warbler** and many **Sedge Warblers** were noted. **4 Tree Frogs** were located before we hesitantly climbed aboard and left the Lake for the last time. We put all our baggage in a taxi which then left for Mytilini and we followed not far behind. We checked in with ease and enjoyed our last lunch next to the sea outside the airport. Here we enjoyed olives, tomatoes, feta and fabulous oranges whilst watching the odd raft of **Yelkouan Shearwaters** drift distantly past. We arrived back in London on time and said our farewells.

SPECIES CHECKLIST

BIRDS:

Little Grebe: Noted on 7 days, with single pairs present at the Kalloni pool and the Inland Lake.

Great Crested Grebe: 5 in Kalloni bay on 28th.

Yelkouan Shearwater: Noted on 3 days, with 100+ passing the Panoramic Viewpoint and Eftalou on 1st and 30+ seen distantly whilst sat outside Mytilini airport on 4th.

- Great Cormorant:** A single in Kalloni bay on the 3rd.
- European Shag:** Noted on 5 days with peak counts of 4 on two dates.
- Grey Heron:** Noted on 6 days with the highest count being 10 on 2nd.
- Purple Heron:** Noted on 7 days, 10 seen on the 30th included 5 together on the Kalloni pool.
- Great White Egret:** Noted on 5 days with a peak count of 5 on the 28th, mostly present at the salt pans.
- Little Egret:** Present each day in good numbers, with the largest flock containing 18 birds.
- Squacco Heron:** Present each day with 10 birds regularly on the Kalloni pool. A peak count of 12 on the 2nd.
- Black crowned Night Heron:** Noted on 5 days all at the Inland Lake with 21 present on the 29th and 3rd.
- Little Bittern:** Noted on 7 days, with regular sightings at the Kalloni pool and the Inland Lake. The largest count was 9 on 2nd.
- Great Bittern:** A single bird showed superbly at the Kalloni pool on 27th, 2nd and 4th.
- Greater Flamingo:** 250+ noted on the salt pans on 7 dates.
- Black Stork:** Noted on 7 days with a peak count of 7 on the 2nd which included 5 together feeding in a tiny pool on the West river.
- White Stork:** Noted only on 2 days with a pair again present on a nest in Paraskevi village and 19 noted on the 2nd including flocks of 9 and 7.
- Glossy Ibis:** Noted daily at the Kalloni pool and on three dates at the salt pans, a peak count of 100+ on the 28th.
- Ruddy Shelduck:** Noted on 4 days with a flock of 24 in the Derbyshire area on the 28th.
- Common Shelduck:** Noted on 3 days with the highest count being 7 on 28th.
- Mallard:** A pair flew down the meladia valley on the 29th and a single at the salt pans on the 30th.
- Eurasian Teal:** A female present on the Inland Lake on the evening of 30th was still present the following morning.
- Garganey:** Present each day in small numbers on the Kalloni pool and larger number present at the salt pans with the highest count being 18 on the 28th, only 2 females were noted.
- Osprey:** A single bird drifted over the Kalloni pool on the morning of 1st pursued by Yellow-legged Gulls.
- Short-toed Eagle:** Noted on 3 days with 5 noted on the 2nd.
- Montagu's Harrier:** Noted on 3 days, a male at the salt pans on the 28th, a ringtail just outside Sigri and another male just outside the village of Napi.
- Western Marsh Harrier:** Single females noted on 5 days with one noted scavenging on a dead Yellow-legged Gull at the salt pans on the 1st.
- Levant Sparrowhawk:** A single female noted at Efthalou was unfortunately only seen by one of the leaders.
- Eurasian Sparrowhawk:** Singles noted on 2 days.
- Common Buzzard:** Noted on 5 days with a peak count of 3 on the 2nd.
- Long-legged Buzzard:** Noted on 4 days, with 3 together in the Melodia valley on the 29th.
- Lesser Kestrel:** Noted on 3 days with 13 present in the Sigri area on the 29th.
- Common Kestrel:** A single male noted in the Melodia valley on the 29th.
- Red footed Falcon:** Noted on 4 days, A single male flew over the Kalloni Hotel on the 28th, 15 together sat on wires by the Ipsilou to Sigri road on the 29th, 19+ noted on the 2nd including another 15 together just outside Paraskevi and a single female at Derbyshire on the 3rd.
- Eurasian Hobby:** Noted on 2 days with singles on the 1st and 2nd at Efthalou and the Upper East River.
- Eleonora's Falcon:** Noted on 2 days with a single dark phase bird at Sigri on the 29th then 7 noted on the 1st involving 6 birds hunting together at Efthalou and another single nearby.
- Peregrine:** Noted on 4 days. The maximum daily count was 4 on the 28th.
- Chukar:** A single showed well along the Vatousa to Ipsilou road and another single flushed by the one of the leaders at Ipsilou monastery on the 29th.

Water Rail: Heard calling on 3 days at the Kalloni pool, the only sighting was of one glimpsed by one of the leaders there on the 28th.

Little Crane: Noted on 5 days, a single showed well at a small pool in the Melodia Valley on the 29th, all other sightings were at the Inland Lake with a peak daily count of 5 on the 29th.

Spotted Crane: A single bird showing well at the Inland Lake on the morning of the 3rd.

Common Moorhen: Noted each day with birds present at the Kalloni pool and the Inland Lake.

Eurasian Coot: Noted each day with at least 4 pairs on the Kalloni pool.

Black-winged Stilt: Noted each day with several pairs nesting on the Kalloni pool.

Pied Avocet: Noted on 6 days. All sightings were at the salt pans where up to 100 were present.

European Stone Curlew: Noted on 6 days with a peak daily count of 4 on the 2nd.

Collared Pratincole: Noted on 5 days. All sightings in the salt pans/sheepfields area, a peak daily count of 16 hawking insects over a pool on the evening of 1st.

Grey Plover: A single bird noted at the salt pans on the 30th.

Greater Ringed Plover: Noted at the salt pans on 2 days with a maximum of 4 on the 2nd.

Little Ringed Plover: Noted on 6 days with birds present at the East and West Rivers and the salt pans. 6+ noted on the 30th.

Kentish Plover: Noted on 6 days. Like LRP only noted at the East and West Rivers and the salt pans.

Black-tailed Godwit: A single summer plumaged bird present at the salt pans on the 30th.

Bar-tailed Godwit: A single bird present at the salt pans on the 30th.

Spotted Redshank: Noted on 5 days. All sightings at a shallow pool at the salt pans where a maximum count of 12 superb summer plumage birds was made on the 28th.

Common Redshank: A single bird noted at the salt pans on the 1st.

Marsh Sandpiper: Noted on 2 days with 2 birds on the sheep fields on the 28th and 6 together at the salt pans on the 30th.

Common Greenshank: Noted on 6 days, maximum count of 7 at the salt pans on the 28th.

Wood Sandpiper: Noted in good numbers each day.

Common Sandpiper: Noted on 5 days, 5 noted on the 30th.

Little Stint: Noted most days with flocks of 100+.

Temminck's Stint: 2 together at the salt pans on the 30th.

Dunlin: A single noted at the West River on the 28th and 30th.

Curlew Sandpiper: Noted on 2 days, 7 on the 30th included 5 at the West River.

Ruff: Noted most days with flocks of 30+.

Common Snipe: Noted on 4 days with 2 present regularly at the salt pans.

Great Snipe: A single bird showed well at the salt pans on the evening of the 3rd.

Yellow-legged Gull: Noted each day with flocks of several hundred birds on occasions.

Mediterranean Gull: Noted on 2 days with 2 2nd summer birds at the salt pans on the 2nd and 1 2nd summer there on the 3rd.

Black-headed Gull: Noted on 2 days with 2 at the salt pans on the 30th and 7 there on the 2nd.

Slender-billed Gull: Noted on 2 days. A 2nd summer present at the west river on the 30th and 4(2 adults, 2 2nd summers) at the salt pans on the 2nd.

Arctic Skua: A pale phase chasing terns in Kalloni bay/sheep fields was the 3rd record for Lesvos.

Whiskered Tern: Present each day, with flocks of up to 30 at the salt pans,

White-winged Black Tern: Noted most days, with the highest daily count being 20+ at the salt pans on the 28th.

Black Tern: A single present at the salt pans on the 3rd.

Gull-billed Tern: 4 birds present for a short time at the salt pans on the 2nd.

Common Tern: Noted in small numbers each day.

Little Tern: Noted most days with up to 4 pairs at the salt pans.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon: Noted each day.

European Turtle Dove: Noted most days with 4 seen on the 28th.

Eurasian Collared Dove: Noted each day.

Common Cuckoo: Noted on 3 days with birds heard calling on the 28th, 29th and 1 seen well before being flushed by a Chaffinch on the 1st.

Eurasian Scops Owl: A single bird found roosting in Papiana.

Little Owl: Noted on 3 days. A pair noted at the East River on 2 days and a pair near Eftalou.

Alpine Swift: Noted on 5 days with varying numbers moving through.

Common Swift: Noted each day with flocks of 100+ birds moving overhead.

European Beeater: Noted on 4 days, with the maximum daily count being 18 on the 1st.

European Roller: 2 together sat on telegraph wires along the road north of Achlideri.

Hoopoe: Noted on 6 days. Mostly birds heard singing but 3 birds glimpsed from the mini bus.

Middle-spotted Woodpecker: Noted on 5 days. 2 nest holes discovered where birds were watched feeding young.

Greater short-toed Lark: Noted at the sheep fields on 4 days. 4 together on the 28th.

Crested Lark: Noted each day. Numerous.

Woodlark: Noted on 2 days. A male singing at Ipsilou Monastery on the 29th and a pair observed carrying food in the Napi valley on the 2nd.

European Sand Martin: Noted in good numbers each day.

Eurasian Crag Martin: Noted on 3 days. 4+ at the Vatousa gorge, a single in the Potamia valley and another single passing the Panoramic Viewpoint.

Barn Swallow: Noted each day.

Red-rumped Swallow: Small numbers noted each day.

Common House Martin: Noted each day.

Yellow Wagtail: Noted on most days. A mixed flock of 50+ birds along the road from Sigri to Errossos contained **Blue-headed** (*Motacilla flava flava*) and **Grey-headed** (*Motacilla thunbergi*) plus another 30+ birds which could not be assigned flew over us further along this road on the 29th. **Black-headed wagtail** (*Motacilla feldegg*) were noted on most days with a maximum daily count of 6 on the 27th.

White Wagtail: Noted on 2 days. Singles on the 27th and 28th.

Tawny Pipit: A single noted at the sheep fields on the 1st.

Tree Pipit: A single showed well sitting on top of a tree and calling in the Napi valley on the 2nd.

Red-throated Pipit: Noted on 5 days. 6+ noted in the sheep fields on 3 dates.

Red-backed Shrike: Noted most days with a maximum daily count of 6 on the 2nd.

Lesser Grey shrike: Noted on 3 days. Singles on the 29th, 3rd and 4th the last bird showing well for 2 of the group outside the hotel pre- breakfast.

Masked Shrike: Noted on 4 days, with 8+ birds in the Napi Valley on the 2nd.

Woodchat Shrike: Noted on 5 days, with 6 noted on 3 dates.

(Winter) Wren: Noted on 2 days.

Blue Rock Thrush: Noted on 5 days, a male sat in a quarry just outside Mytiline was one of the first birds noted of the trip, also a maximum daily count of 5 on the 29th.

Common Blackbird: Noted each day.

Mistle Thrush: 3 noted in the Sweet Chestnut woods above Agiasos.

Song Thrush: 3 birds noted but unfortunately only by the leaders.

Common Nightingale: Noted each day usually in song but 2 birds gave excellent views.

Eurasian Robin: A single bird noted above Agiasos.

Rufous Bush Chat: A superb male displayed beautifully for us at the Upper East River on the 30th and the 2nd.

White-throated Robin: A magnificent male in the Melodia Valley.

Whinchat: Noted most days with daily counts of up to 6 birds.

Common Stonechat: 3 noted in the Melodia Valley included one juvenile on the 29th.

Northern Wheatear: Noted on 2 days. Upto 3 at Energetoulas on the 27th and 4 on the 1st including 3 at Molivos Castle.

Black eared wheatear: Noted on 6 days.

Isabelline wheatear: 3 together noted at Ipsilou Monastery on the 29th.

Cetti's Warbler: Noted each day usually in song but some excellent views were gained by all.

Sedge Warbler: Noted most days. Good numbers present by the end of the week.

Eurasian Reed Warbler: Noted most days but only in small numbers.

Great Reed Warbler: Noted on 6 days. A pair took up residence on the Kalloni pool and gave excellent views at times. A maximum daily count of 5 on the 29th. Sightings of these birds far outweighed Reed Warbler.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler: Seen or heard on most days. 4 seen on the 27th.

Olive Tree Warbler: 3 singing males present on the East side of the Napi valley, 2 gave brief but good views and another singing male was heard on the West side of the valley. All on the 2nd.

Willow Warbler: A single bird in the Melodia Valley on the 29th.

Wood Warbler: A single showed extremely well in the Melodia Valley on the 29th.

Blackcap: Noted on 3 days with a maximum of 4 on the 29th.

Common Whitethroat: Noted on 2 days, 2 in the Melodia Valley on the 29th and a single at the panoramic viewpoint on the 1st.

Lesser Whitethroat: Noted on 2 days. 5 between Sigri and Erresos on the 29th and a single on the 30th.

Orphean warbler: Noted on 4 days. Highest daily count was 4 on the 2nd.

Ruppell's Warbler: Noted on 2 days at the panoramic viewpoint, 2 males on the 1st, 3 males 1 female on the 3rd.

Subalpine Warbler: Noted on most days with 4+ birds noted on 3 days.

Spotted Flycatcher: Noted on 2 days. At least 4 present in the woods at Achlideri on the 28th and a single on the 29th.

Pied Flycatcher: A single female noted at Ipsilou Monastery and another female in the Melodia Valley on the 29th.

Collared Flycatcher: A superb male along the Sigri to Erresos road and another male and 4 females in the Melodia valley.

Sombre Tit: Noted on 4 days. 2 pairs showed well near Eftalou on the 1st.

Great Tit: Noted each day.

Blue Tit: Noted each day.

Long tailed Tit: 2 birds of the race *tephronotus* at Achlideri on the 28th.

Rock Nuthatch: Noted on 4 days, a pair feeding young at the Chapel of the Holy Cross on the 30th.

Kruper's Nuthatch: 2 pairs noted at Achlideri on the 28th. 1 pair watched feeding young at the nest hole.

Short-toed Treecreeper: 2 noted at Achlideri on the 28th.

Eurasian Jay: Noted on 7 days with a maximum daily count of 4 on the 1st.

Hooded Crow: Noted in good numbers each day.

Common Raven: Noted on 2 days. 2 near Sigri on the 29th and a single in the Napi Valley on the 2nd.

Golden Oriole: Noted on 5 days. Several small parties noted at various sites with superb views at times. A maximum daily count of 9 on the 1st.

Corn Bunting: Noted each day. A numerous bird in lesvos.

Cinereous Bunting: 2 superb singing males at Ipsilou Monastery on the 29th.

Cretzschmar's Bunting: Noted on 5 days. A pair observed feeding a well grown chick in the nest on the 29th.

Cirl Bunting: Noted on 6 days.

Black-headed Bunting: Noted on 6 days. Largest flock noted were 8 near Sigri on the 29th. Only 1 female was noted.

Common Chaffinch: Noted most days in good numbers.

European Serin: Noted on 2 days, all singing males. 2 at Achlideri on the 28th, 1 at Agiasos and 1 just north of Achlideri on the 3rd.

European Greenfinch: Noted most days with a pair regularly at the Kalloni II Hotel.

European Goldfinch: Noted in reasonable numbers most days.

Eurasian Siskin: A single female noted in the Derbyshire area on the 28th.

Common Linnet: Noted on 3 days with pairs noted each time.

House Sparrow: Noted each day.

Spanish Sparrow: Noted each day. Flocks of 30+ noted on several occasions. Several pairs noted nesting around the hotel.

Rock Sparrow: A pair noted at the Vatousa gorge and another pair at Ipsilou Monastery on the 29th.

MAMMALS:

Bat spp: Noted around the hotel on several evenings.

Persian Squirrel: Noted on 3 days. Singles at Derbyshire and the East River on 28th and 2nd and 4 noted in the Sweet Chestnut woods above Agiasos.

AMPHIBIANS:

Common Tree Frog: Noted on 5 days. All sightings at the Inland Lake, with 4 there on the 4th.

Common Frog: 1 identified at the Chapel of the Holy Cross on the 30th.

Marsh Frog: Noted each day in large numbers in appropriate habitat.

REPTILES:

Starred Agama: Noted on 2 days with 2 on the 2nd.

Turkish Gecko: Noted on 5 days. A single in the Chapel of the Holy Cross on the 30th, all other sightings were on the balconies of the hotel rooms.

Balkan Wall Lizard: Noted on 5 days. Reasonable numbers when the sun came out.

Balkan Green Lizard: Noted on 5 days with sightings of juveniles outweighing those of adults.

European Glass Lizard: A single approximately a metre long was caught in the Napi Valley on the 2nd.

Spur-thighed Tortoise: Just a single found in at the Upper East River on the 28th.

Balkan Terrapin: Noted most days with good views of sunbathing individuals.

Grass Snake: 1 observed by one of the leaders as it was disturbed by a Little Crake at the Inland Lake on the 30th.

BUTTERFLIES:

Swallowtail: 2 noted on the 30th.

Scarce Swallowtail: Noted on 3 days.

Eastern Festoon: Noted on 2 days.

Large White: Noted on 5 days.

Small White: Noted on 6 days.

Eastern Dappled White: Noted on 4 days.

Orange Tip: Noted on 5 days.

Clouded Yellow: Noted on 5 days.

Small Copper: Noted on 6 days.

Brown Argus: 1 noted at Eftalou on the 1st.

Holly Blue: A single noted near Achlideri on the 28th.
Common Blue: Noted on 3 days.
Southern White Admiral: A single noted at Molivos Castle on the 1st.
Red Admiral: Noted on 3 days.
Painted Lady: Very worn individuals noted on 5 days.
Southern Comma: A single noted at Molivos Castle on the 1st.
Large Wall Brown: Noted on 4 days.
Meadow Brown: Noted on 3 days.
Small Heath: Noted on 6 days.
Wall Brown: Noted on 5 days.
Orbed Red Underwing Skipper: A single at the Chapel of the Holy Cross.
Southern Marbled Skipper: Noted on 4 days with 2 on the 3rd.

MOTHS:

Cream Spot Tiger: 3 noted on the 1st, 2 at rest at the Panoramic Viewpoint and a single in flight at Eftalou.
Clay Triple Lines: A single attracted to light at the hotel on the 3rd.
Rhodostrophia calabra: A single of this Geometer species was identified from a photo taken by Martin.

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES:

Red-veined Darter: Several individuals being captured by House Sparrows at the Kalloni pool on emergence, 1 was rescued for the purpose of identification.
White-legged Damselfly: Several noted in the Potamia valley.
Lestes macrostigma: A single noted at the salt pans on the 27th.
Emerald Damselfly: A single noted inside the hotel corridor.

OTHER INSECTS:

Ladder-backed Bush Cricket: Noted most days with huge numbers in the Melodia Valley.
Egyptian Grasshopper: 3 of what is believed to be this species noted.
Violet Carpenter Bee: Singles only noted on 3 days.
Libelloides macaronius (*ascalaphid spp*): 1 superb specimen noted in the Napi valley on the 2nd.
Empusa pennata (*praying mantis spp*): A single nymph of this species found at Achlideri on the 28th.
Agapantha villosiviridescens (*longhorn beetle spp*): 1 noted at the Chapel of the Holy Cross.
Craphosoma italicum (*shield bug*): 1 noted on the 30th.
Calosoma sycophanta (*ground beetle*): 1 noted at the Upper East River.
Scarabaeus semipunctatus (*dung beetle*): 1 noted near Achlideri on the 3rd.

OTHER TAXA:

Ladybird spider (*philaeus chrysops*): 1 beautiful male at the Chapel of the Holy Cross on the 30th.
Roman Snail: 1 identified on the 30th.

PLANTS:

Many of the plants seen during this trip are listed in the separate Plant List sent out to the Group members before the trip. Below are a few of the plants identified and many of the species mentioned in the Diary section of this Report. The following is to be continued – any records most welcome!!

<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Cretan Cistus
<i>Tamarisk spp.</i>	Tamarisk
<i>Lysimachia atropurpurea</i>	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Greek Mullein
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Common Grape Hyacinth
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth
<i>Phragmites communis</i>	Common Reed
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown Anemone
<i>Laburnam anagyroides</i>	Laburnam
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned Poppy
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
<i>Carpobrotus acinaciformis</i>	Red Hottentot Fig
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Calabrian Pine
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone Pine
<i>Urtica atrovirens</i>	Stinging Nettle
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Spiny Burnet
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber
<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	Winged Sea-Lavender
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive
<i>Echium spp.</i>	
<i>Campanula rapunculus</i>	Rampion Bellflower
<i>Campanula spp.</i>	
<i>Crepis rubra</i>	Pink Hawksbeard
<i>Tulipa orphanidea</i>	Wild Tulip spp.
<i>Ornithogalum nutans</i>	Large Star of Bethlehem
<i>Fritillaria pontica</i>	Pontic Fritillary
<i>Gladiolus orientalis</i>	Oriental Iris
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Common Dragon Arum
<i>Arum conophalloides</i>	Eastern Arum
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Helleborine
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Bird's Nest Orchid
<i>Orchis tridentate</i>	Toothed Orchid
<i>Orchis provincialis</i>	Provence Orchid
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid
<i>Orchis</i>	Loose-flowered Orchid