

# Athens, Western Greece, Amvrakikos Gulf and Epirus, Zagoria Villages.

**26<sup>th</sup> April – May 6<sup>th</sup> 2006.**

Tour Programme:

**DAY 1 Wednesday 26th April** Flight to Athens. Overnight Athens

**DAY 2 Thursday 27th April** AM. Tour of Athens. Parthenon and Agora. Travel to Arta via Corinth canal, Rion/AntiRion Bridge.

**DAY 3 Friday 28th April**

Depart for Stroggili. Boat trip from Rodia Wetland Centre. Visits to Ag.Katerina hill.

**DAY 4 Saturday 29th April** Visit to Salaora, Avleri mud flats, Koronisia and isle.

**DAY 5 Sunday 30th April** Visit to Nikopolis, then on to Preveza, viewpoint over lagoons at Tsopeli and walk at Petra reedbeds.

**DAY 6 Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May** Depart for Ioannina en route visit to St George's Springs, Ioannina town and Lake Pambotis and Nisa island tour. Overnight Vitsa

**DAY 7 Tuesday 2nd May** Visit to Monodendri, Vikos Gorge and upland meadows and Oxia viewpoint.

**DAY 8 Wednesday 3rd May** Visit to Aaos river and Gorge, then to Vikos Gorge-Megalo Papingo village, Micro Papingo bridge and valley.

**DAY 9 Thursday 4th May** Tour of the Zagoria valleys, villages and bridges

**DAY 10 Friday 5th May** Ioannina, Dodoni, and N Corinth Gulf, Galaxidi. Overnight Delphi.

**DAY 11 Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May** AM Delphi. PM Transfer to Athens airport.

## REPORT:

### BIRDS

**Little Grebe** Heard on 30<sup>th</sup> April near Petra marsh and pairs May 1<sup>st</sup> on Lake Pambotis and in pools on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Great Crested Grebe** 14 on 29<sup>th</sup> at Salaora and several pairs on Lake Pambotis Ioannina 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Dalmatian Pelican** 10-50 seen at Amvrakikos Gulf.

**Cormorant** Small numbers in Amvrakikos Gulf nesting.

**Little Bittern** Several seen in the reeds at Amvrakikos Gulf and Petra Marsh.

**Squacco Heron** Single on 27<sup>th</sup> and then 50+ on migration, all near Petra marsh and Lake Pambotis.

**Little Egret** Common daily with flocks of 10-50 between 27<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Singles on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Great White Egret** Single on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Grey Heron** 1-4 daily Amvrakikos Gulf.

**White Stork** 2+ seen daily between 28<sup>th</sup> April – May 1st around Amvrakikos Gulf. Recorded nesting in villages.

**Mallard** Only recorded on 28th – 30th April, 4 seen, and on 1<sup>st</sup> May Lake Pambotis.

**Ferruginous Duck** 4 seen at Petra Marsh on 30<sup>th</sup> April and 6 on Pambotis Lake on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Egyptian Vulture** One adult near Monodendri on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and the same bird seen on 4<sup>th</sup> at Monodendri and near Vitsa on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Short-toed Eagle** 8+ on 4<sup>th</sup> May in the mountains near Plakira and single at Delphi on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**Marsh Harrier** Up to 4, 28<sup>th</sup> April – May 1st, around Amvrakikos Gulf.

**Sparrowhawk** Two over Acropolis, Athens on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

**Buzzard** Singles seen on 4 days..

**Lesser Kestrel** 4+ on 3<sup>rd</sup> May on Ioannina Law courts and over the Mosque. Also two seen at Galaxidi on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Kestrel** Seen daily, but only singles.

**Hobby** One on 30<sup>th</sup> April over Nikopolis.

**Moorhen** Singles at Amvrakikos Gulf and Lake Pambotis.

**Coot** 28<sup>th</sup> April at Rodia and 2<sup>nd</sup> May at Ioannina on Pambotis Lake with young.

**Oystercatcher** One at Salaora bridge on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Black-winged Stilt** 40+ at Amvrakikos Gulf 28<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> May

**Stone Curlew** 8+ along the Avleri spit on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ringed Plover** 10+ on Avleri spit on 29<sup>th</sup> April

**Kentish Plover** 2 at Rodia on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 4 on 29<sup>th</sup> April at Avleri spit.

**Grey Plover** One still in winter plumage on 29<sup>th</sup> April, Avleri spit.

**Little Stint** 6 at Avleri spit on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Dunlin** 8 at Avleri spit on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Snipe** One heard drumming over the Rodia Fisherman's centre.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** Single at Kopraina lighthouse 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Whimbrel** 2 at Koronissia on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Spotted Redshank** 2 in the Rodia marshes on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Common Sandpiper** 2+ on 28<sup>th</sup> April at Rodia and 6+ along Avleri spit and 4+ on 2<sup>nd</sup> May on Nisi island in Lake Pambotis.

**Turnstone** 3+ on Avleri spit on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Black-headed Gull** Single on 29<sup>th</sup> and 50+ on Lake Pambotis.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** Single on Rodia lagoon on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Yellow-legged Gull** Common except in the mountains.

**Sandwich Tern** 20 + seen on 29<sup>th</sup> April at Avleri spit.

**Common Tern** Seen on 28<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May at Amvrakikos Gulf.

**Little Tern** 100+ seen on 28<sup>th</sup> at the Fishermen's centre & 10+ on 29<sup>th</sup> April at Avleri spit.

**Whiskered Tern** 10+ on 28<sup>th</sup> April at Petra marsh and on 1<sup>st</sup> May there.

**White-winged Black Tern** One on 28<sup>th</sup> April seen at Fisherman's centre.

**(Rock) Feral Pigeon** Common.

**Woodpigeon** Heard on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Collared Dove** Common seen daily.

**Turtle Dove** 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Vitsa

**Cuckoo** Heard on 28<sup>th</sup> May at Rodia monastery and from 2<sup>nd</sup> May from Vitsa.

**Scops Owl** heard from 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Swift** Daily, small numbers in the lowlands. Not seen in the mountains

**Alpine Swift** 6 + seen over Athens from the Parthenon on the 27<sup>th</sup> April and over the Amvrakikos Gulf on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Hoopoe** Singles glimpsed from the bus and heard through the lowlands.

**Green Woodpecker** Heard 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> May at Vitsa.

**Crested Lark** Seen on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Sand Martin** Seen over the Amvrakikos Gulf with other hirundines on 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Crag Martin** 50+ in the gorges with the Kokkorou and Plakira bridges and over Delphi.

**Swallow** Common recorded daily.

**Red-rumped Swallow** Singles at Aaos Gorge and 5+ on 4th May at Vitsa.

**House Martin** Common recorded daily in the lowlands.

**Yellow Wagtail** Single on 28<sup>th</sup>, 100 + in small flocks at Avleri spit on 29<sup>th</sup> and 100+ on 30<sup>th</sup> at Nikopolis. Single on 1<sup>st</sup> at St George's Springs.

**Grey Wagtail** 1 on 30<sup>th</sup> April at Hotel Byzantino, Several at St George's Springs on May, and on the 4th May at Mikro Papingo.

**Dipper** 4 at St George's Springs on 1<sup>st</sup> May, and 1 at Kokkorou bridge on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Wren** Heard in the mountains from St George's Springs onwards.

**Nightingale** Heard daily everywhere singing and seen at Vitsa on the early morning walks.

**Whinchat** Single on migration on 29th April at Nikopolis and 2 on 30<sup>th</sup> April. 5+ on 1<sup>st</sup> May and single on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Black-eared Wheatear** Single at Rodia Monastery on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 1+ at Nikopolis on 30<sup>th</sup> and at Delphi on 6<sup>th</sup> May..

**Blue Rock Thrush** One near Delphi on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**Blackbird** Common seen almost daily.

**Cetti's Warbler** Heard commonly at Arta, Amvrakikos, and Ioannina, but not in the mountains.

**Sedge Warbler** Several in the reedbeds on Nisi island on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Reed Warbler** Seen in the reedbeds on Nisi island on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Great Reed Warbler** Several holding territories at Petra marsh on 28<sup>th</sup> April and in the reedbeds on Nisi island.

**Sardinian Warbler** Seen and heard on territories 28<sup>th</sup> April – 29<sup>th</sup> April around Amvrakikos Gulf in suitable habitat.

**Whitethroat** Single at Rodia monastery on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Garden Warbler** 2<sup>nd</sup> May Vikos Gorge, Monodendri.

**Blackcap** Heard and seen around Vitsa 1st – 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Wood Warbler** One seen on 1<sup>st</sup> May at Ali Pasha's palace at Ioannina and one or two at Vitsa on 2<sup>nd</sup> May

**Chiffchaff** Heard 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Spotted Flycatcher** 2+ on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Pied Flycatcher** 1+ \_'s at Rodia village and olive mill on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Long-tailed Tit** One on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3 on 4<sup>th</sup> May and 2 in the Dodoni site in the oracle oak tree.

**Marsh Tit** One on 4<sup>th</sup> at Vitsa.

**Blue Tit** Small numbers seen in the Epirus mountains.

**Great Tit** Common seen almost daily.

**Rock Nuthatch** 6+. 3 pairs seen at Delphi archaeological site.

**Penduline Tit** A pair building a nest at our hotel near Arta, and a pair at Petra marsh on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Golden Oriole** Seen and heard and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May near Vitsa.

**Woodchat Shrike** 4+ at the Aaos bridge meadow on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Jay** Common seen daily.

**Magpie** Common seen daily.

**Jackdaw** 20 in gorge as we travelled on 27<sup>th</sup> and then only seen in the mountains.

**Hooded Crow** Common recorded daily.

**Raven** Single in the Vikos Gorge on 2nd May.

**House Sparrow** Common recorded daily in small flocks and nesting in buildings.

**Tree Sparrow** Only a single on 27<sup>th</sup> April at Corinth canal.

**Chaffinch** Common from 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Serim** Recorded on 6<sup>th</sup> at Delphi.  
**Greenfinch** Common recorded daily.  
**Goldfinch** Common recorded daily.  
**Cirl Bunting** 3 males on territory Vitsa. Recorded near Dodoni in the Epirus Mts and on 6<sup>th</sup> May at Delphi.  
**Rock Bunting** One seen near Oxia.  
**Black-headed Bunting** Two at Nikopolis on 30<sup>th</sup> April.  
**Corn Bunting** A few around the Amvrakikos Gulf and Nikopolis, Dodoni, Ioannina.

## MAMMALS

**Eastern Hedgehog** Regularly recorded as a roadside corpse around the lowlands.  
**Blind Mole** Mole hills indicated presence on 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Aaos, and on 4<sup>th</sup> May & 5<sup>th</sup> May in Zagori.  
**Bat 20KHZ** A large bat was detected flying around the Hotel Byzantino near Arta. The Bat Detector indicated 20Khz, possibly a Free-tailed Bat on 30<sup>th</sup> April.  
**Bat 42 KHZ** Recorded at Hotel Byzantino near Arta 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April.  
**Beech Marten** Usually recorded as a roadside corpse, but we did see droppings

## AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

**Marsh Frog** Common  
**Tortoise sp.** Seen on 28<sup>th</sup> April crossing road.  
**European Pond Terrapin** Common in Amvrakikos Gulf area.  
**Green Lizard** Common.  
**Common Wall Lizard** Common in Epirus Mts.

## BUTTERFLIES

**Swallowtail** *Papilio machaon* Common  
**Southern Festoon** *Zerynthia polyxena* Only seen in mountains on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Small White** *Artogeia rapae* Common seen daily.  
**Green-veined White** *A. napi* Only recorded on 5<sup>th</sup> April at Oxia.  
**Orange Tip** *Anthocharis cardamines* Common from 1<sup>st</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup>.  
**Clouded Yellow** *Colias croceus* Seen 27<sup>th</sup> –30<sup>th</sup> April and on 5<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Brimstone** *Gonepteryx rhamni* Seen 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April, and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Painted Lady** *Cynthia cardui* 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* Seen three days 30<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Queen of Spain Fritillary** *Issoria lathonia* Vikos Gorge.  
**Glanville Fritillary** Single recorded on 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Dodoni.  
**Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilus* 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Small Copper** *Lycaena phleas* Seen 27<sup>th</sup> April.  
**Holly Blue** *Celastrina argiolus* 29<sup>th</sup> April & 2<sup>nd</sup> May.  
**Green-underside Blue** *Glaucopsyche alexis* 3<sup>rd</sup> May & 6<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus* Common from 28<sup>th</sup> April, daily.  
**Grizzled Skipper** *Pyrgus malvae* Seen 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
**Tufted Marbled Skipper** *Carcharodus alceae*

## MOTHS

**Cream spot Tiger Moth** Hotel Byzantino gardens

**Pine processionary moth caterpillars** Common in tents on pines.

## **FISH**

**Mosquito Fish (Introduced)** Amvrakikos Gulf

**Sea Bream** Amvrakikos Gulf

**Sea Bass** Amvrakikos Gulf

**Grey Mullet** *Nugil cephalus* Amvrakikos Gulf

**Carp** Amvrakikos Gulf

**Trout** Trout Farm at St George's Springs

**Eel** *Anguilla anguilla* Amvrakikos Gulf

## **INSECTS**

### **Dragonflies**

**Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ishnura elegans* Seen on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Beautiful Demoiselle** *Agrion virgo* Seen on 2nd May.

### **Crickets**

**Bush Cricket sp.** Many on St Katherine's hill.

### **Bugs**

*Lygaeus saxatilis*

*Lygaeus equestris*

### **Flies**

**Bee Fly** *Bombylius major* Seen at Nikopolis

### **Bees and Wasps**

**Black Potter Bee** *Chalicodoma parietina* Seen at the Roman Olive Oil Press with clay nests on the Olive Mill stones on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Violet Carpenter Bee** *Xylocopa violacea* Common.

**Honey Bee** *Apis mellifera* Common

**Ruby-tailed Wasp** *Chrysis ignita* at olive press.

### **Beetles**

**Dung Beetle sp.** Oxia meadows.

**Jewelled Pollen Beetle** *Anthaxia nitidula* 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Pollen Beetle** *Oxyethera funestra* 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**Giant Ground Beetle** *Caribius coriaceus* Hotel Byzantino gardens

**Giant Diving Beetle** *Dytiscus latissimus* Rodia lagoon

### **Fireflies**

**Fireflies** *Luciola lusitanica* Seen in the gardens at Hotel Byzantino, nr Arta.

### **Spiders**

*Argiope bruennichi* Black & yellow seen at Nikopolis on 30<sup>th</sup>

### **Snails**

**Roman Snails** seen several times.

**Leopard Slugs** on oak trees at St George's Springs.

© Stephanie Coghlan May 2006.