

Kos

Thursday 3 - Thursday 10 May 2007

Leaders:

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Trip Diary

Thursday 3 May

Driving from the airport to the hotel some were lucky enough to spot a Roller by the road and most unexpected was a large Falcon that shot low across the road. Dark streaking to the underside and dark upperside would seem to suggest a Saker. But it was gone in the blink of an eye.

After a small snack at our hotel, with Pallid Swifts sailing overhead, we had a look at the west end of the salt-pans. Despite the pan being shockingly depleted of water and consequently lacking any Greater Flamingos we discovered some waders feeding along the edge. Very close Temminck's Stint, Little Stint and Wood Sandpiper were highlights. A small flock of Kentish Plovers scuttling away in front of the van. Round the corner and a confiding Squacco Heron sat tight next to a singing Black-headed Wagtail. A few Whinchats dotted about and flurries of Sand Martins passing over suggested migrants were on the move. Slightly more distantly were a few Lesser Kestrels and Ruddy Shelduck. A good taster of things to come hopefully.

Friday 4 May

The early morning walk saw a flurry of Golden Orioles a flock of eighteen all heading east along the coastline. A distant Woodchat Shrike was perched on a fence line.

No sooner had we left the hotel we found we had to stop to watch some low flying Alpine Swifts in perfect light. Arriving at Psalidi Wetland we found it to be completely dry. A walk round this tiny reserve was still absorbing with a few Spotted Flycatchers, an exceptionally close Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, wonderful Bee-eaters sweeping low across the fields and a few Red-rumped Swallows flew past briskly. Butterflies were everywhere. A Long-tailed Blue, and a few Eastern Dappled Whites, Small Skippers and Clouded Yellows were the highlights.

Our taverna lunch stop saw us enjoying spectacular views of the Mediterranean with mainland Turkey as a backdrop, while being thoroughly entertained by the very upbeat Greek/Australian owner. Rebecca's razor sharp eyes picked out a male Eastern Black-eared Wheatear and a Little Owl out in the midday sun from the restaurant. (I think I'll have the Sea bass or Bass or half of one!!)

In the afternoon we strolled round the ruins of the Asclerio hospital. Not much bird life was apparent at this 'the wrong time of the day'. In fact it could have been a typical English garden with Chaffinch, Great and Coal Tits. Although the latter was of the European form. The song of an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, calling Sardinian Warbler and fly over Golden Oriole would have been a bit unexpected to say the least. The Holy (or was that Holly) Orchid and Bug Orchids would have been a pointer too. In keeping with the lack of winter rains all the frog pools were dry.

Saturday 5 May

The early morning we explored the west end of the salt-pans again. At a small marsh were Fan-tailed Warblers, Black-headed Buntings and another flyover large brown Falcon, probably a Lanner. More migrants were immediately in evidence with a smart Collared Flycatcher that perched briefly in roadside vegetation. A Wood Warbler was glimpsed. However the star bird was a fabulous Spur-winged Plover discovered by Rebecca. A close fly by Cuckoo, confiding Little Stints and hundreds of swifts (of three species) and hirundines attracted our attention.

The wind had dropped so we headed up into the mountains. A female Eastern Black-eared Wheatear and a brief Tree Pipit were spotted on the way. But best of all were two Red-footed Falcons that circled in perfect light above us. A lazy stroll along a mountain track had stunning views of the north side of the island. Birds included another brief Collared Flycatcher this time a female, several Cretzschmar's Buntings and Sardinian Warblers. We hadn't been pottering for long when a pair of Bonelli's Eagles sailed overhead. This has to be one of the most reliable spots in Europe to get close views of this species. A little later and just as the same pair of Bonelli's flew into view a Long-legged Buzzard circled nearby with the Jackdaws. On the way back a Subalpine Warbler popped up briefly in song-flight, another Little Owl and a dark morph Eleonora's Falcon steamed overhead. Perhaps everyone's favourite were a pair of Rollers, one of which perched rather perfectly in a fig tree. Beautiful. On the way to the rustic taverna nearby both a Red-backed Shrike and Woodchat Shrike were seen in quick succession. A relaxing lunch outside under the shade was complimented by two more Rollers flying past and then up to five Golden Orioles that lunched in a nearby tree. Its not often you have the luxury of casually scoping this often elusive species.

On the way down Rebecca's potential future infamy was avoided as she skilfully dodged a Great Spotted Cuckoo that flew down on to the road just behind the minibus and right in front of her car. Unfortunately for us, but fortunately for it, it shot off not to be seen again.

Later the Spur-winged Plover was luckily still there for those not on the early morning walk. Another Wood Warbler showed well and a superb male Lesser Kestrel flew right towards us and turned at the last moment to give us a lovely fly past. Later by a small stream two Sardinian Warblers bathed really really close, right out in the open.

Sunday 6 May

The early morning walk was at the east end of the salt pans. The highlights were a very close Great Reed Warbler, a male Red-footed Falcon and Lesser Kestrel next to each other on the telephone wires in beautifully early morning light that brought out the soft tones of their plumage.

We then headed west to the area west of Mastichari. On the way five Eleonora's Falcons circled by us including one of the sooty dark morphs. Another Woodchat Shrike and Red-backed Shrike were seen in close proximity to each other. A little further on were a flock of twenty-two Bee-eaters perched on wires away from the road and in perfect light. Gorgeous. A short walk down to the beach saw two Red-throated Pipits fly up from a field and perch long enough for 'scope views. Unfortunately it was a female or immature bird without a red throat and the other stubbornly kept its back turned to us. Many Black-headed Buntings were singing from prominent perches. Perhaps best of all was a Great Spotted Cuckoo lurking towards the base of a tree. At the pool a relatively tame Squacco Heron gave great views. While watching it a flurry of Yellow Wagtails flew in to drink. Two of them turned out to be summer plumaged males which were a gorgeous Ashy-headed Wagtail and a lovely Blue-headed Wagtail. A male Wheatear of the libanotica form flitted about. It was so black and white with such prominent black ear coverts that

one would be forgiven for thinking it was an Eastern Black-eared Wheatear. Alpine Swifts came swooping in to drink right in front of us. In the pond were many Balkan Terrapins and a couple of Levant Water Frogs. A few Small Red-eyed Damselflies and Scarlet Darters chased each other in territorial disputes.

Heading back to the main road we came across five Tawny Pipits, which were feeding on the road. Janet spotted these and she received bonus points for this excellent feat of observation as she was sitting right at the back of the minibus at the time. Three Red-backed Shrikes perched by the roadside in the same general area.

We then enjoyed a lavish taverna lunch overlooking the harbour at Kardamena. The owners were so friendly that their baby had a cuddle with Cynthia. Afterwards we explored a few farm tracks and managed to locate two obliging Chukars. Then after a few hairpin bends we arrived at a chapel at the base of the mountain nearby. We didn't wait long before a pair of Bonelli's Eagles came into to view, scattering all the Jackdaws into a frenzy of complaining. The eagles drifted above the rock face on the updraughts, allowing stunning scope views, as they hung at times, apparently motionless, as they played the wind.

In the evening we popped up on to the lower slopes above our hotel and heard Nightingale, Scops Owl, Stone-curlew and Nightjar. Magical sounds under the stars. Then it was all back to Cynthia's to see her Turkish Gecko.

Monday 7 May

We took the boat today to Nisyros. While waiting to depart a Purple Heron flew in off the sea and four Mediterranean Gulls lingered offshore. No sooner had we left the harbour then five Yelkouan Shearwaters steamed passed somewhat distantly, then rather unusual for Greece was an Arctic Skua seen harrying Yellow-legged Gulls, but unfortunately not right by the boat.

Arriving at Mandraki we strolled up a side road and birded the gardens there. Paul spotted a large Preying mantis species, which after a few seconds took off only to be taken on the wing by a House Sparrow. A couple of male Eastern Subalpine Warblers flitted about. Insects were more evident than on Kos. Several Violet-carpenter Bees were much admired at close range, as were three Scarce Swallowtails and a couple of 'normal' Swallowtails. Perhaps the most unexpected sighting was a Large Tortoiseshell butterfly flying along the quay at the harbour.

While eating at a taverna overlooking the crystal clear sea an Audouin's Gull loafed around with a Yellow-legged Gull nearby for comparison. Soon we were on the coach that took us to the crater. Eleonora's Falcon, Cretzschmar's Bunting and Wheatears were seen from the shade of the trees at the cafe in the centre of the crater.

On the return crossing it was not until we were close to Kos that two Cory's Shearwaters passed by and somewhat out of habitat was a migrant Whiskered Tern checking out the harbour.

Tuesday 8 May

The early morning exploration of the salt pans revealed some movement. A posy of Bee-eaters drifted over calling and Francis spotted a Purple Heron looking for a wet area to settle. Three Mediterranean Gulls, initially picked up at vast range as 'three things' flew by. A Common Snipe was flushed from one of the very view wet ditches.

We then drove up into the foothills birding the mosaic of rough fields and Olive Groves. Highlights were a Chukar that rather obligingly flew into a field below us in perfect like. Close showy Sardinean Warblers were admired. Nightingale song filled the air. Further up the tinkling song of the Serin could be heard all around. One close male was spotted by Cynthia. Even further up the group enjoyed song of an Eastern Orphean Warbler that sounded like a mixture of the Nightingale and Blackcap. But would it show itself in the dense scrub?!

An Egyptian Grasshopper was more easy to pick out as were the Spur-thighed Tortoises, liberally scattered along the track. A little later a Woodchat Shrike was spotted and Elizabeth picked up a rather distant Short-toed Eagle

We had lunch at the fabulous Taverna overlooking Turkey again. The lunch time conversation was hilarious. An adult ant-lion discovered in the Ladies caused a minor diversion. Travelling a bit further down the road it was not long before we had stopped and enjoyed the sight of a male Blue Rock Thrush singing from the rocky hillside and several Eastern Black-eared Wheatears area right by the road in this area.

We then had short diversion to Kos Fort for a spot of historic culture. Alarm calls by Swallows indicated a raptor was nearby. Looking skyward we spotted a Peregrine steaming over. Still the alarm calls persisted and then we realised the real cause of them, was a Little Owl perched on the ruins.

Wednesday 9 May

The early morning walk was along a farm track in some lovely scrubby Mediterranean habitat above our hotel. Not far away a Long-legged Buzzard, perched in full view. A distant Hoopoe was heard calling and an Icterine Warbler popped into view briefly. The mosaic of aromatic flowering plants was fascinating.

As we arrived at the small pool west of Mastichardi a small group of Alpine Swifts were swirling around right passed us as they came in to drink. Even better than those a couple of days ago. The Squacco Heron was still there. Sneaking about in the back of the reeds was a female Little Bittern.

On the way to the south-west headland of Kos strutting Peacocks in the Plaka Forest created a short diversion. At the headland a pair of Eastern Black-eared Wheatears were admired as was a Peregrine perched on the cliffs opposite. As we have come to expect a few Eleonora's Falcons drifted over. Denise enjoyed the comforts of an armchair thoughtfully provided at the side of the road.

After a leisurely lunch at the Kardemena taverna we headed off into the farmland and olive groves north of the town. It turned out to be a special time. Several perched Rollers and Bee-eaters were observed in perfect light. A few not so showy Icterine Warblers flicked around the olive trees but best off in attempting to pish them out a first year Eastern Orphean Warbler lumbered into view in a small bush allowing, eventually, all to get scope views.

On leaving Rebecca's car load had a stroke of luck...again, when a Hoopoe flew across the road between to two vehicles. Luckily while scanning to relocate it a Stone-curlew was spotted cautiously nosing around under some Olive trees. This caused consternation for a few as it was quite difficult to pick up due to its cryptic plumage and habitat of hiding behind trees and other vegetation. Despite these difficulties everyone got on to the bird and left happy.

Thursday 10 May

Just enough time for an early morning walk before our flight. Just up from the hotel we were very fortunate indeed to encounter not one but two Rufous Bushchats. Not only that they turned out to be a pair feeding young. A great find on this under-watched island.

After checking a few wet ditches we continued to the beach by the saltpans. At the last gasp a small flock of Curlew Sandpipers and one Turnstone flew in. Waders numbers have been less than normal this year due to the lack of winter rain.

All in all I think I will remember this trip for the joys of laughter and great hilarity, especially around meal times. It is so satisfying to see everyone relaxing and above all having fantastic fun while watching birds and wildlife.

SPECIES CHECKLIST

BIRD LIST

- Cory's Shearwater:** 2 flew past the boat on the way back from Nisyros on the 7th.
Yelkouan Shearwater: 5 flew past the boat on the way out to Nisyros on the 7th.
European Shag: 4 distantly on the 7th, one other in flight over the sea on 8th.
Purple Heron: 1 from the boat pre-departure on 7th in Kardamina Harbour + 1 on 8th pre-breakfast west end of Saltpans.
Little Egret: Individuals seen on 4 days, 3 together on 5th, best views at Mastichardi Pool on 9th.
Squacco Heron: 1 at Saltpans on 3rd, 1 seen very well at Mastichari Pool on 6th & 9th.
Little Bittern: 1 discrete female at Mastichari Pool on 9th in reeds.
Mute Swan: 2 at small Terrapin filled pond on way to hills after breakfast on 5th.
Ruddy Shelduck: Several pairs noted on 4 days at the Saltpans, maximum count 7.
Mallard: A few noted on 3 days, 4th, 5th and 6th.
Short-toed Eagle: 1 seen soaring distantly after lunch at Villa Café on the 8th.
Long-legged Buzzard: 2 seen on Bonelli's hill walk on 5th, 1 on Nisyros from coach on 7th & 2 including one perched up on pre-breakfast walk in hills on 9th.
Bonelli's Eagle: 2 showed well below Mount Dikeos on 5th, 2 at hill Chapel on 6th!
Lesser Kestrel: A few noted daily, highest counts were 30+ on 5th throughout the day & a similar number seen on the 8th.
Common Kestrel: 1 seen on the 6th.
Red-footed Falcon: 10+ seen well in good light over hills below mount Dikeos on the 5th & 1 seen during pre-breakfast walk on 6th around Tingaki Saltpans.
Eleonora's Falcon: Noted on 5 days, including our first, a dark morph on 5th, 5 on 6th towards Mastichari and 12+ on 8th east of Asfendiou tracks.
Saker Falcon: 1 probable Saker steamed past us on way to hotel from airport on 3rd.
Lanner Falcon: 1 probable Lanner pre-breakfast on 5th at Saltpans.
Peregrine Falcon: 1 over the fort on the 8th and another sat on a craggy outcrop on the 9th near Kamari before lunch.
Chukar: 2 seen from vehicles on dusty track ahead of us on 6th near Chapel, 1 in beautiful light in the hills on 8th & 2 briefly in olive groves NE of Kardamina on 9th.
European Stone-Curlew: Several very vocal birds heard over hills on evening of 6th and only 1 seen in an olive grove on the 9th.
Little Ringed Plover: 1 noted at the saltpans on 3rd and 2 on 5th.
Kentish Plover: 6+ noted on our first stop at Saltpans on 3rd, 2 more on beach at west end of saltpans during pre-breakfast walk on 8th.
Spur-winged Plover: A rarity for Kos, 1 smart individual seen on the 5th in fields adjacent to saltpans.
Common Snipe: 1 flushed from a ditch between saltpans and hotel on the 8th.
Wood Sandpiper: Seen regularly at Saltpans, notably on 3rd, 4th and 4+ maximum count on 5th.
Common Sandpiper: 1 showed very well at Mastichari Pool on the 9th.
(Ruddy) Turnstone: 1 seen on pre-breakfast walk on the 10th on beach west end of saltpans with Curlew Sandpipers.
Little Stint: 1 seen in ditch at Saltpan area on 3rd & 6th, 4+ at Saltpans on the 5th.
Temminck's Stint: 1 seen at very close quarters in a ditch at the Saltpans on 3rd.
Curlew Sandpiper: 5 of these stunning waders flew to the shoreline with a Turnstone on the morning of the 10th.

Ruff: Noted on 4 days in groups, 6 on the 3rd, 27 on 4th and 5th and 1 on 6th all in Saltpan area.

Arctic Skua: A rare sight for Kos! 1 pale phase chasing Gulls along the coast at Kardamina Harbour on the 7th, seen from the boat to Nisyros.

Audouin's Gull: 3 seen on the 7th, 1 from Taverna on Nisyros, 2 on water as we left on the boat back to the mainland.

Yellow-legged Gull: Noted every day in good numbers.

Mediterranean Gull: 4 offshore together from boat as we departed for Nisyros from Kardamina on 7th.

Whiskered Tern: 1 stunning individual over Kardamina on the 7th as we arrived back on the boat from Nisyros.

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon): Noted on 3 days.

European Turtle Dove: A few seen on 5 days, first 2 of 5 on 4th seen at Psalidi Reserve, several on 8th & 9th.

Eurasian Collared Dove: Lots observed every day.

Great Spotted Cuckoo: 1 nearly hit the car on the 5th and another seen well by everyone on way down to Mastichari Pool on 6th.

Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo: 1 flew past the early risers on the 5th pre-breakfast walk.

Eurasian Scops Owl: Heard very well from slopes near hotel on evening of 6th, also heard at hotel night of 5th and out in the hills north of Kardamina on 9th.

Little Owl: Seen on 5 days, 1 on 4th from Villa Café Taverna, 3 on 5th, 3 on 6th, 2 on 8th a 3 on 9th including a very photogenic one in the hills!

European Nightjar: A couple heard churring in the slopes near the hotel on the evening of the 6th.

Alpine Swift: Noted in good numbers on 6 days. Maximum count was 40+ on 8th. Best views were had at the Mastichari Pool!! On the 9th.

Common Swift: Noted in small numbers every day.

Pallid Swift: Noted in small numbers on 5 days, including over our first lunch at hotel outside on the 3rd when there were 6+.

European Bee-eater: 15+ noted first at Psalidi wetlands on the 4th. 30+ seen on the 6th west of Mastichari, 9 on the 8th and 20+ on the 9th.

European Roller: Seen on 5 days, first one seen on 3rd on way to hotel from airport, maximum was 12+ on the 9th N/NE of Kardamina.

(Eurasian) Hoopoe: 1 stunning bird flew across the road between vehicles on the evening of the 9th and probed the ground in a nearby olive grove allowing brief views for all.

Crested Lark: Numerous and seen daily.

European Sand Martin: Seen in small numbers on 5 days, maximum number recorded was a movement of over 30+ on the 3rd near salt pans.

Barn Swallow: Recorded daily in moderate numbers of 20+ most days.

Red-rumped Swallow: Noted on 5 days. 3+ seen at Psalidi Wetland on 4th, 3 over small pool on way to mountains on the 5th (where Mute swans were), 2 of 3 at the Chapel on the 6th, and 2 more recorded on the 8th and again on 9th.

Common House Martin: A few noted most days.

Black-headed Wagtail: 6 noted on the 3rd, 1 on 7th on Nisyros Island and 1 on 8th.

Yellow Wagtail Sub-species: Blue-headed Wagtail: 1 at Mastichari Pool on the 6th with other Yellow Wagtail sp.

Yellow Wagtail Sub-species: Grey-headed Wagtail: 2 at Mastichari Pool on the 6th with a flock of other Yellow wagtail sp.

White Wagtail: 2 noted on the 6th and 7th at Kardamina jetty. Another seen on 8th.

Tawny Pipit: 5 stunning birds together at the side of the road and then on the road on the 6th on the return trip from Mastichari Pool area.

Tree Pipit: 1 spotted in a tree on way up to the mountains on the morning of the 5th.

Red-throated Pipit: 2 immature or female birds seen as we first parked uphill from Mastichari Pool on the 6th – we scoped these briefly too.

Red-backed Shrike: 1 male on the 5th on way to rustic taverna. 4 seen throughout the day on 6th.

Woodchat Shrike: Individuals spotted on 5 days, with 2 on the 5th.

Blue Rock Thrush: A handsome male seen singing on a rocky hillside after lunch at Villa Café on the 8th.

Common Blackbird: Noted throughout in small numbers.

Common Nightingale: A few heard on the evening of the 7th and 3 on the 8th and 9th.

Rufous Bush-chat: A great find by Robin, a pair found nesting just close to the hotel on the 10th!

Whinchat: Noted on 5 days, with 6+ seen on the 4th and 5th at the salt pans.

Common Stonechat: 2 gorgeous males seen very well on the hillside below Mount Dikeos on the 5th (on same walk as first Bonelli's).

Northern Wheatear: A few seen on 3 days.

Black-eared Wheatear (Eastern): First male from carpark at Villa Café on the 4th. 1 female up in the hills on 5th. 5+ on 8th around Villa Café area again.

- Fan-tailed Warbler (Zitting Cisticola):** Several heard and seen every day.
Cetti's Warbler: Only a couple seen but a few heard every day.
Sedge Warbler: 1 seen on pre-breakfast walk in small reedbed west of Salt pans on 4th.
(Eurasian) Reed Warbler: Only a few heard on first 4 days, first one seen at Salt pans on the 3rd.
Great Reed Warbler: 1 briefly at the Psalidi Reserve on the 4th and one showed incredibly well and was scoped at close range on the pre-breakfast walk on 6th along the east end of the Tingaki salt pans.
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler: Several heard every day.
Icterine Warbler: 4+ seen and heard on the 9th, best views in the olive groves late afternoon.
Wood Warbler: 2 seen at the Tingaki salt pan area briefly on the 5th.
Orphean Warbler (Eastern): 1 male heard on the 8th in the hills, 1 seen very well by all in the olive groves in the hills in the later afternoon of the 9th NE of Kardamina.
Sardinian Warbler: Seen on 5 days, first ones heard from ruins at Asclerio Hospital on the 4th. Maximum of 10+ on 5th in the mountains and several more noted on the 6th, 8th and 9th.
Subalpine Warbler (Eastern): 1 showed well in the hills on the 5th, 2 males were seen on the 7th in Mandraki when we first arrived on Nisyros and another was seen on the 8th.
Spotted Flycatcher: A few seen on 5 days, best views at Psalidi Reserve on 4th.
Collared Flycatcher: 1 smart male on a fence going into the salt pan area on the 5th, 1 female in the hills also on the 5th.
Coal Tit: 2 on the 5th & 8th and 3+ on the 9th.
Great Tit: A few seen on 4 days.
Blue Tit: A few seen on Nisyros on the 7th.
Common Magpie: Noted in good numbers daily.
Eurasian Jackdaw (Western): Noted in good numbers daily.
Hooded Crow: Noted in good numbers daily.
(Eurasian) Golden Oriole: Noted on 4 days, including 16 over the salt pans during pre-breakfast walk on the 4th (18 in total that day!) and 5 scoped beautifully at the rustic taverna on the 6th.
Corn Bunting: A few seen on the 6th and 3-4 seen on the 8th (Mastichari Pool area).
Cretzschmar's Bunting: 6+ spotted singing in the mountains on the 5th, several seen on the 7th and 2 distantly on the 9th.
Black-headed Bunting: 1 in particular seen daily perched on wires between hotel and salt pans. Several were seen every day, best view was at Mastichari pool on the 9th.
Common Chaffinch: Only a few seen on 4 days.
European Serin: Several heard and seen too eventually on the 8th up in the coniferous foothills.
European Greenfinch: Seen in small numbers daily.
House Sparrow: Seen in good numbers daily.
Spanish Sparrow: 40+ in a flock on the 4th at the salt pans, 30+ together on the 5th also at the salt pans.

MAMMALS

- European Rabbit:** 3 seen during our travels on the 8th.

AMPHIBIANS

- Levant Water Frog (Marsh Frog):** 2 seen on the 6th at Mastichari Pool, a few heard on other days.
Common Tree Frog: 2 at the hotel pool on the night of the 4th.

REPTILES

- Starred Agama:** 8 seen on the 4th, and several seen throughout every day from the 5th-9th.
Turkish Gecko: 1 handsome individual outside Cynthia's pad on the night of the 6th!
Balkan Green Lizard: Individuals on the 3rd and 5th (in the hills), 3 on the 9th.
Spur-thighed Tortoise: Seen on 4 days, lots seen in the mountain walk on the 5th!
Balkan Terrapin: Several at the small pond on the 5th, lots seen on the 6th at Mastichari Pool and several on the 8th & 9th.
Red-eared Slider (Florida Terrapin): Several seen well at the small pond on the way up into the hills on the morning of the 5th.

BUTTERFLIES

- Swallowtail:** 2 on the 7th in Mandraki, Nisyros.
Scarce Swallowtail: 3 on the 7th in Nisyros.
Eastern Festoon: 1 up in the hills on the 5th.

Large White: Numerous daily.

Small White: Numerous daily.

Eastern Dappled White: Several at the Psalidi Reserve on the 4th.

Clouded Yellow: Several every day.

Common Blue: Several at the Psalidi Reserve on the 4th.

Red Admiral: A few on the 5th and singles on the 7th & 8th.

Painted Lady: Several on the 5th up in the hills, 2 on the 9th.

Ageaen Meadow Brown: A few on 6 days from the 4th-9th.

Large Wall Brown: A few noted at the hospital ruins on the 4th.

Small Skipper: 1 on the 3rd and lots at the Psalidi reserve on the 4th.

Orbed Red Underwing Skipper: 1 seen and photographed on the 5th during a mountain walk.

Long-tailed Blue: 3+ at the Psalidi Reserve on the 4th.

Small Copper: A few at the Psalidi Reserve on the 4th.

Large Tortoiseshell: 2 seen on the Island of Nisyros on the 7th around Mandraki.

MOTHS

Hummingbird Hawkmoth: 2 seen on the 5th briefly from the car.

Pine Processionary Moth Tents: Noted in lots of places throughout the Island.

DRAGONFLIES/DAMSELFLIES

Scarlet Darter: 3+ at the Mastichari Pool area on the 6th.

Small Red-eyed Damselfly: Several around the Mastichari Pool area on the 6th.

OTHER INSECTS

Violet Carpenter Bee: Lots seen on Nisyros on the 7th and a few others noted throughout the trip.

Oxythyrea funesta (chafer sp): Lots seen on flowers in the Psalidi Reserve on the 4th.

Praying Mantis/Amales spallanziana: 1 on the 6th

Praying mantis sp 2: An enormous individual seen briefly at Mandraki on the 7th before being eaten by a House Sparrow before we had all enjoyed viewing it!

Mediterranean Hornet sp: Lots seen throughout the trip.

Robberfly sp: 1 seen and photographed on a church gate in Mandraki on the 7th.

Egyptian Grasshopper: 1 noted on the 8th.

Ant Lion/ Euroleum nostras: 1 magnificent adult found on the wall outside the ladies toilet at Villa Café on the 8th.

Robin Chittenden & Rebecca Nason, May 2007

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