

Lesvos

Thursday 23 – Thursday 30 April 2009

Leaders:

Rebecca Nason
Philip Harris

Driver:

Philip Harris
Rebecca Nason (airport runs)

Introduction

Thank you all for making the 2009 Lesvos trip such a successful and enjoyable experience this year, Lesvos never fails to reward us with exciting birding highlights and this year was certainly one of the best! We thoroughly enjoyed your good company throughout the week and would happily have stayed on a lot longer if we had had the chance, we really did not want the trip to end! We hope to see you all again on trips with us in the not-too-distant future. Please do not hesitate to contact us again either via email or through the Travelling Naturalist Head Office.

The Travelling Naturalist Lesvos itinerary was undertaken with the utmost success this year and many additional ‘excursions’ were also added and proved very fruitful and enjoyable. Again, with a small group and two leaders with a small minibus, areas were visited which would be otherwise inaccessible in a larger vehicle, adding a huge bonus to the trip with numerous visits to the Inland Lake and access to the Upper East River and Napi Valley. Phil proved an exceptionally considerate driver throughout.

The total bird species seen on the trip was a high 149. It is always difficult to predict when the ‘best time’ is to visit Lesvos in Spring, it certainly varies year to year by a week or two as to when the bigger ‘numbers’ start to arrive and migrate through the island and when several much sort-after ‘breeding species’ arrive back on territory. This year we were lucky to just catch the beginning of such movements and thankfully managed to see superb active migration, particularly on the first 3 days. We were all very excited on arrival on the 23rd as it was immediately clear that there were good numbers of migrants in & we were treated to views of Red-footed Falcon before arrival at the hotel and a female Pied Flycatcher flicking about in trees along the beach next to the hotel before dinner.

The first two full days revealed many good species, our highlight for sure must have been the stop at Sigri where one tree in front of us had 2 Wood Warblers and Lesser Whitethroats chacking away from leaf cover & overhead we were awestruck by a passage of 20+ Lesser Kestrels, an Eleanora’s Falcon & a superb Levant Sparrowhawk. Further towards and into the Melodia Valley the roadside seemed to be dripping with Collared, Pied & Spotted Flycatchers & high numbers of Whinchat amongst other migrants. The second half of the week was quieter after the initial ‘buzz’ of the first few days, but more & more ‘new’ birds for the trip were clocked up & all birds were seen well by all group members.

We were lucky enough to find a Scop’s Owl which, with it’s cryptic plumage & varying roosting haunts, can be a tricky bird to catch up with unless other groups have already found one & passed on locations. Although the Rufous-bush Chats were not back on the Island during our visit, we were delighted to see the much sought after ‘Kruiper’s Nuthatch & enjoyed views of a handsome male at his nest hole. (He was to be joined the week after by a female!). Also, who will forget Phils’ leap from the vehicle & tackle with a 1.5metre European Glass Lizard – what a creature that was!

The ever changing & vulnerable Kalloni Pool was up to a better birding standard this year than the last few

years & there was plenty of water present, though the whole area needs to be opened up a little before succession fully takes over & it is lost forever! It is still hoped that a solution can be found to keep the area safe from further deterioration & development but the owner seems set on development so the future seems very uncertain. Many early mornings out overlooking the pool produced numerous Squacco Heron, a Great Bittern put in a presence & up to 6 Garganey were noted throughout our stay, as well as Reed, Sedge, Great Reed & Olivaceous Warblers in the peripheral pool reeds & tamarisks.

The weather throughout the trip was perfect for birding in, warm days with chilly starts, mixed clear & overcast skies but moderate to good daily temperatures & slight welcoming sea breeze. It rained lightly for 5 minutes on one occasion but otherwise about average for this time of year. We arrived to overcast & cool conditions, following strong storms just before we arrived (it brought the migrants in!) & left to hot Mediterranean weather with clear blue skies.

We also 'experienced' two very authentic local meals out in the evenings which were a delightful change from the hotel buffet (The first one was certainly better than the last! though the last was better on atmosphere!) and had two lunches out, a very good one in Petra & another on the beach at Skala Kalloni. We had fresh, local packed lunches otherwise which were tasty & enjoyed by all along with tea & coffee service at the back of the minibus. Memories of our lunches in the Napi Valley & Inland Lake in the sunshine & surrounded by birdlife will I think in particular, stay with us for a long time as will many other enjoyable moments on our successful 2009 Lesvos Travelling naturalist adventure. Thank you once again for joining us.

Both Phil and I would like to give thanks to the staff at the Kalloni 11 Hotel, particularly the friendly & helpful reception staff & room service.

DIARY

Thursday 23 April

Mytilini Airport, Kalloni Salt pans (briefly) Kalloni Pool,

Weather: Cool and overcast (13oC) on our arrival late pm.

Rebecca and Phil met some of the group at Gatwick Airport and after checking in, we made our way to the departure lounge for a much needed breakfast. After a pleasant flight with meal, we arrived at Mytiline Airport on time & quickly found the other group members who were on the same plane but had come from Manchester, before picking us up at Gatwick en-route.

We sorted out the vehicles & were soon finding our way, with some guidance through the busy capital of Mytilini. Before heading to our hotel to check in, we made a quick stop off at the Kalloni Salt pans for our first 'Lesvos' taster!. Here we had our first views of **40+ Black-winged Stilts, 25+ Avocet**, distant **Flamingos, 10+ Wood Sandpipers, 6+ Grey-headed Wagtails, Crested Larks, Little & Common Terns, 6+ Little Egret & a Black Stork** overhead. The highlight however was a **female Red-footed Falcon** seen by Rebecca & David from the car, followed by a male **Red-footed Falcon** over the Salt pans plus a **male Montagu's Harrier**, a **female Marsh Harrier** & a high **Short-toed Eagle** (quite a start!).

We arrived at the Kalloni 11 Hotel early evening, just in time to settle into our rooms (all with balconies overlooking the pool!!!) and take our first look at the pool before dinner. Birds seen here included a pair of **Garganey, Coot, Moorhen, Little Grebe** calling, **2 Squacco Heron, Great Reed Warbler** singing, **2 Red-rumped Swallows, 2 Nightingale** singing, a flock of over **60 Spanish Sparrows** & a lone **female Pied Flycatcher** (near the beach).

We then had our first meeting and drink before our buffet dinner & relatively early night.

Friday 24 April

East River Mouth, Kalloni Saltpans, Derbyshire, Achladeri, Upper East River, Kalloni Saltpans.

Weather: Clear & warm (am). Sunny, hot & breezy (pm).

Our pre-breakfast excursion saw us visit the East River mouth. Here a wander along the track saw a good number of birds. These included a flock of **10 Turtle Doves**, **8 Glossy Ibis**, **3 Little Ringed Plover**, **6+ Wood Sandpiper**, **1 Common Sandpiper**, **1 male Red-footed Falcon** on a wire, **6+ Olivaceous Warbler** (1 showing well!), **2 Great Reed Warbler**, **Nightingales**, **Cetti's Warblers**, **2 Common Whitethroat**, **Blackbird**, **2 Common Tern**, several **Yellow Wagtails**, **3 Red-throated Pipit** & a **Ringed Plover**. On returning to the hotel for breakfast a **White Stork** was also noted.

We made a brief stop at the Saltpans on our way to Derbyshire post-breakfast. Here we had a pair of **Montagu's Harrier**, **60+ Ruff**, **25 Greenshank**, **4 Common Shelduck**, a **Marsh Harrier**, many **Yellow Wagtails** & **Wood Sandpipers** & 1 distant **Stone Curlew**.

Our next port of call was Derbyshire, and a short walk down a track bordered by shallow water on the right and a scrubby hillside on the left. We ended up spending a long time here, as there were good numbers of interesting plants to try & identify as well as good numbers of birds, particularly further down the track. On arrival we saw **3 Alpine swifts** overhead & a **male Cretzchmar's Bunting**. Down the track we witnessed over **25 Whinchat** in one field as well as a **Persian Squirrel** on a shed roof! Also present were **1 Stonechat**, **2 Woodchat Shrikes**, **2 Common Whitethroat**, **1 male Pied Flycatcher**, **Blue & Great Tits**, **1 Reed Warbler**, **6 Red-throated Pipits**, **7 Short-toed Lark**, **2 Spotted Flycatchers**, a **Common Buzzard** & **Common Kestrel**. The highlights here however were **4 male & 1 female Golden Oriole** feeding in a mature tree and enjoyed by all, as well as our first **Bee-eaters**, as **9** flew over calling. Butterflies seen during this walk included a **Brown Argus**, several **Small Heath**, **Painted Lady**, **Small & Large Whites**, **Eastern Dappled Whites**, **Small Copper** & **Eastern Festoon**. Around the waters edge there were several **Red-veined Darters**, 1 very active **Lesser Emperor** & a gleaming **Southern Emerald Damselfly**.

By the time we reached Achladeri we were all ready for our lunch, so broke open the packed lunches & tea & coffee under the shade of the pine trees – very relaxing. After lunch, a leisurely walk from our picnic spot saw us stood watching a male **Kruper's Nuthatch** at his nest hole, one of the main bird specialities Lesvos is famous for & a bird with a very restricted global range! As we watched the nest hole for another Kruper's appearance, a **Peregrine** shot through a gap in the pines above us. We walked a little further into the woods & were delighted to see that we had timed the stunning **Violet Bird's Nest Orchids** just right this year as they were just coming into full flower. Some were over 2 feet high! We then enjoyed views of the male **Kruper's Nuthatch** actively feeding in the pines above us & great views of **2 Masked Shrikes** & **2 Short-toed Treecreepers** before returning to the vehicle and onward to our next stop –

A bumpy track led us carefully up the upper East River. On route we noted **2 Black Stork** & **2 Ruddy Shelduck** as well as a **Little Owl** at a broken window of a farm building (a good annual spot to try & see Little Owls here). We enjoyed 2 very close **Starred Agama's** from the minibus before piling out at our viewpoint for a good scan of the area. This spot was relatively quiet but we still saw **15+ Whinchat** (including birds on the way up), **25+ Bee-eaters** hawking overhead as they passed through, **2 Common Buzzard**, **1 Peregrine**, **1 Short-toed Eagle**, our first pair of **Black-eared Wheatear**, **1 male Cirl Bunting** showing very well & a couple of bright **Clouded Yellow** butterflies.

After a spell back at the hotel for a refreshing beer or coffee, we headed back to the Kalloni Saltpans before dinner –always the best time to enjoy this great bird haven! On arrival we counted over **150 Greater Flamingo's** which were closer than the day before. A real highlight however was a fall of over **60+ Yellow Wagtails**, of several different races, all close together feeding on the water margins or hunting for insects on the fences or low vegetation. Most were **thunbergi & flava's** but we also noted a cracking '**superciliaris**' which was a new 'race' for us all, with a black head & striking white supercilium. This spectacular start was just the beginning as we saw numerous species on this excursion including **8 Collared Pratincoles** which came through quite quickly at the back of the pans but fed on the wing over the pools before disappearing over distant fields.

Other birds this wonderful evening included a **female Pallid Harrier** (good views of major features as it came so close!), a pair of **Montagu's Harrier & Marsh Harrier**, **2 Black Stork**, **65 Avocet**, **50+ Black-winged Stilt**, **60+ Ruff**, **22 Greenshank**, a flock of **60+ Little Stint**, **6 Temminck's Stint**, **1 Spotted Redshank**, **1 Kentish Plover**, **5 Little Ringed Plover**, **2 Curlew Sandpiper**, **100+ Wood Sandpiper**, **1 Black-tailed Godwit**, **1 Shag**, **3 Purple Heron**, **8 Grey Heron**, **2 Squacco Heron**, **1 Great White Egret**, **8 Little Egret**, **30+ Whiskered Tern** just in, amongst them **4 White Winged Black Tern**. **10+ Glossy Ibis**, **4 Garganey**, **2 Red-throated Pipits & 10 Ravens** passing through (phewww). . . .

Saturday 25 April

Inland Lake, Vatousa Gorge, Ipsilou Monastery. Sigri - Melodia Valley.

Weather: Cloudy cool start, becoming hot and clear later but windy!

Before boarding the mini-bus for our early morning visit to the Inland Lake, a pair of nest building **Black-winged Stilt**, **4 Garganey**, **2 Squacco Heron** & a **Little Grebe** were noted on the Kalloni Pool. It was cool at the Inland Lake with mist rising off the surface of the water – but the great Inland Lake specialities were certainly active with fine views of **3 Little Crake** (best views we have ever had!) & **3 Little Bittern** putting in appearances, We also enjoyed excellent views of **10+ Great Reed Warblers** along with numerous **Reed & Sedge Warblers** & **2** constantly diving **Little Grebes**.

After breakfast we took a short trip to a past **Scop's Owl** roost site before heading towards Vatousa. Before long, Phil has spotted one beautiful roosting bird near where there had been one last year & we all enjoyed great views!

Before we were besieged by other tour groups, we enjoyed a tranquil moment at our Vatousa Gorge lookout spot, an excellent location for spending time just watching & listening. Here we had a pair of **Blue Rock Thrush**, a **male Subalpine Warbler**, **10+ Crag Martins**, a pair of **Black-eared Wheatear**, several **Red-rumped Swallows**, **2 Short-toes Eagles**, a **Wren** singing, **2 Long-legged Buzzards**, **Cretzchmar's & Cirl Buntings**, **3 Jay**, a **female Rock Sparrow** & a **female Golden Oriole**. **Orange Tips & Eastern Festoons** floated past us too.

We then headed up into higher elevations & towards Ipsilou Monastery which was to be our lunch stop. Part way up we stopped to scan the quite different terrain & were soon watching **4+ Isabelline Wheatear** & **4 Northern Wheatear** amongst the hillside boulders. Several **Linnet** flew overhead calling. Further up towards the Monastery we found a fine **male Cinereous Bunting**, another Lesvos speciality, positively glowing lemon yellow & in full song on top of a large rock. A new **Rock Nuthatch** nest was discovered with a pair in attendance near the singing **Cinereous Bunting**. **Black-eared Wheatears** called & chacked as we uploaded lunch at the monastery to a backdrop of incredible scenery & Turkey in the distance. The only disappointment here was the realisation that the hotel staff had forgotten the main part of our packed lunch – the bread! We enjoyed our lunch with **Black-eared Wheatears** nearby, **Rock Sparrows** flying around the ramparts & **25+ Bee-eaters** flying over the hillside above us. We also noted **False Apollo & Wall Brown** butterflies here.

If it were not for the lack of bread with our lunch, we may never have stopped off on the outskirts of the pretty little village of Sigri & enjoyed what must be the highlight of the trip. A quick stop soon saw us watching an incredible raptor movement overhead, with **20+ Lesser Kestrels** passing through along with a cracking **male Levant Sparrowhawk** & **dark phased Eleanor's Falcon**. A nearby tree was dripping with **2 Wood Warblers**, **Lesser Whitethroats**, **1 Pied Flycatcher**, **1 Spotted Flycatcher** & a **male Red-backed Shrike** nearby. Other birds present here included large flocks of **Jackdaws**, **2 Long-legged Buzzards** & a **Short-toed Eagle** (what a stop!!).

We observed numerous birds, many migrant passerines, on our route to the Melodia Valley & it was en-route that we also spotted a **European Glass Lizard** hastily crossing the road. Phil managed to jump out & catch the legless Lizard before as it dived for cover in a Spiny Burnet – & we were all soon enjoying very close views of this incredible creature (they can grow to 2 metres! But this one was perhaps 1 metre plus!).

On our drive to the ford & relaxing time spent around the ford vicinity we noted **1 Willow Warbler, 30+ Whinchat, 2 Great Reed Warbler, 1 Short-toed Eagle, 2 Long-legged Buzzards, 1 Common Kestrel, 1 Hobby, several Lesser Kestrels, a male Red-backed Shrike, 3 Woodchat Shrike, 1 Common Sandpiper & 1 Little Owl**. We also witnessed an enormous flock of **Spanish Sparrows!** Other great migrants included **4 male Collared Flycatchers, 12+ Spotted Flycatchers, a pair of Sombre Tits, 1 Redstart, 1 Icterine Warbler, several Yellow Wagtails, 12 Bee-eaters, 3 Cretzchmar's Buntings, 1 female Marsh Harrier & our first distant view of a Black-headed Bunting**. Other taxa species noted at the ford included **Violet Carpenter Bees, Clouded Yellows & Egyptian Grasshopper** (in the hand).

It had been a long & very successful day by the time we reached the hotel early evening. We relaxed, had a refreshing cold drink & prepared for our first dinner out in Skala Kalloni. **Spanish Sparrow** flocks & **Pipistrelle bats** were noted on our short walk into town & **Stone Curlews** were heard calling on our way back later that night, with full stomachs & high hopes for what the next day might bring!

Sunday 26 April

Lower East River, West River, Parakila/Chapel of the Holy Cross, Inland Lake, Kalloni Saltpans and Sheepfields.

Weather: Broken cloud, cool, breezy, 5 minutes of rain.

We took a different early morning walk along the Lower East River to the ford on Sunday. The highlight pre-breakfast was a cracking **male Citrine Wagtail** along the edge of the ford. There were **3 2nd summer Mediterranean Gulls** stood at the river along with a lone **Curlew**. **2 Common Sandpipers & 2 Black-headed Wagtails** put in an appearance as we walked along the river banks as well as **2 Little Ringed Plover**. Also noted was a **female Marsh Harrier** (sat up distantly), a **male Red-backed Shrike, 8 Glossy Ibis** passed over. **Nightingales & Olivaceous Warblers** sang from nearby vegetation along with numerous **Corn Buntings**.

A brief stop at the West River post breakfast produced **1 White Stork & a pair of Kentish Plover**. We then made our way to a great little place known as Parakila & the tiny Chapel of the Holy Cross. Here we had **2 Turkish Gecko's** in the cool interior of the Chapel. There was a new **Rock Nuthatch** nest being built on the outside of the Chapel as well as our other known active nest site & 2 pairs of **Rock Nuthatch** were enjoyed here. **Sombre Tits (2) & Cretzchmar's Buntings (2)** were visible from the Chapel & **3 Short-toed Eagles** hanging in the wind gave great scope views. **2 Common Buzzards & a Woodchat Shrike** were also seen.

We decided to head back to the Inland Lake for lunch & had the whole place to ourselves. Our lunch was only disrupted by a ridiculously sappy little dog & over **50 Bee-eaters** hunting over the Lake. Again we enjoyed great views of 3 very showy **Little Crake, 3/4 Little Bitterns & a Sparrowhawk**. There were a good number of **Balkan Terrapins** out of the water, basking in the heat of the day too.

We spent the rest of the afternoon at the Saltpans & Sheepfields. We were treated to **4 Collared Pratincoles** in flight & **2 Collared Pratincoles** sat on the waters edge at the sheepfields, as well as the usual birds such as **Squacco Herons, Purple & Grey Heron, Glossy Ibis & Great white Egret**. Terns present included **5 Whiskered & 4 White-winged Black Terns**. Raptors included another striking **female Pallid Harrier & a female Marsh Harrier**. Around the Sheepfields & large pool there were good numbers of **Red-throated Pipit & a few Short-toed Lark**. Other notable birds included a **Temminck's Stint, 13 Little Stint, 3 Ringed Plover, 2 Black Stork & 6 Kentish Plover**.

We took a short drive to the East side of the Saltpans for a change before returning to the hotel for dinner. Here there were literally thousands of hirundines feeding & gathering on the wing. A **Common Snipe** got up as we took an evening walk down a straight track bordered by the saltpans on our right & luminous green sunlit lush vegetation on our left. Here we had our best views of **Greater Flamingo's**, over **150** of them, many in flight. There were also a party of **5 Mute Swans** on the water, a Lesvos tick for us! Other

birds present were **100+ Avocet, Black Stork, 2 White Stork, 50+ Little Egret, 1 Great White Egret, 4+ Black-headed Wagtails, 4+ Red-throated Pipits, 1 Woodchat Shrike, 2 Turtle Doves & a pair of Kentish Plover**. A pleasurable end to another great birding day.

Monday 27 April

Kalloni Saltpans, South Petra, Panoramic Viewpoint, Potamia Valley, Kalloni Pool, East River-Saltpans.

Weather: Sunny but windy with a distinct chill.

A sunny pre-breakfast visit to the Saltpans this morning was quite productive, with **3 Common Snipe** seen in flight & the usual suspects with **4 Purple Heron, 6 Grey Heron, 30+ Glossy Ibis, 3 Ruddy Shelduck, 2 Squacco Heron, 5 Whiskered Tern, 2 White-winged Black Terns, a Great White Egret, 1 Marsh Harrier & 1 Stone Curlew**. The highlight however was a **Lesser Grey Shrike** on a wire, which gave great scope views.

We headed towards Petra after breakfast, visiting a known **Middle-spotted Woodpecker** nest site on-route. After staking out the site for sometime we only had brief glimpses of a **Middle-spotted Woodpecker** through the trees on two occasions & it soon became apparent that this year, the Woodpeckers have been replaced by **House Sparrows** & we were lucky to get any Woodpecker views at all! Whilst we were waiting we had very close views of a pair of **Serin** feeding on the ground behind us as well as **2 Short-toed Eagles, 1 Eurasian Sparrowhawk, a showy Wren, Common Buzzard, & a male Cirl Bunting** on wires. A fine adult **Balkan Green Lizard** was also discovered close by.

We next stopped off at the famous Panoramic Viewpoint, a busy spot but the best location for the stunning Ruppell's Warbler. There were too many people present upon arrival so we left the main site & headed up into the hillside a little behind the viewpoint. Here, we enjoyed cracking view of a **male Orphean Warbler, 3 male Subalpine Warblers & a male Blue Rock Thrush** as well as an attractive **Broad-bodied Chaser** at rest on a bush. After this success & with other groups departing from the main viewpoint we made our way down for a scan over the vegetation & out to sea. **1 Shag** was noted as well as a perched **Common Kestrel** & a pair of **Blue Rock Thrush** (carrying food). With the area quieter with less people around we were soon all enjoying views of **2 striking male Ruppell's Warblers** perched briefly on nearby vegetation, what success! The only downside here was the strong breeze that kept birds low & skulkier than on calm past visits.

We left the Warblers in peace & headed down into Petra for lunch. Our friends at the Women's Co-operative were again shut this year, due to when Easter falls & were not due to open until the next day. However we had another restaurant up our sleeves which we had visited the year before & were welcomed there with open arms. After some table shifting so we could sit inside out of the cool wind we all enjoyed a great Taverna meal & toasted our continued birding successes!

We found ourselves in a new location in the afternoon, a track near a reservoir, out of the wind in the Potamia Valley. Slow walking on full stomachs (a lot of us full with Moussaka!) revealed **5 Masked Shrikes, 2 Woodchat Shrikes, a pair of nesting Cirl Bunting, 1 male Orphean Warbler, 1 Short-toed Eagle, 1 Common Buzzard & many Yellow-legged Gulls** on the Reservoir itself. The lining of the reservoir prevented any good feeding grounds for other waders & water edge feeders. However **2 Eastern Dappled Whites & several Clouded Yellows** were also observed here.

We returned to the Kalloni 2 Hotel for a rest & drink before a spell outside around the Kalloni Pool. The **Great Bittern** showed well as well as **5 male Garganey, 1 Purple Heron, 1 Squacco Heron & another cracking large adult Balkan Green Lizard**.

The East River & route from there back to the Saltpans was to be our late afternoon excursion & provided us with a new species in the form of **3 fabulous Tawny Pipits** out on a ploughed field & another **Lesser Grey Shrike** next to a **Red-backed Shrike** on overhead wires. A **Woodchat Shrike** was on a post at the back of a field as we made our way to the pans themselves. Here we had a **Mallard, 1 Black-headed Gull,**

14 Curlew Sandpiper, 3 Greenshank, 50+ Ruff as well as **White & Black Stork, 2 Marsh Harriers & the usual wagtails etc. . . .**

Tuesday 28 April

Kalloni Saltpans, Napi Valley, Kalloni Saltpans.

Weather: Overcast, sunny & warm!

We could not resist another pre-breakfast trip to the Saltpans. Again **the Lesser Grey Shrike** was still on wires where it had been the morning before & we found 2 close **Black-headed Buntings** on our way to the East River along the bumpy track. We again saw the common Saltpan bird sightings such as **3 Squacco Heron, 1 Great White Egret, 2 Marsh Harrier, 3 Grey Heron, 2 Ruddy Shelduck, 20+ Glossy Ibis, a Temminck's Stint, 2 Whiskered Tern, 1 White-winged Black Tern, 1 Red-throated Pipit, 2 Black Stork & 1 White Stork**. There were a very high number of photographers in cars this morning too! Other birds on our way to the East River included **3 Common Whitethroat & 1 each of both Red-backed & Woodchat Shrike**.

After breakfast we headed up into our favourite birding location on Lesvos – the Napi Valley, where we were to spend most of the day. Again this year, the Napi did not disappoint! Before long we were enjoying views of **4 Hoopoe** (more singing), a **Tawny Pipit**, stunning **male Ruppell's Warbler!** a pair of **Blackcap, 1 Common Cuckoo & a cracking Ortolan Bunting** which was on the track ahead of us bathing in a puddle before heading to a trackside tree for more good views. As we watched the Ortolan, **3 Woodlarks** appeared & showed equally well. Further into the valley we observed **1 Middle-spotted Woodpecker, 3 Woodchat Shrike, 2 Red-backed Shrike, 2 pairs of Sombre Tit** (1 pair nesting somewhere close to where we spotted for lunch), **2 Masked Shrike, 1 male Blue-headed Wagtail & a Rock Nuthatch**. After stopping at our Olive-tree Warbler site it became clear that these birds had yet to return to Lesvos & their breeding grounds, although we were led astray a couple of times by Masked Shrikes which sound very similar! Other groups had reported 'hearing' Olive-tree Warblers this spring in the area but we doubt these records hold true & would always recommend not giving yourself the 'benefit of the doubt' without viewing these specialities first! We had a relaxing coffee in the sunshine & then walked up the track a while. After turning a bend we were soon looking at a wide-open landscape & hillside in front of us. We were unbelievably lucky here as soon we had yet another sighting of a **male Levant Sparrowhawk, 3 Eurasian Sparrowhawk & a number of Eleanora's Falcons** hunting over the hillside & making their way closer towards us all the time. We counted 5 birds in total, **1 dark phase & 4 pale**. Not only did we have good views of them in flight but later, we had one perched up in a low dead tree & had great scope views & the best views the leaders had ever seen of this species. We dined alfresco watching **Golden Orioles (4) Short-toed Eagles, Common Buzzards & 1 Long-legged Buzzard**. We ate delicious Strawberries in the sunshine before heading to view an incredible 'rufous phase' or **hepatic Common Cuckoo** that sat still in a nearby tree.

We took a different Valley route in the afternoon and noted another **Hoopoe** (near sheep pit), **male Subalpine Warbler, Black-eared Wheatears, 5 Turtle Dove, Masked Shrike, Woodchat Shrike, 2 Jay, 1 Short-toed Treecreeper & a Black Stork**. Elevated woodland provided us with a gentle sortie to view numerous **Crown Anemone's, a few Peacock Anemone's & Wild Tulips**.

After another refreshment stop at the Kalloni 2 Hotel, we had a last pre-dinner visit to the Saltpans again, this time on the Eastern side of the pans along the straight track bordering the pans. Our highlight here was a **female Citrine Wagtail**. Also present were **3 Common Snipe, 2 Little Ringed Plover, 2 Kentish Plover, 50+ Ruff, 20+ Little Stint**, a nice **male Northern Pintail, 2 Mute Swan**, many **Yellow Wagtails** of **thunbergi & flavi** origin, **Black-headed Wagtails, 3 Sanderling, lots of Red-throated Pipits, 100+ Little Egret, 1 Great White Egret & 2 Black Stork** as well as a number of hirundines.

Wednesday 29 April

Kalloni Saltpans, Lower East Rive-sheepfields, Upper East River, Skala Kalloni town, Inland Lake & Kalloni Saltpans.

Weather: Rain briefly with cloud am, sunny, clear & warm pm.

A visit to the Sheepfields pre-breakfast with rain threatening produced our first **Dunlin** of the trip, a summer plumaged bird feeding on a large pool edge. We also had another **Black-headed Bunting**, many **Ruff**, several **Little Stint**, **Glossy Ibis** & **Short-toed Larks**. There appeared to be generally less birds about today however, the lack of birds was quite noticeable.

After breakfast we took the bumpy track back up into the Upper East River to look for a reported Griffon Vulture & to see if any Rufous Bush-chats had arrived back yet. We took a long slow walk into the hills along a track but there was no sign of the Vulture & Bush-chats. As a grey-purple front developed some distance away & light rain lasted for a few minutes, many hirundines moved through, with **7 Alpine Swifts** being noted. Although seemingly quiet our walk produced a **Marsh Harrier**, **2 Raven**, **1 Rock Nuthatch**, **30+ Bee-eaters**, **2 Subalpine Warblers**, **2 Red-backed Shrike**, **1 Spotted Flycatcher**, **1 Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, **1 Hoopoe**, **1 Woodchat Shrike**, a showy pair of **Black-eared Wheatear** & a pair of **Cirl Bunting**.

Before heading into Skala Kalloni for lunch, we decided to return to the Saltpans until the rain & weather improved. Here we had a good count of **49 Curlew Sandpiper**, several **Ruff** & **Black-headed Bunting**. Other birds present included a **Mediterranean Gull**, **2** very scopable **Stone Curlew**, **10 White-winged Black Terns** & our first **Black Terns** of the trip (**5**)! We were lifted by our new finds & we headed from the Saltpans to the East River. Here we observed a **Lesser Grey Shrike**, **female Red-backed Shrike**, **Woodchat Shrike** & excellent views of **Black-headed Bunting**.

Although pleased to be having another taverna lunch & on finding an apparently great restaurant on the beach of Kalloni Bay, our lunch did not live up to expectations! The location was great but the service & food was poor unfortunately. Needless to say we made the best of it & bought a few Mars Bars from the supermarket (well Paul did for Phil!) to keep us going until dinner. The afternoon saw a quick trip to the Inland Lake followed by another afternoon session at the Saltpans. The Inland Lake was fairly quiet with **3 Little Bittern**, **3 Little Grebe** & a **Woodchat Shrike**. Overhead we noted **2 Short-toed Eagles**, **3 Common Buzzard**, **1 Black Stork** & a welcome flock of **20+ Bee-eaters**.

Our early evening trip back to the Saltpans was to prove another successful one with another bird being added to our trip list – in the form of a **1st summer Little Gull**. We again had good views of a **female Pallid Harrier** & **2 Marsh Harrier** hunting over the pans & adjacent fields. Tern numbers were up with **43+ Whiskered Terns** & **20 White-winged Black Terns**, but no sign of the Black Terns. We went to a little café near the sea at the Saltpans where poor birders had tried to string a pair of Cyprus Warblers the day before (they turned out to be Barred Warblers). We enjoyed a drink in the shade of some beach umbrellas & watched a **female Red-footed Falcon** hawking in the adjacent fields, sometimes at close range. Later we observed **86 Curlew Sandpipers**, **12 Greenshank**, **2 Spotted Redshank**, **8 Grey Heron**, **3 Black Stork**, **3 Squacco Heron** & **9 Bee-eaters** before returning to our hotel.

We enjoyed our last night out at another Taverna in Skala Kalloni which was an attractive restaurant with a good vibe & atmosphere. However we were to be disappointed with the food again – though the local beer went down a treat.

Thursday 30th April

West River briefly, , Kalloni Saltpans, Mytilini Airport, Home.

Weather: A hot cloudless day with a slight breeze.

The day of our departure, only a few joined us for a quick pre-breakfast stroll from the Kalloni Pool to the West River, though the birding was quite unproductive here. We had a leisurely breakfast & packed ready to load up the vehicles at 9.30am. After saying our farewells at the hotel we departed in convoy for a last whistle-stop view of the saltpans before heading towards the airport & tackling Mytilini traffic & road diversions.

We arrived in Mytilini & went past the airport to a Taverna Otto & Jean had recommended, having visited the week before. We were a little early, so before the Taverna opened, we parked up on the sea front & had a good sea watch. We were not to be disappointed as we were soon tracking good numbers of **Yelkouan Shearwaters** on the horizon & others only half distance. We were delighted to spot **3 Cory's Shearwaters** amongst the Shearwater passage, their enormous size & colouration quite different from the slighter dark Yelkouans. All enjoyed good scope views of these two great birds before we descended upon the Taverna & enjoyed a really good Taverna meal (more Moussaka!!). A fine end to a fantastic trip – what a shame it had to end!

With thanks, fond memories and best wishes to you all,

Rebecca Nason and Phil Harris - May 2009.

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BIRD LIST

Yelkouan Shearwater: Many seen whilst scanning the sea near the airport on the 29th.

Cory's Shearwater: At least 3 noted with Yelkouan Shearwaters near the airport on the 29th.

Little Grebe: Heard on the Kalloni Pool on the 23rd & 3 seen on the 25th, 26th & 29th. Best views were of 3 at the Inland Lake.

Great Cormorant: One seen on the 23rd.

European Shag: Singles noted on the 24th, 26th & 28th. 2 seen on 27th & 29th at the Saltpans.

Grey Heron: Noted most days. A maximum of 8 seen on the 24th & 29th

Purple Heron: Noted on 4 days. Highest count was 5 on the 27th, 4 at the Saltpans & 1 on the Kalloni Pool.

Great White Egret: Noted in small numbers on 5 days. 3 seen at the Saltpans on the 29th.

Little Egret: Good numbers seen throughout. Highest count 100+ on afternoon of the 28th at the Saltpans.

Squacco Heron: Seen well every day. Best views on the Kalloni Pool & Saltpans. Highest count 10 on the 26th.

Little Bittern: 3 seen at the Inland Lake on the 25th, 26th & 29th.

Eurasian (Great) Bittern: 1 on the Kalloni Pool on the 27th (also seen on 26th).

Greater Flamingo: Maximum count of 200+ at the saltpans on the 26th. Good numbers at the Saltpans on every visit there.

Black Stork: Noted on 7 days in small numbers. 5 seen on the 28th with 2 at the Saltpans in the morning, another 2 there in the evening overhead & 1 in the Napi Valley. 1 seen on the way to the airport on the 30th.

White Stork: Small numbers noted on 5 days. 1 empty nest also observed.

Glossy Ibis: Between 20-30+ seen on 6 days (including departure day) at the Saltpans & sheepfields. 8 at the East River on the 24th & 26th.

Ruddy Shelduck: Present on 5 days. Highest count 15 on 26th & 14 on 28th.

Common Shelduck: Noted on 3 days. 5 on the 24th at the Saltpans/Derbyshire.

Mallard: Individual males noted on 2 days.

Garganey: Seen every day. A pair on the Kalloni Pool on the 23rd, 4 (3 males) on the Kalloni Pool on the 24th, 25th. Maximum count was 5 males on Kalloni Pool the 27th.

Northern Pintail: 1 male at the Saltpans on the 28th.

Short-toed Eagle: Between 1-4 noted every day. Best views were over Parakila on the 26th & the 4 seen in the Napi Valley on the 28th.

Montagu's Harrier: 1 male at the Saltpans on our way to the hotel the 23rd. A pair were seen well at the Saltpans on the 24th in the morning and evening visits.

Western Marsh Harrier: Noted in small numbers daily. A female at the Saltpans on the 23rd, 25th showed well. Maximum of 4 seen on the 24th & 29th.

Pallid Harrier: A female on the 24th, 26th & 29th at the Saltpans.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk: Individuals seen on 5 days, 2 (3) seen on the 28th in the Napi Valley.

Common Buzzard: Seen every day apart from arrival day. Maximum of 4 seen on the 29th.

Long-legged Buzzard: 8 noted on the 25th at Vatousa, Sigri & Melodia Valley. 4 seen on the 26th & 1 on the 28th.

Lesser Kestrel: 20+ at Sigri on the 25th - excellent views of many moving along the coast & hillside at our brief but amazing stop at Sigri after lunch at Ipsilou.

Common Kestrel: Noted on 5 days in small numbers.

Levant Sparrowhawk: One seen well overhead as it migrated along the coast at Sigri with the Lesser Kestrels on the 25th. Another male noted on the 28th whilst in the Napi Valley.

Red-footed Falcon: A male and female (female from the car) noted on the 23rd at the Saltpans. Another male seen on the 24th at the East River mouth. Also 1 female noted on the 28th.

Eurasian Hobby: 1 noted in the Melodia Valley on the 25th.

Eleanora's Falcon: 1 dark phase bird with the Lesser Kestrels and Levant Sparrowhawk at our amazing stop at Sigri on the 25th. On the 28th we had 5 Eleanora's, 1 dark & 4 pale phased birds in the Napi Valley.

Peregrine: Noted on 2 days. 1 at Achladeri & 1 at the Upper East River on the 24th. 1 on the 26th at the Inland Lake after lunch.

Little Crake: 3 seen at the Inland Lake (excellent Views!) on the 25th & 26th.

Common Moorhen: Noted every day in small numbers.

Eurasian Coot: Noted every day in small numbers.

Black-winged Stilt: Seen every day in good numbers. 50+ at the Saltpans on the 24th & 25th.

Pied Avocet: Seen in good numbers at the saltpans most days. Maximum count was 100+ on the 26th.

European Stone Curlew: 1 on the 24th, 1 heard at the Sheepfields on the 26th, 1 seen on the 27th at the Saltpans and 2 seen well at the pans on the 29th.

Black-tailed Godwit: 1 at the Saltpans on the 24th.

Ringed Plover: Noted on 3 days. Maximum of 8 on the 29th.

Little Ringed Plover: Noted on 3 days. Mainly at the East River & Saltpans.

Kentish Plover: Seen on 4 days, 10+ seen on the 26th with most being observed at Sheepfields.

Eurasian Curlew: 1 on the 26th at the East River mouth.

Spotted Redshank: 1 on the 24th & 2 on the 29th at the Saltpans.

Common Greenshank: 25+ at the Saltpans on the 24th & 15 there on the 29th.

Wood Sandpiper: Noted in good numbers each day.

Common Sandpiper: Observed on 3 days. Individuals on the 24th & 25th and 2 on the 26th at the East River.

Sanderling: 3 on the 28th at the Saltpans.

Dunlin: 1 summer plumaged bird at the Sheepfields on the 29th.

Little Stint: A flock of 60+ at the Saltpans on the 24th. 45+ at the Saltpans on the 26th & noted there on the 28th & 29th.

Temminck's Stint: 8 showing well at the Saltpans on the 24th, then only individuals on the 26th & 28th.

Curlew Sandpiper: A big flock of 86 at the Saltpans on the 29th. Otherwise 14 noted on the 27th & 3 on the 24th. All were observed at the Saltpans.

Ruff: 50+ at the Saltpans on the 24th and noted as being present on the 27th, 28th & 29th. Also 1 stunning male on the 29th.

Common Snipe: Small numbers at the Saltpans on 3 days.

Collared Pratincole: 8 hawking over the Saltpans on the evening of the 24th, 6 at the Saltpans/Sheepfields on the 26th, 2 of the ground.

Yellow-legged Gull: Seen daily in good numbers.

Black-headed Gull: 1 on the 27th between East River & Saltpans.

Little Gull: 1 first summer bird at the Saltpans on the 29th.

Mediterranean Gull: 3 2nd summer birds on the 26th at the East River mouth & 1 on the 29th

Common Tern: Seen every day in small numbers.

Whiskered Tern: Observed on 5 days. Highest count 43 on the 29th.

White-winged Black Tern: 4 at the Saltpans on the 24th and 26th. 2 on the 27th & 20+ at the Saltpans on the 29th.

Black Tern: 5 at the Saltpans on the 29th.

Little Tern: Small numbers daily.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon: Noted each day.

European Turtle Dove: Noted most days in small numbers. Several heard. Flock of 10 seen on 24th.

Eurasian Collared Dove: Noted each day.

Common Cuckoo: Heard on 3 days. 1 adult rufous bird showed well in the Napi Valley on the 28th.

Eurasian Scops Owl: We found a single bird roosting near Kalloni on the 25th.

Little Owl: Individuals noted on 3 days. (1 near the vehicle with prey), 1 on our way to the Upper East River & 1 at the Saltpans on the 30th.

Alpine Swift: 3 on the 24th at Derbyshire. 7 on the 29th in the Upper East River.

Common Swift: Noted every day.

European Bee-eater: Noted on 5 days. Maximum of 60+ on the 29th.

Hoopoe: 4 heard in the Napi Valley on the 28th. 1 seen well on the 29th.

Middle-spotted Woodpecker: Singles noted on the 27th & 28th. Our nest site was not being used this year & appears to be being used by House Sparrows instead.

Greater short-toed Lark: 7 on the 24th in Derbyshire & 6+ on the 26th at the Sheepfields.

Crested Lark: Noted each day. Numerous.

Woodlark: 3 in the Napi on the 28th.

European Sand Martin: Noted in good numbers each day.

Eurasian Crag Martin: 20+ at Vatousa Gorge on the 25th.

Barn Swallow: Noted each day. 1000's on the 26th.

Red-rumped Swallow: Seen daily. Highest count was 6+ on the 29th in the Upper East River.

Common House Martin: Noted each day.

Yellow Wagtail: Good numbers seen every day. 6 *thunbergi* on the 23rd, 50+ *thunbergi* on the 24th including 1 *superciliaris* (great!)

Black-headed Wagtail: Seen daily in small numbers.

White Wagtail: Individuals noted on the 25th & 26th.

Red-throated Pipit: 10+ seen on the 24th at the Saltpans. Noted on 4 days altogether, often well.

Tawny Pipit: 3 observed on the 27th between the East River & Saltpans in a field. 1 on the 28th (& 1 on the 29th).

Red-backed Shrike: Small numbers noted on 5 days, maximum of 4 on the 29th.

Masked Shrike: Seen on 3 days. Maximum of 5 on the 27th in the Potamia Valley.

Lesser Grey Shrike: 1 on wires at the Saltpans on the 27th & 28th. Another between the Saltpans & East River on the 29th.

Woodchat Shrike: Noted in small numbers every day. Maximum of 5 on the 28th.

(Winter) Wren: Singles on the 27th & 28th. 1 heard on the 25th.

Blue Rock Thrush: 3 on the 25th at Vatousa Gorge. 3 males on 27th at the Panoramic View Point.

Common Blackbird: Noted each day.

Common Nightingale: Noted each day.

Whinchat: 40+ in a fall at Derbyshire on the 24th. Noted in numbers throughout trip daily.

Common Redstart: 1 on the 25th en-route to the Melodia Valley.

Common Stonechat: 1 on the 24th & 3 on the 25th.

Northern Wheatear: 4 on the 25th at Ipsilou Monastery.

Black eared wheatear: Noted daily.

Isabelline wheatear: 4 at Ipsilou on the 25th.

Cetti's Warbler: Seen daily.

Sedge Warbler: Noted daily.

Eurasian Reed Warbler: Seen on 6 days.

Great Reed Warbler: Heard on the 23rd & 24th at the Kalloni Pool. 12 seen on the 25th at the Inland Lake. Individuals on the 26th & 29th.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler: Noted each day.

Icterine Warbler: 1 at the ford in the Melodia Valley on the 25th.

Willow Warbler: 1 at the ford in the Melodia Valley on the 25th.

Wood Warbler: 2 together in a tree at Sigri on the 25th.

Blackcap: 1 male on the 26th & a pair noted on the 28th.

Common Whitethroat: Noted in small numbers on 4 days.

Lesser Whitethroat: 4 noted on the 25th at Sigri.

Orphean warbler: Noted on 2 days, 2 males on the 27th at the Potamia Valley & Panoramic View Point. 2 on the 28th in the Napi.

Ruppell's Warbler: 2 males at the Panoramic View Point on the 27th & 1 very close male in the Napi on the 28th.

Subalpine Warbler: Noted on 4 days. A pair on the 25th, 3 males on the 27th & singles on the 28th & 29th.

Spotted Flycatcher: 2 noted on the 24th, 20+ Sigri/Melodia Valley on the 25th & 1 on the 29th.

Pied Flycatcher: 1 female on the 23rd near the hotel, 1 male on the 24th at Derbyshire & 1 on the 25th at Sigri.

Collared Flycatcher: 5 on the 25th at Sigri/Melodia Valley.

Sombre Tit: Pairs seen on the 25th & 26th. 4 noted on the 28th.

Great Tit: Seen daily.

Blue Tit: Seen daily.

Western Rock Nuthatch: Noted in small numbers on 4 days. 3 active nests observed too.

Kruper's Nuthatch: 1 male at Achlideri on the 24th at the nest.

Short-toed Treecreeper: 2 at Achlideri on the 24th. 1 on the 28th in the Napi.

Eurasian Jay: Noted on 5 days. Maximum of 4 on the 25th on our Sigri round trip.

Hooded Crow: Noted daily.

Jackdaw: Big flocks noted at Sigri on the 25th.

Common Raven: Observed on 5 days. Maximum count was 20+ on the 24th

Golden Oriole: 4 birds (3 males, 1 female) noted in Derbyshire on the 24th. 1 female on the 25th at Vatousa gorge, 5 on the 28th in the Napi.

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

Cinereous Bunting: 1 male singing on s rock at Ipsilou on the 25th.

Cretzschmar's Bunting: Noted on 4 days. Maximum of 6+ on the Sigri day.

Cirl Bunting: Noted on 5 days.

Black-headed Bunting: 1 distantly in the Melodia Valley on the 25th. 2 on the 28th at the Saltpans pre breakfast, 4 males on the 29th at the Saltpans.

Ortolan Bunting: 1 on a roadside pool on the 28th in the Napi Valley.

Common Chaffinch: Common, seen daily.

European Serin: A pair close by on the 27th whilst watching for the Middle-spotted Woodpeckers.

European Greenfinch: Noted most days, common.

European Goldfinch: Noted in reasonable numbers most days.

Common Linnet: Noted on 2 days.

House Sparrow: Noted each day.

Spanish Sparrow: Noted each day.

Rock Sparrow: 2 at Ipsilou/Vatousa gorge on the 25th.

Extra's to List:

Mute Swan: 5 on the 26th & 2 on the 28th at the Saltpans.

Citrine Wagtail: 1 male on the East River on the 26th & 1 female at the Saltpans on the 28th.

MAMMALS:

Common Pipistrelle Bat: Noted around the hotel on several evenings.

Persian Squirrel: Noted on 2 days. 3 on the 24th & 1 on the 28th.

Beech Martin: 1 dead near the hotel on the 26th.

AMPHIBIANS:

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

REPTILES:

Starred Agama: Noted on 2 days. 5 on the 24th.

Turkish Gecko: 2 on the 26th at Parakila.

Balkan Green Lizard: Noted on 3 days, (includes 1 juv).

Balkan Terrapin: Noted on 3 days with good views of sunbathing individuals.

European Glass Lizard: 1 amazing large animal caught by Phil on our way to the Melodia Valley on the 25th.

BUTTERFLIES:

Swallowtail: 1 on the 26th.

Eastern Festoon: Noted on 2 days.

Large White: Noted on 5 days.

Small White: Noted on 4 days.

Eastern Dappled White: Noted on 4 days.

Orange Tip: Noted on 2 days.

Clouded Yellow: Noted on 3 days.

Small Copper: Noted on 2 days.

Brown Argus: 1 noted on 24th.

Red Admiral: 1 noted on one day.

Painted Lady: Noted every day.

Small Heath: Noted on 3 days.

Wall Brown: Noted on 1 day.

FALSE APOLLO: Noted on 2 days.

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES:

Broad-bodied Chaser: 2 on the 27th.

Lesser Emperor: 1 on the 24th.

Red-veined Darter: 1 on the 24th.

Southern Emerald Damselfly: 1 on the 26th.

OTHER INSECTS:

Egyptian Grasshopper: Noted on 3 days.

Violet Carpenter Bee: Noted on 2 days.

Ladder-backed Bush Cricket: Noted on 2 days.

Beefly: Noted on several days.

Cricket spp: Noted on 1 day.

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 on this particular tour. The following is to be continued – any records most welcome!!

Malva sylvestris	Common Mallow
Cistus creticus	Cretan Cistus
Cistus salvifolius	Sage-leaved Cistus
Tamarisk spp.	Tamarisk
Lysimachia atropurpurea	Purple Loosestrife
Echium plantagineum	Purple Viper's Bugloss
Verbascum sinuatum	Greek Mullein
Phragmites communis	Common Reed
Anemone coronaria	Crown Anemone

Anemone pavonina	Peacock Anemone
Umbilicus rupestris	Navelwort
Daucus carota	Wild Carrot
Tordylium apulum	Tordylium
Laburnum anagyroides	Laburnum
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom
Glaucium flavum	Yellow Horned Poppy
Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy
Carpobrotus acinaciformis	Red Hottentot Fig
Ficus carica	Fig
Castanea sativa	Sweet Chestnut
Quercus ilex	Holm Oak
Pinus brutia	Calabrian Pine
Pinus pinea	Stone Pine
Urtica atrovirens	Stinging Nettle
Briza maxima	Large Quaking Grass
Platanus orientalis	Oriental Plane
Anthemis arvensis	Corn Camomile
Anchusa officinalis	Alkanet
Prasium majus	Prasium
Sarcopoterium spinosum	Spiny Burnet
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Euphorbia dendroides	Tree Spurge
Euphorbia helioscopia	Sun Spurge
Euphorbia characias	Large Mediterranean Spurge
Olea europaea	Olive
Echium spp.	
Campanula rapunculus	Rampion Bellflower
Centaurea cyanus	Cornflower
Lavandula angustifolia	Common Lavender
Lavandula stoechas	French Lavender
	Winged Sea Lavender
	Small Medick?
Medicago sp	
Campanula spp.	
Crepis rubra	Pink Hawksbeard
Tulipa orphanidea	Wild Tulip spp.
Ornithogalum nutans	Large Star of Bethlehem
Gladiolus orientalis	Oriental Iris
Gynandrisis sisyinchium	Barbary Nut
Dracunculus vulgaris	Common Dragon Arum
Arum conophalloides	Eastern Arum
Aspodelus aestivus	Common Asphodel
Limodorum abortivum	Violet Bird's Nest Orchid
Serapias parviflora	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid
Orchis italica	Monkey Orchid

To be continued . . .

Thank you,
Rebecca Nason & Phil Harris, April 2009
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