

# Lesvos

**Thursday 29 April - Thursday 6 May 2010**

**Leaders:**

Rebecca Nason  
Philip Harris

**Drivers:**

Philip Harris  
Rebecca Nason (airport runs)

**Introduction**

Thank you all for joining us on the Travelling Naturalist 2010 Lesvos trip and for making it another successful and enjoyable experience this year! Lesvos never fails to reward us with exciting birding & wildlife highlights and this year was certainly the best to date! We both thoroughly enjoyed your good company throughout the week and were sorry that the trip had 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 with many additional and optional ‘excursions’ also added which proved very fruitful and enjoyable both in the early mornings and late evenings (often the best times to be out in the field and times other tour-groups often do not include!) Again, with a small group and two leaders with a spacious but small minibus, areas were visited which would otherwise be inaccessible in a larger vehicle, adding a huge bonus to the trip. Numerous visits were taken to the Inland Lake, and we had access to the Upper East River, Napi Valley and the West Lesvos coastal routes. We changed the itinerary order throughout the week depending on the weather and latest bird sightings. For example, we left one of the day trips to the West side until the coastal breezes had dropped later in the week and birding was more enjoyable and rewarding with birds much more active than on the previous windy days had by others. We also added a new route, returning to the West coast later in the week but heading north of Sigri along the coast instead of South which we had done on a previous day. This proved an excellent additional location to the Lesvos itinerary. Phil proved again, an exceptionally considerate driver throughout.

Temperatures were at an all time high on Lesvos this year, where the daily temperature averaged 25oC and our hottest day was a sweltering 30oC in the Napi Valley! This is partly due to our slightly altered dates which have moved a week forward in keeping with the recent later migrant arrivals near the end of April and early May instead of mid to late April, though from mid April until Mid May can all be fantastic birding weeks and vary year to year. We were able to relax and chill out during the hottest parts of each day, within local Taverna’s or back at the hotel for a cold beer (and even a swim in the hotel pool for some brave members of the group!), all this without compromising the quality time out in the field each day.

The total bird species seen on the trip was a high 146 (including a couple of species heard but not seen). 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 catch the main period of bird migration spot on and thankfully managed to see some serious active migration, like arriving for the first time to the Salt pans on the way to the hotel from the airport to see a mass of Marsh Terns, Whiskered (150+) and White-winged Black Terns (150+), feeding with Common and Little Terns over the pans. Closer inspection on the closet pan also revealed a group of 11 Gull-billed Terns resting on a

sand bank. Two stunning male Red-footed Falcons were also noted and scoped on overhead wires before we left for the hotel, what a way to start the trip! We also were late enough to encounter several migratory breeding species which were back on territory, in particular the Rufous Bush Chat and Olive-tree Warbler. All members of the group witnessed 3 singing Rufous Bush Chats and 3 Olive-tree Warblers this year, a superb number considering some years neither have arrived back on territory and so are not seen at all!

We were lucky enough to see a roosting Scop's Owl at our regular site, which with their cryptic plumage and varying roosting haunts, can be tricky birds to catch up with. The rare 'Kruper's Nuthatch' did not fail to entertain us at Achlideri and we enjoyed good views of a handsome male and the female at the same hole in the dead trunk they have been using for several years now. They were thought to be on eggs at the time of our visit as they were not as keenly active and taking in food as they have been in the past when there are young to be fed! The week produced so many highlights, everyone will have their own favourite moments and birds. Highlights included the early mornings at the Inland Lake with numerous Little Bitterns, Little Crakes and exceptional views of our first Baillon's Crake, the group of 10 or so Red-footed and Eleanora's Falcons hawking overhead in the Napi Valley and who could forget the Great Snipe, Semi-collared Flycatcher, Golden Orioles, European Bee-eaters, Holy Orchids and Balkan Marbled Whites . . . . .

The ever changing & vulnerable Kalloni Pool was up to a better birding standard this year and like last year was improvement on past years when they had all but dried out and the lack of birds was very noticeable. There was still 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 numbers of Squacco Heron, a Great Bittern (on a couple of days seen by most of the group but elusive!), as well as Great Reed Warblers & Olivaceous Warblers in the peripheral reeds & tamarisks. Of course we cannot forget the Tree Frogs and numerous baby ones sitting like bright green gems on the roadside reeds.

We also 'experienced' two very authentic local dinners out in the evenings which were a delightful change from the hotel buffet and also had two lunches out, one in Skala Sikamineas and another not far from the hotel in Skala Kalloni on our last night. We had fresh salad and feta based packed lunches otherwise, with fresh bread, olives and fruit which were tasty and enjoyed by all along with tea & coffee from the back of the minibus. Memories of our relaxed lunches at Achlideri, Ipsilou monastery, the Potamia Valley and Napi Valley in the shade of the hot sun and surrounded by birdlife and wonderful insects will I think stay with us for a long time (as will the disappearing bread board!) along with many other enjoyable moments on our successful 2010 Lesvos Travelling naturalist adventure. Thank you once again for joining us.

Both Phil and I would like to give thanks to the new staff at the Kalloni Bay Hotel which is now under new management, particularly the friendly & helpful reception staff & room service.

Best wishes,

Rebecca Nason and Phil Harris - May 2010.

## **Diary**

### **Thursday 29 April**

#### **Mytilini Airport, Kalloni Saltpans (briefly) Kalloni Pool,**

Weather: Sunny, clear, hot, windy (24oC) 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 and were soon finding our way through the busy capital of Mytilini, with the narrowest of streets in places and a very attractive sea front and port. Before heading to our hotel to check in, we made a quick stop at the Kalloni Saltpans for our first ‘Lesvos’ taster!

We were not to be disappointed as there was a sea of Marsh Terns hawking over the pans in front of us! We noted **150+ White-winged Black Tern, 150+ Whiskered Tern**, distant views of **150+ Greater Flamingo**, numerous **Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, 50+ Wood Sandpipers, 1 male Black-headed Bunting, Crested Larks, Corn Buntings, Little & Common Terns, 2 White Stork, 2 Black Stork, 2 Kentish Plover, 5 Garganey and 10+ Black-headed Wagtails** to name but a few. The highlight however was a **2 male Red-footed Falcons** sat on wire and seen well through the scope as well as **11 Gull-billed Terns** and **8 Eurasian Spoonbills**. We arrived at the Kalloni Bay Hotel early evening, just in time to settle into our rooms before our first meeting and drink before our buffet dinner and relatively early night!

### Friday 30 April

#### **Kalloni Pool, East River Mouth, Derbyshire, Achladeri, Kalloni Saltpans.**

Weather: Sunny and hot, 25oC light winds.

Our pre-breakfast excursion saw us outside of the hotel overlooking the Kalloni Pool before heading to the East River Mouth. A wander along the road saw a good number of birds. These included **1 Great Reed Warbler, 2 Reed Warbler, 1 Olivaceous Warbler, 1 Moorhen, 3 Squacco Heron**. A stroll along the track near the East River mouth saw **6+ Red-rumped swallows, 1 Marsh Harrier**, more **Olivaceous Warblers, Great Reed Warblers** and numerous **Cetti’s Warblers** and **Nightingales** singing heartily from the river bank. **10+ smart Black-headed Buntings** were also noted on this beautiful pre-breakfast first morning!

Our first post-breakfast port of call was the Derbyshire area 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 and insects to identify as well as good numbers of birds, particularly further down the track. The highlight bird wise here was **surely 5 Red-backed Shrikes, the Persian Squirrel** and the elusive **Marsh Warbler!** Also seen were **1 Whinchat, 12+ Squacco Herons, 1 Purple Heron, 1 Lesser Kestrel** on a distant telegraph pole, **1 Masked Shrike, 2 Raven** and a male **Cirl Bunting**. The reeds near the pools were thick with newly emerged **Southern Emerald Damselflies**, literally in there hundreds. We also encountered our first **Eastern-dappled Whites** of the trip, **Scarce Swallowtails, Egyptian Grasshopper and Marsh Frogs!** **Small-flowered Tongue Orchids, Oriental Iris, White-winged Sea Lavender and Cretan Cistus** in full bloom were of particular botanical interest.

We reached Achladeri before lunch and parked under the shade of the pine trees. A short walk soon 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 few enormous **Eyed Elators** shot through the pines around us. We saw both male and female Krupers’ Nuthatch in a short space of time, though it appears the female is sat on eggs at the moment, so there was not the regular bringing in of food for hungry chicks. After we had all enjoyed our Kruper’s views and a close encounter with a male **Masked Shrike**, we looked for **Violet Birds Nest Orchids** nearby, but although they were there, most had now finished flowering. We returned to the vehicle to take our lunches and have a leisurely lunch under the pines. Phil found a **Woodchat Shrike** nest building whilst eating his!

The afternoon was spent back at the teeming Saltpans where we took refreshment in the saltpan café on the beach and searched for Green Urchins on the shoreline. The special bird of the afternoon was by far our first encounter of the trip with the charismatic **Rufous Bush Chat**, sat up on beach ‘Chicken Wire’ bushes. In addition to this we encountered even more Marsh Terns, this time over **200+ White-winged Black Tern** and equal numbers of **Whiskered Tern!** Other notable birds included **1 smart Lesser Grey Shrike** on overhead wires, **40+ Glossy Ibis, 100+ Ruff, a Great White Egret, 10+ Little Egrets, 1 Black-tailed Godwit, 1 Black Stork, 1 White Stork, 5 Garganey, 5 Mallard, 1 Greenshank, 2 Gull-billed Terns**, several **Common and Ruddy Shelduck** and a **Yellow and Black-headed Wagtail**.

We returned to the Hotel and then had an optional visit to the East River Ford before dinner. Here we had our first exciting views of a **Little Bittern** and a **Long-legged Buzzard**. **Black-headed Bunting**, **Black-headed Wagtail**, **Great Reed** and **Reed Warbler** were also noted.

## **Saturday 1 May**

### **Inland Lake, Upper East River, Potamia Valley, Inland Lake, Sheep Fields**

Weather: Sunny, clear and hot! 25oC, windy late afternoon only.

Our pre-breakfast excursion this morning was to the Inland Lake. Here we were not disappointed as the lake fringes were alive with **Little Bitterns (8+)**, **Squacco Herons (10+)** and **Little Crakes (4+)** **Swallows** and **Swifts** hunted overhead and drank from the lake whilst on the wing. Here we also spotted a superb **Baillon's Crane**, the first we have ever seen in Lesvos, right out in the open on the opposite bank! All had fine views of this stunning little bird! **Sedge Warbler**, **Little Grebe**, **Coot** and **Jay** were also of note along with a female **Marsh Harrier** who floated over the numerous lake spectators!

After breakfast we took a short trip to a known **Scop's Owl** roost site and were soon watching one of these fabulous birds tight up against a tall tree trunk above us. Our next birding hot spot was to be the Upper East River where we potted around enjoying the diverse bird life. There were so many birds soon after arriving it was hard to keep track of them all! Species included **2 Rock Nuthatch**, **1 Woodchat Shrike**, **1 Red-backed Shrike**, **1 Cretzchmar's Bunting**, **1 Little Owl (en route)**, **1 White Stork**, **1 Eleanora's Falcon**, **1 Rufous Bush Chat**, **1 Lesser Grey Shrike**. **3 Turtle Dove**, **1 Cirl Bunting**, **1 Short-toed Eagle**, **3 Black-eared Wheatear** and lets not forget the **Greek Tortoise** and several handsome **Starred Agama's!** We walked a little way up the track and observed the river and **Yellow-legged Gulls** distantly below us and the odd **Chaffinch** and **Subalpine Warbler** calling from the nearby thickets. We managed to avoid the farmers dogs who clearly looked worse than they were and made our way back to the vehicle and out of the hills for a cold drink stop back in Kalloni. As we passed Kalloni Pool a **Great Bittern** briefly rose from the reeds close to the road but managed to skilfully vanish seconds later! A **Purple Heron** also flew in.

Lunch was set out on a peaceful bridge in the Potamia Valley where **Marsh Frogs** echoed from the waters edge. It was here that the bread board was to mysteriously disappear! After an enjoyable lunch and tea and coffee refreshments we headed off to a site for **Olive-tree Warbler**. The bird was easily picked up on call but took some pining down visually! Eventually it showed itself really very well, the best views we have ever had of **Olive-tree Warbler** and everybody got a good view! Other species noted in the area included **2 Long-legged Buzzards**, **2 Short-toed Eagles**, **1 Masked Shrike**, **1 Raven**, **1 Jay**, **a few Red-rumped Swallows**, **2 Crag Martins** and **fine Rock Nuthatch and nest** as we left the area mid afternoon.

A pre-dinner excursion to the Sheep Fields at the back of the salt pans provided us with great views of **Short-toed Lark (10+)** and **Red-throated Pipit (2+)**. We had a hotel buffet dinner followed by beer and coffee with the evening log call.

## **Sunday 2 May**

### **Salt pans, South Petra, Panoramic Viewpoint, Molivos to Skala Sikamineas, East River Mouth, Salt pans.**

Weather: Sunny, clear, hot, 22oC. No wind.

We visited the Salt pans for our pre-breakfast birding trip before the heat of the day set in. There was a distinct 'change' noticeable upon arrival in that the vast majority of marsh Terns had now gone. A flock of **50+ White-winged Black Terns** flew in one rapid flock at the back of the pans but the feeling was that birds had moved on and had been replaced with other new birds – here at the salt pans it was the arrival of **20+ Little Stints**. There were also a large number of bird photographers at the salt pans, more than we had ever seen! A new bird for the trip was to be had in the sighting of a **Hoopoe** flying over the back of the salt pans (found my Rosemary!). A **fox** disturbed the growing flocks of grazing **Ruddy Shelduck**, we

counted **30** or so on this occasion. Other notable species included **1 Little Ringed Plover, 2 Greenshank, 5 Gull-billed Terns, 3 Ringed Plover, 1 Red-throated Pipit, 6 Garganey, 2 Grey Heron a few Black and White Storks and a female Marsh Harrier.** (Numbers of Harriers proved to be very low this year compared to other year with no Montagu's or Pallid seen and only a few Marsh!)

A brief stop South of Petra after breakfast for Middle-spotted Woodpecker was not successful. However, whilst waiting near the Woodpecker nest site which has now been taken over by **House Sparrows, 3 Long-legged Buzzards** soared into view as did **2 Raven** and a pair of **Red-rumped Swallows**. Here was also had our first excellent views of **Subalpine Warbler** and got to grips with more plants as **Greater Broomrape, Wall Pennywort and Salsify** were discovered.

We headed to the famous (and busy) Panoramic View Point mid-morning to see the strikingly beautiful **Ruppell's Warbler** as this is the best known site to see them. Several pairs breed on the coastal scrub below the viewpoint and car park. These birds did not appear straight away and remained elusive for a time, seeing us scanning the hillsides with growing concern – however, finally they gave themselves up and we all saw **2 cracking male Ruppell's Warblers!** Far below we also scoped **Blue Rock Thrushes (2 males), 4 Crag Martins** and a displaying **Black-eared Wheatear.**

After our Ruppell's treat, we drove past the attractive town of Molivos and its castle ramparts and out to the more secluded and picturesque little village of Skala Sikamineas for lunch. On the way we stopped off along the coastal track near Eftalou for a pre-lunch walk and enjoyed **4 Red-backed Shrikes, 1 Woodchat Shrike, 3 Orphean Warblers 1 singing loudly!), 2 Subalpine Warbler, 2 Lesser Whitethroat, 2 Cretzchmar's Bunting, 3 Black-headed Bunting a Whinchat and a Stonechat. 2 high Long-legged Buzzards and 2 pairs of Jay** were also noted along with several butterfly species including **Painted Lady, Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Eastern Dappled White, Orange Tip, Clouded Yellow and Orbed Red Underwing Skipper.** It became extremely hot and we were delighted to be sat down, sipping cold drinks and overlooking the little harbour and bustle of local life in Skala Sikamineas. We noted a little **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** feeding from one of the Taverna pot plants before tucking into Calamari, other local Fish, Greek Salad and of course fresh bread with oil and vinegar! Bon appetite!

We had a successful roadside stop between Skala Sikamineas & Kapi too, where we had **2 Eurasian Sparrowhawk, 1 Lesser Spotted Eagle, 2 Goshawks, 4 Long-legged Buzzard, 1 Stonechat and a Grey Wagtail.** The biggest Raptor concentration we were to have throughout the week! We then headed back to the Kalloni Bay Hotel for refreshment before the optional pre-dinner excursion, this time, a twitch for **2 Spur-winged Plover** at the mouth of the East River! These stunning plovers showed beautifully through the scope before we continued on over the Ford and to the Salt pans for yet another twitch. . . .a **Great Snipe** on the back pool near the bridge, another success and a rare bird to enjoy! The light began to soften and the heat began to subside as we scoped the pans and added a **Collared Pratincole, 2 Curlew Sandpiper, and a Cattle Egret** (a Lesvos first for the leaders!) to our tally.

### **Monday 3 May**

#### **Inland Lake, Vatousa Gorge, Ipsilou Monastery, Melodia Valley (A day in the West!)**

Weather: Sunny, clear and hot, 26oC.

A sunny pre-breakfast visit to the Inland Lake this morning was quite productive, with another **6 Little Crake and 4 Little Bittern** spotted. There was a feeling that a lot of the Herons had departed with no Squacco Heron and less Little Bittern activity than our previous visits. The Inland Lake is still however a pre-breakfast favourite and a uplifting place to start the day!

We were to have a long day out today as we were going to be heading to the West coast. However we started by visiting a firm birder pleaser, the attractive Vatousa Gorge. Along with a new butterfly – **Ilex Hairstreak** (!) we enjoyed views of **Crag Martins (6+)** as they sailed passed us, (their tails fanned showing the pale windows), a cracking pair of **Blue Rock Thrush, 1 Eleanora's Falcon, 1 Black Stork, 1 Long-legged Buzzard, 1 Hoopoe,** but best of all, **2 Rock Sparrows** scoped singing on a rock half way down the

gorge. Not the most attractive of birds, but a beautiful song and under rated delicately marked features on close inspection!

Our next port of call was Ipsilou for the fine views and several target species. We made our way up into the mountains and towards the monastery. A short way from the top we parked up and I met an acquaintance from 10 years ago, a fellow birder who was keen to show us his find, a big yellow **Scorpion!** After this encounter we slowly made our way by foot along the roadside, almost immediately finding **Isabelline** and **Northern Wheatear**. A little further along the track and we found a superb male **Cinereous Bunting** perched singing on a wire off a telegraph pole, our 2 target species had been seen and seen very well! We continued walking, the day getting hotter but the bird life unrelenting with migrants in the nearby hillside scrub and trees. A **Willow Warbler** was noted along with our first **Spotted Flycatcher** of the trip. Another **Cinereous Bunting** was followed by **3 Blue Rock Thrush, 4 more Rock Sparrow, 4 Cretzchmar's Bunting**. A splendid **Sombre Tit** and several singing **Woodlark** were noted, one of which was scoped on a telegraph wire as we reached the top of the monastery. We headed for the shade and our much needed lunch. Here we also had **3 Eleanora's Falcon** and the groups first **Alpine Swifts** of the trip as we ate and mused around the monastery (shame about the disgruntled Monk!).

Our stomachs satisfied we headed along the road to Sigri. We made several quick stops along the way as species were spotted from the vehicle. A highlight was surely the **4 Golden Oriole (3 males)** which showed beautifully on Giant Fennel stems right out in the open! Or perhaps the highlight was the brief appearance of **2 Chukar** on a roadside rock, or the first closer views of **Lesser Kestrel (2)** hunting on the wing. We passed Sigri, noting a pair of **Jackdaw** as we passed. Sigri is known for its Jackdaw population! Obvious migration appeared with the numerous **Red-backed Shrikes, Spotted Flycatcher and Whinchat** noted on the West coast this afternoon.

Just before the Melodia Valley Ford we stopped off at a small chapel where we soon unearthed a very special small passerine the leaders had not seen anywhere before, **Semi-collared Flycatcher!** On arrival at the ford we had tea and coffee and on exploration of the pools a superb adult **Night Heron** was found along with several close **Little Bittern**. We spent the rest of the afternoon at the ford and walked on a track some way from it, noting another **Rufous Bush Chat**, several **Stonechat, Black-headed Bunting**, lots of **Olivaceous Warblers, Common Kestrel, Black Stork**, a pair of **Sombre Tit** and a smart **Wood Warbler**. A **male Redstart** was observed before we boarded the minibus and headed back along the hairpin bend-filled roads towards Kalloni. We arrived early evening in time for dinner out at a beachside taverna in Skala Kalloni. **Pipestrelle bats** were noted overhead as we strolled into town and after an enjoyable local meal and wine, we even had a jazz band for entertainment in the square before retiring after a long but very rewarding day in the field!

## **Tuesday 4 May**

### **East River, Salt pans, Napi Valley, Parakila, West River, Salt pans.**

Weather: Sunny, hot, highs of 35oC!

Pre-breakfast saw us at the Salt pans again. There are now very notably less birds on the pans generally and only **3 White-winged Black Tern** noted, **5 Whiskered Tern** and **3 Glossy Ibis!** A few new species were found however with a smart **male Pintail, 1 Tawny Pipit** being the star species – until Rosemary spotted our first **European Bee-eater** sat up on wires, much to everyone's delight!

We headed off after breakfast to another favourite haunt, the Napi Valley, where we were to spend the morning. The Napi Valley never fails to reward us with excellent birds and insects and today was no exception though the track into the Valley has deteriorated considerably since last year and was only just accessible! We were immediately drawn to an **Olive-tree Warbler** just off the track and giving fleeting views! Further into the valley we watched a **pair of Hoopoe** clearly coming and going from a nest. We walked on and Phil went back to get the vehicle and meet us after a longer walk. Not far into our walk however we were stationary watching first an **Eleanora's Falcon**, followed by **6+ Red-footed Falcons** right above us, hunting and feeding on the wing! Quite a sight. A giant hawk came into view above the tree tops,

turning ahead of us, a fine large **Goshawk**. Other species noted before returning to the cattle grid for lunch included a **female Golden Oriole**, **3 Long-legged Buzzard**, **3 Mallard**, **1 Red-backed Shrike**, **5 Woodchat Shrike**, **1 Subalpine Warbler**, **1 Middle-spotted Woodpecker** and an **Orphean Warbler**. Another highlight was an **Eastern Bonelli's Warbler** which was heard singing but no visuals were obtained. Just before and whilst enjoying out lunch we encountered **2 Short-toed Eagle** and **1 Marsh Harrier** as well as numerous insects and new plant species such as the **Large Disk Medick** and **Holy Orchid**.

It was a shame to have to leave this diverse and incredible landscape and return from off road tracks to a tarmac road and on to Parakila. Here we parked up in a small car park and sat a while on a roadside bench and then slightly further back waiting for a **Middle-spotted Woodpeckers** to come down to a very public nest hole! We were not to be disappointed as a pair of Middle-spots soon descended to the trunk and posed briefly before feeding young, all this as traffic came within feet of the birds!

After refreshment back at the Kalloni Bay Hotel and the temperature starting to drop to an enjoyably warm temperature, some of us visited the West River briefly. After some searching we found a handsome **Stone Curlew** out on the sparse flood plain vegetation. We then moved on to the Saltpans for the evening where a **Redshank**, **Turnstone**, **4 Spoonbill**, **a Little Gull**, **a pair of Shoveler** and **3 Mallard** were noted along with **4 Great White Egret** and **2 Black Stork**.

### **Wednesday 5 May**

#### **Salt pans, Faneromeni (West Coast) Vatousa.**

Weather: Sunny, hot, clear, 26oC

We decided to return to the West Coast today as it had been so productive on our previous day trip there and the winds were looking good for more migrants along that stretch of coast. We were also going to be exploring pasture new as we were to head to Sigri and take the road North, to Faneromeni and new TN territory!

First however, our pre-breakfast trip was us return one last time to the Saltpans. This provided us with a **Black-tailed Godwit**, **28 Glossy Ibis**, **lots of Little Stint**, **Ruff**, **2 Black Stork**, **2 Gull-billed Tern**, **1 Bee-eater**, **1 White Stork**, **1 Grey Heron**, **8 Little Egret**, **1 Great White Egret**, **2 distant Little Owl**, **a pair of Shelduck**, **20 Ruddy Shelduck** and **1 male Garganey**.

The trip to the North-west coast proved an excellent location with visits to a drying out new ford, covered in young miniature **Marsh Frogs** being eaten by **3 hungry Night Herons**, **Little Egrets** and **Little Bitterns**. **Bee-eaters (5)** trilled from wires as approached the ford. Further on, we came to another ford, this time totally dry, with a large dead **Purple Heron** and a few large March Frogs clinging onto small little puddles. We continued to a lovely coastal spot with a brackish pool. Here we relaxed in the afternoon sun and enjoyed **Lesser Kestrels (3)**, **another Little Bittern**, **2 Alpine Swifts**, **1 Short-toed Eagle**, **2 Little Ringed Plover**, **1 Ringed Plover**, **1 Common Sandpiper** and **2 more Spotted Flycatchers**. A careful scan out to sea produced distant **Yelkuan Sheatwaters (10+)**.

We headed back to the Kalloni Bay Hotel to freshen up before heading out to another Taverna for dinner to celebrate our last night as a group in Lesvos!

### **Thursday 6 May**

#### **Inland Lake, Mytilini Airport, Home (the leaders stayed on another week).**

Weather: A hot cloudless day again! 26oC.

The day of our departure, Chris and Rosemary joined us for a last excursion to the Inland Lake which was quiet bird wise but a pleasure to spent the early hours observing before the reality of the return to the UK set in!

After a hearty breakfast and some serious packing we said our farewells and headed off for Mytilini airport. After check in for our guests bound for Gatwick and Manchester we popped to the local airport Taverna for a drink and reflect on our successful and enjoyable weeks birding in Lesvos.

With thanks, fond memories and best wishes to you all, please feel free to get in touch . . . . .

Rebecca Nason and Phil Harris - May 2010.

[www.naturalist.co.uk](http://www.naturalist.co.uk)

[www.rebeccanason.com](http://www.rebeccanason.com)

[www.shetlandexposure.blogspot.com](http://www.shetlandexposure.blogspot.com)

#### **BIRD LIST:**

**Chukar Partridge:** 2 seen briefly on the way to the Sigri on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Yelkouan Shearwater:** 10+ scoped on the 5<sup>th</sup> from Faneromeni.

**Little Grebe:** 1 pair on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Inland Lake.

**European Shag:** 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 3 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Grey Heron:** Noted every day apart from the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Highest count 5 on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Purple Heron:** 2 on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, singles on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Black-crowned Night Heron:** 3 at Faneromeni Ford on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Great White Egret:** Noted in small numbers (4 max) on 6 days.

**Little Egret:** Counts of 10+ each day apart from 3<sup>rd</sup> when we were Inland.

**Cattle Egret:** 1 at the Saltpans on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Squacco Heron:** Small numbers noted each day.

**Little Bittern:** 1 female on the 30<sup>th</sup> at the East River Ford, 10+ on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 16+ on the 4<sup>th</sup> at the Inland Lake. 4 on the 5<sup>th</sup> at Faneromeni.

**Eurasian (Great) Bittern:** 1 seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> close by the road on the Kalloni Pool.

**Eurasian Spoonbill:** 8 at the Saltpans on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, 4 at the back of the Saltpans on the eve of the 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Greater Flamingo:** Good numbers seen at the Saltpans on every visit (6 days).

**Black Stork:** Small numbers seen daily, highest count 4 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>.

**White Stork:** Small numbers seen daily.

**Glossy Ibis:** Seen in good numbers daily other than our full day Inland. Highest counts 80+ on the 30<sup>th</sup> April

**Ruddy Shelduck:** Good numbers seen most days, highest count 34 at the Saltpans on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Shelduck:** Small numbers noted most days.

**Northern Shoveler:** A pair on the 4<sup>th</sup> at the Saltpans.

**Mallard:** 5 on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 3 on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, both Saltpans.

**Garganey:** Noted most days. 5 at the Saltpans on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Northern Pintail:** 1 male at the Saltpans on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Short-toed Eagle:** 2 seen on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>. 3 seen on the 4<sup>th</sup>

**Lesser Spotted Eagle:** 1 from Skala Sikamineas to Kapi on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May. .

**Western Marsh Harrier:** 2 seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. Individuals noted on 30<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk:** 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> between Skala Sikaminias and Kapi, individuals noted on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Goshawk:** 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> between Skala Sikiminias & Kapi. 1 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 on 4<sup>th</sup> in the Napi

**Common Buzzard:** Noted on 2 days with individuals on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Long-legged Buzzard:** Noted each day with 10+ on 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Lesser Kestrel:** 2 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> towards Sigri , 6+ on the 5<sup>th</sup> on the west coast.

**Common Kestrel:** Small numbers on 4 days (max 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>).

**Red-footed Falcon:** 2 males at the Salt pans on the 29<sup>th</sup> on way to hotel from airport, 1 male on 30<sup>th</sup>, 7 on the 4<sup>th</sup> in the Napi Valley.

**Lanner Falcon:** 1 adult male on the 29<sup>th</sup> April at the Salt pans.

**Eleonora's Falcon:** 1 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Upper East River, 5 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (1 Vatousa, 3 Ipsilou, 1 Road to Sigri) 4 on the 4<sup>th</sup> (Napi).

**Peregrine:** Individuals seen on 4 days.

**Little Crane:** 5 seen beautifully at the Inland Lake on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 also at the Inland Lake on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Baillon's Crane:** 1 smart male at the Inland Lake on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Common Moorhen:** Small numbers noted on 4 days.

**Eurasian Coot:** Individuals at the Salt pans on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-winged Stilt:** Noted daily, 20+ at the Salt pans.

**Pied Avocet:** Noted daily, 200+ at the Salt pans.

**European Stone Curlew:** 1 heard on the 29<sup>th</sup> at the Salt pans, 1 seen at the West River on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-tailed Godwit:** 1 at the Salt pans on the 30<sup>th</sup>, another at the Salt pans on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Spur-winged Plover:** 2 of these stunning & scarce migrants near the East River mouth on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Ringed Plover:** Noted no 2 days, 3 at the Salt pans on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 1 on the 5<sup>th</sup> at Faneromeni.

**Little Ringed Plover:** Observed on 4 days, highest count 3 at the Salt pans on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Kentish Plover:** A pair seen on the 29<sup>th</sup> at the Salt pan entrance, 4 on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 6 on the 4<sup>th</sup> also at the Salt pans.

**Common Snipe:** 1 at the Salt pans on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Snipe:** 1 at the Salt pans on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Common Greenshank:** Noted on 2 days, 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Redshank:** 1 bird observed at the Salt pans on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Wood Sandpiper:** Numerous, seen in good numbers every day.

**Common Sandpiper:** 1 on the 5<sup>th</sup> Faneromeni.

**Green Sandpiper:** 1 on the 1<sup>st</sup> at the Inland Lake.

**Turnstone:** 1 on the 4<sup>th</sup> with the Redshank at the Salt pans.

**Little Stint:** 1 at the Salt pans on the 30<sup>th</sup>. 20+ on the 2<sup>nd</sup> also at the Salt pans. Good numbers arrived & seen at the Salt pans on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Curlew Sandpiper:** 2 at the Salt pans on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruff:** 15 counted on arrival at the Salt pans on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Good numbers seen daily after that apart from the 3<sup>rd</sup> which was spent Inland.

**Collared Pratincole:** 1 stunning bird at the Salt pans on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Yellow-legged Gull:** Seen daily in good numbers.

**Little Gull:** 1 first summer bird overhead at the Salt pans on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Tern:** Small numbers noted each day apart from the 3<sup>rd</sup> when we were Inland all day.

**Gull-billed Tern:** 11 noted at the Salt pans on a spit during our first visit on the 29<sup>th</sup>. 2 on the 30<sup>th</sup>, 5 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 2 on the 5<sup>th</sup>. All at the Salt pans.

**Whiskered Tern:** Large numbers at the Salt pans and Derbyshire for the first 2 days, 150+ on 29<sup>th</sup>, 200+ on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Good numbers still on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. None on 3<sup>rd</sup> when Inland all day, then numbers dropped to 40+ on the 4<sup>th</sup> & only 10 on the 5<sup>th</sup>!

**White-winged Black Tern:** Large numbers at the Salt pans and Derbyshire for the first 2 days, 150+ on 29<sup>th</sup>, 200+ on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Good numbers still on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. None on 3<sup>rd</sup> when Inland all day, then numbers dropped to 20+ on the 4<sup>th</sup> & only 10 on the 5<sup>th</sup>!

**Little Tern:** Noted each day apart from 3<sup>rd</sup>. 20+ highest count.

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon:** Noted each day.

**European Turtle Dove:** Noted on 6 days in small numbers.

**Eurasian Collared Dove:** Noted each day.

**Common Cuckoo:** 1 heard on the 3<sup>rd</sup> from the hotel.

**Eurasian Scops Owl:** 1 seen at the usual roost site north of Kalloni on the 1<sup>st</sup>. 1 heard near Vatousa on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Owl:** Seen on 3 days, 1 on the 1<sup>st</sup> at the Upper East River, 2 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Melodia Valley and 2 on the 5<sup>th</sup> distantly at the Salt pans.

**Alpine Swift:** Only a handful seen all week as they had not started coming through yet, 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 2 on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

**Common Swift:** Noted every day.

**European Bee-eater:** 1 on the 4<sup>th</sup> at the Salt pans on a wire, 6 on the 5<sup>th</sup> at Faneromeni

**Hoopoe:** Singles on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Salt pans), 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 + active nest in Napi Valley on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Middle-spotted Woodpecker:** 1 briefly on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 including a pair at a nest on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Greater short-toed Lark:** 12+ on the 1<sup>st</sup> in the sheepfields.

**Crested Lark:** Noted each day. Numerous.

**Woodlark:** 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup> & 1 at Ipsilou on wires on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**European Sand Martin:** Small numbers noted on the 30<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Crag Martin:** Observed on 4 days, highest count 10+ on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at Vatousa.

**Barn Swallow:** Noted each day.

**Red-rumped Swallow:** Seen in good numbers every day, highest count 10+ on the 30<sup>th</sup>

**Common House Martin:** Noted each day.

**Western Yellow Wagtail:** Observed on 4 days in small numbers.

**Black-headed Wagtail:** Noted in small numbers on 6 days.

**Grey Wagtail:** 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> between Skala Sikiminas and Kapi.

**Red-throated Pipit:** 2 at the Sheepfields on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Tawny Pipit:** 1 on the 4<sup>th</sup> at the Salt pans.

**Red-backed Shrike:** Recorded on 6 days in good numbers, highest count 10+ on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Masked Shrike:** Noted on 4 days, 5 on 30<sup>th</sup>, 1 on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Grey Shrike:** Noted on 3 days, 1 at Salt pans on 30<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> in Upper East River & 1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> in Melodia Valley

**Woodchat Shrike:** Noted in small numbers each day. An active nest was found on the 30<sup>th</sup> & 6+ were noted on the 4<sup>th</sup> in the Napi.

**(Winter) Wren:** Only 1 heard on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Blue Rock Thrush:** A pair on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Panoramic Viewpoint, 5+ in the west on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at Ipsilou.

**Common Blackbird:** Noted each day in small numbers.

**Common Nightingale:** Noted in small numbers each day, 1 very showy bird at the hotel.

**Whinchat:** Seen on 5 days, highest count was in the west on the 3<sup>rd</sup> when we had 5 different birds.

**Common Redstart:** 1 male seen at the ford in the Melodia Valley on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Common Stonechat:** Seen on 3 days, 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, a few on the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the west & 1 on the 5<sup>th</sup> towards Faneromeni.

**Northern Wheatear:** 6+ near Ipsilou on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Black eared wheatear:** Noted on 5 days in small numbers.

**Isabelline wheatear:** 5+ on the 3<sup>rd</sup> near Ipsilou Monastery.

**Cetti's Warbler:** Noted each day.

**Sedge Warbler:** Several noted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Inland Lake.

**Eurasian Reed Warbler:** Noted in small numbers on 4 days.

**Great Reed Warbler:** Noted on 5 days, including 4+ on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Marsh Warbler:** 1 heard (mimicking) in Derbyshire on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler:** Seen & heard each day.

**Olive-tree Warbler:** 1 on the 1<sup>st</sup> in the Potamia Valley, 2 in the Napi Valley on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Willow Warbler:** 1 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the west.

**Wood Warbler:** 1 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at Ipsilou.

**Eastern Bonelli's Warbler:** 1 heard both on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 1 in the Napi & 1 near Vatousa.

**Lesser Whitethroat:** 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> on the coast near Eftalou.

**Orphean warbler:** Noted on 4 days, highest count 3 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> along the coast road near Eftalou.

**Ruppell's Warbler:** 2 stunning males noted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Panoramic Viewpoint.

**Subalpine Warbler:** Noted in small numbers on 3 days.

**Spotted Flycatcher:** 1 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Collared Flycatcher:** 2 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the west.

**Semi-collared Flycatcher:** 1 fabulous individual at a small Chapel near Melodia

**Sombre Tit:** A pair on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 2 on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Tit:** Noted every day.

**Blue Tit:** Noted every day.

**Rufous-bush Chat:** 3 singing males noted on the 30<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> at separate sites.

**Western Rock Nuthatch:** Noted on 3 days, 3 with a nest on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 2 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Kruper's Nuthatch:** 3 on the 30<sup>th</sup> at Achlideri, (a pair using a stump to nest in, same stump as last year).

**Eurasian Jay:** Observed on 5 days. Highest count 4 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Hooded Crow:** Noted every day.

**Jackdaw:** Noted at Sigri on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (2) & again in larger numbers when in the west on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Raven:** Small numbers seen on 4 days.

**Golden Oriole:** 1 heard on the 1<sup>st</sup> in Upper East River, 4 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> including 4 males right out in the open at times! 1 female in the Napi Valley on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Corn Bunting:** Noted every day.

**Cinereous Bunting:** 4 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at Ipsilou.

**Cretzschmar's Bunting:** Seen on 4 days, 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Cirl Bunting:** Noted every day.

**Black-headed Bunting:** Noted every day.

**Common Chaffinch:** Noted every day.

**European Greenfinch:** Noted every day.

**European Goldfinch:** Noted every day.

**Common Linnet:** Noted in small numbers on 3 days.

**House Sparrow:** Noted every day.

**Spanish Sparrow:** Noted most days, several nesting around the hotel.

**Rock Sparrow:** 6+ near Ipsilou Monastery + Vatousa gorge on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **MAMMALS:**

**Common Pipistrelle Bat:** Noted on 3 days near the hotel.

**Persian Squirrel:** Individuals noted on the 30<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Beech Martin:** 1 road kill on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Red Fox:** 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Salt pans.

#### **AMPHIBIANS:**

**Marsh Frog:** Noted & heard most days.

**Common Tree Frog:** Seen on 3 days with 8 baby frogs on reeds at Kalloni Pool on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **REPTILES:**

**Starred Agama:** Noted no 4 days.

**Turkish Gecko:** Noted on 3 days.

**Balkan Green Lizard:** Noted on 4 days.

**Balkan Terrapin:** Noted on 5 days, v common at Inland Lake.

**Balkan Wall Lizard:** Noted on 5 days.

**European Glass Lizard:** 3 dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Spur-thighed Tortoise:** 1 on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS:**

**Swallowtail:** 2 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Scarce Swallowtail:** Noted on 5 days.

**Eastern Festoon:** Noted on 4 days in small numbers.

**Black-veined white:** 1 cracker on the 5<sup>th</sup>!

**Large White:** 1 on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Small White:** 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Eastern Dappled White:** Noted every day.

**Orange Tip:** 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Clouded Yellow:** Seen every day.

**Small Copper:** Noted on 3 days.

**Red Admiral:** Noted on 3 days.

**Painted Lady:** Seen on 5 days.

**Small Heath:** Observed every day.

**Wall Brown:** 1 seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Spotted Fritillary:** Noted no 4 days.

**Balkan Marbled White:** Several in Melodia on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Meadow Brown:** Seen on 5 days.

**Orbed Red Underwing Skipper:** Several on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Hummingbird Hawk Moth:** 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> whilst having lunch in a Taverna.

**DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES:**

**Black-tailed Skimmer:** Seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Broad-bodied Chaser:** Noted on 3 days.

**Southern Emerald Damselfly:** Noted on 2 days.

**Common Bluetail:** Noted on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Emperor dragonfly:** Noted on 2 days.

**OTHER INSECTS:**

**Egyptian Grasshopper:** Noted on 6 days.

**Violet Carpenter Bee:** Noted on 4 days.

**Ladder-backed Bush Cricket:** Noted on 4 days.

**Eyed Elator:** Noted on 1 day at Achlideri.

**Centipede:** Noted on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Roman Snail:** Noted no 3<sup>rd</sup> at Kalloni Pool edge.

**Ladybird Spider:** Noted on the 1<sup>st</sup> in Upper East River.

**Scorpion:** 1 yellow one on the 3<sup>rd</sup> near Ipsilou Monastery.

**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 tour. The following is to be continued – any records most welcome!! Please email!

<b>Malva sylvestris</b>	<b>Common Mallow</b>
<b>Cistus creticus</b>	<b>Cretan Cistus</b>
<b>Cistus salvifolius</b>	<b>Sage-leaved Cistus</b>
<b>Tamarisk spp.</b>	<b>Tamarisk</b>
<b>Lysimachia atropurpurea</b>	<b>Purple Loosestrife</b>
<b>Echium plantagineum</b>	<b>Purple Viper's Bugloss</b>
<b>Verbascum sinuatum</b>	<b>Greek Mullein</b>
<b>Phragmites communis</b>	<b>Common Reed</b>
<b>Anemone coronaria</b>	<b>Crown Anemone</b>
<b>Anemone pavonina</b>	<b>Peacock Anemone</b>
<b>Umbilicus rupestris</b>	<b>Navelwort</b>
<b>Daucus carota</b>	<b>Wild Carrot</b>
<b>Tordylium apulum</b>	<b>Tordylium</b>
<b>Laburnam anagyroides</b>	<b>Laburnum</b>
<b>Spartium junceum</b>	<b>Spanish Broom</b>
<b>Glaucium flavum</b>	<b>Yellow Horned Poppy</b>
<b>Papaver rhoeas</b>	<b>Common Poppy</b>
<b>Ficus carica</b>	<b>Fig</b>
<b>Castanea sativa</b>	<b>Sweet Chestnut</b>
<b>Quercus ilex</b>	<b>Holm Oak</b>
<b>Pinus brutia</b>	<b>Calabrian Pine</b>
<b>Pinus pinea</b>	<b>Stone Pine</b>
<b>Urtica atrovirens</b>	<b>Stinging Nettle</b>
<b>Briza maxima</b>	<b>Large Quaking Grass</b>

<b>Platanus orientalis</b>	<b>Oriental Plane</b>
<b>Anthemis arvensis</b>	<b>Corn Camomile</b>
<b>Anchusa officinalis</b>	<b>Alkanet</b>
<b>Prasium majus</b>	<b>Prasium</b>
<b><i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i></b>	<b><i>Spiny Burnet</i></b>
<b>Crataegus monogyna</b>	<b>Hawthorn</b>
<b>Euphorbia dendroides</b>	<b>Tree Spurge</b>
<b>Euphorbia helioscopia</b>	<b>Sun Spurge</b>
<b>Euphorbia characias</b>	<b>Large Mediterranean Spurge</b>
<b>Olea europaea</b>	<b>Olive</b>
<b>Echium spp.</b>	
<b>Campanula rapunculus</b>	<b>Rampion Bellflower</b>
<b><i>Centaurea cyanus</i></b>	<b><i>Cornflower</i></b>
<b>Lavandula angustifolia</b>	<b>Common Lavender</b>
<b>Lavandula stoechas</b>	<b>French Lavender</b>
<b>Limonium sinuatum</b>	<b>Winged Sea Lavender</b>
<b><i>Medicago sp</i></b>	<b><i>Small Medick?</i></b>
<b>Medicago orbicularis</b>	<b>Large Disk Medick</b>
<b>Tragopogon porrifolius</b>	<b>Salsify</b>
<b>Campanula spp.</b>	
<b>Crepis rubra</b>	<b>Pink Hawksbeard</b>
<b>Ornithogalum nutans</b>	<b>Large Star of Bethlehem</b>
<b><i>Gladiolus orientalis</i></b>	<b><i>Oriental Iris</i></b>
<b>Gynandrisis sisyrynchium</b>	<b>Barbary Nut</b>
<b>Dracunculus vulgaris</b>	<b>Common Dragon Arum</b>
<b>Arum conophalloides</b>	<b>Eastern Arum</b>
<b>Aspodelus aestivus</b>	<b>Common Asphodel</b>
<b>Orabanche rapum-genistae</b>	<b>Greater Broomrape</b>
<b>Limodorum abortivum</b>	<b>Violet Bird's Nest Orchid</b>
<b>Serapias parviflora</b>	<b>Small-flowered Tongue Orchid</b>
<b>Orchis sancta</b>	<b>Holy Orchid</b>
<b>To be continued . . .</b>	

Rebecca Nason, May 2010

© The Travelling Naturalist 2010