



ORIOLE BIRDING



TOUR REPORT NORTHERN GREECE 28TH APRIL – 4TH MAY 2019

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SUNDAY 28TH APRIL – Sunny ☺ clear, light winds, max 24C

Our plane departed on time and it was a smooth journey from Gatwick to Thessaloniki. Our first birds in Greece were the **Jackdaws** and **House Sparrows** around the airport terminal building, with several **Tree Sparrows** by the car hire office while we waited to do the paperwork for the minibus. It was just over an hour's drive north to Lake Kerkini, but once we got out of the city we started to see a few more birds, with hirundines including our first **Red-rumped Swallows**, and raptors including **Common Buzzard** and **Common Kestrel**. The villages closer to the lake produced several **White Storks**, with some on nests atop the telegraph posts.

When we got to the lake, we stopped on the southern embankment by the dam. Several **Common Nightingales** were singing in the bushes nearby, which was to be a constant soundtrack to the next few days, a **Golden Oriole** was fluting nearby and a **Common Cuckoo** was calling. An **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** was chattering too, sounding a little like a Reed Warbler, and we eventually got a view of it skulking in the bushes. There were several **Grey Herons** around the shore, and our first **Squacco Heron** of the trip flew in and landed by the rocks. A **Great Cormorant** was stretching its wings on a post and a **Dalmatian Pelican** flew in high over the dam. There were lots of gulls around the lake, mainly **Yellow-legged Gulls** of various ages, but we also found a single 2cy **Caspian Gull** out on the water, its distinctive snouty look, with a long, thin parallel-sided bill, giving its identity away. A group of **Common Terns** was gathered on the line of fishing net posts just offshore. Scanning the surrounding hills, we picked up four birds circling high over the fields on the far side of the lake, **Collared Pratincoles** hawking for insects. They were distant at first but then turned and headed our way, flying high overhead and off to the south. Then our host, Stelios, turned up with our picnic lunch.



Collared Pratincole, near Lithotopos, 28th April

After lunch, we drove slowly up the western shore of the lake. **Common Nightingales** were singing everywhere in the scrub, and out into the more open cultivated areas, they were replaced by **Corn Buntings**. We stopped at Korifoudi, where a **Crested Lark** was feeding on a dusty track. A large

flock of **Western Yellow Wagtails** was feeding around the feet of a herd of buffalo out on the short grass. They were mostly **Black-headed Wagtails** – we could hear their distinctive raspy calls too – plus several **Blue-headed Wagtails**. As the buffalo came up to the road, the wagtails defected to a herd of cattle further back on the lake shore. Two **Woodchat Shrikes** were perched out on the scattered bushes in the meadows and another two appeared by the road. We watched them chasing each other round in the bush, stopping to bob their heads in display. There were lots of **Little Egrets** along the lake shore and distantly out on the water beyond, we could see a huge feeding frenzy of cormorants and pelicans. Scanning the surrounding hills, we picked up first a **Booted Eagle** circling high, and then a **Black Stork** drifting along the ridge. We could hear **European Bee-eaters** calling high overhead. There were several butterflies here too, including lots of **Painted Ladys**, several **Clouded Yellows**, and a smart **Scarce Swallowtail** feeding on some thistles by the road.

We tried to drive on, but there were lots of distractions – first we heard a **Great Reed Warbler** singing in a small clump of reeds, but it was keeping well down. Then a little further on, we spotted two **Lesser Spotted Eagles** down in the meadow next to the road, which flew up into the trees as we approached. We stopped to get them in the scopes. Another **Great Reed Warbler** was singing in some reeds nearby, but flew out as we walked over and headed over to another clump further back, and three **Whinchats** were out in the grass nearby. We only managed to go another short distance before we stopped again to look at our first **Pygmy Cormorant** perched on a dead branch in the edge of the lake. A **Wood Sandpiper** was feeding in the shallows here too, just below the road.

Eventually, we made it up to the hotel to check in. After a short break to settle in, we met again in the parking area where a **Common Nightingale** was singing (we would hear it here every day, usually in the same tree). There were also several **Tree Sparrows** here, and a **Lesser Whitethroat** rattling in a nearby garden which flew up into the top of a tree. A pair of **Red-rumped Swallows** and a pair of **Pallid Swifts** circled round overhead with the other hirundines.



Dalmatian Pelican, Mandraki Harbour, 28th April

We drove down to the harbour at Mandraki. The water here is quite shallow, particularly this year with the lake level lower than normal, and there were so many birds we didn't know where to look first. There were herons everywhere, lots of **Grey Herons** and a huge number of **Great White Egrets**. A **Purple Heron** was tucked down in the grass on the edge of the lake, and then six circled up together. A big group of **Glossy Ibis** was feeding actively further back in the shallow water, and when they flew up and came in past us we counted at least sixty in a single flock. **Squacco Herons** were liberally scattered all around and six **Black Storks** flew out from the edge of the flooded forest. There were amazing numbers of **Great Crested Grebes** out on the water, with most paired up, and several pairs displaying. In amongst the weedy vegetation in the water, we found several **Garganey** and a single drake **Ferruginous Duck**: we could see its distinctive white iris. A few **Greylag Geese** required a closer look here, pink-billed birds of the eastern race *rubirostris*.

We could see lots of pelicans out on the nesting islands and around the edge of the lake further back. Beyond them, there was a good number of **Greater Flamingoes**, more than usual this year. The flooded forest was chock full of **Cormorants**, Great and small (**Pygmy!**). Some small groups of pelicans were fishing closer to us, and we could see a few **White Pelicans** in with the **Dalmatians**. We finished watching some nice close **Dalmatian Pelicans** swimming just off the jetty in lovely evening light. Then we had to tear ourselves away to get back for dinner. On the drive back, a **Hoopoe** was wrestling with a large worm by the road. Back at the hotel, the resident **Scops Owl** was singing briefly. It went quiet when we tried to look for it, but started up again later, once it got dark. It had been a great first day, but we were tired after an early start this morning, so after a delicious dinner, we turned in.

MONDAY 29TH APRIL – Sunny & clear, light winds, max 25C

A quick early walk at dawn confirmed that a male **Semi-collared Flycatcher** was back on territory close to where we saw one last year, so after breakfast we all went up to see it. It was very active, flitting between the plane trees, singing all the time. It seemed to be prospecting nest holes in a couple of trees – we saw it go into one and it seemed to be returning to that branch repeatedly. It was a young male with a rather restricted half collar and small double white patch over the bill, but with a large white patch at the base of the primaries and some barely visible white spots on the median coverts. It was good to see that at least one is back here again. **Blackbird** and **Robin** were also additions to the list there. Afterwards, we headed out to one of our favourite spots, a bushy area by an overflowing water trough. It is a good area to see migrants when they are coming through but the bushes were quite quiet this morning. Perhaps migrants were moving straight through and not stopping in the clear sunny weather, and some of the local breeding birds were clearly not arrived yet too. A pair of **Golden Orioles** perched briefly in the top of a distant dead tree and two **Turtle Doves** landed on the wires. A **Woodchat Shrike** and a **Common Whitethroat** were singing in the bushes and a **Black Kite** drifted over.

We continued on round to an area of woodland along the River Strimon floodplain. As we walked down the track, we were serenaded by **Common Nightingales** and lots of **Marsh Frogs** calling from the pools. It was starting to warm up quickly now – a **Levant Sparrowhawk** circled up, its rather pointed wings showing distinct blackish tips underneath and a **Lesser Spotted Eagle** drifted over just above as we were watching it. The woodpeckers were rather quiet today, probably a combination of the heat of the day and the time of year. We did find a black-and-white woodpecker skulking in the bottom of a thick tree close to what appeared to be a fresh hole, but when it eventually showed itself it was a **Great Spotted Woodpecker**. Then a little further on, we flushed a **Green Woodpecker** from the bushes by the track. Not the woodpeckers we were hoping for! Two **Hoopoes** were calling and kept flying off ahead of us. Several **Spotted Flycatchers** were flitting about in the trees and having heard it calling, a grey male **Cuckoo** flew across over the open fields followed by a rusty-coloured 'hepatic' female, the first of several we would see today.



Semi-collared Flycatcher, near Ano Poroia, 29th April

There were lots of butterflies out in the sunshine along the edges of the track or out in the grassy meadows. A rather tatty looking **Southern Festoon** was the highlight, but we also found a couple of **Grizzled Skippers**, plenty of **Queen of Spain Fritillaries** and **Clouded Yellows**, and a few **Common Blues**. There were dragonflies here too – lots of **Scarce Chasers** and one or two **Hairy Dragonflies** down by the water. A **Grass Snake** curled up on the edge of the path quickly slithered in to the undergrowth as we approached. Small groups of pelicans starting to circle up over towards the lake, looking for thermals to give them lift, and four **Dalmatian Pelicans** drifted right overhead. Then a much bigger group of **White Pelicans** appeared further over, towards the river, with three **Dalmatians** in with them, allowing us to see their very different wing patterns. A few **White Storks** circled up too, and a **Black Stork** flew across just over the tops of the trees. A **Long-legged Buzzard** appeared briefly over the base of the hills to the north.

Our coffee stop this morning was taken by the River Strimon. A small group of **European Bee-eaters** was perched on the wires and bushes beside the track opposite, providing a nice distraction during our break. Over the other side, two **Little Ringed Plovers** and a **Common Sandpiper** were feeding on a sandy island in the middle of the river, along with a **White Wagtail**. Lots of **House Martins** were looking to nest under the bridge and several **Sand Martins** were coming and going from a sandy bank in the island the other side of the bridge. After coffee, we had a quick drive a short distance up the track opposite to try to photograph the Bee-eaters. The rest of the day would be spent on the embankment which surrounds the eastern shore of the lake. There were lots of **Moorhens** on the first pool, along with several **European Pond Terrapins** and a **Purple Heron** walking along the opposite bank. There are several small clumps of reeds here and we stopped to scan them, almost immediately finding a female **Little Bittern** on the edge of one. As we scanned further across a female **Little Crake** was creeping in and out of the reeds nearby. The more we looked, the more we found – in the end, we counted at least six **Little Crakes**, five brown females and one slaty blue-grey male, and three female **Little Bitterns**. A **Dice Snake** was curled up just in the reeds, a **Coypu** was half submerged in the water, and a pair of **Little Grebes** was busy diving. We could hear **Penduline Tits** calling from the willows and bushes on the other side of the bank, and we managed a brief view of a pair in the trees,

before they were chased off by a second male. We were rather distracted by all the activity here and eventually retreated back to the nearby picnic area for a late lunch in the shade.

After lunch, we continued on slowly down the embankment. On the next few pools, we found more **Purple Herons** and our first **Spoonbill**, plus a few **Pygmy Cormorants**. Several **Turtle Doves** were flying around between the bushes out on the grass beyond. We stopped again overlooking the northern edge of the lake. There were lots of **Wood Sandpipers** around the margins of the grassy islands, migrants stopping off on their way north, and a single **Ruff** was in with them. Several **Black-winged Stilts** were further back. A few **Common Terns** and three or four darker-bellied **Whiskered Terns** were hawking distantly over the water. There were lots of **Black-headed Gulls** loafing around the water's edge, and a single **Gull-billed Tern** was in with them, preening. Through the scopes, we could see its distinctive short, thick black bill. There are not so many ducks here in the spring, but as well as a smattering of **Mallards**, we did find three **Common Pochard** on the lake. A lone **Ruddy Shelduck** was over on the grass in front of the flooded forest, with three **Greylag Geese** nearby. What initially appeared to be a **Black-headed Wagtail** was feeding on the short grass just below the bank. However, on closer inspection, we could see it had a small trace of a white supercilium behind the eye, so it was actually a hybrid form, known as 'superciliaris'.



Spur-winged Lapwing, Lake Kerkini, 29th April

Continuing on, **Penduline Tits** were calling all the way down the embankment but were mostly hidden in the vegetation. We pulled up at one likely looking area, where some poplar trees were overhanging a small area of reeds, and spotted a nest hanging down in amongst the leaves, suspended from one of the lower branches. Then a **Penduline Tit** appeared out of the reeds with a bill full of cobwebs and fluffy poplar seed, and flew up to the nest. We got out and through the scopes, we could see that the nest was an amazing structure, and quite well-built already. We watched the **Penduline Tit** weaving the gathered material into the structure, before it flew off back along the line of the ditch. While we waited for it to return, a **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** flew past and dropped down into the bushes below the bank where we could hear it calling. Eventually it flew back in and landed in a bush close to where we were standing, where we got a great look at it, a male with a

bright red crown. There were lots more Cuckoos along here and another hepatic phase female flew in and landed in the poplars above the **Penduline Tit** nest, where we could get a great view of it in the scope. A **Kingfisher** appeared down on the edge of the ditch too. Eventually the pair of **Penduline Tits** returned, and we watched them gathering material down in the reeds again, before flying up to add it to the nest.

On along the bank, there were several **Golden Orioles** fluting in the trees but they were difficult to see with all the leaves. Out in the middle of the lake, we could see a feeding frenzy of cormorants and pelicans. There were lots of **Squacco Herons** down on the rocky shore below the bank as we drove past and scanning the water's edge we found a **Spur-winged Lapwing** too. We stopped to look at it, but it walked on behind some bushes, so we drove on a few yards and waited at the next gap in the vegetation. After a minute or two, it duly walked back into view. They are not so common here at the lake – we normally see them down on the coast – so this was a real bonus today. There were one or two **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers** singing in the bushes beside the bank as we passed, but not as many as we might normally expect to hear. They were obviously still arriving back for the breeding season. There were several **Great Reed Warblers** singing too – and we eventually got a better look at one perched up in the reeds. Then a **Wildcat** ran along the track on the bank ahead of us, before disappearing back into the vegetation, not uncommon here but it always needs a bit of luck to catch one out in the open. The embankment was closed south of Limnochori, but we were planning to come off here anyway. It was time to be heading back. We had a quick stop in the village to admire a huge **White Stork** nest, and timed it perfectly as the adults changed over nest duties. One flew in and the other got up and flew off, landing on a nearby telegraph post which happened to be right above where we were standing. It stood there staring down at us. There were lots of sparrows going in and out of the base of the stork's nest, mostly **Spanish Sparrows**, with one or two House and Tree Sparrows too- the full set! A pair of **Red-rumped Swallows** was flying in under the eaves of a nearby house.

It had been another great day, but it was time to head back to the hotel for dinner. Half way through, while we were still waiting for the ice cream to arrive for pudding, we heard a **Scops Owl** singing just outside. We went out, and realised we could actually hear two – one was in a tree above the road right in front of the hotel, so we tried to see if we could find it with a torch. Unfortunately, it was too high up and there were too many leaves on the tree now, but we eventually saw it as it flew out. Then it was back in for the ice cream before it melted!

TUESDAY 30TH APRIL – *Sunny & clear, freshening winds with an evening shower in the hills, max 21C*

With a prompt getaway after breakfast, we headed up to the village of Promachonas in the hills on the Bulgarian border. We were looking for woodpeckers, and as soon as we walked in to the wood, a **Middle Spotted Woodpecker** flew over the track and landed in the trees next to us. We could see its red crown and pale red undertail. As we continued deeper into the wood, two more **Middle Spotted Woodpeckers** appeared high up in a tree over the path, with one singing above us. Eventually we couldn't go any further in as the path was flooded, so we stopped to listen. We could hear a **Grey-headed Woodpecker** further off, over the other side of the river, but frustratingly it kept its distance. A **Semi-collared Flycatcher** was singing, and we realised we could see it flitting around in a tree a little further on ahead. There were also several **Blackcaps** singing in the trees, and a **Nuthatch** appeared to be feeding young, coming in repeatedly with food. A **Red Squirrel** scuttled up a trunk and a **Kingfisher** shot past through the trees. As we walked back, a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** flew in over the path calling. It landed in a tree and chased off a **Starling** which seemed to be prospecting a hole. We tried another path through the wood, closer to the road, where a **Golden Oriole** was fluting. It was a bit more open here and there were several butterflies in the dappled shade, including a **Southern Festoon** and a couple of **Dingy Skippers**. Lots of **Beautiful Demoiselle** damselflies were down by the river. We had a very quick look for Masked Shrike in the quarry across the road, but there was no sign – perhaps they were late coming back this year? But we had run out of time, and had to get back down to the lake. Our boat trip had originally been organised

for the afternoon, but with the forecast suggesting the wind might pick up it had been brought forward to 11am.

We arrived back at the lake just in time. As we motored out, there were lots of **Great Crested Grebes** on the water, and then out in the middle we found several much smaller **Black-necked Grebes** too in full breeding plumage. Close up, we could see their black necks and golden yellow face tufts. A flock of around twenty **Collared Pratincoles** flew over high. More birds were gathered around the mouth of the Strimon river, where it flows into the lake. A large flock of **Greater Flamingoes** put their heads up and started calling as we passed. We got some much better views of both **Dalmatian** and **White Pelicans** out on the lake, with several of the latter still really pink (rather than white!). There was a nice selection of lingering winter wildfowl here too, with a few **Wigeon**, **Gadwall** and **Shoveler** all useful additions to the trip list. A tight flock of about twenty **Garganey** flew round and four **Ferruginous Ducks** were swimming in the vegetation with a few **Common Pochard**. Several **Common Shelduck** were in amongst the legs of the **Flamingoes**, and the **Ruddy Shelduck** was out this side too today.



White (or pink!) Pelican, Lake Kerkini, 30th April

Round at the flooded forest, the low water level this year was very noticeable, with lots of the trees on dry land. Thankfully we could still get through the edge of it in the boat and it was an amazing experience! The sight, the sound and the smell. Every tree was packed full of **Great Cormorants** on their nests, many with well grown young. In amongst them were lots of herons. We had great close up views of **Black-crowned Night Herons** and **Squacco Herons**. A few **Spoonbills** were on their nests close to where we were, some with young already, and we could see many more further back in the trees or flying round overhead. There were just a few **Pygmy Cormorants** here though, on the outer edge of the colony, with the majority nesting further in where we couldn't reach. We went over to look at the pelican nesting islands next. The older wooden platforms were packed with **Dalmatian Pelicans**, including several well-grown juveniles. The stone islands were more sparsely populated, with a mixture of **Dalmatian** and **White Pelicans** on the tops. As we turned to head back, a lone **Tufted Duck** came up from the water. We hadn't seen any marsh terns yet today, but as we motored

back across the lake, we picked up a flock of around twenty way off in the distance. We headed over and could see them more clearly, before they helpfully came round for a really close pass, a mixture of eleven stunning breeding adult **White-winged Black Terns** and a smaller number of darker **Black Terns**, about eight. A great way to finish off the boat trip, which is always one of the highlights of any visit to Kerkini.



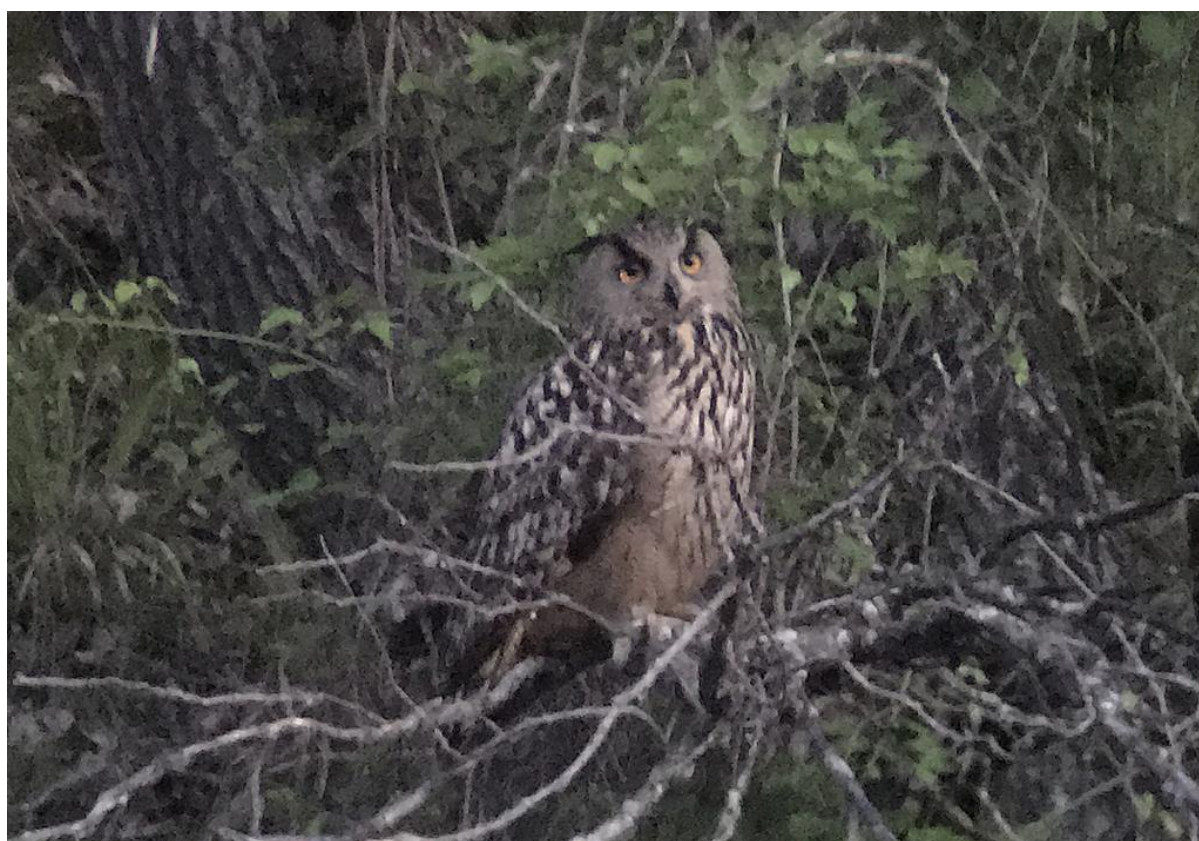
Black-crowned Night Heron, Lake Kerkini, 30th April

Back at the shore, it was time for lunch. We stopped just off the bank by a small poplar wood, where **Golden Oriole** and **Green Woodpecker** were calling in the trees. Several **Spotted Flycatchers** were flitting around in the bushes by the road and we could hear another **Penduline Tit** in the willows further back. After lunch, we drove over to try the marshes by the River Strimon. A **Little Ringed Plover** flew up from the edge of the track as we passed and a **Common Sandpiper** was feeding down along the river shore. There were loads of **Yellow-legged Gulls** loafing on the gravel islands in the middle of the river, with one or two **Caspian Gulls** in with them. But as we got out to look at our first tortoise, a **Spur-thighed Tortoise** grazing on the grassy bank by the track, all the gulls flew up and whirled round and the **Caspian Gulls** disappeared. We had planned to walk out to marshes, but had a feeling they might be dry this year given the water levels. We met another group leaving who said they were, so we decided to try something else instead.

We would normally visit Vironia Quarry in the morning, before the boat trip, so we were not sure whether there would be much activity this afternoon, in the heat of the day. We walked down the hill to look at the scrub around the water troughs first, where it was pretty quiet apart from all the **Nightingales** and some **Peacocks** calling at a nearby farmhouse. A **Cirl Bunting** was singing in the distance. Thankfully, the quarry itself was more productive. As we walked through the scrub up towards it, a male **Cirl Bunting** was feeding in the short grass beside the path. As we came out into the open quarry, several **Red-rumped Swallows** and a pair of **Crag Martins** were hawking around the cliff face. We could hear **Blue Rock Thrush** singing, and found a male and then a female up on the rocks. When the male flew down into the top of a bush on one side, we noticed a small bird nearby – an **Ortolan Bunting**. We managed a good look at it through the scope before it flew out of view. Then a

Subalpine Warbler (of one of the eastern races, *albistrata*) started singing in the bushes behind us, so we followed it a short way as it moved back along the path. We could see it flitting around in the vegetation but it was keeping well hidden, before it flew across the path and disappeared deeper in. A big family party of **Long-tailed Tits** made their way through the bushes too.

Back in the quarry, a male **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear** was displaying up on the rock face, flying round and round in small circles, twisting and turning, all the while flashing its wings and white tail. It landed on a bush and we could see it was the black-eared form, with a white throat and black bandit masks. Then it flew back across the face to the other side and we could see why it was busy displaying – a female was in the bushes here too. A **Levant Sparrowhawk** flashed in across the rock face, sending all the hirundines up and the causing the other birds to all start alarm calling. It disappeared into the small bushes up on the rocks, before emerging again a few seconds later, flying up and over the top of the quarry. We walked on to the far side where another **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear** was singing, this time a black-throated male. Another pair of **Cirl Buntings** was feeding quietly on the edge.



Eagle Owl, Lake Kerkini, 30th April

Then it was time to go back to the hotel. We had arranged an early dinner tonight, and afterwards we headed out again to look for owls. The **Scops Owls** were already singing intermittently by the car park but shut up before we could pin down where they were roosting. The rain clouds had been gathering over the hills and it started to spit with rain here, but thankfully it looked to still be clear down by the lake, so we headed straight over there. We drove through a couple of villages on the way, scanning the roofs as we passed, and eventually found our first target – a **Little Owl** perched on the corner of low building. We stopped to watch it staring down into the grass below, occasionally looking at us with its piercing yellow eyes. The sun was just setting, so we continued on round the lake shore. A couple of **Great Reed Warblers** were singing in the reeds but keeping well down again today, as loads of **Spanish Sparrows** flew in, presumably to roost. With the clouds hanging over the hills, it seemed to be getting dark quickly tonight, so we drove back to an old quarry. We were just in time – we hadn't been out of the minibus for more than a minute or two when the **Eagle Owl** flew up

from its roost site and landed on the base of a tree up on the cliff. It was still good enough light, so we could get fantastic views of it through the scopes. We stayed and watched the **Eagle Owl** until the light faded. It was a fantastic way to end another action-packed day.

WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY – *Sunny & clear, clouding over pm, fresher NW winds, max 24C*

It was a noticeably cooler start to the morning and with the change in the weather last night, we thought there might be migrants in. We decided to have a look at the water trough first and spotted a male **Red-backed Shrike** in the bushes before we had even got out of the minibus. Setting up the scopes and scanning round, we found two others nearby, presumably all freshly arrived. An **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** was singing, which was not here a couple of days ago, and a **Whinchat** was out in the field beyond. Two male **Black-headed Buntings** appeared, chasing each other round and round through the bushes, presumably trying to decide who was getting the territory. They eventually settled in a bush next to the road, so we could get a good look at them – smart birds, canary yellow underneath, with a black head. This was one of our main targets here, and they are always late returning migrants, so it was good that they had finally returned. An **Eastern Orphee Warbler** started singing behind us, and flew over in to the same bush. We had a good view of it perched in the same view with one of the male **Black-headed Buntings**. One of the **Red-backed Shrikes** flew in too, and kept dropping down to catch insects on the road, and another **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** started up, all in the same bush. There were obviously lots of birds freshly arrived here today.



Black-headed Bunting, near Ano Poroia, 1st May

We were heading up to the hills today, so we drove over to Sidirokastro and made our way up to the byzantine castle ruins first. As we stopped to admire the view over town and the lake in the distance beyond, a male **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear** performed a songflight across in front of us. We walked round to the other side and started scanning the crags. A pair of **Blue Rock Thrush** appeared distantly, and we counted at least four more **Eastern Black-eared Wheatears** within a few metres of each other. **Western Rock Nuthatch** was our main target here and it looked like we were in luck, as one then appeared on a rock face further over. Unfortunately it flew up before we could all get onto it

and disappeared. We walked over to the top of the crag opposite and scanned the rocks where it had been but there was no further sign of it. Two **Linnet**s were flitting around on the top and a **Cirl Bunting** landed in the bushes right in front of us briefly. We could see yet more **Blue Rock Thrushes** and wheatears from here too, but not the nuthatch we were hoping for. As we started to walk back along the side of the castle, we scanned behind us over to where the nuthatch had been, and suddenly one appeared on some low rocks on a patch of grass in between the crags. We got the scopes on it and realised there was a second **Western Rock Nuthatch** with it. We could see they were collecting something, possibly food, and then flying back up into the rocks out of view. One then dropped down onto a branch jutting out of the crag, where it remained perched for some time, so we could get a good view in the scopes. Then one flew over and started feeding on the cliff just below the castle, where we watched it going in and out of the cracks in the rock. It seemed to collect some food and then flew back across, making its way back up the rock face where we had first seen it before disappearing into the same crag. From back at the minibus, we could see more distantly where exactly they were going in. Over coffee, we watched the small dead branch they were using as a perch, which held alternately **Western Rock Nuthatch**, **Blue Rock Thrush** and **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear**! A **Serin** flew in calling and landed briefly nearby, but unfortunately flew straight out the back again. Four **Ravens** flew over.



Rock Thrush, Sidirokastro, 1st May

After coffee, we drove up the valley beyond the village to an old quarry. Several **Red-rumped Swallows** and a pair of **Crag Martins** were hawking round the rocks. A **Subalpine Warbler** started singing in the top of a tree in the valley below us. A **Cirl Bunting** was singing high on the edge of the quarry and while we were watching it, we noticed an **Ortolan Bunting** also singing from the top of a rock, much higher up still. Making our way into the quarry, we found more **Blue Rock Thrushes** and **Eastern Black-eared Wheatears**, but there was no sign of the **Western Rock Nuthatches** here – thankfully we had already seen them at the castle. One of group noticed some movement in the rocks at the base of the rock face, and a bird flew up and landed on a rock. It was a male **Rock Thrush** (aka **Common** or **Rufous-tailed**, not **Blue**!). A nice surprise here, as they are normally found much higher up in the mountains. We had a good view of it through the scopes – blue above, orange below, with a

white back. Then when it eventually flew up the quarry face towards the top, a female **Rock Thrush** appeared too. They both perched briefly before disappearing over the top.

Next, we drove over to Serres and, after negotiating our way through town, up onto Mount Vrontou. A couple of **Woodlarks** were on the rocks by the road as we made our way up, along with a **Black Redstart**, a pair of **Mistle Thrushes** perched on some wires and we could hear **Chiffchaffs** singing in the trees. It was already lunchtime so we headed straight up to the ski centre at the top and stopped to eat. There was still some snow on the ground by the road and the beech trees were still not in leaf, it was slightly chilly up here and everything seemed to be a little behind this year. Several **Coal Tits** were singing in the pines, a **Tree Pipit** was singing from the trees beside the ski slope and a smart male **Black Redstart** was dropping down to feed on the short grass from the ski lift cables. It was slightly surprising to hear **Cuckoos** all the way up here – a male calling and a female bubbling. After lunch, we had a quick walk round the road at the top, but there was a distinct chill in the air and the bare beech trees were rather quiet. We decided to drop down to the ski hotel a bit lower down in the pines. It is closed for the season now, but we found lots of **Common Crossbills** in the pines around the car park and had good views of several feeding on cones through the scopes. Down a bit lower, we stopped again and had a short walk along a path through the trees. We heard more **Coal Tits** singing, a **Chiffchaff** flew across the path and a **Goldcrest** singing in the pines slowly made its way out and showed itself briefly before disappearing back into the trees. Otherwise, it was rather quiet here, being rather cool with a fresh breeze blowing up the hillside. There was a great view of the mountain slopes from the end of the path and we found a **Short-toed Eagle** and a **Raven** over the crags.

We made our way back down the mountain and headed over to Paleokastro, stopping by another disused quarry. We were hoping to find a **Roller** here but there was no sign – possibly they were not back yet. A couple more **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers** were singing – there were definitely more in today – and a female **Red-backed Shrike** perched in the top of a small bush across the field. Looking further down the track, a tree on the verge had eight birds in it and we realised they were all male **Black-headed Buntings**! We walked along the track for a closer look, and the buntings dropped down into a neighbouring fallow field covered in sparse grass and wild flowers. We climbed up onto verge and scanned the surrounding countryside. Four **Turtle Doves** flew past and a small party of **Bee-eaters** went over calling. Then a **Tawny Pipit** flew up out of the grass and dropped down into the edge of the bare field next door, out of view. As we walked down through the grass to try to get a look at it, more **Tawny Pipits** flew up – a group of eleven, followed by another four, and there was still at least one in the grass. More migrants on their way through. Three **Black-headed Wagtails** were feeding on the edge of a rough ploughed field the other side, then they flew in too and disappeared into the grass. As we walked back up to the track, we found the **Black-headed Buntings** again, presumably just arrived and feeding up. Then we had to leave. It had been a long day and we still had quite a way to go to get back to the hotel in time for dinner.

THURSDAY 2ND MAY – *Sunny & mostly clear, blustery NW winds easing pm, max 22C*

Today we were heading down to the coast for the day. On the drive there, we saw lots of **Corn Buntings** singing from the wires all the way down, but just one **Black-headed Bunting**. Perhaps they were still to move onto their territories, but the gusty breeze this morning possibly didn't help too. A female **Montagu's Harrier** drifted across the road in front of the minibus and across a field full of poppies. As we left Kalahori village, we stopped to scan the saltmarsh. There were lots of **Shelduck** and our first **Oystercatchers** here, and it didn't take too long to find a pair of **Stone Curlews**. We had a good view of them through the scopes, despite a tractor mowing the verges along the road and kicking up dust and debris as it passed us. On the corner of the first lagoon, beside the track, we had a taste of what was to come. A group of **Ruff** were feeding in the shallows and a flock of smaller waders flew in to join them, five **Dunlin** and several **Curlew Sandpipers** resplendent to various extents in rusty summer plumage. On the other side of the track, out on the edge of the bay, a couple of **Little Terns** were hovering out over the sea and a 1st summer **Mediterranean Gull** was picking around on the shore with a single **Black-headed Gull** and one **Yellow-legged Gull**.

As we parked by the causeway and got out of the minibus, it was clearly rather windier than had been forecast. Undaunted, we set out along the path between the lagoons. There were more **Little Terns** on a small island, and another smart **Curlew Sandpiper**. A little further on, we spotted our first **Little Stint**, along with several of both **Kentish Plover** and **Ringed Plover** on the mud. We could see lots of waders right over along the far edge of the lagoons on both side, so we made our way over. There were some impressive numbers of birds here, with over 1,000 **Curlew Sandpipers** and at least 200 **Little Stints**, in a variety of plumages but with some very smart rusty ones in breeding plumage of both species. A smaller number of **Dunlin** were mixed in with them, sporting their summer black belly patches. There were lots of **Ruff** over in the corner, two **Black-tailed Godwits** out in the middle and a flock of **Spotted Redshanks** further round in the distance on the edge of the reeds. Just two **Greater Flamingoes**, a young male and a young female, were out in the deeper water in the middle of the lagoon.



Curlew Sandpipers, Kalahori Lagoon, 2nd May

There were lots of birds hawking out over the water in the wind. We counted eighteen smart adult **White-winged Black Terns** and a single **Black Tern** with them. The first two **Slender-billed Gulls** flew in and landed briefly before flying off again, but more arrived steadily until there were eighteen swimming out on the water together. There were loads of hirundines too and at one point, a tight flock of around 200 **Sand Martins** flew past. Several **Marsh Harriers** were hanging in the air over the reeds at the back and scanning out over the saltmarsh, we spotted two **Ospreys** hunting way off in the distance. It was hard to make out any detail, although their flight action was distinctive enough, but thankfully one then came in closer so we could all see what it was. As we turned to walk back, a **Peregrine** then flew in from the sea and circled over the lagoon. Two **Gull-billed Terns** flew over calling too. We drove further on down the track and stopped for coffee. From here, we had a much better view of the **Spotted Redshanks**, mostly in black breeding plumage. There were about thirty roosting in one flock and more feeding along the edge of the reeds. Two **Greenshanks** were with them.

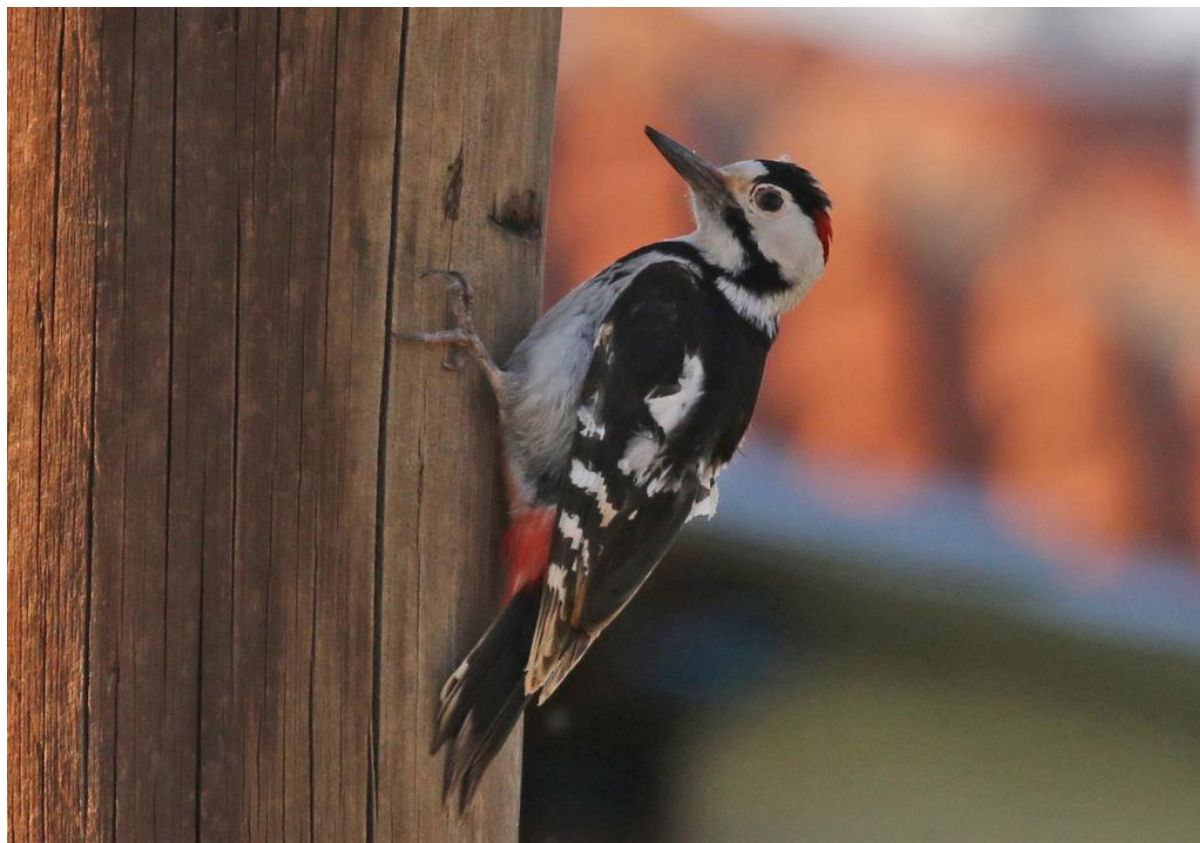
After coffee, we made our way down along the track which skirts the edge of the Axios delta. A couple of **Common Redshank** on the saltmarsh on the edge of the bay were an addition to the day's wader list. As we passed them, we scanned all the pools below the track on the landward side. A large flock of **Greater Flamingoes** took off from one pool as we drove up, disturbed by a plane circling just beyond, and we were treated to an amazing flash of pink wings as they flew past us. They circled round over the bay, and half of them came back in and landed again back on the pool. A few **Pygmy Cormorants** were perched on the fishing net poles out in the bay as we passed and several **Common Terns** were plunge diving along the edge of the sea. The pools held a variety of waders – nesting **Avocets** and **Black-winged Stilts**, occasional little groups of **Wood Sandpipers** and **Ruff**, a few **Curlew Sandpipers** and a couple of **Little Stints**. **Collared Pratincoles** were hawking either side of the track in the wind all the way down, and we finally got one on the ground in the scopes, standing on the mud by one of the pools. Four more **Gull-billed Terns** were loafing on another. **Reed Warblers** were singing from ditches, and lots of **Black-headed Wagtails** and **Crested Larks** flushed from the edge of the track as we passed.

There were several **Common Sandpipers** along the edge of the bay as we made our way along. Then one of the group spotted two larger, paler waders roosting out on the edge of the saltmarsh – **Marsh Sandpipers**. We had a look at them from the minibus, but unfortunately they took off as we tried to get out and get the scopes on them. We could see them flying round like small Greenshanks before they dropped down again further back, out of view. We stopped for lunch a little further on. The sandbars which often hold roosting birds were mostly under water but there were still a few waders here, several **Grey Plovers** and a couple of **Eurasian Curlews**. There were more waders scattered round the edge of the saltmarsh, including one very smart **Grey Plover** in breeding plumage. Lots of **Eastern Bath White** butterflies were fluttering around the flowers in the lee of the bank. Further on, when we got to the mouth of the Axios river we had a quick stop at the viewing tower before turning inland. Two **Spur-winged Lapwings** were on one of the pools below the track, so we stopped to watch them, smart birds. A little further on, another two were out on the saltmarsh the other side. There were several **Pygmy Cormorants** loafing around the edges of the pools, which finally allowed us a closer look at this often very flighty species, and two **Spoonbills** were feeding in the shallow water, sweeping their bills from side to side. Several **Marsh Harriers** hunted over the reeds. We stopped to look at a little group of **Turtle Doves** feeding out on the saltmarsh and a pair of **Hoopoes** flew off as we drove on.

Back on the main road, we drove up to Polykastro. Two **Red-footed Falcons** swooped in over a field beside the road, but no one got onto them as we passed and there was nowhere to pull in. We stopped at a nearby reservoir. Another **Turtle Dove** was on a mound in the edge of the field as we drove in and four **Whinchats** were perched in the vegetation alongside the track. The wind had thankfully dropped now, and we got out for a walk, up onto the bank. As we got over the top and looked out across the reservoir, we could see over 100 terns hawking out over the water. There were lots of **Common Terns**, mixed in with a smaller number of **White-winged Black Terns** and **Black Terns** dip feeding. More surprising, there were several **Little Terns** with them, despite it being long way inland. We could see both **Little** and **Great Crested Grebes** on the water, and several **Ferruginous Ducks** scattered along far shore. A single **Common Pochard** and a pair of **Gadwall** were swimming by the island in the middle. A hepatic female **Cuckoo** flew past, and a grey male perched up singing in a nearby tree. An **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** was singing in the bushes just below the bank.

Then as we scanned over the fields, we got distracted by some raptors. First we found a **Long-legged Buzzard**, but it dropped down behind some trees out of view. We could see some kestrels hovering in the distance, and when we looked more closely we realised there were at least ten of them in a big group, **Lesser Kestrels**. They were rather pale below when they banked and one male showed the distinctive grey panel between its dark primaries and rusty wing coverts. There were also a few **Red-footed Falcons** with them. We got on a couple of females first, grey above and rusty below. Then we found a smart male, dark slate grey with silvery primaries, and we could just see its red trousers as it turned. We picked up the **Long-legged Buzzard** again, perched in a tree, and when it finally took off

and flew round, we got a better look at its paler head and dark belly, and its pale rusty tail with a white base. It was mobbed at one point by a **Common Buzzard**, giving us a good side by side comparison, the **Long-legged Buzzard** being noticeably bigger and rustier. It was already getting late, and we still had a long drive back, so we had to tear ourselves away. But there was still one more surprise on the way back. As we were driving along, one of the group noticed a woodpecker on some wires. After a quick u-turn, the woodpecker flew across to a nearby telegraph post, and we could see it was a **Syrian Woodpecker**, just as we had suspected. We had a nice view of it as it perched out in the open. Then it flew to a garden behind, and we realised there were two, chasing each other round through the trees. We finally got back to hotel just in time for a quick drink before another delicious dinner – very welcome after a long but very rewarding day.



Syrian Woodpecker, near Polykastro, 2nd May

FRIDAY 3RD MAY – *Sunny & clear am, hazy cloud building pm, light N wind increasing, max 26C*

Sombre Tit was one species which had eluded us so far – they are not very vocal and harder to find at this time of year – so we headed out for an early walk before breakfast to look for one we knew was not far away. As we parked and walked up the track, it was still rather cool and the sun was still not on the hillside. It was worth the early start just for the great view of the lake from here though. A **Girl Bunting** flew up from the verge and we could hear one or two **Subalpine Warblers** singing. Further up, we had a nice view of a male Subalpine Warbler feeding in the bushes by the track. A smart male **Red-backed Shrike** perched in the top of a tree. As the sun finally came onto the hillside, we walked slowly back down and could hear a **Sombre Tit** calling in the bushes. We followed the sound and could see it working its way up through the undergrowth towards the track. It perched up in full view for a second but we were looking into the light and not everyone could get onto it. We got ourselves positioned ahead of it, ready to see it come out again, and just at that moment a small 4x4 came up the track – we hadn't seen any other vehicle here, and it was the worst possible moment. We had to stand to one side and after it had passed, the **Sombre Tit** had disappeared, presumably flushed back down the hillside by the vehicle. We stopped and listened but couldn't hear it now. Unfortunately we were out of time too, and had to get back to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast, we drove down to the water trough again. Two male **Black-headed Buntings** were singing from the bushes and there were clearly several more **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers** in now. Two male and a female **Red-backed Shrike** were scattered around, and a male **Woodchat Shrike** was singing from the tops of the trees. A **Montagu's Harrier** flew in over the fields, a female, and disappeared up towards the hills, presumably a migrant on its way north. A **Levant Sparrowhawk** circled up distantly over the hillside. As we drove on, we could see lots of birds in a small orchard by the road which just been mown. Three male **Black-headed Buntings** and four **Crested Larks** were feeding on the cut grass between the trees and a small group of **Black-headed Wagtails** were perched on the fence at the back. Cutting across towards the western shore of the lake, a tractor was mowing the verge, followed by a **White Stork** which almost wouldn't get out of the road as we passed, giving us point blank views from the minibus. Small groups of pelicans were flying round, starting to look for the first thermals of the morning. Along the edge of the lake, we could see the usual selection of **Little Egrets**, herons and a few **Dalmatian Pelicans**. We stopped briefly at Korifoudi, where the **Great Reed Warblers** were still singing from the reeds, but this time perching up nicely in lighter winds. One of the **Woodchat Shrikes** was still in its usual bush and a **Roe Deer** buck ran across the fields at the back.

Continuing on down to Himarros, we drove in along the dusty track. A pair of **Turtle Doves** in the bushes flew off as we pulled up and several **Little Egrets** were standing around the pools. A **Spur-thighed Tortoise** was slowly crossing the track in front of us, so we stopped to look at it. When it was out of the way, we continued on to the old quarry, where there were **Bee-eaters** flying round calling as we got out of the minibus. Three **Woodchat Shrikes** perched on the fence – nice to see, but not the shrike we really wanted here. A pair of **Eastern Black-eared Wheatears** was also on the fence, the male a rather dark black-throated individual. Another male wheatear was perched in the trees just across the track, this one a rather pale black-eared form, demonstrating just how very variable they can be. It was warming up now, and raptors were starting to spiral up over the hills beyond. First a **Lesser Spotted Eagle** circled over, followed by a **Short-toed Eagle**. A **Black Stork** drifted high along the ridge and a few **Dalmatian Pelicans** flew over us too.



Masked Shrike, Himarros, 3rd May

We had a good look around the quarry area and finally the **Masked Shrikes** showed themselves. There were two males, and at first we watched them chasing each other through the trees. Then one male flew up to the top of a tree to sing, where we had some lovely views of it perched up in the sunshine. It was obviously its favourite song post, as it kept returning to the same tree, before flying off again. At one point it dropped down into the river beyond to drink and bathe. It was definitely time for a celebratory coffee. Afterwards, we went back for more views of the **Masked Shrikes**. A **Golden Oriole** was singing in the trees across the river but typically kept itself well hidden, despite responding to our whistled imitations. We were just packing up as two **Woodlarks** flew in, and started feeding in the short grass in the clearing.

We drove back north from here, to the edge of the Mavrovouni Hills, with a quick stop en route to admire a pair of **Red-backed Shrikes** in the bushes by the road. Parking at the bottom of a rough track, we walked up hillside. There were lots of butterflies on the wing here – including **Scarce Swallowtails**, **Knapweed** and **Queen of Spain Fritillaries**, and **Mallow Skipper**. Two **Hermann's Tortoises** were on the verges and several **Egyptian Grasshoppers** flew up ahead of us. We stopped to watch some dung beetles rolling up balls of dung and trying to push and pull them in pairs across the track. It was getting hot and there were a few raptors up now. A **Levant Sparrowhawk** flew out of the trees ahead of us, with a flash of its blue-grey upperparts and black wing tips, then gave us a nice view as it circled out over the valley. A **Lesser Spotted Eagle** came low over the ridge beside us, before circling up and displaying. A **Black Kite** drifted high over the hills. A **Woodchat Shrike** was down on the brambles in the bottom of the valley and a **Subalpine Warbler** and several **Nightingales** were singing in the bushes, but there were few other passerines active in the midday heat. We walked back down to the minibus, and drove round to one of the lakeside shelters for lunch in the shade.



European Bee-eater, Lake Kerkini, 3rd May

After lunch, we drive round to the eastern shore and back up onto the embankment. As we made our way north, we stopped again where we had seen the **Penduline Tits** on Monday. They had made quite a bit of progress on the nest since we last saw it and it was almost finished, with the entrance

tunnel now built. We watched the pair coming and going, putting the finishing touches to it, and the male perched at the entrance calling, as if to seek approval that the work was done. Carrying on along the bank, there were loads of **Wood Sandpipers** and **Squacco Herons** down along the shore of the lake on one side. On the other side, many more **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers** were singing now in the bushes, having arrived in the last few days, since we were last here. There were several **Red-backed Shrikes** along here too now and we had great views of the **Bee-eaters**, perched on branches below us along the bank, and finally got better views of **Golden Orioles** in the poplar trees.

We stopped at the northern edge of the water. The lake had filled up steadily since we were last here, with meltwater from the mountains beyond. The **Ruddy Shelduck** was back round on this side again today, with a peak count of 35 **Greylag Geese**. A huge number of **Spoonbills** were busy feeding in the shallows – we counted at least 80 – and a **Cattle Egret** appeared briefly with the herd of buffaloes. But the highlight was watching a huge raft of several hundred **White Pelicans** feeding, swimming and repeatedly plunging their heads underwater, occasionally gathering in tighter groups, or flying to catch up with each other. A small group of about ten **Dalmatian Pelicans** were also feeding nearby, but not joining in with the melee. A little further on along the bank, we spotted a female **Northern Wheatear** on the rocks on the edge of the lake, a migrant on its way north and a welcome late addition to the trip list. We stopped again at the pool at the north end of the embankment, where several **Little Bitterns** were still lurking on the edge of the reeds, including a couple of smart males today too. There were one or two **Little Crakes** still, and the **Coypu** again.

As we drove past Megalochori, a **Little Owl** was perched on the churchyard wall. Crossing over the Strimon river, we stopped and walked down one of the tracks into the trees. There was no sign of any woodpeckers on the first one we tried, but crossing over to the other side, we didn't have to go far before a **Grey-headed Woodpecker** flew in. It landed in a tree above the path, great to finally see one having just heard them earlier in the week. A couple of **Golden Orioles** flew out of the trees too. We had just enough time for a quick stop at Mandraki at the end of the day. The water was much higher here now, and there were fewer birds compared to earlier in the week. Four **Glossy Ibis** flew over but landed out of view behind the reeds. There were still lots of herons and **Pygmy Cormorants** around in the trees, and it was nice to have one last look at the lake. Then it was back to the hotel for a shower, drinks and our final dinner, another delicious salad followed by Turkish meatballs.

SATURDAY 4TH MAY – *Cloudy, cooler*

After our last breakfast, once again a great spread of Greek pastries, yoghurt with honey, boiled eggs and fresh bread, we set off back to the airport. The drive down was fairly uneventful, with lots of **Corn Buntings** on the wires by the road and a single **Red-backed Shrike**. The **Jackdaws** around the terminal building which had welcomed us were there to bid us farewell. The flight got away on time and we arrived back to a cloudy and cool Gatwick Airport.

SYSTEMATIC LIST – BIRDS

1.	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
2.	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
3.	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
4.	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
5.	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>
6.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
7.	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>
8.	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>
9.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
10.	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
11.	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
12.	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
13.	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>

14.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
15.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
16.	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
17.	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
18.	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
19.	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
20.	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
21.	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
22.	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
23.	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>
24.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
25.	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
26.	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>
27.	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>
28.	European Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
29.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
30.	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
31.	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
32.	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
33.	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
34.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
35.	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
36.	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
37.	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
38.	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
39.	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
40.	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
41.	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
42.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
43.	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
44.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
45.	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
46.	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
47.	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
48.	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
49.	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
50.	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>
51.	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyophaga melanoleuca</i>
52.	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
53.	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>
54.	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
55.	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
56.	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
57.	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
58.	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
59.	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
60.	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
61.	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
62.	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>
63.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
64.	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
65.	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>
66.	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
67.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
68.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>

69.	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
70.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
71.	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
72.	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
73.	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
74.	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
75.	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
76.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
77.	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circetus gallicus</i>
78.	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>
79.	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>
80.	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
81.	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
82.	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>
83.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
84.	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
85.	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
86.	Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>
87.	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>
88.	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
89.	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
90.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
91.	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
92.	Middle-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>
93.	Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
94.	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>
95.	Lesser-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>
96.	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>
97.	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
98.	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
99.	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
100.	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
101.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
102.	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
103.	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>
104.	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
105.	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
106.	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
107.	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
108.	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
109.	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
110.	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>
111.	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
112.	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
113.	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
114.	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
115.	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
116.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
117.	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
118.	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
119.	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
120.	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>
121.	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
122.	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
123.	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>

124.	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	
125.	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	
126.	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>	
127.	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	(h)
128.	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	(h)
129.	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	
130.	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>	
131.	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	
132.	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	
133.	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	
134.	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	
135.	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	
136.	(Eastern) Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	
137.	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	
138.	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	
139.	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Spotted Flycatcher</i>	
140.	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	
141.	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	
142.	Semi-collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>	
143.	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	
144.	Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	
145.	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	
146.	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	
147.	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
148.	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	
149.	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	
150.	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	
151.	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	
152.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
153.	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
154.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
155.	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	
156.	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	
157.	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	
158.	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	
159.	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	
160.	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	
161.	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	
162.	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	
163.	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	
164.	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	
165.	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	
166.	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	
167.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
168.	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	
169.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	

OTHER WILDLIFE

Mammals

1.	Northern White-breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus roumanicus</i>
2.	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>
3.	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
4.	European Wildcat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>
5.	European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>

Reptiles & Amphibians

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Green Toad | <i>Bufo viridis</i> |
| 2. | Marsh Frog | <i>Rana ridibunda</i> |
| 3. | European Pond Terrapin | <i>Emys orbicularis</i> |
| 4. | Hermann's Tortoise | <i>Testudo hermanni</i> |
| 5. | Spur-thighed Tortoise | <i>Testudo graeca</i> |
| 6. | Common Green Lizard | <i>Lacerta viridis</i> |
| 7. | Balkan Wall Lizard | <i>Podarcis taurica</i> |
| 8. | Grass Snake | <i>Natrix natrix</i> |
| 9. | Dice Snake | <i>Natrix tessalata</i> |

Butterflies & Moths

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Swallowtail | <i>Papilio machaon</i> |
| 2. | Scarce Swallowtail | <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i> |
| 3. | Southern Festoon | <i>Zerynthia polyxena</i> |
| 4. | Black-veined White | <i>Aporia crataegi</i> |
| 5. | Large White | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> |
| 6. | Small White | <i>Pieris rapae</i> |
| 7. | Green-veined White | <i>Pieris napi</i> |
| 8. | Eastern Bath White | <i>Pontia edusa</i> |
| 9. | Orange Tip | <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i> |
| 10. | Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias croceus</i> |
| 11. | Brimstone | <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i> |
| 12. | Green Hairstreak | <i>Callophrys rubi</i> |
| 13. | Small Copper | <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> |
| 14. | Holly Blue | <i>Celastrina argiolus</i> |
| 15. | Brown Argus | <i>Aricia agestis</i> |
| 16. | Common Blue | <i>Polyommatus icarus</i> |
| 17. | Red Admiral | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> |
| 18. | Painted Lady | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> |
| 19. | Queen of Spain Fritillary | <i>Issoria lathonia</i> |
| 20. | Knapweed Fritillary | <i>Melitaea phoebe</i> |
| 21. | Small Heath | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> |
| 22. | Speckled Wood | <i>Pararge aegeria</i> |
| 23. | Wall | <i>Lasiommata megera</i> |
| 24. | Grizzled Skipper | <i>Pyrgus malvae</i> |
| 25. | Mallow Skipper | <i>Carcharodus alceae</i> |
| 26. | Dingy Skipper | <i>Erynnis tages</i> |
| 27. | Speckled Yellow | <i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i> |
| 28. | Common Heath | <i>Ematurga atomaria</i> |
| 29. | Rush Veneer | <i>Nomophila noctuella</i> |

Dragonflies

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Beautiful Demoiselle | <i>Calopteryx virgo</i> |
| 2. | Azure Damselfly | <i>Coenagrion puella</i> |
| 3. | Blue-tailed Damselfly | <i>Ishnura elegans</i> |
| 4. | Hairy Dragonfly | <i>Brachytron pratense</i> |
| 5. | Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawker | <i>Aeshna isosceles</i> |
| 6. | Emperor Dragonfly | <i>Anax imperator</i> |
| 7. | Lesser Emperor | <i>Anax parthenope</i> |
| 8. | Blue (Scarce) Chaser | <i>Libellula fulva</i> |
| 9. | Black-tailed Skimmer | <i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i> |
| 10. | White-tailed Skimmer | <i>Orthetrum albistylum</i> |
| 11. | Scarlet Darter | <i>Crocothemis erythraea</i> |
| 12. | Red-veined Darter | <i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i> |

Other Insects

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|--|
| 1. | Egyptian Grasshopper | <i>Anacridium aegyptium</i> |
| 2. | Mammoth Wasp | <i>Megascolia maculata</i> |
| 3. | Violet Carpenter Bee | <i>Xylocopa violacea</i> |
| 4. | Dung Beetle sp. | probably <i>Gymnopleurus geoffroyi</i> |

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