



TOUR REPORT

Lake Kerkini 30TH APRIL – 6TH MAY 2024

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TUESDAY 30TH APRIL – *Sunny spells and warm, 25C*

A very long day today as our rendezvous at Gatwick airport was at the ungodly hour of 0355, but thankfully everything went smoothly and we were soon on our way down to Thessaloniki in double quick time, arriving ahead of schedule about 1100 local time. We stepped off the plane into warm sunshine with **Pallid Swifts** whizzing around the terminal building, and after a fairly protracted hire car collection, were soon heading around the Thessaloniki motorway network and roughly North-east towards Lake Kerkini. The journey produced few birds until we turned off the big roads onto the quiet road running through to Lithotopos, at the dam end of the lake and where we would meet Stergios, our hotel proprietor, who was waiting for us with a picnic lunch and coffee set up under a parasol overlooking the lake. After the long morning travelling, this was a welcome sight and we listed to **Nightingales** and **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers**, and watched our first **Dalmatian Pelicans** and **Pygmy Cormorants**, while we ate. Other birds over the lake included **Kingfisher**, lots of Great Crested Grebes, Common Tern, **Night Heron** and a superb flyover **Black Kite**, while the surrounding scrub added good views of a pair of **Cirl Bunting**.



Woodchat Shrike

Our route for the afternoon would take us along the western shore of Kerkini Lake, and our first stop was an impromptu one for a smart **Woodchat Shrike**. Thankfully the roads are free of traffic and pulling up is not a problem – at this particular stop there was a soundtrack like Britain in a bygone era as we could hear **Golden Oriole**, **Turtle Dove**, **Corn Bunting** and **Cuckoo** all calling away in unison. Further on we parked and scanned a series of rough fields bordering the lake. A **Lesser Grey Shrike** was a fine list addition here and it showed well as it sallied from a dead tree, perching alongside **Bee-eaters**, **Turtle Doves** and **Corn Buntings**! **White Storks** were nesting on a platform beside the road, their nest itself providing a home for a throng of **Spanish Sparrows** while **Crested Larks** sang from the short grass below and the raucous song of a **Great Reed Warbler** was chuntering out from a nearby stand of reeds. The **Bee-eaters** were a joy to watch, swooping low over the fields in the

perfect evening light and perching low on bramble snags with wings aloft. On our opposite side, the lake shore itself gave us our first good views of **White Pelicans**, plus a trio of **Squacco Herons**.



White Stork

We had plenty of time to squeeze in Mandraki harbour to end the day and the idyllic setting here of the flat glass waters of the lake, perfect light and masses of birds meant we didn't really want to tear ourselves away! There were masses of nesting waterbirds, especially Grey Herons, **Spoonbills** and **Pygmy Cormorants**, plus a couple more **Night Herons** and more distant egrets and **Dalmatian Pelicans**, which could be seen on the man-made wooden platforms out in the lake. A large colony of **White Pelicans** could also be seen, on the rocky islets. There were migrants around too with a large flock of **Bee-eaters** over the reeds, and a pair of **Whinchats** sallying up and down, breaking their journey to more northerly climes. Two **Lesser Spotted Eagles** showed briefly over the wooded hillside to the north and we had great views of **Great Reed Warblers**, all to a backdrop of more **Cuckoo** and **Golden Oriole** song. What a tremendous place and we couldn't wait to get fully stuck in tomorrow!

WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY – *Sunshine and light winds, 25C*

A superb days birding around Kerkini lake today with both quantity and quality on offer! We started in the farmland bordering bushy country and woodland south-east of Ano Poroia village, where we noted several singing **Corn Buntings** and **Common Whitethroats** and two smart male **Red-backed Shrikes**, plus a decent view of a singing **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler**. Vironia area would host us for the rest of the morning, starting with one of the tracks running west, just north of the Strimonas River crossing. We disembarked the van to a soundtrack of calling **Hoopoes** and **Nightingales**, both of which we saw on the walk, though perhaps our two best birds here came in quick succession at the

start of the track. Firstly a **Grey-headed Woodpecker** appeared, calling in a tree right next to us (responding to us whistling for it) and then flying over the track and perching long enough for everyone to get some sort of scope view. While watching the 'pecker, a pair of **Honey Buzzards** circled over the valley slowly, and again everyone was able to get a telescope view of this always-desirable raptor. The rest of the walk added a **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Whinchat**, **Red-backed Shrike**, **Hobby**, **Blackcap**, **Kingfisher** and wonderful views of a **Penduline Tit** which seemed to be dismantling a rivals nest and carrying away beakfuls of the material! There were some superb butterflies and dragonflies to be seen here too, such as **Scarce Chaser** and **Green Hairstreak**.

Next stop was a quarry in the hillside above Vironia, where a welcome breeze kept the heat off a bit (it was already getting very warm by 11am). In the plane trees lining a stream gulley, more **Nightingales** sang and several **Spotted Flycatchers** flitting among the foliage. Heading up the stony track through the scrubby hillside, we saw and heard **Eastern Subalpine Warbler**, **Sardinian Warbler** and **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear**. At the quarry, a male **Cirl Bunting** showed well and we spent some time scanning the rock face where a pair of **Blue Rock Thrush**, several **Red-rumped Swallows**, **Crag Martins** and a pair of nesting **Ravens** were seen. Overhead, we noted a pair of **Short-toed Eagles** and then as we started the walk back down, we heard the quiet, subtle song of an **Eastern Orphean Warbler**. Initially the bird didn't want to play but eventually it flew across the track and perched in the top of a shrub for ages, and we were able to get a good scope view showing the pale eye and dark chevron-marked undertail. **Eastern Festoon** and **Queen of Spain Fritillary** were added to our growing butterfly list, too.



Bee-eater

Back to the Strimonas River for lunch in the shade of the picnic shelter, and in the company of the many **Bee-eaters** which were nesting in the adjacent sandy banks. Another **Honey Buzzard** drifted through as we ate and the river itself was buzzing with hundreds of martins – **House Martins** which were collecting mud for their nests under the bridge, and **Sand Martins** which were nesting in the cliffs of the river islands. A pair of **Little-ringed Plovers** and several **Common Sandpipers** were noted

there too. After lunch we used the vehicles as hides to drive slowly along the sandy track beside the **Bee-eater** nesting bank, and in doing so enjoyed ridiculously close views of them perching close to the ground on various bare sticks and other perches, and whirling around us calling. Quite a spectacular sight indeed! We also saw a **Purple Heron**, and brief female **Black-headed Wagtail**, plus a **Green Woodpecker**.



Squacco Heron

The remainder of the afternoon would be spent on the embankment overlooking the north-east corner of Kerkini Lake, and what a feast of waterbirds we saw here! Thousands of Great and **Pygmy Cormorants**, **White** and **Dalmatian Pelicans** were seen in mass feeding frenzies out in the lake – despite the distance of almost two kilometres, we could hear the sound of the splashing water and rush of wings because there were just so many birds and it was so calm! Dozens of **Spoonbills**, hundreds of other egrets and herons and huge numbers of waders included at least one hundred **Wood Sandpipers**, probably three times as many **Ruff** (all females!), **Little Stints**, two each of **Black-winged Stilt**, **Greenshank** and **Turnstone** and about ten **Curlew Sandpipers**. A pair of **Gull-billed Terns**, masses of **Yellow-legged Gulls**, two brief **White-winged Terns**, a single **Crane** and a whizz-by male **Golden Oriole** were just some of the species noted in a ninety minute watch here. With the day ebbing away, we made one more stop overlooking the marshy pools back towards Megalachori. Among the islands of reedmace here our target was **Little Bittern** and we saw three males really well, plus a bonus drake **Ferruginous Duck** to boot. It had been a simply brilliant days birding!

THURSDAY 2ND MAY – *Sunny spells and light winds, 24C*

A spectacular treat was in store for us this morning as we joined local birder and boatman Nikos for a 3hr boat trip on Lake Kerkini from Mandraki harbour. Reaching the harbour just before 0830, we boarded the boat to a backdrop of **Golden Oriole** and **Great Reed Warbler** song, and were soon heading out through the reeds to the first island of willows that contained the nests of **Spoonbills** and **Pygmy Cormorants**. The theme of the trip was close-up sightings, and numbers – both of which were quite mind-blowing! We saw several feeding frenzies of literally thousands of **Great Cormorants** and **White Pelicans**, the water boiling with the splashing of the hungry birds, and fish

being driven to the surface. The edge of the lake was lined with every European heron, waiting to snatch any small fish loitering at the reed edge, and as we glided by we were often just feet away from immaculate **Squacco Herons**, and adult **Night Herons** in pristine plumage complete with single white plume tucked behind their ear! The mouth of the Strimon River was guarded by several hundred **White Pelicans**, looking absolutely splendid in the morning light with their salmon-flushed chests and bright pink orbital skin around the eye. **Dalmatian Pelicans** were less plentiful and also less gaudy, being at the end of their breeding season now and with several fully fledged young already on the wing.



Feeding frenzy on Kerkini Lake

We passed the nesting island where both species could be compared side by side – despite the efforts of bird flu, halving the Dalmatian colony here, we still saw good numbers of young which was great. Heading to the vast open water of the lake we had marsh terns as a target now, and we weren't to be disappointed. After passing six perched **Whiskered Terns** on low posts in the water, we reached a feeding flock of some 200 **Black Terns** and **White-winged Terns** mixed together. Cutting the boat engine we drifted through them, listening to their calls on the morning air and watching them nab flying insects either side of us in perfect light. What a sight!! A single first-summer **Little Gull**, followed later by two pristine adults, also flew among them. We then made our way back through the scores of Great Crested Grebes to the river mouth itself, where a **Marsh Harrier** was hunting and flushing the 200-strong flock of migrant **Ruffs** and the odd **Wood Sandpiper**. A pair of superb **Spur-winged Lapwings** were resting here too, and again dozens of **Squacco Herons** lined the banks. We returned to harbour via more nesting herons and cormorants, mesmerised by what we had experienced!

Coffee back at Mandraki harbour allowed everyone in the group to see a Golden Oriole at last, having heard loads, as a male was flitting about among the poplars by the parking area. Onwards then, and a total change of scenery as we headed to the Bulgarian border at Promochonas to look for **Middle Spotted Woodpecker**. It took us about ten seconds after getting out of the van to see one,

but despite trying hard for better views we only managed 4-5 quick flight views. We did better in the nearby hillside, where old sand quarries had become overgrown with scrub and now used by beekeepers. A quiet but hard scratchy song alerted us to the presence of an **Olive Tree Warbler**, a tough bird to come by, though again it was flight views only for this one as it refused to sit nicely for us. While searching, we scoped **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** and **Woodchat Shrike** though, so it wasn't all bad.



Western Rock Nuthatch

Sidirokastro next, and we were about to drive up to the Byzantine castle ruins when we saw a group of German birders looking up at the cliff face in the town. Stopping to speak with them, they showed us the nest of a **Western Rock Nuthatch** and we had excellent views of a pair coming and going to the hole. This would have been our main target at the castle so we saved a bit of time and headed straight on instead to the quarry up the road. It was quieter than hoped for here but we did add a **Peregrine**, excellent views of **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear** and our first flock of **Alpine Swifts**. Another tip-off from other birders then saw us retrace our route a bit to look for a pair of **Masked Shrikes**, which we duly found by a quiet road junction. We watched the male bird plucking fluff from a caterpillar nest in a pine, taking it to add to its own construction nearby, while the female watched on – stunning birds!

Our day was ended in some style with a 'quick' stop on the road up to our village, Ano Poroia. In the open farmland we spotted a ringtail harrier quartering and so pulled into a farm track so we could get out and use the scopes. The bird – a cracking female **Montagu's Harrier** – then flew right past us, before flying on under a set of wires which held five dapper Red-footed Falcons! Two **Lesser Grey Shrikes** were spotted in the same area and two **Quail** called from the fields too. We capped things off with perched views of a male **Black-headed Wagtail**, and singing **Black-headed Bunting** – the variety and abundance of quality birds we'd seen today would take some beating!



Female Montagu's Harrier

FRIDAY 3RD MAY – *Breezy day with thunderstorms, 20C*

Today we made a longer drive, down to the coast to the west of Thessaloniki to search primarily for shorebirds. The drive of about one hour twenty took us through rolling open countryside with scattered trees and scrub, somewhat reminiscent of Extremadura in Spain. And this similarity was borne out by an impromptu roadside stop for one of our birds of the day, a superb pair of **European Rollers** which were perched on roadside wires. Thankfully there was a handy turn off where we could pull over and scope the birds before they flew off down the valley. We took a short walk up a farm lane to see if we could relocate them, and ended up with some great scope views looking down on them as they perched above a sand cliff. The rest of the journey was without further stops, though we passed scores of Corn Buntings on the wires along the way!

Kalachori lagoon would be our destination for the entire morning, and while the first section we accessed was bone dry, it did at least house a pair of **Stone Curlews** which showed really well! **Pallid Swifts** were seen overhead, and once we hit the coastal track and turned east, we added several **Greater Flamingoes** and **Pygmy Cormorants**. A **Little Owl** was perched sentinel on a stone gate and several **Little Terns** were seen flying along the fringe of Thessaloniki Bay. We then set about getting stuck into the flocks of migrant shorebirds which were using the saline lagoon as a motorway service station on their long slog up to the arctic tundra from Africa. **Curlew Sandpipers** stole the show, with at least two hundred mainly in brick red summer plumage, but **Little Stints** were a close second – not all were summery yet, but there were one or two that appeared almost day-glo orange in the strong light! The **Ringed Plovers** passing were of the smaller and darker *tundrae* race, scurrying cheek-by-jowl with the resident **Kentish Plovers** which showed really nicely. We edged along the cycle track

that bisects the lagoons and drunk in more close views of the ferruginous Curlew Sands, plus a dapper **White-winged Black Tern** and lots of smart **Ruff** and **Dunlin**.



Pygmy Cormorant

Next we continued east along the track to explore the far end of the main lagoon and subsidiary pools. A massive thunderstorm was approaching from the west, blacking out the snow capped peak of Mount Olympus and depositing first a flock of fifteen **Black Terns** from the charcoal sky, and then a **Black Stork** and eleven **White-winged Terns**! We scoured more waders, noting the odd **Wood Sandpiper**, **Greenshank**, three **Black-tailed Godwits** (surely of nominate race *limosa*) and a whopping 50 **Spotted Redshanks** (all in summer plumage). A flock of **Little Gulls** danced over the water too, including a full adult with velvet black underwings, and about a hundred Swallows were flitting low over the ground grabbing what insects they could before disappearing on their way north ahead of the storm. The rain amazingly missed us, for which we were very grateful!

Lunch was eaten along the rough track west towards the Axios Delta, where we were joined by lots of **Black-winged Stilts** and a few **Little Stints** and **Greenshanks**. The wind was whipping across the bay and clearly still depositing migrants, with a **Dalmatian Pelican** battling 'in-off' and a cracking male **Black-headed Bunting** in a lone trackside tamarisk. It was already 3pm now though, so we opted against negotiating the track any further and instead headed inland, to a small reservoir near Polykastro. It was warmer here, away from the wind on the coast, and among the fields and scrub bordering the reservoir we had great views of a pair of **Red-backed Shrikes**, a small flock of **Lesser Kestrels**, **Hobby**, **Black Stork**, **Cattle Egret** and a female **Levant Sparrowhawk**. Another raptor which drifted in overhead turned out to be a very smart **Long-legged Buzzard**, and we also saw a distant **Short-toed Eagle** too. The reservoir itself held dozens of migrant **Black Terns** dipping over the water,

while there were quite a few ducks here as well – Gadwall, Pochard and three **Ferruginous Ducks**, plus at least three **Garganey**. There were a load of **Squacco Herons** in the wet grass at the far end of the res, and we picked out a **Green Sandpiper** among several **Wood Sandpipers**, **Greenshank** and **Spotted Redshank**. Two **Syrian Woodpeckers** in the trees close to where we had parked were our last action of the day, before we made the hour-long trip back to base.



Little Owl

SATURDAY 4TH MAY – *Rain clearing to sunny spells, 20C*

We had to switch our plans round today as we awoke to heavy rain in Ano Poroia, and so our thoughts of heading up into the mountains above Serres were put on hold for now at least. Instead we dropped down to the ‘water trough fields’ below the village again first, and already here we were just out of the rain clouds that were hugging the Belles Mountains above. **Red-backed Shrikes** had clearly increased today and we saw four here, plus a fine singing male Black-headed Bunting, singing **Quail**, three **Whinchat**, **Lesser Grey Shrike**, **Lesser Whitethroat** and a brief fly-through male **Masked Shrike**. We then had to weigh up our options, but with rain seemingly clinging to the hills but the sky appearing brighter to the south, we headed for the eastern embankment of Kerkini lake accessed from Megalachori. The first stop by the marshy pools produced **Little Bittern**, two **Purple Heron**, and finally a perched scope view of a **Golden Oriole**, in the trees across the water. There were several in the poplars along the embankment too, and we saw a few in flight whizzing between the trees as we drove along. **Bee-eaters** were ubiquitous, prospecting holes in the embankment all the way along, and we also had good views of **Cuckoo**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Syrian Woodpecker**, lots more **Red-backed Shrikes** and fifteen **Turtle Doves**.

Over the lake itself, White Pelican passage was underway today with several sizeable flocks spiralling up in the clouds and leaving the sanctuary of Kerkini behind as they attempted to cross the Belles

Mountains to Bulgaria and no doubt a final destination of the Danube delta. Water levels on the lake had risen considerably since our previous visit but there was still sufficient wet grassland and shoreline to house a whopping 300 (minimum!) **Wood Sandpipers**, plus large flocks of **Ruff** and a few **Curlew Sandpipers**, **Little Stints**, **Spotted Redshank**, **Greenshank**, **Grey Plover** and **Tundra Ringed Plover**. 44 **Glossy Ibis** were new kids on the block and the young **Crane** seen previously was still present (and by the look of it not going anywhere in a hurry!). What was really interesting was that talking to other birders later, almost all the Wood Sands and Ibis had departed by late afternoon, and had clearly been grounded by the weather. The absolute cream on the cake here and one of the most amazing birds seen on the trip for sure, was a whacky **hybrid Grey Heron x Purple Heron**. The bird was smaller than a Grey, with black crown and white stripes on the face like a Purple, yellow bill like a Grey and body plumage showing features of both. An amazing looking bird!



Hybrid Grey x Purple Heron

Next we visited a heronry away from the lake to the east, where a 'breakaway' from the main drowned forest colony has started up no doubt due to the dying trees. Only a small copse of poplars but amazing to be able to see right into the nests of **Spoonbills**, plus higher up in the trees lots of **Night Herons** and **Pygmy Cormorants**. A single summer plumaged **Cattle Egret** was also seen. The day, as ever, was ticking on so we drove next to the Mavrovouni Hills south-west of the lake to look for raptors while we had lunch overlooking a dry river valley. A **Short-toed Eagle** and **Black Stork** were both seen well, and then two **White-tailed Eagles** flew north up the Strimon towards Kerkin. Further along the track we enjoyed great views of a displaying **Lesser Spotted Eagle**, plus Common and **Long-legged Buzzards** circling together. A **Booted Eagle** was our first of the trip, and four **Hobby** hawked insects over the valley above us – not bad! The best was yet to come though as we piled out of the vehicles to try and locate a singing **Ortolan Bunting**. We found the bird perched and had great views in the scope, but while we were watching it we chanced on an **Eagle Owl** sat at its nest with a

chick beside it! A total fluke and amazing views of this apex predator, always high on the hitlist but never easy to find. We managed to get a bit closer, and could watch the chick looking around and yawning! **Woodchat Shrike** was also seen well here, plus a variety of butterflies including Spotted Fritillary and Black-veined White.



Eagle Owl and chick

We opted to end the day along the west side of the lake, where as well as yet more **Bee-eaters**, **Spanish Sparrows**, **Turtle Doves** and shrikes, we witnessed the gobsmacking spectacle of around 1000 **Black Terns** hawking over the flat-calm water. There were a couple of hundred in the nearest bay with a few **Little Gulls**, but as we scanned out across the vast expanse of the lake we could literally see Black Terns as far as the eye could see. In fairness the true number could have been even higher and was way beyond anything any of us had seen before. As hundreds of hirundines hawked above us we were left astounded by the sheer number of birds here. A **Black Kite** cruised over as we headed for the North-west corner of the lake and our last stop of the day on the embankment near Livadia. **Purple Heron**, **Little Bittern** and a cacophony of **Great Reed Warblers** were here, plus another perched **Golden Oriole**, a few **Sedge Warblers** and a **Zitting Cisticola**. And so ended another tremendous day birding at Kerkini!

SUNDAY 5TH MAY – *Sunny day with light winds, 25c*

A change of scenery today saw us spend most of the time exploring the wooded mountainside up behind Ano Poroia. We kicked off with a **Garden Warbler** singing in the hotel car park before setting off up the wooded stream gully behind the village to look for **Semi-collared Flycatcher**, which breeds here. It didn't take long to locate two singing males in the plane trees along the river, but it took a little longer to get any views of them! The birds have a subtle, quiet song which is hard to hear

above the rushing stream, and they tend to sing from lofty perches, often concealed from view. Nevertheless, everyone in the group ended up with two good turns on the scope at a male and all were satisfied with the views. Common woodland birds such as **Robin, Jay, Wren** and **Blackcap** were also here, plus we had good views of a **Short-toed Treecreeper** and heard a **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**. Taking a different track up the mountainside, we soon found ourselves in open scrubby hillside habitat which jingled to the ditties of **Eastern Subalpine Warblers** and the dry rattle of **Cirl Buntings**. **Red-backed Shrikes** were common too, and we had several excellent views of them perched beside the track. At one spot, we also heard the excitement calls of a **Black Woodpecker**, but unfortunately despite our best efforts we didn't see it.



Red-backed Shrike

A little further up we broke for coffee and added excellent views of a **Honey Buzzard** circling up over the valley, and very distant views of two **Golden Eagles** (which were most probably in Bulgaria!). Birds were increasingly thin on the ground the higher we went, but the beech woodland was beautiful, eventually giving way to an open meadow area on a small plateau surrounded by Alder and pine. Here we added **Firecrest**, heard more **Short-toed Treecreepers** and a plethora of butterflies including **Pearl-bordered Fritillary**. Other than more **Red-backed Shrikes** though, it was quiet, so we started our descent back down to the village.

We were still missing one or two hillside birds and so opted next to return to the beautiful quarry above Vironia. It was really hot now, but this meant more butterflies on the wing at least, including **Southern White Admiral**. A **Levant Sparrowhawk** called from the gulley of plane trees along the stream, but it slipped away quickly and remained hidden. The quarry, as before, was full of **Cirl Buntings, Crag Martins** and **Red-rumped Swallows**, plus the nesting pair of **Ravens** and the subtle song of **Eastern Orphean Warbler**. Walking back down we heard the **Levant Sparrowhawk** again and this time the pair rose out of the trees and began calling and displaying low over our heads – we watched them diving down from a great height and almost floating along on slow, butterfly wing

beats. The show wasn't quite over either as the male perched on a wire next to our vehicles while we were having a coffee – by far and away our best views of the trip of this species!



Levant Sparrowhawk

We didn't have too much time left in the day, as we wanted to try and get back to the hotel a bit earlier so we could get packed ready for tomorrow and then walk up into the main square for a final beer in the sunshine while we did the checklist. We had time for a quick stop at Mandraki though, one of our favourite locations from the trip offering such superb views of the lake in beautiful light. All the usual suspects were seen, such as **Night Heron, Spoonbill, Pygmy Cormorant, Dalmatian Pelican**, eight **Whiskered Terns, Great Reed Warbler** and dozens of **Black Terns**. One bird which should probably deserve special mention to was **Great Crested Grebe** – there were simply colossal numbers here, and on one visit to the east side of the lake we had counted 1700 in one view!! That more or less sums Kerkini up – an incredible abundance of birds, great views of them all and all achieved through easy birding based out of a single, excellent hotel base. We can't wait to come back!

MONDAY 6TH MAY

Today was purely a travelling day as we left the hotel at 0750 for the drive back down to Thessaloniki (another **Roller** seen en route) where we dropped the vehicles and caught our 1155 flight back to London. Even as we boarded the plane, the breeding colony of **Pallid Swifts** were wheeling around the terminal building, bidding us farewell from a superb few days birding at Kerkini.



Eastern Subalpine Warbler



Bee-eater



Night Heron



Cormorants



Black Tern



White-winged Tern



White Pelicans



White Pelicans



White Stork



Red-backed Shrike



Queen of Spain Fritillary



Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Greater Flamingoes



Lesser Kestrel

ORIOLE BIRDING

NORTHERN GREECE - LAKE KERKINI CUSTOM TOUR

30TH APRIL TO 6TH MAY 2024

Species order, names and taxonomy follows - Clements, J. F., T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, D. Roberson, T. A. Fredericks, B. L. Sullivan, and C. L. Wood. 2018. The eBird/Clements checklist of birds of the world: v2018. Downloaded from <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/download/>

#	Common name	Scientific name		30	1	2	3	4	5	
Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)										
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		■			■		■	
2	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		■	■	■		■		
3	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>								
4	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</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	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>								
11	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				■				
12	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					■			
13	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>								
14	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>			■		■			
Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)										
15	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				H		H		
Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)										
16	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>				■	■			
Podicipedidae (Grebes)										
17	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		■	■			■	■	
18	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
19	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>								
Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)										
20	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
21	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			■	■	■	■	■	
22	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		■	■		■	■	■	
23	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
Cuculidae and Apodidae (Cuckoos and Swifts)										
24	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H	■	H	■	H	
25	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>				■	■			
26	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>					■	■		
27	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>		■			■			
Rallidae (Rails, Coots and allies)										
28	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		■	■	■		■	■	
29	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		■	■	■		■	■	
30	Little Crane	<i>Zapornia parva</i>								

#	Common name	Scientific name		30	1	2	3	4	5	
Burhinidae (Thick-knees)										
31	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>					■			
Recurvirostridae and Charadriidae (Stilts, Avocets, Plovers and allies)										
32	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			■	■	■	■		
33	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					■	■		
34	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			■			■		
35	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>				■	■			
36	Grey plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					■	■		
37	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			■		■			
Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)										
38	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					■			
39	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			■	■		■		
40	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>			■	■	■	■		
41	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			■		■	■		
42	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			■		■	■		
43	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>								
44	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			■	■	■	■		
45	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					■			
46	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>			■		■	■		
47	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			■		■	■		
48	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			■	■	■	■		
49	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>								
50	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					■			
Glareolidae (Pratincoles)										
51	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>								
Laridae (Gulls and Terns)										
52	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			■	■	■	■		
53	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>								
54	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				■	■	■		
55	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>			■		■	■		
56	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
57	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>								
58	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			■					
59	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					■			
60	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>				■	■	■	■	
61	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			■	■	■			
62	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				■			■	
63	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
64	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>					■			
Ciconiidae (Storks)										
65	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>					■	■		
66	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
Phalacrocoracidae and Pelecanidae (Cormorants, Shags and Pelicans)										
67	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	

#	Common name	Scientific name		30	1	2	3	4	5	
68	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
69	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>								
70	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
71	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)										
72	Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>								
73	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>			■		■	■		
74	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
75	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			■	■		■		
76	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		■	■	■		■	■	
77	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
78	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>					■	■		
79	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
80	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		■	■	■		■	■	
Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)										
81	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>						■		
82	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)										
83	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			■	■	■	■	■	
84	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		■				■		
85	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>						■		
86	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
87	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				■				
88	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>					■		■	
89	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			■					
90	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>								
91	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		■	■			■		
92	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
93	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>					■	■		
Tytonidae and Strigidae (Owls)										
94	Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>						■		
95	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>								
96	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H	
97	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>					■			
Upupidae (Hoopoes)										
98	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
Alcedinidae, Meropidae and Coraciidae (Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers)										
99	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		■	■			■		
100	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
101	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>					■			
Picidae (Woodpeckers)										
102	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>				■				
103	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			■	■			H	

#	Common name	Scientific name		30	1	2	3	4	5	
104	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>					■	■		
105	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>						H	H	
106	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			■					
107	Eurasian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			■	H		H	■	
108	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>							H	
Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)										
109	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>					■			
110	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
111	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				■				
112	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			■	■	■	■	■	
113	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				■				
Laniidae (Shrikes)										
114	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
115	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>		■		■		■		
116	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>				■		■		
117	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		■		■		■		
Oriolidae and Corvidae (Orioles, Crows, Jays, and Magpies)										
118	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		H	■	■		■		
119	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		■	■			■	■	
120	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
121	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
122	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>						■		
123	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
124	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			■			■	■	
Alaudidae (Larks)										
125	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>								
126	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>					H			
127	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>								
128	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
Hirundinidae (Swallows)										
129	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			■		■			
130	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			■	■			■	
131	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
132	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
133	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	
Paridae (Tits)										
134	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>								
135	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>								
136	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>								
137	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>								
138	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>							■	
139	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		■	■	■		■	■	

#	Common name	Scientific name		30	1	2	3	4	5	
140	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>			■			H		
141	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			H				■	
Sittidae, Certhiidae and Troglodytidae (Nuthatches, Treecreepers and Wrens)										
142	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				■			H	
143	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>				■				
144	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>							■	
145	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>							H	
Scotocercidae and Phylloscopidae (Bush and Leaf Warblers)										
146	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H	
147	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>							H	
Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)										
148	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>		H	■	■	■	■	H	
149	Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>				■				
150	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		H				■		
151	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>								
152	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		■	H	■	H	■	■	
153	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			■	■			■	
154	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>								
155	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>			■				H	
156	Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>			■	H			■	
157	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>			H					
158	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			■		■	■	■	
Regulidae (Kinglets)										
159	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>								
160	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>							■	
Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)										
161	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			■			■	■	
162	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>							■	
163	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H	■	■	■	■	■	
164	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>								
165	Semi-collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>							■	
166	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>								
167	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>								
168	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>								
169	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			■	■			■	
170	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		■	■			■		
171	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>								
172	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>								
173	Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>			■	■			■	
Turdidae and Sturnidae (Thrushes and Starlings)										
174	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>							■	
175	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				■		■	■	

#	Common name	Scientific name	30	1	2	3	4	5	
176	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>							
177	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		■	■	■	■	■	
	Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)								
178	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>						■	
179	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			■	■	■	■	■
180	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				■			
181	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>							
182	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>							
	Fringillidae (Finches)								
183	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			H	■		H	■
184	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>							
185	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		H	■	■	■	■	■
186	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					■		
187	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■
188	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>				■			
	Emberizidae (Old World Buntings)								
189	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>				■	■	■	
190	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■
191	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>							
192	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		■	■	■		H	■
193	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>						■	
	Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)								
194	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■
195	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		■				■	
196	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■
197	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>							
#	Additional Species	Scientific name	30	1	2	3	4	5	
198	Rose-ringed Parakeet			■					
199	Honey Buzzard				■				■
200	Crane				■			■	
201	Gull-billed Tern				■				
202	Common Ringed Plover						■	■	
203									
204									
205									
#	Other wildlife		30	1	2	3	4	5	
1	Red Admiral								
2	Holly Blue								
3	Painted Lady								
4	Lesser Spotted Fritillary								
5	Small White								
6	Hermann's Tortoise								
7	Grass Snake								
8	Dice Snake								

[illegible]