



ORIOLE BIRDING



TOUR REPORT

LESVOS — JEWEL OF THE AEGEAN
MAY 2019

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SATURDAY 4TH MAY – Kalloni Saltpans and Alykes wetlands

Overcast and cool with light showers, moderate SW winds, 17C

And we're back in Lesvos! After a few year's absence, we're really happy to be returning to this magical isle once again, where the week ahead will surely feature some superb birds. Our tour started rather early, with participants leaving Manchester and Gatwick airports before sunrise, ready to arrive at Mytilini Airport on Lesvos at around 13:00. Here we all gathered to meet Eleni, our wonderful local ground agent, who took us to a local establishment for lunch before we hit the road, heading for our base at Skala Kalloni in the centre of the island, on the north coast of Kalloni Bay. Our journey across didn't afford any stops, but we did see our first **Hoopoe**, **White Stork** and **Crested Larks** on the way, before checking into Malemi Hotel in Skala Kalloni. A quick turn-around, and we were already watching **Bee-eaters** hawking for food over the neighbouring fields, and Spanish Sparrows nesting in the hotel palms! A Nightingale was also heard from the grounds, before we headed out for a couple of hours' foray towards the Kaloni saltpans, where we enjoyed a nice introduction to the areas birding. Pulling up along the pans, **Crested Larks** were common and singing all over, while a singing **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** entertained us from a prominent perch in a Tamarisk. The pans hosted around 100 **Greater Flamingos** and smaller numbers of breeding **Avocets**, while **Wood Sandpipers** showed superbly well along the channel lining the road. More distantly, around 40 **Ruff** were mobile out on the pans, and a single **Curlew Sandpiper** was picked up amongst them, in full breeding dress. **Black-winged Stilts** shared the nearest channel further along, while around the corner we had extremely good views of 5 **Temminck's Stints**, which despite possessing black mud-caked legs, allowed prolonged observations of their other distinctive features, and even happened to be in the company of a single summer plumaged **Little Stint** for comparison! **Corn Buntings** were singing widely here, while further wader interest was provided by more **Little Stints** further along. A flooded rushy grazing marsh further along held the **White Stork** we had seen earlier, and this again performed wonderfully just off the track, feeding in the wet marsh. A male **Yellow Wagtail** on the bank appeared to be of the Italian race *cinerocapilla*, while other unraced birds were seen in flight. A small group of **Swifts** dropped in and hosted amongst them a single **Pallid Swift** which provided a useful flypast. One of the real treats here were a flock of 5 **Red-throated Pipits** which, on initially looking like they would only offer a vocal flypast, actually circled around, and some dropped in to show off in full view! Superb summer plumaged birds, there were a real delight. Further around the pans, we took a drive along the seaward side of the piles of collected salt. A real treat here was 2 superb male **Black-headed Buntings** which offered themselves up superbly both for the scope and for photos; a species we should see much more of as the week goes on. Towards the end of the track, a large flock of waders was swirling around over the water, and contained at least 6 **Curlew Sandpipers**, with the rest of the flock appearing to consist of mostly **Little Stints**. The water across the main drain here also hosted a mix of **Common** and **Ruddy Shelducks**, the latter a breeding species here. Time had flown past incredibly quickly now, and it was time we headed back to base. Loading up (and only cracking a couple of times to look at the superb close wader flocks) we headed back to the hotel, had a quick turn-around for changing and showers, before then heading into Skala Kalloni, where we had a superb meal at Caprice, reflecting on an exciting start to the holiday, before retiring tired back to Malemi.



Black-headed Buntings were a delight all week

SUNDAY 5TH MAY – Kalloni Salt pans, Alykes wetlands, Metochi Lake and Madaros track

Sunny with cloudy spells, moderate to strong S winds, 22C

Our first full day was a bit of a corker, with a wealth of birdlife and loads of quality! Starting out after breakfast, we made our way round to the Kalloni Salt pans, pausing briefly along a roadside, stopped in our tracks by 3 circling **Black Storks** over a small hillside, which on exiting the van then expanded into a productive pause featuring several **Bee-eaters** visiting a small quarry, a flyby Hoopoe and a singing **Black-headed Bunting** in a tall oak tree! Reaching the pans, we drove along a similar line to yesterday, which proved interesting in showing how much the birdlife changes from day to day. A quartet of adult **White-winged Black Terns** stole much of the limelight hawking for insects and dip-feeding at close range, at one point sharing a scope view with a very confiding **Squacco Heron** which dropped into the drainage channel! Out on the pans, Little Terns and Common Terns were noted, while 2 **Black Storks** were roosting out on the bank, amongst the many Greater Flamingo's. **Temminck's Stints** numbered up to 7, while Black-winged Stilts and Wood Sandpipers were frequent, as were Ruff. A treat along the western track was a **Lesser Grey Shrike** perched up on the telegraph wires, offering instructive views from the van. From here we headed along towards the Alykes wetlands and coastal scrub, where we had a special bird in mind which we knew had taken to holding territory in the area, the scarce **RUFIOUS-TAILED SCRUB ROBIN**. Parking up, we took to scanning the coastal vegetation, hearing **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers** along with the ubiquitous Crested Larks. However, another song reached our ears; more melodic and thrush-like in character. We suspected this was probably our bird, and before long Jo spotted it up in a Tamarisk, singing its heart out! Superb views of this charismatic bird were had, both on song-posts, in full song-flight and also feeding on the ground, cocking its bright orange, white-tipped tail in characteristic fashion; what a star! The area also hosted **Black Headed Buntin**, while the marsh behind held several **Kentish Plovers** and good numbers of Little Stints. Retracing our rout back, a pause at another rich marsh area produced a few Wood Sandpipers and 6 **Red-throated Pipits**, while more Beet-eaters Provided more entertainment in the area. Two more **Squacco Herons** dropped in distantly, and the mixed waded flocks provided us with more superb leisurely views. Nine **White Storks** were enjoyed in a long grass field, before we made our exit from the pans, with the intention of having lunch elsewhere. As usual, a superb start at the Kalloni Salt pans.



Temminck's Stint



White-winged Black Terns and Squacco Heron

Our next stop was the Metochi Lake and surrounding farmland and drainage channels. Driving in along the channel, a juvenile **Night Heron** was a real treat, sat completely exposed and affording super views. Towards the lake turning, a chat with some other birders revealed that a **Little Crake** had been noted nearby recently. A check of the channels didn't reveal the bird, so we headed onto the lake, which provided some excellent all-round birding. A pair of male **Little Bitterns** provided unbroken views throughout, while **Great Reed Warbler** was singing frequently and showing well in the back reeds, outshining sightings of Common Whitethroat, Sedge and Reed Warbler here also! One of the stars here was a brilliant male **LITTLE CRAKE** which skulked amongst the reed bases, occasionally bathing and generally putting on a nice show. Further interest was provided by the birds of prey, with 4 **Eleonora's Falcons** floating over a distant ridge, while **Long-legged Buzzard**, an immature **Montagu's Harrier** and a low-flying **Short-toed Eagle** all added to the feeling of not knowing where to look! With all the excitement, we had almost bypassed lunch, so I brought the van over, and we enjoyed a lovely Greek salad in the company of the above species, plus a fly-in **Squacco Heron**. Leaving the site, we headed into Kalloni where we enjoyed a well-earned Coffee, and for some an Ice Cream, before heading for our final stop of the day, the Madaros track at the top of the Tsiknias River.



Little Bittern at Metochi Lake

The route here, incorporating a nice mix of stream, olive groves, farmland and rocky scrubby hillside, provided a wealth of birdlife. A male **Little Bittern** was noted roosting in the wet channel lining the track, while a **Garden Warbler** in a bramble was a good migrant species to see here. What followed was a bit of a shrike-fest, starting with a very fine male **Masked Shrike** which, after a bit of cat-and-mouse, gave nice views on wires above the olives. A female **Woodchat Shrike** followed in front of the grain silos, and from the cover of the van we were able to watch it adown to 5 meters! A male

Woodchat Shrike was also enjoyed later, while to cap it off, a superb pink-flushed male Red-backed Shrike was also enjoyed in the area, again showing superbly well, though only marginally more appreciated than a subtly beautiful female Red-backed Shrike later. Our first Eastern Black-eared Wheatears were seen in this area, probably consisting of two pairs, and though they were all rather mobile, the males were appreciated in particular. Buntings also featured highly here, though the views were hard to get in the now strong winds. Corn bunting was frequent in song and views, while our first Cirl Buntings were also encountered here, singing and one male in particular showing well in the scopes. Further up the slope we began to hear the short phrases of a Cretzschmar's Bunting singing on the hillside, and managed some nice though distant views of this always much-anticipated species. A highlight at the top however was a pair of WESTERN ROCK NUTHATCHES on the rocky hillside. The pair were full of activity, visiting a nest cavity up here, and bombing back and forth at a rate, though pausing long enough to give fairly nice scope views. They disappeared sharpish however as a low-flying Short-toed Eagle drifted overhead, giving a stunning display! Again, a superbly busy site, which also offered us views of Eastern Subalpine Warblers, a Spotted Flycatcher, a migrating flock of 17 Bee-eaters overhead and a steady passage of Common Swifts, Swallows and House Martins. All in all totally brilliant, and a superb place to rap things up, heading back to Skala Kalloni to get ready for dinner after a superb day of birding. We weren't done however, as a walk into town for dinner at the superb Ambrosia reastarant took us past Aklloni wetland, which hosted 3 Purple Herons, a Grey Heron, 2 Squacco Herons. A nice way to warm up for dinner! Returning later to the hotel, the sound of calling Scop's Owls from the hotel sent us off to sleep, looking forward to tomorrow.

MONDAY 6TH MAY – Kalami Marsh, Achladeri Forest, Napi Vallley (Platania track)

Sunny with cloudy spells, moderate to strong SW winds, 22C

Another cracking varied day on Lesvos, with several highlights and, though arguably a quieter day for birds, just one good sighting after another. Some of us ventured out for a short pre-breakfast walk noting Eastern Olivaceous Warblers, singing Nightingales, a couple of showy Black-headed Buntings and, on the Kalloni Marsh, 2 Squacco Herons and a Great White Egret. An obliging male Eastern Subalpine Warbler singing in a tamarisk was arguably the star here though, allowing scope views. After breakfast, we headed to the eastern end of the pans, making our way towards the extensive Achladeri pine forests, but with a couple of pauses along the way. Our first was to overlook the eastern corner of the pans from the east hide. Several nice bits were seen from here, including 2 Stone Curlews on one of the dividing banks across the pan, keeping company funnily enough with a Eurasian Curlew! A summer plumaged Grey Plover was also present, while at least 2 White-winged Black Terns were hawking over the pools, and 4 Greenshank were also noted. A Great Reed Warbler was singing nearby but wouldn't show, while Black Storks and a pair of Short-toed Eagles showed over the nearby hillside. From here we moved onto the nearby Kalami Marsh and Mesa Pool. A male Black-headed Wagtail (ssp. feldegg) showed well while Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers were on territory. Over the road, Mesa Pool hosted 7 Ruddy Shelduck, a small number of Mallards and a single Little Stint, while a Eastern Black-eared Wheatear was territorial on the nearby rocky outcrop. Moving on, we headed south into the Achladeri forest area, where we would spend the rest of the morning. An abrupt stop on the way was made due to a pair of Alpine Swifts swooping low to the left of the van! Parking up safely on the roadside, we enjoyed superb views of around 4 individuals powering around overhead repeatedly; impressive birds! Our first Raven of the trip was noted on the drive, and we soon arrived in the forest, where we headed down a forest track and parked up in a suitable spot, where from we began our hunt for one of our most sought-after species; the Kruper's Nuthatch. Serin were common and vocal in the forest, while Short-toed Treecreeper were singing frequently and offered some glimpses. A trio of Black Storks headed over high above on migration, while further Alpine Swifts passed through, as did a small number of Red-rumped Swallows. Turtle Doves purred in the pines, but played hard-ball as far a views were concerned, while Spotted Flycatcher also made an appearance. A nice migrant found by Nick here was a Wood Warbler up in a pine top, but the star in the area was undoubtedly a male KRUPER'S NUTHATCH which, initially picked up on call, was located and watched over an extended period as it investigated what

appeared to be a nest cavity, calling all the time, picking at the entrance and frequently peering inside. Perhaps the female was inside on eggs?! We couldn't tell, but the bird performed beautifully for us, and may go far to being one of the birds of the trip (though lets not jump the gun!)



Kruper's Nuthatch showing well!

Finishing up in the forest, we returned north towards the Kalloni Saltpans, where we headed to have lunch overlooking the pools. Black Stork was noted, while waders, while in short supply, included superb close views of **Temminck's Stints**, Wood Sandpipers and Black-winged Stilts, while the odd **Bee-eater** drifted over; we have had less interesting lunch stops! From here we then headed north to spend the rest of the morning in the Napi valley; a superb area for raptors and breeding species. Driving up, we took a short roadside stop to walk a short way along a minor farm road. **Red-rumped Swallows** were seen well and appreciated by all, while the hillsides nearby hosted Steppe Buzzards and also a single **Eleonora's Falcon** which we were able to scope as it hunted down amongst the oaks below, rising up and devouring its prey on the wind in impressively well practiced fashion! From here, we made our way to the Platania track, but not before stopping for a well-needed coffee in Mantamados! Reaching the track, we drove slowly south along the rough dirt road, stopping as we encountered good birds along the way. More **Alpine Swifts** were noted, but the birds on the ground offered the most enjoyment. At least 4 **Western Rock Nuthatches** were noted in two different territories, playing peek-a-boo behind their favoured boulders but sitting up well on occasions. A singing **Woodlark** was seen well, while **Eastern Orphean Warblers** also gave themselves up on a few occasions. Shrikes were represented by at least 6 **Woodchat** and 3 **Masked Shrikes**; delightful as always! Two or three **Sombre Tits** were also discovered, including at least one fledged juvenile, while **Cirl Buntings** were noted frequently and a Common Cuckoo was heard. A frustrating but enjoyable 40 minutes was spent surrounded by the song of at least 2 **OLIVE-TREE WARBLERS** singing from dense cover near the cattle grid, at times within 5 meters. However, try as we might, we couldn't get more than just a glimpse of this much sort-after species, so left feeling these were merely a work-in-progress! A fly-by and briefly perched **Middle-spotted Woodpecker** was fine consolation, though sadly only a couple of us saw it. The valley was superb for other wildlife including wild flowers, insects and also provided our first **Sand Boa** of the trip, and we all agreed that we would like to return again later in the week, perhaps in a morning. Driving back from here, we headed back to the hotel, where after doing our checklists, we headed into town, enjoying the walk past the marshes and harbour (noting Great White Egret and 2 Squacco Herons as we went) and settling into a delicious meal at another one of the great restaurants in the town.





Short-toed Eagle and Woodchat Shrike; frequent encounters had with both of these stunners!

TUESDAY 7TH MAY – SIGRI AREA

Sunny most of the day, moderate W winds, 17C

A cooler day today, with a forecast of rain for most of it tricky to formulate a good itinerary, though careful checking of the rain maps led us to choose to visit the west coast, as the rain belts seemed to commence over Turkey to the east. We needn't have worried however, as not a drop of rain fell all day! We set off east along the Kalloni – Sigri road, stopping along the way at a couple of sites, part to admire the view! Though some great birds were of course noted, including **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear** and **Red-rumped Swallow** at the first, and a wealth of good birds at the second; a roadside area of rocky hillside with a dramatic high outcrop. Pulling off the road, a **Blue Rock Thrush** was seen straight away atop the outcrop singing, while a second male was competing and a female was nearby. A pair of **Crag Martins** were swooping around the pinnacle, while the wheezy Rosefinch-like calls of **Rock Sparrows** translated into a couple of good scope views. **Red-rumped Swallows** were always on show here also, while **Cirl** and **Cretzschmars Buntings** were also noted, along with **Subalpine Warbler**. A top stop! From here we pushed on to Sigri, where a comfort and coffee stop was combined with a scan of the sea beyond the harbour and offshore islands. A steady stream of **Yelkouan** and **Scopoli's Shearwaters** were passing, no doubt pushed in by the westerly winds, and we made to improve our sightings later in the afternoon. From here, after navigating Sigri's narrow streets, we made our way to Sigri Old Sanitorium; an area of cultivated trees along a river valley, amongst uniform hillsides of Mediterranean scrub; an oasis for migrant birds! A pause on the way was necessitated by a flock of **Bee-eaters** hawking over some gardens giving great views. Reaching the sanitorium, **Corn Buntings** were common, while a **Spotted Flycatcher** was hawking amongst the Almonds. **Black-headed Buntings** were noted throughout, but the small fig grove and animal paddocks offered the real quality, producing 2 **Golden Orioles**, a single female **Barred Warbler**, 3 **Whinchats**, several **Eastern Orphean Warblers** and numerous **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers**; a brilliant haul! Overhead we enjoyed sightings of up to 3 **Eleonora's Falcons** and a **Short-toed Eagle**, while a calling **Tree Pipit** and several moving **Yellow Wagtails** were also noted. Several migrating flocks of **Bee-eaters** completed the scene, and made for a superb visit.

From here, we then headed north to the Faneromeni river and associated cultivations the other side of Sigri. We had lunch on Faneromeni beach, where closer and very instructive views of the streams of **Yelkhoun** and **Scopoli's Shearwaters** were had. Certainly, a great way to enjoy a Greek salad! Finishing lunch, we explored the mix of stream valleys and orchards of the area. An astounding feature here was the presence of at least 200 **Bee-eaters**, literally in every field and so close at times. We literally stopped pointing them out by the end of the afternoon! Shrikes here included a couple of **Masked** and **Woodchat Shrikes**, as well as 3 **Red-backed-Shrikes** including 2 smart males, and the streams hosted a single **Common Sandpiper** and around 9 **Spotted Flycatcher**; all migrants attracted to the rich habitat. Driving back along the lane, we flushed 5 **Golden Orioles** from the roadside trees which flew across the fields and bounded from fig tree to fig tree; delightful! We finished off the afternoon looking for the long-staying **SPUR-WINGED PLOVER** and, with some good directions from some French birders we met, we found it roosting on the shore of an enclosed bay, roosting

there and allowing us to watch it at leisure; a really smart plover! By now, time had flown, and with a 1hr20min drive home ahead, we hit the road, having had another superb day of birding.



Spur-winged Plover near Sigri



Awesome numbers of Bee-eaters were around Sigri today!

WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY – Parakila, Kavaki, Paresma reservoir, Kalloni watchpoint, Kalloni Salt pans

Sunny most of the day, brief heavy morning shower, light N winds, 19C

Another fine day today, particularly with the winds dropping, and ideal for us to venture to the north of the island for the first time this week. First of all, following a tip-off at the breakfast table from some visiting birders of an **Olive-tree Warbler** site, we headed west of Skala Kalloni to an area of olive groves near Parakila. entering the groves, we were stopped abruptly by the appearance of an eagle high over the van. Bins up, it looked like a **LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE**! Overall impression of an all-dark, fairly small eagle, with ample hand and fairly small head gave the 'spotted eagle' impression, and we could rule out Greater Spotted Eagle by the dark flight feathers contrasting with light coverts (the opposite with Greater Spotted), distinct pale patch at the base of upper primaries and, on reviewing of the photographs, a short 7th primary (long in Greater). An awesome and entertaining bird to start the day with! From here we walked along the lane, and enjoyed a pair of **Middle Spotted Woodpeckers** feeding young in the nest in a dead poplar. **Masked Shrikes** were abundant, with up to 5 noted including a pair nest building in the olives. Our main quarry, the **Olive Tree Warblers**, were noted in song on both sides of the road, with 2 individual birds present. They are such difficult birds to get a view of in the thick olive canopy, as they don't move for long periods,

so a brief hovering view of on was what we had to make do with in an hour of trying; still one to improve on! We then headed back to the van, and continued north towards Petra, where we had a quick coffe in a seaside café before heading to Kavaki headland, in search of a very rare Lesvos breeder. Reaching an area of coastal Garrigue beside the road, we saw a **Peregrine** perched up beautifully on the cliff edge, and a **Blue Rock Thrush** which posed for us. A brief **Western Rock Nuthatch** with food was less obliging, only showing for a few seconds, but our next quarry put on a superb show. After a bit of a wait, a male **RUPPELL'S WARBLER** appeared above the road, singing for a bit before disappearing, though everyone did see it. However, with a bit of patience, we picked it up again and it flew down to the roadside scrub and put on an awesome 30 minute show down to 5 meters, singing and showing incredibly well! The song was enjoyable to listen to and break down, noting the subtle qualities which make it distinctive; dry house sparrow-like rattles and some sweeter notes, all a little slower, less frantic and more complex than **Eastern Subalpine Warbler**, which was also present. **Short-toed Eagle** was noted above the ridge here also, adding to the already superb selection. Having filled our boots, and with lunch calling, we packed up and headed to our next destination for the afternoon.



Masked Shrike and Lesser-spotted Eagle; the latter an island rarity

This next site was Paresma reservoir. Our arrival here started well, as on approaching the reservoir a number of birders along the road alerted to a **ROLLER** perched up on the ridge to our right! We knew the bird had been seen her, but it was great to be directed towards it so quickly! Enjoying good settled views, we then made our way along to the reservoir, where some of the main interest came from the air, with an **Eleonora's Falcon** and **Peregrine** noted overhead, followed in dramatic fashion by a pair of superb **GRIFFON VULTURES** which put up all of the **Yellow-legged Gulls** on the res, circled and then drifted off to the north. Superb, and rare birds on the island! After finishing our lunches, we took a walk up the lane, noting calling **Turtle Doves** (but not seeing them, though we did see one later on the drive south), a single **Red-backed Shrike** and several **Eastern Subalpine Warblers** in the bushes. Back to the van, we headed south and stopped at the Kalloni watchpoint, to look for more raptors. The passerines here stole the show really, with **Western Rock Nuthatch**, **Chretzschmar's** and **Cirl Buntings** and a nesting pair of **Eastern Black-eared Wheatears** all performing well close to the viewing area. However special mention must go to a **Long-legged Buzzard** which was perched on nearby rocks as we arrived, affording our best views yet before a

Steppe Buzzard disturbed it! The raptors were all quite distant, but did feature a single Sparrowhawk and a pair of very distant circling Honey Buzzards over the far ridge, along with Short-toed Eagles and several Ravens. From here we then nipped into Kalloni to check an area of Eucalyptus trees famous for hosting roosting Scop's Owls amongst their branches. It didn't take long to find one, sitting out in the open in the sun, and affording some of the best daytime views any of us had ever had! Delightful! A pair of Middle-spotted Woodpeckers were busy feeding young in nearby trees to add to the appeal of the site. With time ticking on, we still had time for one last visit to the salt pans before retiring to the hotel. This proved worthwhile, as we found a single Whiskered Tern out on the pans which provided really super flight and roosting views. A Lesser Grey Shrike was present on the southern marshes, while Temminck's and Little Stint, Greenshank, Common and 2 Curlew Sandpiper were also noted. From here we headed back to base, where after some chill time, we met in the lounge to do our checklists, enjoying reviewing back over what had been a really superb day, before heading into town for dinner.



The regular Kalloni Scop's Owl was a delight

THURSDAY 9TH MAY – Ipsilou Monastery, Petrified Forest and East River

Sunny all day, dry, light winds, 22C

A pre-breakfast run out to the west river at 06:30 in beautiful early morning light included sightings of 3 Flamingo's over Kallonis bay, 9 Little Stints, our first 3 Ringed Plovers of the trip, a calling Stone Curlew, 2 Whinchat, a few Black-headed Buntings and a showy Black-headed Wagtail. From here we made our way out from the Malemi hotel, to spend most of our day out west at Ipsilou monastery and the surrounding areas. Our journey was punctuated by a stop for a showy Turtle Dove on overhead wires, while Masked and Woodchat Shrike were noted during the journey also; typical roadside fare here! Reaching the foot of Ipsilou, we paused at the top of the ridge and got out to search on foot for some of the area's specialities. We didn't have to search long before encountering our first breeding Isabelline Wheatears, enjoyed as they song-flighted with distinctive downward-bent wings and mimicry-filled song! Northern Wheatears breed in the area also, and were evident also, in the company of the ubiquitous Black-eared Wheatears; any 3-wheatear day is a good day! A Woodlark was singing and showing constantly here, while recently fledged young were also nearby, while an isolated oak tree hosted Pied Flycatcher, a Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Eastern Olivaceous Warbler; all rather busy! A Peregrine shot past, and four Eleonora's Falcons were hawking over the ridge nearby, before we headed a little further up towards the base of the monastery. Walking again, we were able to take in some superb birdlife, not least the song and great views of the special CINEREOUS BUNTING; one of the islands very special breeding birds. At least

6 singing males and a calling female were noted here, so a very good haul. A **Western Rock Nuthatch** was noted on the lower slopes, as was a male **Blue Rock Thrush** briefly, while about a dozen **Alpine Swifts** chattered away overhead. Two Sparrowhawks which shot by were the subject of interesting discussion; at the time we decided both were probably Eurasian Sparrowhawks, but reviewing our photos, we discovered that one was a 2nd year **LEVANT'S SPARROWHAWK**! A very educational bird. From here we walked around the corner, and enjoyed exploring the oak woods here, which were full of migratory birds. Predominantly **Wood Warblers**, I was a bit of a feast to observe, but amongst them we also found Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Common Whitethroat to add some variety. Superb! From here we headed up to the monastery proper, where we enjoyed our lunch in the company of **Red-rumped Swallows** and a brief **Western Rock Nuthatch**.



Cinereous Bunting and Levant's Sparrowhawk; two stars at Ipsilou Monastery

After lunch, we took a drive along towards the petrified forest reserve, crossing open areas of wide open rocky hillside. A barren landscape, but not without interest! Wheatears of all three species were noted, while **Cretzschmar's Buntings** and **Cirl Buntings** provided a further soundtrack. We stopped abruptly as a Balkan Green Lizard dashed across the road in front of us! A little further on, another **Eleonora's Falcon** shot over, and a **Long-legged Buzzard** gave a superb flyby, before he retraced our tracks to begin the journey back to Kalloni. This was stopped again by the presence of a **Chukar** and a brood of about a dozen chicks sheltering on the side of the road! We hoped to encounter this species here, but not in such circumstances! The journey back took about an hour and 15 mins, but was punctuated as a 'dueee' call through the window; **Rock Sparrows**! A pair of birds were entering nest cavities in a cliff formed by road excavations, and allowed us to watch them and get superb views! On arriving in Kalloni, we took a well appreciated comfort stop and coffee at a café in the town, overlooked by the nesting **White Stork** on a telegraph pole! Finishing up, we headed to the East River, where we had time to slowly drive the bank. Along the river course, we noted 2 **Squacco Herons** (one capturing and eating a large Tree Frog!), several Little Ringed Plovers and a **Black-headed Wagtail**. A singing **Nightingale** showed extremely well in a eucalyptus, while Cetti's

Warblers, Reed Warblers and Eastern Ollys all sang frequently. The Olive groves hosted **Woodchat** and **Masked Shrike**, while 3 **Turtle Doves** were seen on the far bank. A final treat was a roosting **Little Owl** on a rundown barn on the far side of the river, before we headed into Skala Kalloni and back to base. Another superb and varied day birding.



Cretzschmar's Bunting and Rock Sparrow

FRIDAY 10TH MAY – Kalloni salt pans and Napi valley

Sunny all day, dry, light winds, 22C

Our last day on Lesvos, and after such a successful week, it was a question of what would we like to do as a final birding act. Looking back, one of our favourite sites from the week was the Platanea track at the top of the Napi valley, with its superb suite of breeding species amongst oak and olive woodland and wildflower fields, whilst also offering an opportunity to see **Olive Tree Warbler** better; the species we have struggled to see most. So, this was our main plan, but before tackling this site, we headed to the Kalloni pans. **Black Stork** gave a close flyby, while a flock of 13 **White Storks** in a nearby field took flight and showed in impressive fashion. Working around the pans, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Ruff**, **Black-winged Stilts** and the ubiquitous **Greater Flamingos** were noted; the latter totalling over 300. **Curlew Sandpiper** was noted distantly at the entrance to the salt pans processing plant, while around the back a **Whinchat** was along the fenceline. On to Alykes wetland, the mudflats were quiet, though **Ruddy Shelducks** were appreciated as always. However, the star here was a repeat encounter with the singing **Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin**, holding its territory and showing superbly! Great to revisit this little showman, and such a characterful bird.



The Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin – what a star!

Out of here, we then made our way up to the Napi valley, stopping for coffee in the attractive central square in Agia Paraskevi, and also further up for a circling **Long-legged Buzzard**. Pulling into to the Platania track (passing it first, as the turning onto it is too sharp to manage from the south) we made our way slowly along the valley side, pausing as we progressed to take in the areas bird and wildlife. The upper reaches were windy and exposed, so fairly quiet birdwise, though our first stop produced some superb entertainment. A pair of very active **Western Rock Nuthatches** were buzzing back and forth across the track and showing extremely well on oak trees, walls and fences. At least one was a fledged juvenile, so explaining the vocal and confiding nature! A brilliant find here was an active **Hoopoes** nest hole, where we observed the parent visiting the hole on 2 occasions, feeding a well-grown chick which sat with its head poking out waiting to be fed! A party of **Sombre Tits** were also seen briefly here, while **Eastern Subalpine Warblers** and **Black-eared Wheatears** were also enjoyed. Moving further down the track, we reached the lower reaches of the hillside, where we found ourselves sheltered from the wind and in very pleasant sunshine; a perfect spot to have lunch and also to search for the elusive **Olive Tree Warbler**. Some discipline was required to eat one's lunch (discipline which some lacked!) as **Olive Tree Warbler** song met our ears almost immediately! However after getting through most of our Greek salad, we commenced a concerted search for this incredibly difficult bird; a species which sings from deep cover. A couple of glimpses of the bird moving from tree to tree, revealing its characteristic gliding into cover habit, and some frustratingly difficult scope views of bits of the bird were what we achieved in about an hour of trying, though a singing male **Masked Shrike** provided frequent distraction. Conceding defeat with this bird, we took a short meander down a wild-flower slope where other **Olive Tree Warblers** could be heard singing, and this was where we got really lucky. Down at a small wall and fenceline, we had a brilliant display from 2 **Olive Tree Warblers** entering the base of an old olive tree, taking food from there on several occasions and flying off with it, showing uncharacteristically well in the scope, showing their tail bobbing behaviours and giving up all their plumage details, leaving us extremely pleased after our earlier efforts! Back up the slope, a **Middle-spotted Woodpecker** was calling from an old oak, while **Cirl Buntings** provided a further soundtrack as we made our exit. Driving back towards Kalloni, we had time for a final pause at the north-east end of the saltpans. From the hide, the light was really harsh, though we could see about 30 **White-winged Black Terns** hawking over a distant pool, and with them 2 **Black Terns**; our first of the trip. A highlight further along the track bordering the pans was a **Black Stork** which was hunting in a small pool, allowing us to approach very closely, watching for about 15 minutes before it made its exit. A couple of male **Black-headed Wagtails** were in the meadow here also. Time was running on, but we made time to quickly nip along the western track, just to check for anything new in. We were pleased that we did, as with superb light behind us, we enjoyed an awesome display from a trio of summer plumaged **Whiskered Terns** which fed with **Common** and **Little Terns** in the roadside channel, passing us repeatedly down to 5 meters; simply stunning! A fantastic way to end a great last days birding on the island, and was followed up again by another really nice evening in Skala Kalloni, eating in a local taverna, as we have all week.



We finally got great views of Olive Tree Warbler!



Western Rock Nuthatch strutting its stuff!

SATURDAY 11TH MAY – Kalloni salt pans and Cape Lena near the airport
Sunny, dry, light winds, 22C

Waking up on our last day on Lesvos, we checked out and said our farewells to the Malemi Hotel staff, loaded up the minibus, and headed off. Our departure time meant we had 40 minutes to play with before needing to hit the road proper, which we spent enjoying the salt pans in the company of 9 **White-winged Black Terns** feeding on small fry in the roadside channel, again at fantastic close range in the company of good numbers of Common and Little Terns. Jo picked out a fly-through **Montagu's Harrier** in the company of a female Marsh Harrier, as they drifted through to our west, while **Black Stork** again gave close views. Waders were low in number as they have been most of the week, but did include single **Wood Sandpiper** and **Temminck's Stint**, and a Spotted Flycatcher was on a nearby fenceline. Now we needed to head to Mytilini, to drop Dorothy off for her Manchester flight. Saying farewell, we still had an hour before we needed to check in for our Gatwick flight, so we drove down to Cape Lena, about a mile to the south. An area of coastal scrub and overgrown ground gave us our only **Sardinian Warblers** of the trip, including a very active singing male, while the sea was good value, viewed in style from a beach bar with coffees, watching large numbers of **Scopoli's** and **Yelkouan Shearwaters** gliding over flat seas, and occasionally forming feeding frenzies; an idyllic finale, before heading into the small Mytilini airport, moving through checking and security with ease, and boarding our flight home on time.

ORIOLE BIRDING

LESVOS - JEWEL OF THE AEGEAN

4TH - 11TH MAY 2019

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		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Comments
Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)													
1	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
2	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		x	x	x		x		x	x		
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				x							
Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)													
4	Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>							x				
Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)													
5	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
Podicipedidae (Grebes)													
6	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			x				x				
Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)													
7	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
8	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				x	3	x	4	x			
9	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Cuculidae, Caprimulgidae and Apodidae (Cuckoos, Nightjars and Swifts)													
10	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				H							
11	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>				x	x		12	2			
12	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
13	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>		1									
Rallidae (Rails, Coots and allies)													
14	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			x	x	x			1	x		
15	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			x			x					
16	Little Crane	<i>Zapornia parva</i>			2								

#	Common name	Scientific name		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Comments
Burhinidae (Thick-knees)													
17	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>				3			H				
Recurvirostridae and Charadriidae (Stilts, Avocets, Plovers and allies)													
18	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
19	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		x	x	x		x		x	x		
20	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				1				4	x		
21	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>					1						
22	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>		1	x	x		x	x	x			
23	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>							x				
24	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			x	x		x	x	x	x		
Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)													
25	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				1							
26	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>								2			
27	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>		x	x	x		x		x			
28	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		x				2		x			
29	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		5	x	3		1			x		
30	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		x	x	1		4	x	x	x		
31	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				1	1	1					
32	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				4		1					
33	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		x	x	x		x	1	x	x		
Laridae (Gulls and Terns)													
34	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
35	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
36	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>								2			
37	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			5	x				30	9		
38	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>						1		3			
39	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
Procellariidae (Shearwaters)													
40	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>					x				x		
41	Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>					x				x		
Ciconiidae (Storks)													
42	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			x	x		12	x	x	x		
43	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		1	x	x	x		1	13	x		

#	Common name	Scientific name		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Comments
Phalacrocoracidae and Pelecanidae (Cormorants, Shags and Pelicans)													
44	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			x		x	1			x		
Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns)													
45	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>			3								
46	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		x	x	x		x	x	x			
47	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			3								
48	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			1	x	x	x		1	2		
49	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
50	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>								1			
51	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			x	x	2		x	x			
52	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			x								
Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)													
53	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			1								
Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)													
54	European Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>						2					
55	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
56	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		1		1		x			1		
57	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>			1						1		
58	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>							1				
59	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						x	1				
60	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
61	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>			1	x	1	x	2	x			
Tytonidae and Strigidae (Owls)													
62	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		H				1					
63	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>							1				
Upupidae (Hoopoes)													
64	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		1	x	x	1		H	x			
Alcedinidae, Meropidae and Coraciidae (Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers)													
65	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		4	x	x	200	x	x	x			
66	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>						1					
Picidae (Woodpeckers)													
67	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>			1	1		3	1	x			

#	Common name	Scientific name		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Comments
Falconidae (Falcons)													
68	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		1		x	x	x	x	x	x		
69	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>			4	1	3	x	4				
70	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						3	1	x			
Laniidae (Shrikes)													
71	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			3		2	1	6	x			
72	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>			1			1					
73	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>			1	4	2	6	3	x			
74	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			2	7	3	x	2	1			
Oriolidae and Corvidae (Orioles, Crows, Jays, and Magpies)													
75	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>					7						
76	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x			
77	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>					x	x			x		
78	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
79	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				x	x	x	x	x			
Alaudidae (Larks)													
80	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				1			2	x			
81	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Hirundinidae (Swallows)													
82	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		x	x	x	x	1	x	x	x		
83	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>					2						
84	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
85	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		1		x	x	x	x		x		
86	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Paridae (Tits)													
87	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>				2				x			
88	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
89	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Sittidae, Certhiidae and Troglodytidae (Nuthatches, Treecreepers and Wrens)													
90	Krüper's Nuthatch	<i>Sitta krueperi</i>				1							
91	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			2	4	1	2	1	x			
92	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>				1							
93	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>					H						

#	Common name	Scientific name		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Comments
Scotocercidae and Phylloscopidae (Bush and Leaf Warblers)													
94	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	x	x	x	H	x	H	x		
95	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>				1			5				
96	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>							1				
97	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>							1				
Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)													
98	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
99	Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>				H		x		3			
100	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			x								
101	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			x	H			x				
102	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>			x	H							
103	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>					x		3				
104	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>				x	x		x	1			
105	Rüppell's Warbler	<i>Sylvia ruppeli</i>						1					
106	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x			
107	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>									2		
108	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			x				1				
Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)													
109	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			x	x	11				1		
110	Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>			1					1			
111	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H	H	H	H	H	x	H	x		
112	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>							1				
113	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					3	1	1				
114	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>					4		2	2			
115	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			x		x		x				
116	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>							x				
117	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x			
118	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>							x				
Turdidae and Sturnidae (Thrushes and Starlings)													
119	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>							1				
120	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)													
121	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		x	x	x	x	H	x	x			

#	Common name	Scientific name		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Comments
122	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		1		x	2	x	x	x	x		
123	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>					x						
124	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>		6	x								
Fringillidae (Finches)													
125	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
126	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
127	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					x		x				
128	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
129	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>				x							
Emberizidae (Old World Buntings)													
130	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>		2	x	x	x	x	x	x			
131	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
132	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x			
133	Cinereous Bunting	<i>Emberiza cineracea</i>							7				
134	Cretzschmar's Bunting	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>			x		x	x	x				
Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)													
135	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
136	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
137	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>					x		2				
#	Additional species	Scientific name		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Comments
138	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			x		1		2				
139	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				1							
140	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>					1						
141	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>						1					
142	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>						2					
#	Other wildlife	Scientific name		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Comments
1	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>					x			x			
2	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>											
3	Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>					x		x	x			
4	Eastern Orange Tip sp	<i>Anthocharis sp.</i>											
5	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>											
6	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>							x				
7	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>											

#	Other wildlife	Scientific name		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Comments
8	Levantine Skipper	<i>Thymelicus hyrax</i>											
9	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>					x						
10	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>							x	x			
11	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>					x						
12	Balkan Marbled White	<i>Melanargia laris</i>						x					
13	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>											
14	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>											
15	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>						x	x				
16	Eastern Festoon	<i>Allanastria cerisyi</i>					x						
17	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclus podalirius</i>											
18	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>						x					
19	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>							1				
20	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>											
21	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>							x	x			
22	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>							x				
23	Oriental Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus orientalis</i>							x				
24	Orbed Red-underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>							x				
1	Stripe-necked Terrapin	<i>Mauremys caspica</i>											
2	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>											
3	Sand Boa	<i>Eryx jaculus</i>											
4	Starred Agama	<i>Laudakia stellio</i>											
5	Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>											
6	Common Tree Frog	<i>Polypedates leucomystax</i>											
7	Snake-eyed Lizard	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>											
1	Odalisque	<i>Epallage fatime</i>											
2	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>											
3	Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>					x						
4	Stick insect sp.	<i>Phasmatodea sp.</i>											
5	Praying Mantis sp.	<i>Empusa fasciata</i>											
6	Persian Squirrel	<i>Sciurus anomalus</i>											