

LESVOS
SPRING MIGRATION
ORIOLE BIRDING
2ND - 9TH MAY 2015



TRIP REPORT

Tour Leader
Steve Cale

Participants

Andrew Peel & Toni Menezes
Mike Nicholls
Mo Sibbons
Colin Strudwick
Harry & Heather Rowe

2nd May 2015

The group met up on Saturday morning with the group leader Steve Cale at Gatwick Airport, ready to begin our tour and at 06.45 am we flew to Mytilini, Lesvos. We arrived at 12.15 and the sun was shining. After picking up our mini bus minus any fuel the first thing we had to do was get to a petrol station which we only just managed. Diesel tank filled, we were soon on our way to our base for the week, the Hotel Melemi at Skala Kalloni. We made our way straight to the hotel, checked in, had a very welcome drink of orange juice which the hotel kindly gave us all and then we set off for Kalloni Salt Pans to begin birding. Once at the Salt Pans we soon started to find good birds. We saw our first Ruff in good numbers with around three hundred present, a few Black winged Stilts, one hundred and fifty Pied Avocets and one hundred Greater Flamingos. We were also very pleased with our first Marsh Sandpiper of the trip. A little further on we picked up the first of four Whiskered and at least nineteen White-winged Black Terns that showed exceptionally well. Over the nearby hill we picked up our first Short toed Eagle and a female Marsh Harrier was hunting in the distance. Back in the channel there were twenty or so Wood Sandpipers and we had a very nice fly past from a smart Gull-billed Tern. A tip off sent us down the track that leads to the East River where we were very lucky to have extremely close views of four Collared Pratincoles which were resting on the ground near to the track and making the occasional sortie after a passing insect. I say lucky because after about ten minutes the birds took to the air and were gone. An hour later we picked up another lone bird down at the end of the Salt Pan channel but after this we saw none for the rest of the tour. We also saw three distant European Bee-eaters. As we headed back around the Salt Pans again, we picked up on our first Little Stints and a Temminck's Stint which allowed a great comparison between the two. Another two Marsh Sandpipers were present and these gave much better views, while Black Stork, Purple and Squacco Herons all put in appearances. We got word that the Demoiselle Crane which had apparently been on the island for a few days before our arrival had reappeared in fields near the West River, so we jumped in the bus and headed over to see if we could see it. Luck was on our side and the bird was still present. Although a little way off it gave us nice views. By now it was evening and everyone was ready for a meal and a rest after a long day. Once back at the hotel, we settled into our rooms, had our evening meal and turned in tired but very happy indeed with our first birding session of the tour. A very promising start!

3rd May 2015

No early morning walk this morning as we were all tired from the day before but we were in for breakfast sharp at 07.30 and away on the road an hour later. We drove to the far side of Kalloni town where we made our first stop of the morning to look for Eurasian Scops Owl. We did not have to look at all as a birder there put us straight on to two and while we were there we found a further two birds, all of which sat still and gave brilliant views. We also saw Persian Squirrel quite close. Back on the road and we headed for Ipsilou in the west. We made a roadside stop near Skalohori where we had a male Cirl Bunting and up to six Short-toed Eagles. From here we made our way to the Canyon just before Andissa. A stop for twenty minutes here gave us nice views of a pair of Rock Sparrows, Crag Martin and Red-rumped Swallow, Black-eared Wheatear and more Cirl Buntings. We headed on and another brief stop gave us superb views of a singing male Wood Lark right next to the road. We carried on as far as Mount Ipsilou where we parked the bus. We birded Ipsilou on foot, slowly walking up to the Monastery and back, birding as we went. Cinereous Buntings seemed to be everywhere and we saw at least five different singing males and a female. We had some super views of this much sought after species.

We also had fine views of all three wheatear species we could expect here. Black-eared were common. A fine pair of Isabelline showed well as did a pair of Northern. A Long-legged Buzzard passed over and a fine light phase Eleonora's Falcon showed well. We saw three nice Snake-eyed Lizards and a number of Starred Agamas. Butterflies numbers seemed to be way down this year but we saw Eastern Festoon, Small Copper, Scarce Swallowtail and ten Large Wall Browns as well as fine views of five Sombre Tits. We stopped for lunch a little further towards Sigri and again saw all three wheatear species and a nice Lesser Spotted Fritillary Butterfly. After lunch we drove on to Sigri and spent the rest of the afternoon and early evening birding the tracks and fields as far as the lower ford. The birding was great. We started off by finding a male Pied and then a male Collared Flycatcher and by the end of the afternoon we had seen three male and a female Collared and three female and a male Pied. At least six Black-headed Buntings showed well, as did a dozen Red-backed Shrikes. There were also eight Woodchat Shrikes, twelve European Bee-eaters passed over, and twenty eight Ruddy Shelducks were in a field near the sea. Three Little Bitterns were fishing in the Ford, but the real stars of the afternoon however were a roosting male Eurasian Nightjar at the base of an old tree that sat still watching all the birders trying to get views, and at the same time two male Lesser Kestrels. These however were eclipsed if that is possible by a group of four Eleonora's Falcons that were hunting insects coming off a dung heap at the side of the road. There were three pale and one dark morph birds that came back time and again right over our heads. At times the birds came within five metres of us, so that even the sparkle in their eyes was visible. What an absolutely fantastic sighting. By now it was past 18.00 so, hot and tired, but very pleased with our days birding, we returned to the hotel for our evening meal. On the way back we picked up our first pair of Masked Shrikes for the trip.

4th May 2015

It was a bright, warm and beautifully sunny day today and we made the most of it with an early start. At 06.30 we began birding for the day outside our hotel and walked to the salt flats at the mouth of the West River. Here we saw a lone Stone Curlew which looked to be sat on a nest. A pair of Black Storks flew in and there were three juvenile Greater Flamingos which were unfortunately flushed by a not so considerate photographer. The scrub and gardens nearby gave us excellent views of both our first Common Nightingale and Cetti's Warbler. After breakfast, we headed for the Napi Valley. We made a brief stop at the Garage Pool by the salt pans and had another fine Marsh Sandpiper in with fifteen Black winged Stilts that were clearly nesting here, as well as ten Ruff and a single Wood Sandpiper. Once in the Napi Valley, we soon picked up our first Masked Shrikes of the day which gave super views. Moments later a fine pair of Short-toed Eagles soared in front of us, one perching for a few minutes on bare tree branches before being dislodged by its mate. The main target of the morning was Olive-tree Warbler. We managed to hear one singing, but it would not play ball and we did not see it. We picked up a Common Hoopoe here and several Turtle Doves showed well. We also added Subalpine Warbler and two Cretzschmar's Buntings, although views of the latter were not that good. We back tracked and took a side road west. On this track we found some interesting wildlife. More Masked Shrikes, brilliant views of the Short-toed Eagles again and a pair of Northern Goshawks, the male of which did some display. A very confiding male Eastern Orphean Warbler was singing from the top of a close tree, as well as Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly and a splendid very old large Spur-thighed Tortoise. By late morning it was 32 Celsius so we headed for the town and a very welcome tavern stop. After this we drove to pools at the main road junction near Messa and this was a productive stop. Fifteen Glossy Ibis and six Little Egrets were feeding close to the Road, two Squacco Herons gave fine views and there were 3 pairs of Ruddy Shelducks, one pair of which gave close views. A little further down the road we stopped for lunch by the bridge. Three Grey Herons were in the distance and we added two interesting butterflies in the shape of Brown Argus and Orbed Red Underwing Skipper. After lunch we made our way to the woods at Achladeri. We had only just started our walk when we found a very confiding pair of Short-toed Treecreepers that gave us all good views. A female Eurasian Sparrowhawk flew through and some of the group briefly saw a Eurasian Serin. We walked the track to the stream and here we saw two Odalisque Dragonflies that looked to be males holding territory. We carried on up to the Kruper's Nuthatch nest site, where there were already a good number of people watching the birds bringing in food to the nestlings and taking faecal sacks away.

After we all had our fill of the Kruper's we went back to the bus and drove further south to the Polichnitos Salt Pans where we birded for the rest of the day. There were thirty or so Little Stints and a single very close Temminck's Stint that gave excellent views. Plovers were well represented and we saw eight Ringed, two Little Ringed and two pairs of Kentish. At least five Common Stonechats, nine Greater Flamingos and a smart Black Stork were also present along with a Curlew Sandpiper and a Tawny Pipit on the track which only some of the group managed to see before a car came and spooked the bird. It was getting late so we headed back along the picturesque old coast road to the hotel.

5th May 2015

This morning we started by taking a drive to the Inland Lake. Straight away we were onto a male Little that gave brilliant views – what a start to the day, but it got better as our wander along the lakeside produced a further two male and three female Little Crakes!!!. There was a Sedge Warbler feeding and the reeds on the far side of the lake held at least two pairs of Little Bitterns. We also saw Stripe-necked Terrapin, a Little Grebe, three Common Moorhens and a Common Coot and a couple of Reed Warblers. Back at the hotel, we had our breakfast and were soon on our way to Metohi. Alongside of one of the tracks we found a Western Rock Nuthatch nest. The pair of adult birds were ferrying in insects to feed the youngsters, totally oblivious to us as we sat in the bus and watched them getting excellent views. The only time the birds were bothered was when a Woodchat Shrike suddenly perched in the bush next to the rock upon which the nest was situated. Once we parked the bus we walked a footpath and saw a superb Long-legged Buzzard perched on a huge boulder on the opposite side of the small valley we were in. With the scopes again we had very good views until a passing Yellow-legged Gull started to mob the raptor and drove it away. Here we also saw Swallowtail and Scarce Swallowtail Butterflies along with another Lesser Spotted Fritillary. As we left we passed near to the Inland Lake and had fine views of a soaring Osprey which was quite close to us at one point before it flew way and out of sight. We drove south west along the west coast of Kalloni Bay. On the road overlooking Apothikes we made a stop and had another Long-legged Buzzard, a couple of Woodchats, three more Western Rock Nuthatches and a Black-eared Wheatear. We drove down into Apothikes where we had a brief stop at a lovely little tavern by the sea. On the beach a White Wagtail was feeding and on the mouth of a small stream House Martins and Barn Swallows were collecting mud to build nests. After a quick drink, we walked back up the road to a small pool. On the way were two smart Balkan Green Lizards and at the pool itself a pair of Cretzschmar's Buntings were bathing. There were a few Broad-bodied Chasers and three Red-veined Darter dragonflies around the margins along with a Common Bluetail and a Common Blue Damselflies. After fetching the bus we headed on down the road to Makara. Another small pool gave us Black-headed Bunting and a male Black-headed Wagtail along with a nervous Grey Heron. We took a late lunch break at Makara and then even though it was extremely hot we birded the small river and nearby fields. Once again we saw a male Little Bittern and a Cetti's and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers showed well. We watched a pair of Red-rumped Swallows nest building under the remains of the old bridge and we saw Black-headed Bunting and Red-backed Shrike again. Further up the track we picked up the song of a male Rufous Bush Robin which although it took a while we managed to track down and got nice but brief views. Whilst looking for this bird again we stumbled across a male Thrush Nightingale singing. We played a tape back to the bird and it responded by flying into the bushes around us and singing briefly although we only saw the bird in flight. None the less a good find. There were several Black-eared Wheatears again and a few Alpine Swifts were coming to drink from the stream. Offshore and on the rocks of the nearby island we could see twelve or so European Shag of the Mediterranean race P.a. *desmarestii*. We drove back to the hotel for our evening meal. After we had eaten, as the light was fading we drove a short distance to where we had been told there were some young Long-eared Owls roosting. Almost as soon as we arrived we heard the calls and within minutes we picked up a movement on the ground among the trees of the olive grove into which we were looking. Sure enough there they were, all three of them, on the ground, jumping around and practicing wing flapping and making short flights up into the olives and back. Obviously waiting for mom to bring their evening meals, Excellent!! Before returning to the hotel we also saw a Eurasian Scops Owl in the torch light, one of about three that had started calling as the last glimmers of light faded from the sky. Another super Lesvos day.

6th May 2015

For our early morning birding, we headed to the far end of Kalloni Salt Pans to the Sheep Fields before the temperature became too hot to walk this site. We soon picked up a pair of Greater Short-toed Larks, and had views of the male giving his song flight and of the pair on the ground. The male birds in this part of the world tend to be a little more orange on the crown and warmer toned than the females. As we walked we were obviously disturbing insects and a group of eight White-winged Black Terns kept coming back to hawk insects above us giving very good views indeed. We picked up a pair of Tawny Pipits which everyone saw this time along with five Kentish Plovers and one or two Yellow Wagtails and we also saw, our only Robust Spreadwing Damselfly of the trip. There were seventeen distant Glossy Ibises and frustratingly we had a brief flight only view of a Red-throated Pipit calling as it flew away; we had originally flushed it without realising it was present. Despite the fact that we saw where the bird landed we could not re locate it. As we headed back for breakfast, we watched a fine pair of European Bee-eaters that were starting to dig their nest hole on the bank of the channel. In the nearby wet fields were three Black Storks and a very showy juvenile Purple Heron. After our breakfast this morning we drove to the East River. As we left the hotel we had a very good view of a flying White Stork and a Balkan Green Lizard was on the road. We popped back to the owl site on the way to the East River, where the three young Long-eared Owls were roosting in a small Olive tree. A highlight this morning was when we all stood watching a Penduline Tits nest near the ford with a male bird coming and going. The bird's arrival and exit were speedy to say the least but before it left it would poke its head out of the nest for a few moments giving us chance to see him. It was already very hot and most of us took our boots off and stood with our feet in the cool river water while watching the bird!! There were a couple of Little Ringed Plovers and Common Sandpipers. Three Turtle Doves did a flyby and we had a brief view of a hunting Northern Goshawk. We also had a brief view of a Middle Spotted Woodpecker that refused to land in a tree for us to see. Along the river there had clearly been an arrival of Little Egrets and we counted at least thirty. We returned to the hotel for lunch and a couple of hours downtime before meeting up again in the late afternoon to start birding again. Steve's old friend Peter Swain who we had bumped into joined us for the afternoon and he came with us to Stipsi to show us a Peregrine eyrie that he had been watching for the previous three weeks. As soon as we arrived we saw the female, standing guard on a nearby crag. We also saw four Crag Martins, a pair of Common Ravens and a fine male Blue Rock Thrush. Our early evening stop was at the coastal headland at Kavaki, north of Petra. It took us about twenty minutes to get views of the hoped for Ruppell's Warbler, but had nice views of two males chasing each other around, so well worth the wait. While here we again saw Turtle Doves this time a singing male, a male Sardinian Warbler singing briefly and a male and two female Subalpine Warblers. Also offshore we could see around ten Yelkouan Shearwaters flying by. Occasionally dropping and clumsily plunging into the water after fish prey. All happy with the Ruppell's and the shearwaters we headed for Molivos Harbour in search of gulls. The harbour was virtually devoid of gulls. We searched the swifts for a Pallid but to no avail, so we all retired to a harbour side bar for a much needed beer.

7th May 2015

Our pre-breakfast stroll was to the West River this morning. It was hot and sunny again; another beautiful morning. One of the Stone Curlews was again on the nest this morning, it looked to be incubating and the same male Common Nightingale was singing in full view again. After breakfast we drove to Sigri. We did not stop en route so we were birding at Fanaromeni Ford by a little after 10.00. We birded the river, tracks and fields until 14.30 and were well rewarded. We had cracking views of three Masked Shrikes, one of whom was a female nest building. There were two Olive-tree Warblers singing very close by, but despite a valiant effort we only achieved one brief flight view. There was a juvenile Short toed Eagle, Common Buzzards and a fine male Lesser Kestrel overhead, a Common Greenshank, a Squacco and a Black-crowned Night Heron on the water's edge. A pair of Golden Oriole showed and there were at least 40 Red Backed Shrikes. Over one hundred Black-headed Buntings were in the fields and many were coming to bath in the river. While watching these we saw a male Grey Wagtail, several Yellow Wagtails including a nice male Blue-headed and a smashing female Citrine Wagtail put in a brief visit. Whilst watching the ford we spotted a snake in the water hunting the shallows.

Investigation of the photos has revealed that contrary to our first identification as Grass Snake this was indeed a Dice Snake. Also here the first of three Lesser Grey Shrikes and offshore several hundred Yelkouan Shearwaters were moving. They seemed to have their own one way system as all the birds close to shore were heading south and then after a gap of several hundred meters as many birds in a stream heading north. Most curious! We ate our packed lunch then headed of south east along the old Sigri to Eresoss road. We were hoping for Chukar but despite an extensive search we did not find one. However, en route we picked up some good Cretzschmar's Buntings, a smart Little Owl on an old barn, and a male Collared Flycatcher by the old chapel. We saw a number of shrikes including two more Lesser Greys and a couple of Lesser Kestrels. As the road climbed, we found a nice Long-legged Buzzard and shortly before Eresoss, Andrew spotted a fine pair of European Rollers that gave the group very nice views. Along the way we also saw many more Black-headed Buntings bringing the day total to over two hundred of this species. By the time we reached Eresoss it was evening and we headed back to Kalloni for the night. En route, we made a brief stop to look at a dead Beech Martin on the road side. En route we saw more Eurasian Jays which I have omitted to mention up until now, but in my time on the island I have never seen so many this year, they seem to be everywhere. Peter Swain commented to the same effect.

8th May 2015

Before breakfast we headed to the East River. There were not masses of birds this morning, but we had a few very nice sightings. A single very well marked Temminck's Stint was feeding in the shallows and singing male Rufous Bush-robin was at the river mouth. A lone Lesser Grey Shrike was hunting insects from a field fence line and we also saw both Woodchat & Red backed Shrikes again, as well as two Whinchats. We returned to the hotel for breakfast and afterwards went to Kalloni Salt Pans, where again we had fine views of Temminck's Stint, Marsh Sandpiper, one Whiskered and three White-winged Black Terns. There had been a small arrival of Ruff and Little Stints overnight and we also saw a nice male Kentish Plover. A tip off took us back to the northern end of the channel where we saw a cracking Spur-winged Plover. Here too we saw a male Southern Skimmer Dragonfly. From here we drove to the roadside pools near Messa where there were eight Glossy Ibis and a further four White-winged Black Terns. We drove on to Polichnitos Salt Pans. Once at the pans we found lots of Little Stints - perhaps eighty or more and another two Temminck's, along with four Curlew Sandpipers. After a lunch break we headed up into the hills to the woods above Agiassos. This is a fabulous unspoiled area. Here we only saw a few birds including a European Robin, a female Honey Buzzard and two very large distant raptors drifting away from us which were probably Lesser Spotted Eagles but too far away to be certain it was well worth the effort and the eventful drive back through the town for the wildflowers we found. We also saw Cleopatra Butterfly and two Migrant Hawkers.

9th May 2015

No birding today. Everyone packed & then after breakfast we set off for the airport for our flight back to the UK. All in all this was a very successful and enjoyable tour.

SYSTEMATIC LIST [species seen or heard =H/O]

Little Grebe 1 inland Lake 4th & 1 pool on Eresos track 8th
 Great crested Grebe 1 on sea Kalloni bay 5th & pair same place on 7th
 Yelkouan Shearwater seen off Molivos c 10 on 6th & Sigri 200+ on 7th
 Cormorant 1 adult on 4th & 1 on 8th
 Eurasian Shag seen 3 days max count 10+ Gabrias Island on 5th
 Grey Heron Seen 2 days max count 4 on 4th at Messa
 Purple Heron ad Kalloni Fields On 2nd & 1 immature Kalloni Sheep Fields on 6th
 Black crowned Night Heron 1 Sigri on 7th
 Squacco Heron one or two recorded on 4 days then 4 on the 5th
 Little Bittern seen 4 days max 4 Inland Lake & 1 East River on 5th, then Faneromani Ford on 7th
 Little Egret seen 4 days c20 Kalloni Salt Pans 12th, 11+ same & 9 Kalami 14th & then 9 East River 16th

Greater Flamingo c75 to 100 on Kalloni Salt Pans all week, mostly adults but with a few immature birds present. Also 9 Polichnitos on 4th & 3 scared off by a bird photographer West River on 4th
 Black Stork seen 4 days max 5 on 2nd including 4 immature birds.
 White Stork 1 Pair breeding Skalla Kalloni & 1 pair Polichnitos. Very low numbers this year
 Mallard singles seen 2nd & 4th then a pair on 8th Polichnitos
 Ruddy Shelduck recorded 6 days with max count 28 Sigri in fields feeding after crop cut on 3rd. 3 pairs Kalamí/ Messa marsh area on 4th
 Common Shelduck Seen 4 days max count on 14th 2 Polichnitos 4+ Kalloni Salt Pans & 2 Mesa Gargany seen Kalloni Sheep Field on 2 days Max count 2 pairs + 2 males on 2nd
 Short toed Eagle seen 5 days with 7 probably 8 birds seen in on 3rd. Total involves at least 10 adults & 1 immature suspected breeding at 3 sites
 Marsh Harrier noted 4 days with 3 single females & 1 single male
 Montagus Harrier 1 juv West River heading North early morning on 3rd
 Osprey 1 Inland Lake on 5th
 Common Buzzard seen Daily with max 6 on 2nd. Seems to be increasing
 Long Legged Buzzard 1 probably a female Metochi apparently had 3 young in nearby nest we were told by a reliable source. 1 Ipsilou on 3rd, 1 Near Erosos on & 1 Sigri on 7th also 1 near Apothika on 5th
 Sparrowhawk 1 female Achladeri on 4th
 Northern Goshawk 1 Pair Napi Valley on 4th & 1 East River on 6th
 Common Kestrel singles seen 3 days & 2 west of Erosos on 7th
 Lesser Kestrel very low numbers 2 Sigri 3rd, 4 on 5th Makara & 4 Sigri to Erosos road on 7th
 Garbias/Makara 17th
 Elenora's Falcon 1 Ipsilou & 4 Sigri on the 3rd
 Peregrine 1 pair Sigri & 1 Ipsilou on 3rd also 1 on 6th Stipsi & 1 on 7th near Erosos
 Little Crake 3 males & 3 females Inland Lake on the 5th
 Moorhen seen on 6 days
 Coot 1 at Inland Lake on the 5th.
 Demoiselle Crane 1 in field near West River on 3rd
 Black winged Stilt Small resident population in suitable habitats
 Avocet 150+ resident at Kalloni Salt pans
 Stone Curlew 1 pair on West River 3rd & 1 there 7th. Also 1 at Kalloni Sheep Fields on 6th
 Spur winged Plover 1 Kalloni Salt Pan Channel on 8th
 Ringed Plover seen 3 days highest count 8 on the 4th at polichnitos
 Little Ringed Plover seen on 6 days in small numbers max 5+n 7th at Faneromani
 Kentish Plover 2pr + polichnitos, 5 on 6th at Kalloni Sheep fields & 1 Salt Pan channel on 8th
 Turnstone 2 adults Kalloni Salt Pans on 2nd
 Ruff seen 5 days max count c300 on 2nd Kalloni Salt Pans
 Little Stint seen 5 days in suitable habitat max counts 300+ on 2nd Kalloni Salt Pans
 Temminck's Stint 1 Kalloni Salt Pans 2nd, 1 East River 8th 1 then 2 Polochnitos Salt Pans 4th & 8th respectively
 Curlew Sandpiper 1 Fanoromani 3rd, 1 on 4th Polichnitos Salt Pans & 4 there seen 8th.
 Black tailed Godwit 3 Kalloni Salt Pans on 2nd.
 Spotted Redshank 4 Kalloni Salt Pans 2nd
 Greenshank 1 Sigri on 7th
 Wood Sandpiper common, seen daily biggest counts 30+ on 6th & 8th
 Common Sandpiper 1 seen by on 4th & 2 on 6th
 Yellow legged Gull common seen daily. No accurate counts taken but 200= Polichnitos mainly immature of varying age. Generally many adults foraging indicating a fair breeding population.. Population appears stable or increasing
 Common Tern seen 5 days max count on 10+ on 8th mainly at Salt Pans but probably under recorded
 Little Tern c6 pairs nesting Kalloni Salt Pans, stable here but not seen Polichnitos
 Gull billed Tern 1 Salt pans on 2nd
 White winged Black Tern seen 4 days Max 7+ Salt Pan Channel Kalloni on 12th
 Whiskered Tern 3 days all at Kalloni Salt pans max count 4 on 2nd then singles n 6th & 8th

Rock Dove 3 at Sigri on 3rd & 2 same place on 7th were the only clean looking birds in suitable habitat seen
 Turtle Dove seen 4 days max count 5+ on 7th. Total 15 to 17 individuals O/A
 Wood Pigeon group members saw singles on 2nd & 5th
 Collard Dove widespread, small numbers noted daily
 Great spotted Cuckoo 1 heard only on 7th at Faneromani Ford
 Common Cuckoo H/O on 13th & 17th
 Long eared Owl 3 juvs well feathered Skalla Kalloni seen 5th & 6th
 Little Owl seen 3 days with max count 3 singles on 13th.
 NB Numbers seem to be way down compared to usual. New road work in the west has removed many traditional old buildings in that area that gave nest sites which had been used for years.
 Scops Owl 4+ Roosting Kalloni on 3rd & 1 at Skalla Kalloni on 5th along with several heard only.
 European Nightjar 1 male at daytime roost on 3rd Sigri
 Common Swift Common seen daily
 Alpine Swift seen 4 days max count 8+ Garbias Islet /Makara 5th.
 Bee-eater seen on 5 days max count 12 Sigri on 3rd. Pair digging nest tunnel Kalloni Salt Pans on 6th
 Roller 1 pair seen near Erosos 7th
 Hoopoe singles H/o on 3rd, Napi valley on 4th, 1 above Apothikes on 5th. Numbers worryingly low
 Middle spotted Woodpecker singles seen 3 days flying across in front of bus but no really good views
 House Martin locally common seen daily
 Sand Martin seen 5 days max count 40+ Faneromani on both 3rd & 7th
 Crag Martin seen 4 days max c10 on 3rd
 Barn Swallow common seen daily
 Red rumped Swallow seen daily in small numbers
 Crested Lark common seen daily
 Short toed Lark 1 pair Kalloni Sheep Fields area on 6th
 White Wagtail seen 5 days total 9+ birds
 Yellow Wagtail seen on 7 days in very small numbers, sub sps identified as follows
 Black headed single males seen on 5 days female 1 day
 Blue Headed males seen on 2 days
 Citrine Wagtail 1 female Faneromani Ford on 7th
 Grey Wagtail 1 Male Faneromani on 7th.
 Red backed Shrike noted 6 days max count 40+ on 7th
 Woodchat Shrike noted 4 days max 8+ on 3rd & 7th
 Masked Shrike seen 4 days inc 4 at Sigri with 1 pair nest building 7th & 10+ Napi/Achladeri on 4th.
 Lesser Grey Shrike 3 seen Sigri /Erosos area on 7th & 1 East River 8th.
 Golden Oriole 1 heard Ipsilou on 3rd, 1 male & 1 female seen Sigri on 7th
 Stonechat seen 4 days, most numerous in west with c25 on 7th
 Whinchat 4 seen
 Blackbird Common & widespread in woodlands, seen daily with 12+ on 13th
 Blue Rock Thrush singles seen 3 days
 Collared Flycatcher 4 Sigri on 3rd & 1 male Siri Erosos road on 7th
 Pied Flycatcher 4 sigri on 3rd
 Spotted Flycatcher 2 Sigri on 7th
 Robin 4 males Agiasos on 8th only 1 seen
 Nightingale common & widespread, up to 5 encountered daily
 Thrush Nightingale 1 Makara singing & seen briefly on 6th
 Rufous Bush Robin male singing & females briefly at Makara on 5th, 1 male East River 8th
 Northern Wheatear 2 pairs seen Ipsilou area on 3rd & 1 male on 5th
 Black eared Wheatear common in suitable habitat
 Isabelline Wheatear 2 pairs seen around Ipsilou area on 3rd, plus single on 4th & 7th latter at same site as on 4th
 Cetti's Warbler Common & widespread, encountered daily, mainly heard only but in many habitats
 Zitting Cisticola seen or heard most days in suitable habitat

Reed Warbler seen or heard on 4 days
 Great Reed Warbler 1H/O Faneromani on 7th.
 Sardinian Warbler 1 male singing Kavaki on 6th
 Ruppell's Warbler 2 males usual spot at kavaki on 6th.
 Subalpine Warbler common breeder in oak /deciduous woodland
 Eastern Orphean Warbler Pair seen Napi Valley on 5th obviously holding territory.
 Lesser Whitethroat 1 on 3rd Sigri
 Common Whitethroat noted 1 on 3rd, 2 on 4th & 1 on 7th
 Eastern Olivaceous Warbler common & widespread in suitable habitat
 Olive Tree Warbler 1 male singing Napi on 4th & 2 males singing Sigri 7th H/O. Seen only by leader
 Chiffchaff 2 heard only on 3rd at Sigri
 Penduline Tit 1 male seen going to a nest East River on 6th, probably also a female briefly
 Blue Tit recorded 6 days
 Great Tit Common & Widespread
 Sombre Tit 5 Ipsilou on 3rd; 3 Napi Valley on 4th & 2 Makara on 5th
 Short toed Treecreeper 1 pair Achladeri on 4th
 Western Rock Nuthatch Nesting pair near Metochi & 3 above Apothikes on 5th
 Kruper's Nuthatch 1 pr nesting Achladeri
 Hooded Crow common & widespread in small numbers
 Raven 3 near Filia 2 Ipsilou 15th
 Jackdaw 17 Sigri on 3rd & 12+ Makara on 5th
 Jay common in suitable Habitat, seen daily, much commoner than usual
 Greenfinch ones or twos noted 4 days
 Goldfinch common seen daily
 Chaffinch common in wooded areas
 Linnet seen 4 days mostly in Sigri/Ipsilou area max of 12+ on 15th
 Serin 1 noted only Achladeri on 4th
 House Sparrow Common
 Spanish Sparrow small numbers seen 5 days with nesting noted in White Storks nest Kalloni Church
 Rock Sparrow 1 pair seen in the Canyon on 3rd
 Cirl Bunting common in suitable areas
 Black headed Bunting common & widespread
 Cinerious Bunting 2 noted Ipsilou 15th
 Cretzschmars Bunting common & widespread in upland areas
 Corn Bunting common in suitable habitat, seen daily

Mammals

Persian Squirrel 3 seen
 Red Fox 1 on hillside above Dafia, evening on 6th
 Eastern Hedgehog singles dead on roadside on 7th & 9th
 Beach Martin 1 dead on roadside near Vatousa on 7th
 Bat sp 1 in hotel dining room 6th

Butterflies

Cleopatra 1 female Agiasos on the 8th
 Black veined White only 2 seen both on 5th
 Eastern Dappled White seen on 4 days
 Clouded Yellow singles seen 4 days
 Scarce Swallowtail seen 3 days max count 6+ Ipsilou on 3rd
 Common Swallowtail seen on 4 days max count 3 on 3rd
 Eastern Festoon 8+ Ipsilou, 4+ Agiasos
 Red Admiral only 3 seen
 Painted Lady only 3 seen
 Lesser spotted Fritillary widespread in small numbers

Brown Argus seen on 4 days
Orbed Red Underwing Skipper seen 4 days max 4 on 5th
Small Copper seen 2 days
Large Wall Brown common at Ipsilou
Turkish Meadow Brown seen 2 days max 10 Sigri to Erosos road
Small Heath seen 4 days
Orange Tip widespread in small numbers

Dragonflies

Robust Spreadwing 1 male
Odelisque 2 at Achladeri 4th
Emperor Dragonfly 2 seen around Salt Pans & East River also Faneromani
Migrant Hawker 2 males Agiasos on the 8th poor views ID by process of elimination using field guide
Broad bodied Chaser Common
Black tailed Skimmer 1 female hotel Kallonia 6th
Southern Skimmer 2 males Kalloni Salt Pan Channel on 8th
Red Veined Darter 3 male Apothikes on 5th
Damselfly Bluetail 1 male Apothikes on 5th
Damselfly Bluet 1 male Apothikes on 5th

Reptiles

Starred Agama Common
Balkan Green Lizard Common, seen on 4 days
Snake Eyed Lizard 3 Ipsilou 3rd, 1 on 4th Napi Valley
European Glass Lizard 4 dead on roads
Spur thighed Tortoise 1 youngster on road near Vatousa 3rd & 1 quite big adult Napi Valley on 4th.
Stripe Necked Terrapin Common
Levant Marsh (Water) Frog Common
Dice Snake 1 hunting the stream Faneromani Ford 7th
NB it is now suspected that closer inspection of the many froglets in the Salt Pan channel would have revealed them to be Eastern Spadefoot due to salinity of water and lack of vegetation possibly ruling out Levant Water Frog.

Plant List [Identified]

[number on left corresponds to Blamey Guide Wildflowers of the Mediterranean]

23 Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa*
28 Valonia Oak *Quercus aegilops*
47 Stinging Nettle
48 Roman Nettle
211 Crown Anemone *Anemone coronaria*
212 Peacock Anemone *Anemone pavonina*
291 Poppy *Papaver apulum*
293 Yellow Horned Poppy
353 Hoary Cress *Cardaria draba*
428 Blackberry
508 Pitch Trefoil *Glycyrrhiza glabra*
623 Spotted Medic
662 Pink stary Clover *Trifolium stellatum*
725 Wisteria
1017 Tammerisk
1040 Prickly Pear
1073 Sea Holly
1087 Alexanders
1141 Giant Fennel *Ferula comunis*
1193 *Lysimachia serpyllifolia*

1380 Pale Bugloss *Echium italicum*
1475 Large red Dead nettle *Lamium garganicum* (pale pink variant)
1587 Figwort sp *Scrophularia lucida*
1609 Snapdragon *Antirrhinum siculum*
2059 Goatsbeard *Tragopogon pratensis*
2154 Fritillary sp *Fritillaria pontica*
2173 Star of Bethlehem sp *Ornithogalum nutans*
2364 Arum sp *Arum conopalloides*
2383 Narrow leaved Helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia*
2393 Greater Butterfly Orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* sub sp *holmboei* (Holmboes Orchid)
2403 Green winged Orchid *Orchis morio*
2407 Toothed Orchid *Orchis tridentata*
2460 Large Quaking Grass *Briza maxima*