

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO GREECE - THE ISLAND OF KOS AT LEISURE
Eleonora's Island

06 – 13 May 2010



Leaders: Mike Witherick and Roger Lawrence

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A Personal Diary

Thursday, 06 May

The party started out from three different UK airports. Those boarding at Manchester and East Midlands left and arrived in Kos on schedule. Sadly the ten of us flying from London Gatwick were delayed by nearly four hours (a consequence of the previous day's general strike in Greece). As a result, we did not arrive at our hotel until just before midnight. We subsequently learnt that the advanced guard of six were made welcome and quickly settled in.

Friday, 07 March

The three continents of the party met in the restaurant at breakfast time and introductions were made. All were impressed, perhaps a little overwhelmed, by the amount of choice presented by the breakfast buffet.

We boarded the minibuses shortly after 9 am and made for the nearby Tigaki salt lake where we spent the remainder of the morning. Although there were few birds out on the lake, apart from Ruddy Shelduck, their chicks and Yellow-legged Gulls, we were soon spotting birds around its perimeter. Because the lake level was high, little mud was exposed around its shores on which waders might feed. Nonetheless, we did see Wood and Common Sandpipers. Little Stint, Spotted Redshank, Little Ringed Plover, Ruff and, distantly, Black-winged Stilts. However, the best sighting was of a pair of Spur-winged Plover – apparently attempting to breed in the vicinity. Two years ago, there had been a pair here, but not last year. Around the margins of the lake, rather than standing out in the middle of it were some 15 Greater Flamingos – all looking rather white and therefore clearly non-breeding birds in no hurry to migrate further north. We did well for 'herons', with views of Grey, Squacco and Black-crowned Night, as well as Little Bittern and Little Egret. The only identifiable raptor was an immature Western Marsh Harrier which had to suffer a fair amount of harassment by Hooded Crows. A male Golden Oriole was seen briefly in flight. Rather better views were had of European Bee-eater, Whinchat, Crested Lark and Spotted Flycatcher.

We arrived back at the hotel around 12.30pm and then sat down outside for a leisurely lunch. After this, members of the group retired to their rooms either to take a siesta or to catch up with the General Election results. Mary and Sheila were lucky to get into their room having temporarily mislaid their key!! No names, no pack drill!

We reassembled at 3.30 pm and drove up to Old Pyli where in the pines we saw European Serin, Common Chaffinch, European Greenfinch and Coal Tit. Many Jackdaws were seen in and around the ruins of the old settlement. They all had unusually pale heads. We then drove up above the sparse tree line and enjoyed wonderful views of the northern half of the island, the two islands of Kalimnos and Pserimos to the north and the tourist resort of Bodrum on the coast of Turkey to the east. Birds seen at this higher altitude included Cretzschmar's Bunting, Woodchat Shrike and Common Stonechat – the island variant being so much blacker than ours. A European Roller perched briefly in the top of a small tree. But stealing the show were Long-legged Buzzards seen hunting along a rocky slope. Other sightings included Hermann's Tortoise and a Starred Agama.

The field part of the day was rounded off by a visit to a supermarket ostensibly to purchase bottled water in bulk, but one could not help noticing that some members of the party emerged with goods of a rather different kind! We met poolside at 7 pm for log call and then proceeded upstairs to the restaurant for an excellent buffet evening meal. Most took the opportunity to sample some of the local wines.

Saturday, 8 May

There was a very good turnout for an hour of pre-breakfast birding down at Marmari beach. Despite the obvious abuse of the habitat, the area held good numbers of very vocal Cetti's Warblers, whilst Spanish Sparrows showed well. A European Turtle Dove purred and posed on a roadside wire, whilst out in the channel between Kos and Pserimos, we saw a lone European Shag. There was no doubting that the outing had sharpened up our appetites for a splendid buffet breakfast.

We left the hotel at 8.30 am for the main excursion of the day, namely the military area to the west of Andimahia. We reasoned that since it was a Saturday, the Greek army would be undergoing vital weekend R and R. The dissected limestone plateau with its *maquis* type of vegetation between sporadic areas of cultivation provided us with a gentle, but steady stream of colourful birds, such as Black-headed and Cretzschmar's Buntings, European Rollers and a steady stream of European Bee-eaters. Six Common Ravens were seen flying together. Roger spotted a Collared Pratincole keeping company with one small flock of European Bee-eaters. A Red-backed Shrike was seen hawking for prey from

the top of a bush. Later, some of us saw an Icterine Warbler which initially showed fairly well and then became distinctly uncooperative. Other additions to the list were Lesser Kestrel, Tawny Pipit and Northern Wheatear. Butterfly sightings included Clouded Yellow, Essex Skipper and Common Swallowtail.

Around 12.30 pm, thoughts began to turn to food and so we made all speed back to Mastihari via the main road. Here we lunched at a harbour-side taverna which has been patronised by Ornitholidays' groups in previous years. Specialising in fish, most of us opted for the *dorado*. Peter and Sandra's vegetarian 'catch' was much more substantial to the point of being overwhelming. We were offered a local dessert on the house – an offer which most of us could not refuse. The meal was rounded off by Greek coffees. We arrived back at the hotel at 2.45pm and agreed to meet up an hour later for a visit to the salt lake.

We stopped around the shores of the salt lake at two different locations. The first was at the point nearest to the hotel, where we gained the impression that little had changed since yesterday. We saw Spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpiper and Little Stint. Three Common Ringed Plover were perhaps new arrivals. A flock of European Bee-eaters perched for a short time in the top of a tamarisk. For a while, we watched Levant Water Frog – the difference between male and female being quite marked. Our second stop was on the outskirts of Tigaki, the choice of that location being determined by our wish to get closer to the small flock of immature Greater Flamingos. In the event, we found that the area they favoured was also attracting waders, especially a large flock of Ruff. In amongst them, we saw Common Greenshank and Black-winged Stilt and a lone curlew with a slender black bill. After close scrutiny, the majority settled for Eurasian Curlew, but I remained unconvinced.

We arrived back at the hotel on the dot of 6 pm and met up an hour later for a poolside log call. The remainder of the day passed in a convivial way with the emphasis on food, drink and good company.

Sunday, 9 May

We assembled in the car park at 6.30 am for a spell of pre-breakfast birding at the salt lake. Those who arrived early were rewarded by a sighting of a female Red-footed Falcon. We made for yesterday's wader hotspot only to find it almost bereft of waders, save for a lone Common Ringed Plover. The Greater Flamingos were all busily feeding out in the lake. Walking behind a tall screen of reed we came across a large puddle that was host to six Curlew Sandpipers (most of them in full breeding plumage), a Wood Sandpiper and a Temminck's Stint. A male Lesser Kestrel posed on an overhead wire.

We left the hotel at 8.45 and headed eastwards, through a seemingly endless ribbon of suburban sprawl and so into the town of Kos. Passing the port, we took the road that leads to the south coast. Literally at the road's end at Embros Thermes we parked the vehicle. At first, we simply admired the coastal scenery and the geology (led by Mandy), but soon we heard the song of Black-eared Wheatear and a pair perched obligingly on some bare bushes. Alarm calls from the Western Jackdaw's circling above us, drew our attention to a pale morph Eleonora's Falcon which showed well as it climbed for altitude. Shortly afterwards, we sighted the first of several Blue Rock Thrushes. Some saw a White Wagtail.

We then turned around and headed back towards the Kos Town and turned off to visit the Psalidi wetland, possibly the only protected area in the whole of Kos. On the way, we spotted another Eleonora's Falcon, but this was low-flying and a dark morph. A small colony of European Bee-eaters attracted the photographers. A Little Owl posed briefly on a telegraph post. The sea was quiet, but all were impressed by the carpet of Winged Sea Lavender which attracted a fair number of Painted Lady butterflies. The lagoon that provides the focal point of the wetland was a little disappointing in that we only saw Eurasian Coots, Common Moorhens and Mallard. Olivaceous Warblers were vocal rather than visible.

We re-boarded the minibuses and made for the centre of Kos Town, our objectives being to see Pallid Swifts and to inject a note of culture into the tour. We were successful with the former. The latter took the form of a visit to the plane tree under which it is claimed that Hippocrates taught his medical students and a view over the extensive remains of the basilica and the old port. Anne was wishing that we had a little more time in this historic urban area.

We arrived back at the hotel with 30 minutes to spare before our pre-ordered lunch. Margaret and Lorna were left wondering whether their vegetable omelettes had been pre-ordered. Nonetheless, lunch was completed within the hour and this made available some leisure time before resuming birdwatching.

The afternoon excursion took us to the cultivated area between Kardamena and the old castle at Soroko. Whilst we were refuelling the vehicles, a European Honey Buzzard was seen making its way northwards, but being hassled by Hooded Crows. The one species that hopefully will be long remembered was European Roller – several birds provided some wonderful photo opportunities. Rarely can one have such close encounters with the species. The other memorable species was Lesser Kestrel – a flock of at least 15 of them was seen hawking for insects on the crest of the Dikeos Mountain ridge. Those in Roger's vehicle saw a Peregrine Falcon, whilst those in mine saw a sizeable specimen of the

European Glass Lizard slither out into the track in front of us and then equally quickly back into the verge. A food-carrying Cretzschmar's Bunting posed on a telegraph wire and Peter was pleased with his images.

We arrived back at the hotel a little before 6 pm and some of the party in need of replenishing vital supplies joined me in a visit to the local supermarket. The log was called, as usual, at 7 pm. Tonight members of the party made a serious assault on the tempting Greek desserts! The cream with ouzo was well worth sampling!

Monday, 10 May

The pre-breakfast group included Mary and Sheila who were keen to catch up with yesterday's Curlew Sandpipers and Temminck's Stint. This they duly did; indeed the number of each species seen was greater than yesterday. The same applied to Black-winged Stilts. Dave was the only one to spot a Ruddy Turnstone. A fresh northerly breeze was responsible for a banner cloud crowning the Dikeos Mountains and for holding back quite large numbers of migrant Sand Martins. In amongst them, some of us saw a Red-rumped Swallow. Unfortunately, the mud that had adhered to our footwear was shed on the restaurant floor at breakfast time. This was not a good way of endearing ourselves with the staff!

Our main destination of the day was the Kefalos peninsula – and southernmost and westernmost part of Kos. We decided to take the back road – unmade and distinctly dusty. George provided some reassuring map reading. The star birds turned out to be a sizeable flock of European Bee-eaters which provided some good photo opportunities. One or two Eleonora's Falcons were seen on the way, and a similar number of European Rollers. A female Western Marsh Harrier was quartering the ground near us in search of a morning meal. A Chukar was spotted by Yvonne perched on a building. On the peninsula itself, we made a number of stops, for scenic views rather than avian interest. Eventually we descended to the coast near Agios Theologos where we had lunch in a taverna with a wonderful sea view. Most opted for the white snapper as their luncheon dish – and a substantial one it was too. A number of Cory's (Scopoli's) Shearwaters were spotted both before and after lunch.

After lunch, we made all speed back to the hotel and had an hour's R and R before returning to the field. Our afternoon excursion took us along the base of the Dikeos Mountains. We were on the special lookout for raptors and Bonelli's Eagle in particular. However, we were in part unsuccessful, but we did see Steppe Buzzard, Long-legged Buzzard, Eleonora's Falcon and Lesser Kestrel. In the pine woods, we spotted Coal Tit and Icterine Warbler. Birds may have been in short supply, but there was much to enjoy in terms of views of the mountain spine of the island, of the blue sea to the north and the islands (some so obviously volcanic in origin) and of mainland Turkey. On returning to the hotel, there was time for some of us to make another trip to the local supermarket.

The log was called at 7 pm and another good buffet dinner was rounded off with a slice of birthday cake – it being Lorna's 'xth' anniversary.

Tuesday, 11 May

There was another good turnout for pre-breakfast birding. We decided to concentrate on the southwest corner of the salt lake. We added one new species to the tour list – Ruddy Turnstone (thus putting a smile of Dave's face), but were saddened not to see Spur-winged Plovers – had the constant harassment by Hooded Crows persuaded them to give up thoughts of breeding? There seemed to be more Little Egrets around; Squacco and Grey Herons were also recorded, as well as Black-crowned Night Heron.

After breakfast, we headed up into the Dikeos Mountains and spent the first hour or so in the pine forest. Spotted Flycatchers seemed to be everywhere. European Greenfinches and European Serins were vocal and visible; Common Chaffinches to a lesser extent. A Eurasian Hoopoe was glimpsed by some of the party. The first of a number of European Hobby seen during the course of the morning was spotted whizzing past at tree-top level. Red-rumped Swallows showed well. For the second part of the morning, we divided into two groups: 1) the 'culture vultures' who wished to visit Asklipto, the site where Hippocrates taught medicine. I drove them there and then joined the second group – the 'subalpiners'. For a while, fortune smiled on us in the form of excellent views of a singing and displaying male. A Cretzschmar's Bunting carrying food made for a good photo taken by Yvonne. Two noteworthy butterflies were Scarce Swallowtail and Lattice Brown.

The two groups were reunited at 12.30 pm and we made all speed back to the hotel where we had a good lunch which was served and consumed in record time. Most of us reconvened at 3.30 pm for an exploration of tracks to the west of the airport. Highlights of the session included lovely views of five Red-footed Falcons, several Greater Short-toed Larks and large numbers of European Bee-eaters bedecking telegraph wires. Other raptors seen were Lesser Kestrel, Eleonora's Falcon and Long-legged Buzzard. A male Black-eared Wheatear was seen to chase off a male Northern Wheatear. We arrived back at the hotel a little later than usual, our return journey not helped by the resurfacing of a long stretch of road.

Wednesday, 12 May

Pre-breakfast birding focused yet again on the salt lake. Clearly there was a change in the wind conditions, the north-westerly airstream having died away. However, there was no change in the general mix of birds to be observed on and around the shores of the lake. Hirundines were noticeably less in number. Presumably they had decided that conditions were now right for them continue their northward migration.

We left the hotel at 8.30 am, but not before spotting a few Red-footed Falcons. We drove to Kardamena, parked up and walked to the harbour where we boarded the Agio Konstatntinos for the 75 minute crossing to the volcanic island of Nisyros. Before we had left the harbour, a flock of some 15 Yelkouan Shearwater flew by purposefully, gliding so it seemed on a glass-like sea. During the crossing we were to see a few more of them plus some lone Cory's (Scopoli's) Shearwaters. At one point, we saw both species in the water, literally side by side. This provided a wonderful albeit brief chance to compare these two species in terms of size and plumage. Other sightings included several Eleonora's Falcons and two Honey Buzzards – but no Audouin's Gulls.

On docking in the small port of Mandraki, we were met by Michelle and quickly ushered onto a bus to take us up and over into the huge volcanic caldera that provides the heart of Nisyros. We shared the bus with a group of Russians who were addressed by a rapid-fire courier who managed to talk for virtually the whole of the drive. Did she talk about plate tectonics or the vast amount of labour that had been invested over the centuries in the construction of the cultivation terraces that scored most of the island's slopes? Most of those terraces now lie abandoned – a testimony to the large-scale depopulation caused by emigration in the 19th and 20th centuries to North America and Australia.

Once down on the caldera floor, we quickly paid our respects to the *sofataro* and then walked quickly to a cluster of trees. Here we saw Northern Wheatear, Woodchat Shrike, Blue Tit and Subalpine Warbler. An Eastern Orphean Warbler was only prepared to give glimpses as it flitted from one tree to the next. It was swelteringly hot!

After 40 minutes we rejoined our bus and were deposited in the small fishing port of Pali where we enjoyed a relaxed lunch in a harbour-side taverna. Everyone spoke highly of the food except Mandy and Yvonne who chose the 'big prawns'! After lunch we took a gentle stroll around the harbour. Notably sightings were a pair of Blue Rock Thrushes, hornets and several Large Tortoiseshell butterflies. Our bus back into Mandraki was delayed by about 15 minutes, but we still had a little time to walk its narrow streets.

Our return boat left at 3.30pm. The return crossing was largely uneventful in terms of birds. We then drove directly to the hotel and this left some two hours of leisure time, during which a number of the party took to the pool to cool off. After log call the return travel arrangements for tomorrow were run through. We then retired to the restaurant for our last evening meal together – a convivial occasion.

Thursday, 13 May

Because our return to the UK involved three different flights, we decided to do an extended period of pre-breakfast birding and to eat at 9 am. Our itinerary first involved a short drive down to the shore at Marmari to show Mary and Sheila Spanish Sparrow. In that, we failed. But a walk along the far side of the lagoon yielded two new species for the tour list, namely Common Snipe and Purple Heron and a second piece of good news was that we spotted one of the Spur-winged Plovers.

After a relaxed breakfast, it was agreed that those flying to Manchester and East Midlands would be taken to the airport at 11.30 am. On arriving at the airport, the Thomas Cook rep presented us with mixed news. The East Midlands flight would be on schedule; the Manchester and London Gatwick flights would both be delayed by at least three hours. Mary and Sheila, who were flying to Manchester in the afternoon, opted to stay put at the airport. Roger and I then drove back to the hotel to join the remainder of the party for lunch at 1 pm.

We met up at 3 pm for a final spell of birding. By now the weather had a distinctly thundery look. We returned to the sites visited during the afternoon two days ago. The main aim was to give Margaret a chance to catch up on two species she had missed. Happily, we were successful. On the way back to the hotel, we called in at the airport to catch up on the latest news about our flight and at what time we should check in. Thus we found that we had time to take a shower and complete our packing before reassembling at 6 pm for an early check in.

The early check-in worked well and we returned to the hotel for another welcome buffet evening meal. At 9.30 pm we returned to the airport once more, only to be informed that, due to a technical problem, our return flight to Gatwick would be delayed another three hours and that a technician was being flown out from Newcastle to deal with the problem. Reflecting on the mishaps of the day, was there anything sinister in the fact that today was the 13th?

Friday, 14 May

The technician duly arrived at 12.40 am and it was not too long before the problem had been fixed and we were boarding our Airbus. We landed at Gatwick a little after 4 am and farewells were said in the baggage reclaim.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the Mera family and to the friendly and efficient staff of the Hotel Palladium who made us feel most welcome and comfortable. Many thanks to Peter Munro and Peter Mayes for providing the photos included in this report. Finally, thanks to you all for coming on this tour and providing such good company and humour. Roger and I hope that we will meet you again on another Ornitholiday.

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May 2010

Itinerary and Weather

Thursday, 06 May	UK (Manchester, East Midlands & London Gatwick) > Kos
Friday, 07 May	am: Tigaki salt lake pm: Old Pyli Warm and sunny 24°C
Saturday, 08 May	am: Marmari shore Military area to W of Andimahia pm: Tigaki salt lake Warm and sunny 25°C
Sunday, 09 May	am: Tigaki salt lake Embros Thermes, Psalidi wetland pm: area below Soroco castle Warm and sunny 25°C
Monday, 10 May	am: Tigaki salt lake Kefalos peninsula via from Mastihari to Kamares pm: Dikeos Mountains (Asomatos) Warm and sunny, but northerly breeze 26°C
Tuesday, 11 May	am: Tigaki salt lake; Dikeos Mountains (Zia > Asklipio) pm: military area to W of Andimahia hot and sunny 27°C
Wednesday, 12 May	Kardamena > Nisyros (caldera > Pali > Mandraki) > Kardamena Hot and sunny 30°C
Thursday, 13 May	am: Marmari shore; Tigaki salt lake; pm: military area to W of Andimahia Becoming overcast and then clearing 27°C
Friday, 14 May	> UK (Manchester & London Gatwick)

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING TOUR

No of days recorded	Abundance Scale (no. seen on best day)
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	1 = 1 - 4 2 = 5 - 9 3 = 10 - 100 4 = > 100

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Abundance scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Ruddy Shelduck	7	2	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Mallard	7	3	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Chukar	2	1	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>
Cory's (Scopoli's) Shearwater	2	2	<i>Calonectris diomedea diomedea</i>
Yelkouan Shearwater	1	2	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>
Shag	2	1	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>
Little Bittern	1	1	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	4	1	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Squacco Heron	5	2	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Little Egret	7	2	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Grey Heron	4	1	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	1	1	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Greater Flamingo	7	3	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	2	1	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Long-legged Buzzard	3	1	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
Common Buzzard (Steppe)	1	1	<i>Buteo buteo (vulpinus)</i>
European Honey Buzzard	2	1	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	5	3	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Red-footed Falcon	4	2	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
Eurasian Hobby	1	1	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Eleonora's Falcon	4	3	<i>Falco eleonora</i>
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Common Moorhen	1 1h	2	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	1 1h	3	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Black-winged Stilt	5	3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Collared Pratincole	1	1	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Little Ringed Plover	3	1	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Common Ringed Plover	4	1	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Spur-winged Lapwing	3	1	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	2	1	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	3	3	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Temminck's Stint	2	1	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
Little Stint	7	2	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Common Sandpiper	1	1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Wood Sandpiper	7	2	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Spotted Redshank	4	1	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Greenshank	3 1h	1	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Eurasian Curlew	1	1	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Common Snipe	1	1	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Ruff	4	3	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	7	3	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	7	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	7	3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
European Turtle Dove	6	3	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Little Owl	2	1	<i>Athene noctua</i>
Common Swift	7	3	<i>Apus apus</i>
Pallid Swift	1	3	<i>Apus pallidus</i>
Alpine Swift	5	3	<i>Apus melba</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	1	1	<i>Upupa epops</i>
European Bee-eater	7	4	<i>Merops apiaster</i>

European European Roller	7	1	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	
Crested Lark	7	3	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	
Greater Short-toed Lark	2	1	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	
Common Sand Martin	7	3	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
Barn Swallow	7	4	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
Red-rumped Swallow	3	2	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	
Common House Martin	7	3	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	
Tawny Pipit	1	1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	
Yellow Wagtail	5	3	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
Black-headed Wagtail	5	1	<i>Motacilla (flava) feldegg</i>	
White Wagtail	2	1	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
Common Nightingale	0	2h	1	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Northern Wheatear	4	1	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
Black-eared Wheatear	2	1	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	
Whinchat	3	2	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	
Common Stonechat	1	1	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	
Common Blackbird	3	1	<i>Turdus merula</i>	
Blue Rock-Thrush	2	1	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	
Eastern Orphean Warbler	1	1	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	
Sardinian Warbler	6	1	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	
Subalpine Warbler	2	1	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	
Cetti's Warbler	3	4h	2	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Zitting Cisticola	7	2	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	
Reed Warbler	7	2	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	
(Eastern) Olivaceous Warbler	5	2h	2	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>
Icterine Warbler	2	1	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	
Spotted Flycatcher	6	3	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	
Great Tit	1	1h	1	<i>Parus major</i>
Coal Tit	3	1	<i>Parus ater</i>	
European Blue Tit	2	1	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	
Red-backed Shrike	2	1	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	
Woodchat Shrike	5	1	<i>Lanius senator</i>	
Common Magpie	7	2	<i>Pica pica</i>	
Western Jackdaw	7	4	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	
Hooded Crow	7	3	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	
Common Raven	4	2	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
Golden Oriole	1	1	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	
House Sparrow	7	3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
Spanish Sparrow	2	1	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	
Common Chaffinch	2	1	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	
Common Linnet	1	1	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	
European Greenfinch	5	2	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	
European Serin	2	2	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	
Cretzschmar's Bunting	7	1	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	
Black-headed Bunting	3	1h	1	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>
Corn Bunting	4	1	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	

MAMMALS

European Rabbit

REPTILES

Spur-thighed Tortoise

Hermann's Tortoise

Balkan Terrapin

Starred Agama

Erhard's Wall Lizard

Balkan Green Lizard

Levant Water Frog

European Glass Lizard

BUTTERFLIES

Large White
Clouded Yellow
Wall Brown
Painted Lady
Red Admiral
Common Swallowtail
Scarce Swallowtail
Meadow Brown
Essex Skipper
Lattice Brown
Southern Comma
Large Tortoiseshell
Common Blue

This list represents those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.



Little Stints



Black-winged Stint



Chukar



European Turtle Dove



Cretzschmar's Bunting



Woodchat Shrike



European Bee-eater



Levant Water Frog

Front Cover: European Roller

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