

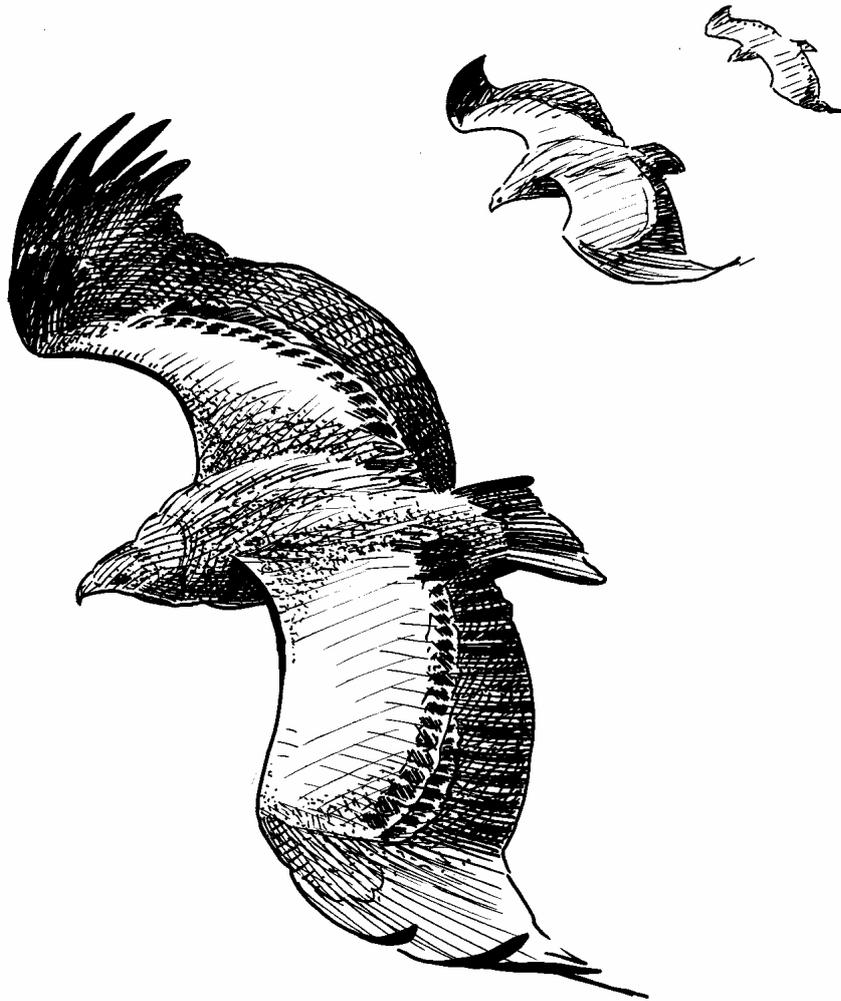
Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Crete

14 - 21 April 1998

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The group

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Report written by Rob Macklin with plant list by Mick Rebane

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), which is based in Athens but whose work covers the whole of Greece and its islands. £370 was sent this year – £25 per person plus £20 from Jane Ellison who booked for the holiday but later had to pull out. This brings Honeyguide's total contributions since the first Honeyguide holiday in Crete in 1995 to £1,345, and to conservation projects in Europe to more than £14,000. A thank-you letter from HOS and information about the lammergeier project work appear at the end of this report (but not this web version).

CRETE
14 - 21 April 1998

Tuesday 14 April - Outward Bound

An overnight frost had left the south downs covered in white as we approached Gatwick airport before dawn. Our plane was subject to a twenty minute delay but we were soon in the air and anticipating high temperatures in Crete.

Touchdown was a little disappointing with overcast skies and temperatures at 19 Celsius with a light northerly breeze. Our two hour trip on the bus to Plakias gave us the opportunity to admire the wealth of colour in the masses of giant fennel, cistus, crown daisies, Jerusalem sage and hottentot figs on the roadsides and masses of yellow broom on the hillsides. Several griffon vultures, buzzards, ravens and hooded crows were seen from the bus and a kestrel was in the same place as last year, on the wires at Rethymnon! We also had a fleeting glimpse of an alpine swift.

Plakias was overcast, humid and warm with temperatures up into the mid-twenties and Mick Rebane was waiting to greet us in the town square. Our host, George Dimakis, made us all a cup of tea or coffee which was very welcome after our long journey. I carried out a quick recce to the east of the town before supper but things were very quiet with the only migrants being woodchat shrike and swallow. Crested larks, goldfinches and greenfinches were all in song here but there was very little evidence of spring movement.

After an introductory get together in the hotel we went off for the first of our excellent meals in the local tavernas, the first night being at the Sophia taverna.

Wednesday 15 April - Plakias and Myrthios

A dawn chorus from Italian sparrows accompanied us as several of us went for an early morning walk along the beach. A magnificent beech marten was dead on the road at the eastern end of the town; unfortunately this is the usual method of seeing this shy mammal on Crete. Two ravens flew overhead, two pairs of stonechats were in the flower-filled fields and a turtle dove showed itself briefly as it flashed inland. We all had our first excellent views of crested larks here, a swallow came in off the sea and our first butterfly put in an appearance, a painted lady.

After breakfast we took the path from Plakias to the hilltop village of Myrthios. Winifred decided to walk a little way with us and was then escorted back to Plakias by Maurice who felt in need of a brisk walk in catching us up later. Behind Plakias we came across yellow honeywort and salsify in flower plus the eye-catching red asparagus pea. Continual scanning of the air by the birders turned up two ravens and a buzzard before an osprey flew across the sky. Robert then had fleeting views of two hoopoes in the olive groves, several griffon vultures drifted over the tops of the gorge and the raven count rose to six birds. The first swifts of the trip scythed through the air and the first of many Sardinian and Cetti's warblers sang from the undergrowth. The latter's song is so loud and distinct and was to be with us wherever we went on the island.

Butterflies were plentiful on the walk with 13 species seen including the striking swallowtail, scarce swallowtail and Cretan festoon. One of the whites was identified by Martin as a mountain small white although the many books on offer seemed to differ as to what occurs where. For the purposes of this trip we relied on Martin's book, by Tom Tolman. Another Cretan favourite was seen here, the Egyptian locust or grasshopper, while several huge Carpenter bees buzzed the party. Reptiles made fleeting appearances although Barbara and I were lucky enough to get good views of a Balkan green lizard by the old mill.

The first morning gives everyone a chance to get to grips with new plants and Mick was working overtime to identify everything. Masses of branched broomrape were found, probably parasitising

Bermuda buttercup which almost smothers everything in its path. A superb three-foot tall specimen of the endemic Cretan wall lettuce was found among the olives, a late spider orchid was in flower below the old mill and two varieties of tongue orchids were so plentiful it was hard to avoid treading on them as we passed by!

After a tiring battle through the undergrowth we finally made it to Myrthios and a well-earned cold beer and lunch. The view from the taverna over the Libyan sea was truly remarkable and made the struggle up the hill seem very worthwhile.

The day had become very hot with temperatures in the mid-eighties and after an uneventful stroll down the hill through the olive groves a few of us walked out onto the west side of town. We immediately saw a flock of birds wheeling around the bay followed by another flock soon after. On closer inspection they turned out to be garganeys on their migration north out of Africa and the flock finally reached 130 birds. They settled on the sea, presumably to rest for the night, for in the morning they were nowhere to be seen! As we walked back to town a small flock of house martins came in off the sea and circled over the steep cliff which was literally covered in large bushes of Cretan ebony. A fluttering, rather worn-out butterfly turned out to be a Lang's short-tailed blue bringing an end to a rather tiring yet exhilarating day.

Thursday 16 April - Kourtaliotiko Gorge and Kedros Foothills

Before heading off inland we stopped for a look at the fields and beach on the edge of town. Waders were represented by three little-ringed plovers and a common sandpiper while a tawny pipit gave us fleeting views. Three whinchats were on the fields and as we were about to depart a black-eared wheatear disappeared into the beach scrub.

Our next stop was at the imposing Kourtaliotiko Gorge where a series of recently cut steps led down to the river below. At least eight griffon vultures and four kestrels soared over the ridges while three crag martins skimmed along the rocks. A pair of blue rock thrushes was singing from the towering crags and gave us fleeting views as did a displaying, male black-eared wheatear. At least five rock doves flashed through the gorge, a chough called from the high tops and a white wagtail was very obliging on the rocks by the tumbling river. Masses of yellow asphodel were in flower here and we also managed to find several specimens of the endemic Cretan cyclamen nestling among the rocks; another endemic found here was hanging mullein. As we climbed back up the steps several house martins were flying through the gorge and an alpine swift made a brief appearance overhead.

Just beyond the gorge we stopped to admire the view across the open fields and to see corn buntings singing from telephone wires; both woodlark and stonechat were also in song here. A nearby field looked promising and the botanists turned up pink butterfly orchid, tongue orchid, Cretan bee-orchid and fan-lipped orchid. Ethel then found a small copper butterfly and Martin's trusty net captured a mallow skipper - quite a selection of species for a quick stop! Lunch was then taken in Spili where swallows were nesting and buzzards, kestrels and ravens circled the town.

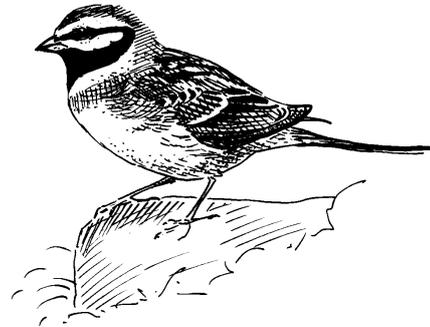
The afternoon was spent in the Kedros foothills above Spili at a botanically famous site, particularly for its range of orchids. We were not to be disappointed as the display of a whole host of species was utterly breathtaking, apparently the best show for years! The fields surrounding this area were literally covered by masses of Cretan tulips, Barbary nut and corn marigolds. Robert spotted a very unusual "red-phase" cuckoo in the poplars and corn buntings were singing all over the place. A woodlark in song was finally located high up in the sky and three alpine swifts passed quickly over. A harrier put in a brief appearance before spending up to an hour hunting the local fields; I managed to get very good views of the bird and confirmed it as a female pallid harrier, a tremendous coup! As we were leaving the area I noticed a large shape over the ridge which turned into a lammergeier when I was able to get the bird in the telescope. Unfortunately most of the group had gone back to the bus and only Mick and Martin were able to see the bird.

As we were driving back towards Spili, Mick stopped to have a look at a singing cirl bunting which hung around long enough to be viewable in the telescope. A cleopatra butterfly fluttered past as we were watching the bird. As we got nearer to Plakias we kept a look out for a dragon arum which we had seen in flower on the way. We located the specimen in question and as cameras were clicking away I scanned the ridge and, unbelievably located another lammergeier drifting from left to right. This time most of the group was able to see the bird even though it was a fair way off. A splendid end to a splendid day!!

Friday 17 April - Phaestos and Aghia Triada

A pre-breakfast walk along the front was fairly productive and began with a marsh harrier flying over the hotel as we left. Two common sandpipers were feeding on the beach where a wood warbler was rather out of context feeding on the sand. Perhaps the best sighting was a squacco heron which was lurking in scrub in the roadside fields. Three kestrels were in the air and several house martins were hawking insects on their long journey north.

After breakfast we were faced with the long journey to Phaestos but the weather was again very warm and we set off in high spirits. We stopped on the way at the Platis valley above Agia Galini where at least 300 alpine swifts had obviously just arrived from Africa as they wheeled around in the sky - a superb sight! Four buzzards were seen here and a cirl bunting was in full song.



We arrived at Phaestos, after negotiating the street market at Timbaki, to find the ruins closed until the afternoon so resolved to have a quick coffee before walking down to the Minoan summer palace at Aghia Triada. The skies at Phaestos were fairly quiet though four jackdaws were another species for the list. The walk along the road to Aghia Triada was dominated by masses of Cretan ebony and several orchids including six spikes of mambose orchid, a single giant orchid and a superb eastern tongue orchid. A purple turban buttercup was another good find. Birds were a little thin on the ground here although we managed to find up to six woodchat shrikes and four pied flycatchers among the pines at the summer palace. Ten species of butterflies were located with two new species for the trip, meadow brown and small heath. A brown skipper was almost certainly the Lulworth skipper while the small blue found here turned out to be *Pseudophilotes vicrama* which has no other English name; perhaps we should call it Eastern baton blue? We searched for orchids around the summer palace but found that most had already gone over with only six specimens of monkey orchids left. We then drove back up to Phaestos where we had a late lunch and time for a look around the ruins.

The long drive back was enlivened by eight griffon vultures, two ravens and a pied flycatcher on the northern edge of the Kourtalioitiko gorge.

Saturday 18 April - Damnonia and Moni Preveli

A quick look at the beach after breakfast turned up two little ringed plovers and two common sandpipers plus a wood sandpiper atop a rock in the middle of a field - very odd. Four whinchats were in the field and the squacco heron was again skulking among the undergrowth, still proving difficult to see. Another white wagtail was on the beach, up to 20 alpine swifts were in the air with several swallows and a skylark was singing high up in the air and defying all of our efforts to find it!

Our second stop was at the small beach resort of Damnonia which turned up five crag martins, two singing corn buntings, a raven and a solitary moorhen. This used to be a good area for birds but has largely been ruined by tourist development.

Moving on we made a brief stop at the old monastery of Moni Preveli which was largely uneventful except for two singing woodlarks in the area and Cretan houndstongue in flower. The current monastery at the end of the road has the usual cafe where we took morning coffee as a wood warbler searched for insects in the nearby trees. After coffee we walked down the track below the monastery and found a further two wood warblers in the scrub. Several pied flycatchers were also found in the scrub and a nightingale broke into song. A trickle of water across the path seemed to be attracting migrants and residents alike and we were fortunate enough to have great views of a black-eared wheatear having a wash only yards away! Winifred sat on a rock as we walked a little further on and was rewarded with views of two woodchat shrikes. We then returned to the monastery and searched the slopes unsuccessfully for Ruppell's warblers although we did see a blue rock thrush and two buzzards and ravens engaged in aerial combat! Butterflies in the area included Cretan festoon, eastern baton blue, common blue and brown argus.

With a free afternoon for everyone we dropped some of the group back at Plakias while a few of us took lunch at the regular taverna at Myrthios.

Sunday 19 April - Kotsiphos Gorge, Georgioupolis and Lake Kournas

A pre-breakfast walk along the beach gave us superb views of two squacco herons standing on the wall alongside the road. They soon decided this was the wrong place to be and disappeared into the scrub in the nearby fields. Three common sandpipers and a little ringed plover were on the beach, two whinchats were on the fields but the star of the show was undoubtedly a superb male black-headed wagtail which showed itself off very well right in front of the group.

As we headed off to the north coast of Crete we made our first stop at the top of the Kotsiphos gorge. Flocks of corvids over the crags were identified as 20 ravens and at least 20 jackdaws, a fairly scarce species on the island. Ten crag martins skimmed through the gorge and appeared to be nesting under the main road bridge while at least two wrens sang incessantly from the gorge slopes. As two kestrels hunted over the crags two pairs of blue rock thrushes were seen giving us excellent views of what can be a difficult species. A mass of yellow flowers growing out of the side of the gorge was identified as tree flax.

Our next stop was for a swift coffee at Georgioupolis before we made the short drive to an area of open water on the River Almyros. There were at least 20 moorhens and five coots here and careful searching gave us at least four little grebes and five garganeys, comprising three males and two females. A female marsh harrier then came into view before dropping into the reeds where she presumably had a nest. Several waders were feeding on the edge of the marsh and were identified as two wood sandpipers, a green sandpiper and a common sandpiper. Up to 20 swifts and two alpine swifts were hawking insects across the area and closer inspection revealed lumps of rock turning into several stripe-necked terrapins.

We then had a look around the marsh and fields at Georgioupolis which boasted a superb field of deep-red poppies and a colourful stand of yellow bartsia. I was particularly pleased to find and identify a loose-flowered orchid but Mick countered by locating a tree pipit which was very obliging in a eucalyptus tree. Birds were a little scarce here although a Montagu's harrier soared high over the nearby ridge and a female blue rock thrush looked a little out of place perched on a telegraph pole.

Our lunch stop was at one of the tavernas overlooking Lake Kournas. The good weather was probably responsible for the absence of wintering black-necked grebes on the lake although a little egret did its best to compensate by staging a couple of fly-byes! The lake itself turned up

approximately 30 coots and two little grebes, a raven called overhead and a woodchat shrike and five whinchats were found in fields on the west end of the lake. Butterflies included clouded yellow, painted lady, wall brown, southern speckled wood and holly blue.

The last stop of the day was at a marshy area on the Petres river which turned up two common sandpipers, at least five ravens and a couple of hooded crows. A Cetti's warbler sang incessantly from the scrub but a large grey warbler singing from the undergrowth was probably an olivaceous warbler although this could not be confirmed. A group vote was not to visit Rethymnon but to head back to Plakias and home!

Monday 20 April - Frangocastello and Imbros Gorge

A pre-breakfast walk rewarded Margaret and Bob with good views of a collared pratincole on the beach, a splendid find. A little ringed plover was also there.

The penultimate day was along the coast road towards Frangocastello and the western gorges. A brief look in the bay at Rodakino gave us brief views of a blue rock thrush plus the ubiquitous buzzard and kestrel. As we continued our journey, our bus was very fortunate to get reasonable views of a Bonelli's eagle which was moving away from us. Woodlarks could also be heard singing from the open skies - much more easily heard than seen.

We had coffee at Frangocastello before exploring the surrounding plain. Many swifts were hawking for insects along the coast but otherwise the area was very quiet. Six brown blobs on the rocks turned out to be migrating whimbrels and two white wagtails were also seen. Robert and Mick were fortunate enough to see two Cory's shearwaters a long way offshore while most of the group were fascinated by a kestrel feeding on a lizard on a fence-post. Butterflies here included both swallowtail and scarce swallowtail plus painted lady.

After lunch in a taverna below the old fort we moved on to the Imbros gorge. We decided to drive to the top of the gorge and look out for soaring raptors. This plan worked really well as we had fabulous views of two Bonelli's eagles soaring over the crags and being constantly mobbed by the local ravens and kestrels.

The long, winding drive home produced a female marsh harrier on the plain at Frangocastello. After a couple of photo stops we parked up at Myrthios to buy olive oil, herbs and local crafts to take back home.

Tuesday 21 April - Homeward Bound

Our final day dawned sunny and very warm yet again. With the flight in late afternoon there was time for a last look around Plakias before the bus departed at 1100 hours. Rubbish burning on the beach meant there were few birds about except for a common sandpiper.

The journey to Heraklion was enlivened by sightings of numerous buzzards and Robert catching sight of two collared doves near Rethymnon. A three-hour wait at the airport gave us ample time for lunch and to see Greek airforce fighter planes taking off and landing. Our plane was pretty much on time and we bade farewell to sun-baked Crete, looking forward to a distinctly cooler landing at Gatwick airport.

A good week in much warmer temperatures than usual for mid-April. Many thanks to the group from Mick and myself for being good company.

Bird List

Little grebe
Squacco heron
Purple heron
Lammergeier
Marsh harrier
Montagu's harrier
Bonelli's eagle
Kestrel
Coot
Little ringed plover
Green sandpiper
Common sandpiper
Rock dove
Turtle dove
Swift
Hoopoe
Woodlark
Crag martin
House martin
Tree pipit
White wagtail
Nightingale
Stonechat
Black-eared wheatear
Blackbird
Sardinian warbler
Wood warbler
Blue tit
Woodchat shrike
Jackdaw
Raven
Chaffinch
Greenfinch
Linnet
Corn Bunting

Cory's shearwater
Little egret
Garganey
Griffon vulture
Pallid harrier
Buzzard
Osprey
Moorhen
Collared pratincole
Whimbrel
Wood sandpiper
Yellow-legged gull
Woodpigeon
Cuckoo
Alpine swift
Crested lark
Skylark
Swallow
Tawny pipit
Yellow wagtail (*Motacilla f. feldegg*)
Wren
Whinchat
Wheatear
Blue rock thrush
Cetti's warbler
Blackcap
Pied flycatcher
Great tit
Chough
Hooded crow
Italian sparrow
Serin
Goldfinch
Cirl bunting



69 species

Butterfly List

Swallowtail
Cretan Festoon
Small White
Bath White
Eastern Dappled White
Pale Clouded Yellow
Red Admiral
Cretan Small Heath
Wall Brown
Lang's Short-tailed Blue
Holly Blue
Common Blue
Lulworth Skipper

Scarce Swallowtail
Large White
Mountain Small White
Clouded Yellow
Cleopatra
Painted Lady
Meadow Brown
Speckled Wood
Small Copper
Eastern Baton Blue
Brown Argus
Mallow Skipper



25 species

HONEYGUIDE WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

CRETE

14th - 21st APRIL 1998

PLANT LIST

The following list comprises the more obvious plants seen and identified during the week.

Key and nomenclature: Latin names of plants follows those used in *Flora of the Cretan Area* (Turland et al 1993), any alternative names as used in *Mediterranean Wild Flowers* (Blamey & Grey-Wilson 1993) follow in brackets.

* Endemic to Crete

Introduced and not native to Crete and cultivated or planted species

1 PTERIDOPHYTES

Aspleniaceae

Ceterach officinarum subsp. *officinarum* Rusty Back Fern

Hypolepidaceae

Pteridium aquilinum Bracken

Selaginellaceae

Selaginella denticulata Mediterranean Selaginella

2 SPERMATOPHYTES

i) Gymnosperms

Cupressaceae - Cypress Family

Cupressus sempervirens forma. *horizontalis* Cypress

C. sempervirens forma. *sempervirens* Funeral Cypress

ii) Angiosperms

a) Dicotyledons

Aceraceae - Maple Family

Acer sempervirens Cretan Maple

Aizoaceae - Aizoon Family

Carpobrotus edulis var. *rubescens* Hottentot Fig

Anacardiaceae - Pistacio Family

Pistacia lentiscus Mastic Tree

Pistachia terebinthus Turpentine Tree

Apocynaceae - Oleander Family

Nerium oleander subsp. *oleander* Oleander

Boraginaceae - Borage Family

Anchusa italica (*A. azurea*) Large Blue Alkanet

Anchusa variegata Variegated Anchusa

Borago officinalis Borage
Cerintho major subsp. major Honeywort
Cynoglossum creticum Blue Hound's Tongue
Echium angustifolium subsp. angustifolium Narrow-Leaved Bugloss
Echium italicum subsp. biebersteinii Pale Bugloss
Echium plantagineum Purple Viper's Bugloss
Onosma erecta Golden Drops
Symphytum creticum (Procopiana cretica) Procopiana

Cactaceae - Cactus Family

Opuntia ficus-barbarica (O. ficus-indica) Prickly Pear

Campanulaceae - Bellflower Family

* *Petromarula pinnata* Cretan Wall Lettuce

Caprifoliaceae - Honeysuckle Family

Sambucus nigra Elderflower

Caryophyllaceae - Pink Family

Cerastium scaposum
Petrorrhagia velutina (Kohlruschia velutina)
Silene behen
Silene bellidifolia
Silene colorata subsp. colorata
Silene conica Sand Catchfly
Silene gallica Small-flowered Catchfly
Silene vulgaris Bladder Campion
Spergularia marina Lesser Sand-spurrey

Chenopodiaceae - Fathen Family

Beta vulgaris ssp. maritima Sea Beet

Cistaceae - Rockrose Family

Cistus creticus Cretan Cistus
Cistus salvifolius Sage-Leaved Cistus
Fumana thymifolia Thyme-Leaved Fumana

Compositae - Daisy Family

Anthemis chia
Anthemis rigida subsp. rigida Rayless Chamomile
Asteriscus spinosa (Pallensis spinosa)
Bellis sylvestris Southern Daisy
Calendula arvensis Field Marigold
Centaurea idaea Star Thistle
Chrysanthemum coronarium var. coronarium Crown Daisy
C. coronarium var. discolor Crown Daisy
Chrysanthemum segetum Corn Marigold
Crepis rubra Pink Hawksbeard
Crupina crupinostrum Crupina
Dittrichia viscosa subsp. viscosa Stink Aster
Evax pygamae A cudweed
Galactites tomentosa Mediterranean Thistle
Helichrysum barrelieri (H. conglobatum) Golden Cassidony
Notobasis syrica Syrian Thistle
Phagnalon graecum (P. rupestre) Shrubby Cudweed
Ptilostemon chamaepeuce Shrubby Knapweed

Tragopogon sinuatus (*T. porrifolius*) Wild Salsify

Convolvulaceae - Bindweed Family

Convolvulus althaeoides Mallow-leaved Bindweed

Cuscuta epithimum Dodder

Crassulaceae - Stonecrop Family

Umbilicus parviflorus Small-Flowered Navelwort

Cruciferaeae - Cress Family

Biscutella didyma Buckler Mustard

Cakile maritima Sea Rocket

Eruca sativa Eruca

Matthiola tricuspidata Three-Horned Stock

Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. *raphanistrum* Wild Radish

**Ricotia cretica* Ricotia

Cucurbitaceae - Cucumber Family

Bryonia cretica subsp. *cretica* White Bryony

Dioscoraceae - Yam Family

Tamus communis Black Bryony

Dipsacaceae - Teasel Family

Knautia integrifolia subsp. *mimica* A Scabious

Ericaceae - Heath Family

Erica arborea - Tree Heather

Euphorbiaceae - Spurge Family

Euphorbia acanthothamnus Greek Spiny Spurge

Euphorbia characias Mediterranean Spurge

Euphorbia dendroides Tree Spurge

Euphorbia helioscopia Sun Spurge

Euphorbia paralias Sea Spurge

Mercurialis annua Annual Mercury

Ricinus communis Castor Oil Plant

Fagaceae - Oak Family

Quercus pubescens Downy Oak

Geraniaceae - Geranium Family

Geranium dissectum Cut-leaved Crane's-bill

Geranium rotundifolium Round-leaved Crane's-bill

Guttiferae - Hypericum Family

Hypericum empetrifolium subsp. *empetrifolium* Shrubby St. John's Wort

Labiatae - Mint Family

Ballota pseudodictamnus subsp. *pseudodictamnus* False Dittany

Coriodothymus capitatus (*Thymus capitatus*) Shrubby Thyme

Mentha spicata Spear Mint

Origanum vulgare subsp. *hirtum* Marjoram

Phlomis fruticosa Jerusalem Sage

Prasium majus Spanish Hedge-nettle

Salvia fruticosa Three-Leaved Sage
Salvia scalarea Clary
Salvia viridis Red-Topped Sage
Satureja nervosa
Satureja thymbra Savory
* *Scutellaria sieberi* A Skullcap

Leguminosae - Pea Family

Acacia spp Mimosa
Anagyris foetida Bean Trefoil
Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. rubriflora Red Kidney Vetch
Bituminaria bituminosa (Psoralea bituminosa) Pitch Trefoil
Calicotome villosa Hairy Thorny Broom
Ceratonia siliqua Carob Tree
Cercis siliquastrum Judas Tree
* *Ebenus creticus* Shrubby Sainfoin
Lotus edulis Edible Pea
Lupinus micranthus Hairy Lupin
Medicago arabica Spotted Medick
Medicago marina Sea Medick
Medicago orbicularis Large Disk Medick
Onobrychis aequidentata A Cockscomb Sainfoin
Onobrychis caput-gallii A Cockscomb Sainfoin
Ononis natrix Large Yellow Rest-harrow
Scorpiurus muricatus Scorpiurus
Tetragonolobus purpureus Asparagus Pea
Trifolium pilulare Ball Cotton Clover
Trifolium stellatum Star Clover
Trifolium tomentosum Woolly Trefoil
Trifolium uniflorum One-Flowered Clover
Tripodion tetraphyllum (Anthyllis tetraphyllum) Bladder Vetch
Vicia hybrida Hairy Yellow Vetchling
Vicia lutea Yellow Pea
Vicia sativa Fodder Vetch

Linaceae - Flax Family

Linum arboreum Tree Flax
Linum bienne Pale Flax

Lythraceae - Loosestrife Family

Lythrum junceum Creeping Loosestrife

Malvaceae - Mallow Family

Lavatera cretica Lesser Tree Mallow
Malva cretica Cretan Mallow
Malva sylvestris Common Mallow

Moraceae - Fig Family

Ficus carica Fig
Morus alba White Mulberry

Myrtaceae - Myrtle Family

Myrtus communis subsp. communis Common Myrtle

Oleaceae - Olive Family

Olea europaea subsp. europaea Olive

Orobanchaceae - Broomrape Family

Orobanche ramosa Branched Broomrape
Orobanche crenata

Oxalidaceae - Sorrel Family

Oxalis pes-caprae Bermuda Buttercup

Papaveraceae - Poppy Family

Glaucium flavum Yellow-Horned Poppy
Glaucium leiocarpum
Papaver rhoeas Common Poppy

Plantaginacea - Plantain Family

Plantago afra
Plantago lanceolata Ribwort Plantain

Platanaceae - Plane Tree Family

Platanus orientalis Oriental Plane

Polygalaceae - Milkwort Family

Polygala venulosa Eastern Milkwort

Polygonaceae - Dock Family

Rumex bucephalophorus subsp. gallicus Red Dock

Primulaceae - Primrose Family

Anagallis arvensis Scarlet Pimpernel (Scarlet and blue forms)
**Cyclamen creticum* Cretan Cyclamen

Ranunculaceae - Buttercup Family

Adonis microcarpa subsp cretica Yellow Pheasant's-Eye
Anemone coronaria Crown Anemone
Anemone hortensis ssp. heldreichii
Nigella damascena Love-in-a-Mist
Ranunculus asiaticus Turban Buttercup
Ranunculus scleratus Celery-leaved Crowfoot

Resedaceae - Mignonette Family

Reseda lutea Wild Mignonette

Rosaceae - Rose Family

Prunus dulcis - Almond
Pyrus amygdaliformis Almond-leaved Pear
Rubus sanctus Bramble
Sanguisorba minor subsp. verrucosa Mediterranean Salad Burnet
Sarcopterium spinosum Thorny Burnet

Rubiaceae - Bedstraw Family

Crucianella sp.

Rutaceae - Rue Family

Citrus limon Lemon
Citrus sinensis Orange
Ruta chalepensis subsp chalepensis Fringed Rue

Santalaceae - Sandalwood Family

Osyris alba Osyris

Scrophulariaceae - Figwort Family

Bellardia trixago Bellardia

Linaria chalapensis

Linaria pelisseriana Jersey Toadflax

Misopates orontium Lesser Snapdragon

Parentucellia latifolia

Parentucellia viscosa Yellow Bartsia

Scrophularia lucida Shining Figwort

Scrophularia peregrina Nettle-leaved Toadflax

* *Verbascum arcturus* Hanging Mullein

Verbascum sinuatum

Veronica sp.

Solanaceae - Potato Family

Withania somnifera Withania

Hyoscyamus albus White Henbane

Styracaceae - Storax Family

Styrax officinalis Storax

Tamaricaceae - Tamarix Family

Tamarix smyrnensis Tamarisk

Thymelaeaceae - Daphne Family

Daphne sericea

Thymelaea hirsuta Thymelea

Ulmaceae - Elm Family

Ulmus canescens Mediterranean Elm

Umbelliferae - Carrot Family

Apium nodiflorum Fools Water-cress

Bupleurum gracile A Thorow Wax

Daucus carota Wild Carrot

Eryngium maritimum Sea Holly

Ferula communis subsp. *communis* Giant Fennel

Foeniculum vulgare Fennel

Oenanthe pimpinelloides Corky-Fruited Water Dropwort

Tordylium apulum Mediterranean Hartwort

Torilis arvensis Spreading Hedge-parsley

Torilis nodosa Knotted Hedge-parsley

Urticaceae - Nettle Family

Parietaria judaica Pellitory of the Wall

Urtica membranacea Membranous Nettle

Urtica pilulifera Roman Nettle

Valerianaceae - Valerian Family

**Valeriana asarifolia* Cretan Valerian

Valerianella discoidea A Corn Salad

Verbenaceae - Verbena Family

Vitex agnus-castus Chaste Tree

Vitaceae - Vine Family

Vitis vinifera subsp. *vinifera* Grape Vine

b) Monocotyledons

Agavaceae - Agave Family

Agave americana Century Plant

Amaryllidaceae - Daffodil Family

Narcissus tazetta Rose of Sharon (in fruit only)

Pancratium maritimum Sea Daffodil (leaves only)

Araceae - Arum Family

Arum concinatum

Arum creticum Cretan Arum

Dranunculus vulgaris Common Dragon Arum

Graminaceae - Grass Family

Arundo donax Giant Reed

Briza maxima Giant Quaking Grass

Lagurus ovatus Hare's-tail

Phragmites australis Reed

Iridaceae - Iris Family

Gladiolus italicus Field Gladiolus

Gynandris sisyrrinchium Barbary Nut

Hermodactylus tuberosus Widow Iris

Iris albicans White Flag Iris

* *Iris unguicularis* ssp. *cretensis* Cretan Iris

Liliaceae - Lily Family

Allium commutatum Wild Leek

Asphodeline lutea Yellow Asphodel

Asphodelus aestivus Common Asphodel

Drimia maritima (*Urginea maritima*) Sea Squill

Gagea graeca

Muscari comosum Tassel Hyacinth

Ornithogalum exscapum A Star of Bethlehem

Ornithogalum narbonense A Star of Bethlehem

Smilax aspersa Common Smilax

* *Tulipa cretica* Cretan Tulip

* *Tulipa doerfleri* (*T. orphanidea*) Orange Wild Tulip

Tulipa sylvestris Wild Tulip

Orchidaceae - Orchid Family

Aceras anthropophorum Man Orchid

Anacamptis pyramidalis Pyramidal Orchid

Barlia robertiana Giant Orchid

Ophrys bombyliflora Bumble Bee Orchid

Ophrys doerfleri (*O. cretica*) Cretan Bee Orchid

Ophrys fusca Sombre Bee Orchid

Ophrys heldreichii (*O. scolopax* ssp. *heldreichii*) Marengo Orchid

Ophrys holoserica subsp. *holoserica* (*O. fuciflora* subsp. *fuciflora*) Late Spider Orchid

Ophrys iricolor Rainbow Orchid
Ophrys lutea Yellow Bee Orchid
Ophrys mammosa (*O. sphegodes* ssp. *mammosa*) Mammose Orchid
Orchis boryi
Orchis collina (*O. saccata*) Fan-Lipped Orchid
Orchis italica Italian Man Orchid
Orchis lactea Milky Orchid
Orchis laxiflora subsp. *laxiflora* Lax-Flowered Orchid
Orchis papilionacea Pink Butterfly Orchid
Orchis pauciflora (*O. provincialis* subsp. *pauciflora*) Few-flowered Orchid
Orchis quadripunctata Four-Spotted Orchid
Orchis simia Monkey Orchid
Serapia bergonii (*S. vomeracea* ssp. *laxiflora*) Bergon's Tongue Orchid
Serapia cordigera Heart-flowered Serapia
Serapia orientalis ssp. *orientalis* Eastern Tongue Orchid
Serapia parviflora Small-flowered Tongue Orchid

Palmae - Palm Family

Phoenix theophrasti Cretan Palm

Typhaceae - Reedmace Family

Typha domingensis A reedmace

Michael Rebane - June 1998