

# CRETE BIRD REPORT

2002

Compiled and edited by:  
Stephanie Coghlan  
25 Thorpe Lane  
Huddersfield  
HD5 8TA



Eagle Owl

## CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

### Introduction to Crete Bird Report 2002

Many thanks to everyone who contributed records for 2002. It has been a very busy year with plenty of reports. The winter season brought Mute Swans, Whooper Swans, White-fronted Goose and a Red-breasted Goose as well as a Smew. Spring was as busy as ever with plenty of raptors passing through, many waders with Avocet, Oystercatcher, Collared Pratincole, Spur-winged Plover, Lapwing and Black-tailed Godwit as highlights. In April came a report of an Eagle Owl nest and one young was photographed. Then in June a Long-tailed Skua dropped in. As usual Crete produces plenty of surprises.

**Weather:** The winter weather was wet and all the river pools and reservoirs were full. Bramiana reservoir was full up to the original shoreline. Cloudy and windy in March. Northerly winds were common in the first half of April. It settled down in May.

**Names and Spelling:** The spelling used is from the Harms Verlag Part 1 and 2 1:100,000 with some names used as in "A Birdwatching Guide to Crete" Coghlan.

**Illustrations:** Many thanks to Ken Baldrige for his illustrations.

The Bird List follows the order in "The Birds of Greece" Handrinos/Akriotis. 1997.

**R – resident, PM – passage migrant, AV- vagrant, SV- summer visitor,  
WV - winter visitor.**

**STATUS: rare, scarce, common, locally common, introduced.**

### CRETE BIRD LIST

**Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* R PM**

A few on Kournas Lake 13.3. Six on Georgiopolis Lake 7.4. and 4 there 13.4. 40 at Agia reservoir 6.4. and then good numbers at there 13.4. Down to 20+ at Agia reservoir 20.4. and 21.4. In June 2 at Ierapetra reservoir 5.6. About 12 at Agia reservoir 10.6. 2 pairs at Georgiopolis Lake 20.6. 53 at Agia reservoir including many juveniles 22.6. and 42 there 23.6. and 50+ there 27.6.

August: 4 at Georgiopolis 24.8. 8 at Agia reservoir 25.8. 21 Lake Kournas 28.8.

In September, 34 at Agia reservoir 21.9. In October 40 on Bramiana reservoir on 4.10 and 6.10. In November, 12 at Lake Kournas, several at Georgiopolis and 50+ at Agia reservoir.

**Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* rare WV**

Two records: 2 individuals 26.3. at Ierapetra some 50m off the beach east of Venetian castle. One in transitional plumage in Rethymnon Harbour 3.4-5.4.

**Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* WV PM**

About 20 on Kournas Lake 13.3. 2 there 6.4. and 2 at Bramiana reservoir 10.4.

In October at t least 10 there on 4.10 and down to 2 there 6.10.

**Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* SV PM**

One past Rethymnon 6.4. Singles off Dia island on 12.4. Small numbers in Grandes Bay at the far east of Crete 20.4. -22.4. 3-4 from Creta Sun Hotel on 23.4.

## CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

In August 6+ Rethymnon 20.8. and 8 there 25.8. Then in September 4 on 4.9. at Kolokytha and 1 6.9. Boros Bay, Elounda. Also in September 30-40 close to the shore from carpark/taverna at the end of the Gramvousa peninsula.

**Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* PM**

4 parties seen in the first half of November with 20 off Panormo on 11.11. and 2 singles on 12.11.

**Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* WV PM**

One outside Hania harbour 16.3. One on the sea at the mouth of Petres Gorge 4.11.

**Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* R**

1 in Plakias Bay on 5.4. 3 on the 19.4. off Itanos. 2 of Kolimbari 17.4. Nopgia 1 seen on rocks from track leading to Rhodopou peninsula 17.9. 2 on rocks by sea at Aghia Triada 20.9.

**Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* PM**

Single at Rapaniana 20.4, Agia reservoir 21.4. Souda Bay 22.4. and One Tavronitis river 22.4. One at Agia reservoir 23.9. 5 on the headland at Malia 3.10.

**Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* PM**

1-2 daily around Plakias 2-9.4. One west over Frangocastello 8.4. One on 10.4. in roost at Aposelemis, two at Thrapsano pool on 12.4. and one on the 15.4. at Bramiana reservoir. At least 11 at Lake Kournas 13.4. and one at Agia reservoir 13.4. One at Agia reservoir 21.4. In June two at Ierapetra reservoir 5.6. One immature at Kournas Lake 7.6. In August 34 including 6 juveniles on Rethymnon beach early am. 35 flew in off Gulf of Malia and 38 flew into Elounda ahead of a storm on 10.9.

**Squacco Heron *Ardeola purpurea* PM**

During April 2 flying in at Plakias 3.4. and single there 4.4. 5 flew in to Plakias on 9.4. Elsewhere in April, 1-2 on several days at Aposelemis river and Gouves lagoons, Thrapsano Pool, Elounda Salt pans, Plakias. 6 at Plakias 14.4. 10 on 15.4. at Bramiana reservoir. 2 at Rapaniana 21.4. and 2 at Creta Sun lagoons 23.4. In June 24 at Ierapetra reservoir on 5<sup>th</sup>. 18 at Analypsis late evening and again early morning at the beginning of June. 1 adult in breeding plumage 10.6. at Agia reservoir and 2 there 22.6. In August 30 east at Rethymnon during sea watch 20.8. 17 at Georgiopolis river mouth 31.8.

70+ west at Rethymnon 1.9. 95 there and mixed flocks of 60+ herons 2.9. 2 at Elafonisi 16.9. and 21.9. and 23.9. at Agia reservoir. 2 at Lake Kournas and 2 at Agia reservoir 9.11.

**Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* rare R**

12 feeding around livestock in Geropotamos valley below Phaestos on 5.4. and 12.4.

**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* PM**

First record 2 Rethymnon harbour 3.4. Singles there 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and one at Georgiopolis Lake 7.4. Passage noted at Plakias with 90 on 3.4. and 60 on 4.4. 70+ there 13.4. in the morning and 170 on rocks in the harbour in the evening. 80 birds remained at Plakias on 14.4. Later in April recorded almost daily but only 1-2. 5 at Bramiana reservoir on 15.4. 4 at Creta Sun, Gouves 23.4. In June 6 at Bramiana reservoir on 5.6. Singles at Kato Zakro 6.6. and Xerocampos. 4 at Analypis in early June. Singles at Agia reservoir 22.6. 23.6. and 27.6. 22 over Georgiopolis 31.8.

## CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

Singles seen at Elounda and Kolokytha at the beginning of September, and Kalathas, Gramvousa peninsula, and Agia reservoir. In October singles at Elounda saltpans 2.10. 4.10. 5.10. and 7.10. two there 3.10 and 6.10. and 3 on 8.10. At Malia 25 flew over on 3.10. and 2 at Bramiana reservoir 4.10. Single at mouth of river at Chania 1.11. and 2.11. One at Lake Kournas and 5 at Agia reservoir.9.11.

**Great White Egret *Ardea alba*** *rare* *PM*

One came in off the sea at Plakias on 10.4. Single on 18.4 at Chiona Bay. One on Lassithi plateau 3.6.

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*** *PM*

First record: One at Hania harbour 15.3. Singles at Gouves, Plakias, Agia reservoir, Moni Preveli, Makrialyos, Aposelemis river and Chiona Beach in April. Flock of 39 in off the sea on 8.4. at Frangocastello. 4 at Agia reservoir 20.4. and 1 at Gouves 23.4. In June: 3 at Xerocampos 5.6. 3 at Irapetra 5.6. 5 near Lakki, 10.6. 2 at Agia reservoir 22.6. and 23.6. and one at Georgiopolis 26.4.

In August 4 west at Rethymnon on 21.8. 3 Rethymnon beach 22.8. 13 west with 48 Purple Herons 31.8. 51 off Rethymnon 2.9. Singles recorded at Elounda saltpans in early September and at Paleohora 13.9. In first week of October single at Elounda saltpans. 6 flew over Malia 3.10 and 8 there 6.10. 4 at Bramiana reservoir 4.10. In November one on coast at Panormo and 1 at Agia reservoir .

**Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*** *PM*

At Plakias 11 over bay on morning of 3.4. Two at Georgiopolis Lake flying upstream 7.4. Single at Plakias 10.4. 6 there 12.4. Two at Aposelemis river and Gouves lagoons on 12.4. Passage on 13.4. with flocks of 15 and 40 over Malia. Also recorded singles at Makrialyos 3.4. and Lake Kournas 13.4. and 9 at Agia reservoir 13.4. and 2 at Frangocastello 15.4. Singles at Elounda and Chiona Bay. One at Rapaniana 21.4. In June singles at Bramiana reservoir 5.6. and Agia reservoir 22.6. and 27.6.

In August 23 west at Rethymnon 21.8. Single Rethymnon beach 22.8. In September: 222 at seafront there 2.9. One at Elafonisi 16.9. Last record 1 at Agia reservoir 3.11.

**Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*** *rare* *PM*

2 flying over at Marina Village Hotel at breakfast on 20th. (SP et al). One at Tavronitis river May 3rd. (PM)

**Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*** *PM*

Passage was seen 9.4.-23.4. with small numbers daily with 3-6. 20-25 at Malia 9.4. and into Plakias Bay at dusk on 13.4. There were 40 on 13th at Elounda and 17 and 25 at Malia also on 13th. but in Plakias there were 270 on 13.4. and 30 there 15.4. At Frangocastello there were 23 on 15.4. 1 at Rapaniana 17.4. As well as 18 at Chiona Bay on 20.4. and 5 at Creta Sun Lagoons 23.4.

In August 2 west at Rethymnon on a seawatch 20.8. and 4 at Agia reservoir 28.8.

**Spoonbill. *Platalea leucorodia*** *rare* *PM*

One 5.9. at Creta Sun Gouves lagoon.

**Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*** *rare* *WV* *PM*

2 on 29.3 at Elounda old saltpans. Single adult at Chiona Bay from 18th-21st April.



## CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

on 15.4. meanwhile there were 10 on 15.4 at Bramiana Reservoir. 30+ Plakias Bay 20.4. One male at Maradati valley on 21.4. 3 at Gouves lagoons 23.4.

In June 2 at Ierapetra reservoir 5.6.

Returning in August: Three Georgiopolis 24.8. - 27.8. 30 off Rethymnon 27.8. 200 off Rethymnon 30.8. 300 west at Rethymnon seawatch and 1000 east possibly this species 31.8. 7 at Agia reservoir 28.8. In September 200 settling in the bay towards Rethymnon harbour 1.9. 90 west, 120 east Rethymnon 2.9. In October one on Bramiana reservoir on 4.10 and 2 there 6.10.

**Shoveler *Anas clypeata*** *WV* *PM*

4 at Agia reservoir on 6.4. 5 there 13.4. and 2 at Thrapsano Pool on 12th, and single at Bramiana Reservoir on 15th. and 4 offshore at Frangocastello 15.4. A pair at Agia reservoir 20.4. down to one by 22.4. Two dropped in to Bramiana reservoir on 8.10. Several at Agia reservoir 10 there 3.11. and 9.11.

**Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*** *rare* *WV*

One male at Agia reservoir and two at Kournas throughout the month of January.

**Pochard *Aythya ferina*** *WV*

3 on Agia reservoir 21.9. About 120 on Bramiana reservoir on 4.10 and 21 there 6.10. Also recorded there 25.10. 3 at Lake Kournas on 3.11. and 9 there 9.11. One Geropotamos river near Panormo 4.11.

**Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*** *rare WV* *PM*

Four at Agia reservoir on 13.4. 2 there 20.4. and 3 there 21.4. In November one male at Lake Kournas and at Agia reservoir at least 5 on 3.11. and 12 there 9.11.

**Smew *Mergellus albellus*** *rare WV*

A male at Partira reservoir on 25.1. A first for Crete (MD)

**Black Kite *Milvus migrans*** *PM*

One at Myrthios on 7.4. One near Plakias 9.4. 1 passing south over the olive groves at the top of the Aghia Irini Gorge 15.9. In October one flew over the road to Nea Alikarnassos on 2.10 and one seen near Hamezi on 7.10.

**Bearded Vulture(Lammergeier) *Gypaetus barbatus*** *R*

One behind Spili on 4.4. One Prasses Gorge 17.4. 2 seen from Glykonkia Taverna before Hrisokalitissa Monastery.25.4. One adult Kotsifou Gorge 23.8. and one adult Kourtaliotiko Gorge 23.8. 2 over Samaria Gorge 28.8. Two immature birds seen Simadiriana 12.9. on the road from Kefali Sfinari. Another immature bird seen flying along the hillside above the village of Louhi 15.9.

**Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*** *R*

6 in Kourtaliotiko Gorge 2-9.4. Flock of 24 coming to carrion behind Arkadi Monastery 4.4. 3 Petres Gorge 7.4. Seen at most mountain sites 12.-15.3. 10 in the Lassithi plateau on 11.4. 4 behind Elounda, 3 over Katheron plateau on 16.4. 10 over Prasses Gorge 17.4. and 4 over St John's Point and 2 down by the sea after cold weather on 23.4. 15+ at Kourtaliotiko Gorge 18.4. Also records from Kallergi Hut, Petres river and Kourtaliotiko at the end of April. In June 2 over Lassithi plateau 3.5. 3 over Samaria Gorge at Xiloskalo 23.6. and 1 on southern side of White Mts. near Chora Sfakion. 25.6. In August 7+ Kourtaliotiko Gorge, and 12 there later in day. 7 in Kotsifou Gorge 23.8.

**CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002**

In October 9 over Selinari Gorge on 1.10 and 4.10. and at least 5 there on 3.10. One near Milatos on 4.10. Seven near Ag. Constandinos on Lassithi on 5.10. Six over Zenia on 5.10. and 14 over eastern pass to Lassithi on 5.10. 6 over Bramiana reservoir on 6.10. and 13 near Hamezi on 7.10. Recorded in Kourtalotiko Gorge 31.10 and Mount Yuchtas 5.11.

**Short-toed Eagle *Circaetos gallicus*** **PM**

6 over Bramiana reservoir on 6.10. and 1 there 25.10. photographed (AG)

**Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*** *rare WV* **PM**

One female Heraklion Power station 2.4. A few migrants over Plakias 3.4.-6.4. with a maximum of 10 on 3.4. 1 female Georgioupolis Lake 7.4. 2 at Malia on 13.4, 3 at Agia reservoir on 13,4. Singles near Plakias 14.4. and at Bramiana Reservoir on 15.4, Spili 19.4. Daily seen 5-7 or more over Marina Village Hotel from 18. to 22.4.

In June 3 or 4 on road from Sitia to Kato Zakros on 6<sup>th</sup>.

One female Agia reservoir 28.8. In October one female over Bramiana reservoir 6.10 and one near Hamezi on 7.10. In November 2 females or imm. at Agia reservoir 9.11.

**Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*** *rare WV* **PM**

One or more daily from 18.4. to 22.4., over Marina Village Hotel, Chiona Bay, Palekastro. One over Megala Horafia 21.4.

**Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*** *rare* **PM in April**

One female at Agia reservoir 21.4.

**Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygarrus*** *rare* **PM in April**

First record in off the sea at Plakias 12.4. Good numbers daily from 18- 22.4. between 10 and 20 were recorded daily over Marina Village, Palekastro in the east. In south a male at Spili 19.4. One at Rapaniana 20.4. One male at Iraklion airport 23.4.

**Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*** *WV* **PM**

There were 2 over Homo Sapiens museum on road to Lassithi on 5.10. One male over Georgioupolis Lake on 2.11.

**Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*** *R* **PM**

One over Plakias early morning on 6.4. One beside main road, west of Fodele 9.4. In June several recorded in west near Megala Horafia. and a single north over Georgioupolis 20.6. In October one near Hamezi 7.10. One photographed with Hooded Crow 25-28.10.(AG) Widely and thinly spread 1.-13.11.

**Buzzard *Buteo buteo*** **R**

Resident, Common singles recorded daily. The most commonly seen raptor in March, April and June. In October records from Gouves, Knossos, Pyrgos, Bramiana, Hamezi and Ag Nikolaos during the first week of October.

**Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*** *rare* **PM**

One over Ag Nikolaos 29.3. One or more recorded near Xerocampos on 22.4. on passage. One at Pevki Gorge 30.5. 3 at Xerocampos 4.6. and 1 at Zakros Gorge 6.6. In the autumn one 5.9. hunting over Kolokytha in Gulf and Mirabello.

**Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*** *rare* **V**

A possible flew over Kalo Horio village near Ag Nikolaos on 13.10.

CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

**Steppe Eagle *Aquila rapax*** *rare* *V*

One over the Marina Village Hotel, Chiona Bay, Palekastro on 21.4. Very low and close due to strong northerly winds.(SC)

**Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*** *R*

One at Kourtaliotiko Gorge 11.4. and on the same date 4 displaying in Frati Gorge nearby and 2 at Agia reservoir on 13.4. One 30.5, Gournes corrie, an immature. In June 2 high over Georgioupolis Lake 26.6. and 2 south of Kalives on the same day perhaps the same birds. One Lakki to Omalos 28.8. and 2-3 at Xyloskala 28.8. One in mountains behind Elounda 9.9. and 2 Selinari Gorge 10.9. In October 2 adults and 2 juv. seen over Lassithi plateau near Ag. Constandinos on 5.10. Two imm. between Omalos and Lakki on 3.11.

**Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*** *R* *PM* *WV*

3 near Phaestos on 5.4. 1 over Agia reservoir 6.4. Two pale phase and one dark phase there on 13.4. Daily passage from 17.4-20.4 in the east, at Marina Village hotel usually 2-3 daily. One over Lassithi plateau 3.6.

A pale phase bird at Agia reservoir 23.9. 6 over the hillsides at Knossos 2.10 and 5 over Bramiana on 4.10. and 2 there 6.10. One photographed, Pale phase, at Bramiana reservoir 25.10. (AG). In November another pale morph over Iraklion on 11.11.

**Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraetus fasciatus*** *R*

Pair at Imbros Gorge on 8.4. Seen on passage 2-3 daily along the east coast, 19.4, 20. and 21.4. One at Prasses Gorge 17.4. One over Lassithi plateau 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

A pair seen from the road down to Chora Sfakion 3.11. photographed (AG). A juvenile near Episkopi on 2. 11.

**Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*** *rare WV* *rare PM*

One at Agia reservoir on 13.4. One at Souda Bay 22.4.

**Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*** *WV?* *PM*

April: First recorded 3 at Toplou turning on 19.4. Flocks of 20-25 on 19th at Vai, 21st and 22nd from Marina Village Hotel, Paleocastro flocking northwards.

**Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*** *R*

Recorded daily in March and April and June. In May at Pevki Gorge. In June pairs in gullies on landward side of Akrotiri Drapanon 20.6, 2 males and 1 female feeding 5 young on nest at top of Afrata Gorge 21.6. Pairs of birds at around nest in cliffs by bridge over Aradena Gorge 25.6. A male hunting over headland at Kalives 28.6. In August 3 on Akrotiri 24.8. In October one over hillside at Knossos 2.10. One over Elounda on 4.10 and one over Bramiana also on 4.10. Two over Zenia 5.10 and 3 over Ag. Haralambos on 5.10. one at Hamezi on 7.10. Recorded most days 24.10 - 6.11.

**Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*** *PM*

All April records. Singles at Plakias on 3.4. and 8.4. One at Agia Triada on 12.4. 2+ on 13th at Gouves. 6 at Rapaniana 21.4. and 3 on 22.4. One at Gouves lagoons on 23.4. One on 19th at Vai and 3 at Marina Village Hotel on 22nd. Elsewhere 40+ at Skoutelonas river on 22.4. 6 Kastelli 22.4. One male over Megala Horafia 28.4.

3 in Pevki Gorge 30.5.



CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

**Hobby *Falco subbuteo*** *scarce* *PM*

One over Rapaniana beach 20.4. One at Megala Horafia 21.4. June: One 10.6. at Agia reservoir. August: One Kourtaliotiko Gorge 26.8. October: 6+ near Hamezi on 7.10.

**Lanner *Falco biarmicus*** *scarce* *R*

1 flying east over Rethymnon, viewed in good light from Rethymnon Pinewood 7.4.

**Eleanora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*** *SV*

First record one at Moni Preveli 12.4. 2+ over Marina Village Hotel, Chiona Bay on 22.4. In June a flock of 100+ off Makryalos Ferma road 5.6. 5+ seen over island off Xelohambro Bay 4.6. A single bird flying up river at Bailey Bridge at Tavronitis river. 27.6. One Akrotiri 24.8. and Armeni cemetery 31.8. One at Aghia Irini Gorge 15.9. and 3 at Moni 15.9. and 1 at Elafonissi 16.9. 1 Aghia Triada 20.9. 3 over Gramvousa peninsula 22.9. 1 Agia reservoir 23.9. In October one over Malia headland on 3.10. and 2 feeding low over Bramiana reservoir on 4.10 and 8 there on 6.10. A pair at Xerocampos 25.10. photographed (AG).

**Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*** *R* *PM*

2 over Spili on 4.4. Singles at Plakias 13.4. and Kotsiphos Gorge on 15.4. Singles at Afrata 17.4. Rodakino village 18.4. 2 at Petres 22.4. In August in Lefka Mts 25.8. and Kourtaliotiko Gorge 23.8. & 26.8. and near Arkadi Monastery 27.8. One Asigonia 25.8. One over Knossos 2.10 and one over Bramiana reservoir on 4.10 and 6.10. In November seen over Panormo and Agia reservoir.

**Chukar *Alectoris chukar*** *R*

One calling and seen well at Moni Preveli 7.4. and 8.4. Records from Phaestos, Moni Preveli, and Kotsiphos Gorge, and above Spili. Heard daily from 15.4- 18.4. around Elounda. 5 at Akrotiri 19.4. Heard on Omalos plateau 27.4. and 28.4.

In June heard on Lassithi plateau and 23.6. two birds in car park at Xiloskalo at top of Samaria gorge. 30+ in Petres Gorge 27.8. In October a group of 8 flew down gorge at Zakros 7.10. and photographed there 25.-28.10.(AG). Heard at Moni Preveli 5.11.

**Quail *Coturnix coturnix*** *PM*

One calling in a field in the Kedros foothills 4.4. Heard at Spili on 11.4. One at Rapaniana 18.4. One flushed from the beach at Itanos on 19.4. and one at Xerocampos river mouth on 22.4. One seen flying low on Malia headland on 3.10.

**Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*** *R* *WV* *PM*

One at Georgioupolis Lake during second half of April.

**Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*** *rare* *PM*

One at Thrapsano Pool seen well walking through Tamarisks at the pool edge.

**Little Crake *Porzana parva*** *scarce WV* *PM*

At least 6 at Agia reservoir 6.4. and 13.4. 8 there 20.4. 4 on 21.4. and one at Aposelemis river 23.4. One male at a pool under a half constructed hotel near Sitia, with two there on 23.4. a male and female. Also a male and female at Agia reservoir 22.4. and 29.4. Autumn record: 1 at Agia reservoir 21.9.

**Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*** *rare* *PM*

One male at Agia reservoir 21.4. One still there 22.4. (ML et al) (P F/GW)

CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

- Corncrake *Crex crex*** *rare* *V*  
 One seen and heard calling at Agia reservoir 29.4. (A&I S)
- Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*** *common* *PM*  
 In March recorded at Georgioupolis Lake on 13.3. In April 42 there 7.4. also seen at river mouths and pools in small numbers with 20+ at Limnes Pool on 13.4. Widespread and common at wetland sites with singles but 30+ at Agia reservoir 21.4.. In June 2 at Bramiana reservoir. Reasonable number at Georgioupolis and Agia reservoir 20.6.-27.6. Singles at Bramiana reservoir 4.10 and 6.10. Three in reed bed at river mouth at Kato Zakros 7.10. In November lots at Lake Kournas, Georgioupolis and Agia reservoir.
- Coot *Fulica atra*** *R* *PM*  
 6 Georgioupolis Lake 7.4. 4 at Thrapsano pool on 12.4. Common at Agia reservoir. Most common waterfowl at Agia reservoir with over 80 there on 20.4. and 21.4. Still many at Agia in June 40-50 recorded.  
 In Autumn: 176 at Agia reservoir 21.9. At least 200 on Bramiana reservoir on 4.10 and 6.10. In November lots at Lake Kournas, Agia reservoir and Georgioupolis.
- Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*** *rare* *V*  
 One at Elaphonisi 20.1.
- Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*** *R* *PM*  
 Earliest record one on Lassithi upland on 12.3. 2 at Agia reservoir on 6.4. 2 at Gouves lagoons date , 5+ at Bramiana reservoir (date), 2 at Agia reservoir 13.4. 2 on 19.4 at Chiona Beach lagoon and one there 22.4. Maximum of 12 at Makrialyos on 3.4. 1 Gouves 23.4. 2 Agia reservoir 27.4. In June 4 at Agia reservoir 10.6.two at south end 22.6. and 23.6. Not present there 27.6.
- Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*** *rare* *V*  
 One at the stream mouth at Kastelli Kissamos 9.5.(AdJ)
- Stone Curlew *Burhinus oediconemus*** *SV* *PM*  
 One on Plakias beach early morning on 8.4. Two birds seen at different times at Malia on 13.4. 2 at Gouves Lagoons 23.4.
- Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*** *scarce* *PM*  
 Two in fields at Tavronitis river 17.4.
- Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*** *rare WV breeding SV* *PM*  
 Three Rethymnon beach 2.4.- 4.4. 3 on Plakias beach on 3.4. 4 on the river at Agia Triada 5.4. and One at Plakias 9.4. Common nesting on beaches at Gouves, Itanos, Chiona beach and Elounda. 2 Petres 20.4..Tavronitis river 22.4. 6 at Gouves Lagoons 23.4. In June singles at Zakros Gorge 6.6. and Spiliakos river 21.6. and Tavronitis river 27.6. One Rethymnon beach 22.8. 3 there 23.8. and 26.8. 3 Petres bridge 24.8.
- Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*** *PM*  
 Recorded in the Autumn 5.9.-10.9. at Elounda Saltpans.
- Spur-winged Plover *Vanellus spinosus*** *rare* *PM*  
 One feeding in pools of the rocks off Church Bay Kalo Horio 9.10.

CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

- Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*** *WV*  
 One at Agia reservoir on 3.11.
- Sanderling *Calidris alba*** *PM*  
 One at Elafonissi beach 11.9. and 3 there 16.9.
- Little Stint *Calidris minuta*** *WV* *PM*  
 One at Plakias 3.4. and 3 at Agia Triada on 5.4. Common small flocks with 4- 15 seen on passage throughout April. One Petres river 20.4. 2 Tavronitis river 22.4. 4 Gouves 23.4. 2 Agia reservoir 29.4. 7 at Kastelli Kissamos stream mouth 9.5. 2 Agia reservoir 28.8. Daily at Elounda Salt pans during the first week September. 3 Gouves lagoons. October only one at Elounda salt pans 5.10 and 7.10.
- Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*** *scarce* *PM*  
 One at Agia reservoir on 3.11.
- Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*** *PM*  
 One at Agia reservoir 13.4. and 21.4. 2 at Kissamos stream mouth 9.5. One at Elounda salt pans 2.10 and 2 there on 5.10 and 7.10. Two on edge of Bramiana reservoir on 4.10.
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina*** *WV* *PM*  
 One Elounda Salt pans 8.9.-10.9. In October still a single on 3.10.
- Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*** *PM*  
 4 on Geropotamos river at Agia Triada on 5.4. Two at Malia 9.4. Common with flocks 8 at Gouves, Thrapsano, Elounda and Chiona beach, Kato Zakro and Xerocampos. Largest flock 15. One west at Rethymnon 20.8. and 2 Agia reservoir 28.8.
- Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*** *WV* *PM*  
 Single at stream north of Plakias 3.4. 1-2 recorded 9.4. - 13.4. One at Gouves 23.4. One at Megala Horafia in April. In November: at least 10 at Agia reservoir on 3.11.
- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*** *rare WV* *rare PM*  
 One over Malia on 3.4. Two at Bramiana Reservoir on 15.4.
- Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*** *rare* *PM*  
 Singles on 9th, 10th and 12th at Gouves lagoons. One at Tavronitis river in late April. One Agia reservoir 28.8. One at Agia reservoir on 3.11.
- Redshank *Tringa totanus*** *WV* *PM*  
 Singles recorded at Plakias 5.4., Gouves on 9.4. and 10.4, Thrapsano on 13.4. and 1+ at Chiona Bay lagoon. One at Tavronitis river 17.4. In October one at Elounda salt pans on 3.10 and one at Bramiana reservoir on 4.10. and 6.10.
- Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatalis*** *PM*  
 2 at Agia Triada on 5.4. One came in off the sea at Plakias on 10.4. Two at Gouves lagoons on 12th and one there 13th, One at Chiona Bay lagoon on 19th. 2 at Gouves 23.4.

**Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***

**PM**

One at Agia Triada 5.4. 15+ at Gouves lagoons on 9.4. Singles at Aposelemis river, Malia, Thrapsano, Chiona beach lagoon and Xerocampos lagoon. One Agia reservoir 22.4. Singles over Rapaniana 17.4. and 18.4. Tavronitis river 17.4. and Gouves lagoons 23.4. In June 2 at Agia reservoir 27.6. In October single at Bramiana reservoir 4.10. and 6.10.

**Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus***

**WV**

**PM**

1 at Agia Triada on 5.4. and one at Agia reservoir 6.4. 1-2 recorded at Gouves lagoons, and at Chiona Bay lagoon. 2 Tavronitis river 22.4. In June 3 in reeds at eastern end of Agia reservoir 22.6. and 27.6. plus two on Tavronitis river.

In September present at Elounda beach 8.9.- 10.9. In November 2 at Agia reservoir on 3.11. 1 at Geropotamos river near Panormo on 4.11. and 2 there 9.11.

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

**PM**

2 at Agia Triada 5.4. 2 at Agia reservoir on 13.4. Elsewhere common 4-6 recorded daily in April, Tavronitis river, Omalos plateau and Gouves Lagoons. 2 Agia reservoir 29.4. 3 at Bramiana reservoir 5.6. and 5 at Zakros Gorge on 6.6.

August records: 2 Agia reservoir 28.8. and Georgiopolis 31.8.

**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleuca***

**WV**

**PM**

In March small group seen at Lassithi pool on the 12.3. One Rethymnon beach 3.4., 3 Rethymnon Harbour 3.4. Singles Harbour 5.4. Georgiopolis river mouth 8.4. Max 5 on 3.4. on Plakias beach. singles there 10.4, 12.4, 15.4. In April 5-6 recorded at Gouves and Chiona Bay lagoons from 12.4 onwards. Common until 23.4. 1 Agia reservoir 29.4. 3 at Analypsis 30.5-6.6. 3 at Bramiana reservoir 5.6.

In August 2 at Agia reservoir 28.8. In September at 5.9-10.9. at Elounda. In October one in Elounda salt pans 2.10, 3.10 and 6.10 and 7.10. One at Almiros reedbed Ag.N on 4.10. One Chania harbour 1.11. photographed (AG) In November one at Panormo 1.11.-13.11. and 1 at Georgiopolis.

**Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***

**rare WV**

**rare PM**

2+ at Kissamos stream mouth 9.5. One at Elounda beach 5.9. 2 at Elafonissi 11.9. and 5 there 16.9.

**Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus***

**vagrant**

**AV**

One full adult was videotaped and photographed washing at Ammourgeles dam 30 km south of Iraklion.(MD) on 13.6.

**Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus***

**WV**

One immature in Rethymnon harbour 9.4. (TD)

**Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus***

**WV**

One at Souda Bay on 22.4. One at Panormo on 1.11.

**Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii***

**WV**

**R**

**PM**

1 at Xelohambro Bay 4.6.

One at Elounda flew past beach 10.9. Two off Elounda headland on 5.10 and one Sitia harbour on 7.10.

CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

**Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*** *rare WV* *PM*

One seen at Hania harbour on 16.3. One at Rethymnon Harbour on 6.4. 2 photographed Chania harbour on rocks 1.11. (AG)

**Yellow-legged Herring Gull *Larus cachinnans*** *common* *R*

Common in small numbers daily, breeding on the island off Spinalonga and the east coast. Largest count 250 at Agia reservoir 22.6. Small numbers recorded in October and November.

**Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*** *rare V*

One first winter at Rethymnon 7.11.

**Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*** *PM*

Two east at Rethymnon close inshore off beach 3.4.(TD)

**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*** *PM*

Two feeding on Bramiana reservoir on 4.10 and one there 6.10.

**Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*** *rare* *PM*

One adult winter at Agia reservoir 23.9.

**Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*** *PM*

One Agia reservoir 27.4.( A &IS) 1 at Bramiana reservoir 5.6. 3 at Makryalos Bay 16.6.(JC). One male fishing the length and breadth of the southern end of Agia reservoir. One at Agia reservoir 21.9. and 2 there 23.9.

**Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*** *PM*

Two adult winter birds at Agia reservoir 21.9.

**White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*** *PM*

Two immatures past Rethymnon west 31.8.

**Rock Dove *Columba livia*** *R*

Seen over Kalamavka, and more common in the east when small numbers recorded daily. 10 at Kourtaliotiko Gorge 11.4. A few in Kato Zakros Gorge on 7.10. and 25 there 28.10. and other gorges. Recorded on seacliffs and in gorges.

**Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*** *R*

One on Mt Youchtas on 10.3. Only recorded on Katheron plateau in April. Recorded on south coast around Plakias and singles on three dates there. In June at Makryalos and recorded irregularly in the west. In October one single near Milatos 4.10.

**Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*** *R*

Common in small numbers almost daily in towns and villages. Recorded from the east and from Hrisokalitissa Monastery in the west. 12+ at Stilos above Kalami. Kefali 11.9. In October seen daily in larger urban areas Gouves, Knossos, Ierapetra and Elounda. also November.

**Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*** *PM*

Three at Frangocastello on 15.4. Singles recorded from 9th and flock of 12 on 17.4. Passage noted on 22nd with over 100 recorded in flocks coming in off the sea and feeding in a vineyard. In June a single calling from Minoan ruins north of Stilos. 2 in

## CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

Rethymnon 21.8. In Sept. 1 over Souda 17.9. 1 Tersanas 19.9. and 4 Agia reservoir 21.9. Two over Knossos on 2.10 and 2 over Hotel Krini Elounda 8.10.

**Gr Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*** *rare PM*

One at Phaestos on 12.4.

**Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*** *PM*

One west over Rethymnon 3.4. One flying north at Phaestos 5.4. One near Lake Kournas 6.4. and one at Moni Preveli 7.4. and one seen resting at Gouves lagoons early morning on 13.4. One heard at Venizelou Park on 19.4. and one over Agia reservoir 20.4. and Megalia Horafia. One heard on Omalos 27.4. and 28.4.

**Barn Owl *Tyto alba*** *R*

Two heard at Chrispy Hotel, Rapaniana on 18.4.

**Scops Owl *Otus scops*** *SV R?*

Heard at night at Mylia 13.3. and 14.3. One heard Moni Agia Triada. 19.4. At least 3 heard in Megalo Horafia 16.4.-30.4. and 2 heard in June there. In September one heard at Kefali 10.9. and 16.9.

**Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*** *PM*

One mobbed by crows high over Knossos. 10.3. 2 at Frangocastello on 8.4 apparently flying in off the sea.

**Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*** *R*

Four owls at Pine trees near Kalathas and Tersanas on Akrotiri. One young photographed with digital camera. 26.4.(JCW)

**Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*** *SV PM*

One sitting on a telephone wire at 4.00pm on the road down into Megala Horafia 28.4.

**Swift *Apus apus*** *SV PM*

In March plentiful in Heraklion and Hania, a few in the mountains 9th-16th. Recorded daily from 10th in April. Common and widespread but no large flocks. In June flocks over Agia reservoir and Georgioupolis. In August 2 Rethymnon beach 22.8. In September passage through Elounda on 8.9. with 12 and singles on 9.9. and 2 on 10.9. 1 over Kefali village 16.9. and 15+ over Hania harbour 17.9. In October 2 over Hotel Krini Elounda 1.10. and a few over Malia 3.10.

**Pallid Swift *Apus pallida*** *SV PM*

Two or more flew in off the sea at Xerocampos archaeological site on 22nd April. Two nesting under eaves in the old harbour Rethymnon 21.8. One recorded in September in central Crete.

**Alpine Swift *Apus melba*** *SV PM*

First recorded from beginning of April. Then 100+ over Agia Galini 5.4. Two on 11.4. at Lassithi, Many on 12.4. at Thrapsano, and 200 at Phaestos. Two over Elounda on 13.4. 50 Rodakino 18.4. 30+ Agia reservoir 20.4. 10+ at Xerocampos Gorge on 22.4. 2 Agia reservoir 27.4. Regular in June at Megala Horafia and Agia reservoir. 200+ Akrotiri peninsula 24.8. Passage through Elounda foothills with 10 on 4.9. and 25 on 9.9. and 5 on 10th. 10+ at Moni north of Sougia 15.9. 30+ Kalathas 18.9. and 20 over Agia reservoir 23.9. Many passing over Ammoudara on 7.10.

Last records about 20 near Panormo on 6.11. and at least 50 on 7.11.

CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

**Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis***

*WV*

*PM*

Two in Plakias 3.4.-9.4. One perched on bridge in town every morning early. still there 14.4. and 16.4. One at Frangocastello 15.4. One at Kalives harbour 30.6. In August 2 Georgioupolis 24.8. and 1 there 25.8. One Rethymnon 26.8. 2 Agia reservoir 28.8. One Elounda saltpans 5.9.-8.9. One seen daily at Elounda saltpans and causeway 1.10 – 8.10. One at Bramiana reservoir 4.10. Seen at Kato Zakros flying along waters edge of beach. 25.-28.11. in Rethymnon and Chania harbours 1.11. photographed (AG). Widespread in November at every harbour and at Lake Kournas and Agia reservoir.

**Bee-eater *Merops supercilliosus***

*SV*

*PM*

Six at Plakias on 14.4. and 15.4. Two over Kolimbari 17.4. Three seen on wires near Ag Nikolaos on 18th. Six at Kastelli 22.4. 8 on wired on road to Kato Zakros 6.6. 35 in Elounda hills 10+ on 4.9. and many in distance on same date. 48 remained on 10.9.

**Roller *Caracius garrulus***

*SV*

*PM*

One in Amari Valley near Voliones 26.8.

**Hoopoe *Upupa epops***

*SV*

*PM*

One seen at Phaestos 11.3. and Akrotiri on 16.3. In April 1 in Plakias 3.4. 2 Rethymnon Fortezza 6.4. 2 at Frangocastello 8.4. Singles on 10.4. at Gouves lagoons and 4 on 12.4. Singles 15.4. on route to Kalamavka and on the football pitch at Stilos 20.4. In August on at Rethymnon Fortezza 21.8. 3 at Arkadi monastery 27.8.

8 recorded around Elounda saltpans during first week in September with 4 together. Single at Kalathas 23.9.

**Wryneck *Jynx torquilla***

*PM*

One at Plakias 8.4. and 9.4. One on Spinalonga peninsula 8.9.

**Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* rare**

*WV*

*PM*

One in a cage in Rethymnon 6.4. was presumed to have been caught locally.

**Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla***

*R*

*PM*

One singing over Moni Preveli 7.4. and 5 at Frangocastello 8.4. Recorded at Malia near the Taverna, and singles at Elounda, 5 at Rapaniana on 18.4. One there 21.4. and 6 at Creta Sun Lagoons 23.4. In Autumn: One over Elounda saltpans 5.10.

**Crested Lark *Galerida cristata***

*common*

*R*

Common breeding bird everywhere but particularly in the west from 30m up to 1000m. Still singing in September. October records. Recorded and photographed in November. (AG).

**Woodlark *Lullula arborea***

*WV*

*R*

Singing birds at Kedros 4.4. Recorded in the western mountains especially high above Mylia 13.3. In April 10 + heard on 11.4 on Lassithi plateau. Recorded at Spili 11.4., Moni Preveli on 14.4. and Imbros Gorge 15.4. Most numerous bird heard on Omalos plateau 20.4. and 27.4. Still singing in September and October and November.

**Skylark *Alauda arvensis***

*WV*

*PM*

Four in Kedros fields 4.4. Recorded daily from 9.4.-15.4. In November one seen and heard around Panormo.

**Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

*SV*

*PM*

First recorded in small numbers over Plakias from 3.4. 20 at Agia reservoir on 6.4. 100 at Plakias on 14.4. Several on 15.4 at Bramiana Reservoir. Then daily in small flocks on passage. 20+ Tavronitis river 22.4. 12+ Agia reservoir 27.6. 6 at Georgioupolis 25.8. Passage through Elounda with 6 on 9.9. 2-5 over the village of Kefali 16.9. In October several flying over Bramiana reservoir 6.10 and a few flying down valley at Hamezi on 7.10.

**Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris***

*R*

*PM*

In March seen at most mountain sites. A good colony nesting in the cave above road in gorge between Mylia and Polyrrhynia. Recorded at Koutsamatados Gorge, Topolia Gorge, Kourtaliotiko Gorge, Arkadi, Bramiana, Kato Zakros and Xerocampos in April. 2-4 at Pevki Gorge 30.5.

In August 4 Akrotiri peninsula 24.8. 4 Kourtaliotiko Gorge 23.8. 4 Akrotiri 24.8. Single over Fodele 6.9. In November recorded at Kato Zakros, Kourtaliotiko Gorge, Samaria Gorge carpark and Frangocastello. In November reported as widespread in small numbers from coast up to 1,500 metres.

**Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

*SV*

*PM*

In March a pair nesting in taverna at Polyrrhynia 15.3. In April Common recorded daily but no large passage recorded except 200 Agia reservoir on 6.4. In June in east and in west in Hania. Recorded in August and September. 200+ over Aghia Irini Gorge 15.9. 200+ over Kefali 16.9. 25+ over Kalathas 18.9. Flock at Bramiana reservoir 6.10. and many passing through Elounda 6.10- 8.10. Seen in Kato Zakros Gorge on 7.10. Juveniles at Kato Zakros 25.- 28.10. One at Agia reservoir 9.11.

**Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica***

*SV*

*PM*

One flying north through Kotsifou gorge 7.4. Two at Myrthios 14.4. 2 at Rodakino 18.4. and 11 at Rapaniana 19.4. Single on 18th at Chiona Bay and 2+on 21st at lunch at winnowing circle behind Palekastro, and several with other swallows coming in off the sea at Xerocampos river mouth on 22.4. In June seen in Megala Chorafia, drinking from pool. Nesting site at overhanging balcony in Stilos inland from Kalami in June.

Return migration in September 8 at Fodele 6.9. and 10 on passage at Elounda 9.9. and 2 there 10.9. One at Kefali 11.9. One at Agia Irini Gorge 15.9. and Kefali 16.9. A few over Bramiana reservoir on 6.10. other records on 7.10. One at Xiloskalo above Samaria Gorge 3.11.

**House Martin *Delichon urbica***

*SV*

*PM*

In March a few at Phaestos and Gortys 11.3. Common recorded everyday from 3.4. In north and east from 11th onwards but no nesting sites seen. In west recorded from 17.4.-20.4. 50 + over Kefali 16.9. Several in valley below Hamezi on 7.10. and a few in Kato Zakros gorge 7.10. In November with Alpine Swifts over Panormo on 7.11. and at least 1 at Agia reservoir on 9.11.



CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

**Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris***

*SV*

*PM*

Singles at Kedros fields 4.4. Phaestos 5.4. and Frangocastello 8.4. Singles at Spili 11.4. and Phaestos on 12.4. 2 Frangocastello 18.4. 5+ at Xerocampos chapel on 22.4 and 2 on road leaving Xerocampos. In west 2 on Omalos 20.4. 1 at Rapaniana 22.4. and 2 at Creta Sun lagoon 23.4. Several on headland at Malia 3.10. and 4 there 6.10. One at Bramiana reservoir 7.10.

**Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

*PM*

20 at Plakias on 3.4. Then two west over Rethymnon 4.4. 3-5 Fortezza 6.4. c10-15 Agia Irini to Rethymnon road 8.4. 6 at Frangocastello on 15.4. Above Spili 19.4. 1 at Rapaniana 20.4.

**Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

*WV*

Late wintering records of 2 on 3.4 at Plakias and one there 5.4. One west at Rethymnon Beach 6.4. and one possibly the same at the Fortezza 6.4. One Tersanas 19.9. One at Elounda headland 5.10. One over Panormo on 6.11.

**Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus***

*rare WV*

*PM*

April only: Two on 11.4 at Gouves lagoons, and singles at Bramiana on 15.4 and 5 at Frangocastello on the same date and one at Ilion Hotel Elounda on 16.4. 3 Frangocastello 18.4. and 3+ at Xerocampos chapel on 22.4. Regular flocks of 15-20 at Rapaniana from 17.4.- 22.4. 2 at Creta Sun 23.4.

**Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***

*PM*

Recorded in Hania harbour 15.3. Singles in Rethymnon from 1.4. 4.4. and 6.4. 20 at Plakias on 3.4. Common in flocks of 5-35 from 10th April. 150 was the largest flock on 13th at Malia. Races included *beema*, *thunbergi*, and *feldegg*. 40 at Frangocastello on 15.4. In west good numbers seen 17.4.- 22.4. in small flocks. 2 at Analysis in first week in June.

Return passage noted 50+ roosting in reeds at Agia reservoir 28.8. and single at Rethymnon beach 2.9. 10 at Elounda salt pans 7.9. 2 at Elafonissi 16.9. and 2 Tersanas 19.9. and 3+ behind beach at Gramvousa peninsula 22.9. 3 on headland at Malia 3.10. and 10 there 6.10. Two at Bramiana reservoir 4.10. and 6.10. Singles at Elounda 5.10.- 8.10.

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

*R*

One at Kourtaliotiko Gorge 4.4. 2 at Lefkogia 19.4. One feeding in road at Psychro on 5.10. In November small numbers around coast and where there was standing water.

**White Wagtail *Motacilla alba***

*WV*

*PM*

In March a pair breeding in a hole in rocks outside Hania harbour 15.3.-16.3. Common but thinly spread, only singles recorded at Plakias, Gouves, Creta Sun Gardens, Rethymnon beach, Fortezza and Georgiopolis as well as Morosini viaduct and Vai. In west only 2 seen at Rodakino 18.4. and Chania 19.4.

In June pairs at Analysis early June, Agia reservoir 23.6, and 27.6. and a single at Kalatas, on Akrotiri peninsula. 24.6.

In September records from Elounda, Elafonisi, Tersanas, Gramvousa. In October records daily from Elounda, Bramiana reservoir and while travelling. In November small numbers wherever there was standing water and around the coast.

**Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

**R**

In March common in ravines especially Mylia and Imbros 14.-16.3. Heard and seen in the mountains on Lassithi and Katheron plateaus. Recorded in Kourtaliotiko Gorge 4.4. and 11.4. In west recorded at many inland sites. By June only one record at Tavronitis river 27.6. One photographed at Ag. Irini Gorge 2.11. (AG). Heard in the hills in November.

**Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris***

**R**

6 in small group on track to Gingalos above the restaurant 21.4. One pecking around under the tables at Kallergi Hut 28.4. One above tourist pavilion on E4 path 28.8.

**Robin *Erithacus rubecula***

**WV**

One at Frangocastello 8.4.

**Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos***

**SV**

**PM**

April: One in the Artemis Hotel grounds, Rethymnon 6.4. Heard daily 3.4.-9.4. on 11.4, 18.4. and 21.4. at Ag Constantidos on Lassithi, Hotel Ilion, Elounda and at Hidden valley behind Palekastro where we sheltered from the wind below the winnowing circle. In west singing at Afrata, Agia reservoir, Rapaniana and Omalos.

**Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros***

**WV**

**PM**

A pair on Akrotiri peninsula 16.3. One in Spili 4.4.

In Autumn Kato Zakros 25.-28.11., Kourtaliotiko Gorge 31.10. and Frangocastello 3.11. In November widespread in small numbers, from the coast to the highlands.

**Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

**PM**

One in Plakias 4.4. 2 at Moni Preveli on 7.4. and 8.4. One male at Akrotiri 19.4.

In Autumn 1 at Elounda Salt pans 7.9. and 2 there 8.9.

**Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra***

**SV**

**PM**

Singles at Rethymnon harbour 4.4. and Armeni, Plakias and near Phaestos on 5.4. 2 at Gouves lagoons on the 10th, 4 at Plakias on 10.4. and then a passage from 13th-15th with 10-20 daily. In west 3-8 noted at Rapaniana 17.4.-22.4. In east recorded in smaller numbers at Ag Marina village and Chiona beach from 19.4 -22.4. In west described as abundant 16.4.- 30.4. One at Megala Horafia 8.6.

Return Autumn passage through the island 3-10.9. Max. 18 at Elounda 9.9. One on headland at Malia 3.10. and 6.10. One at Bramiana reservoir 4.10.

**Stonechat *Saxicola torquata***

**R**

**WV**

**PM**

Resident. Common breeding bird. In March recorded as common on slopes at Mylia 1.3.-15.3. Resident breeding locally in April- June. Recorded as high as Kallergi Hut on Omalos in April. 5 on Lassithi plateau 3.6. 2 at Kato Zakro 6.6.

One male Rethymnon beach 22.8.

Fairly common in September, October and November.

**Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabelline***

**PM**

One male at Armeni 5.4.

CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

**Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* SV PM**

First record 5 Rethymnon harbour 4.4. Singles Rethymnon beach 4.4. outskirts of Rethymnon 5.4. and harbour 9.4. Small numbers recorded on passage maximum 10 at Frangocastello on 8.4. and small numbers again 13.4. and 14.4. In west only small numbers seen from 17.4. and 15+ on Omalos 20.4. In June a male was seen from Chora Sfakion to Anopoli 25.6. Fairly common on passage 3.9.-10.9. Max 8 at Elounda 9.9. 1 at Tersanas 19.9. and Aghia Triada Moni 20.9.

**Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* SV PM**

One male Petres Gorge and one at Moni Preveli 7.4. 6 at Moni Preveli 8.4. and 10 at Frangocastello on 8.4. Small numbers only in Lassithi mountains, above Elounda and near Xerocampos, the main passage did not seem to have arrived until late April. 2 at Moni Preveli 14.4. and 2 at Frangocastello 15.4. 20+ on Omalos 21.4. Gramvousa peninsula 24.4. and Omalos plateau 27.4. In June recorded at Analypsis, Kares, Diktamos and Falasarna, pale form *melanoleuca* spp. commoner in Crete. Very good numbers from Lakki to Omalos 23.6. and also good numbers on Akrotiri 24.6. In August 1 male Moni Preveli 23.8. Several on the headlands at Malia on 3.10. and 3 there on 6.10. One on headland at Elounda on 8.10.

**Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* SV PM**

One male at Rapaniana 20.4. One male in trees at eastern pass into Lassithi near Ag. Constandinos 5.10.

**Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* R**

One male Arkadi Valley 4.4. 2 males, 1 female Agia Irini 8.4. Small numbers recorded in gorges at Afrata, Therisso, Akrotiri, Moni Agia Triada and 8 in Kourtaliotiko on 18.4. Recorded daily from the 17.4 in the east of the island from Elounda onwards. In June two in Afrata Gorge 21.6. Single at viewpoint above Kares on way to Omalos. 23.6. In August records from Rethymnon, Akrotiri and Asigonia. In Sept. 7.9-9.9. Elounda saltpans and foothills. In October at Pines on 2.10. and a female on the headland at Malia 3.10. and 6.10. Male photographed Kato Zakros Gorge 25-28.11. Reported as widely spread in November.

**Blackbird *Turdus merula* R**

Resident and common.

**Song Thrush *Turdus philomelus* WV**

In March recorded at Mylia on 13th to 15th and few near the Monastery at Akrotiri 16.3. 2 seen on 4.4. One still in Plakias on 10.4. A few scattered individuals 1-13.11.

**Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* WV**

One at Plakias on 10.4.( Honeyguide).

**Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* common R**

In March recorded at Kournas Lake 13.3. near stream at Mylia 14.-15.3. and by an ancient plane tree on route to Polyrhena 15.3. In April seen at Aposelemis river and heard almost daily in suitable habitats with scrub or *Arundo donax* Giant Reed. 11 singing males between Plakias and Myrthios on 10.4. Recorded in June still calling but difficult to see. In September recorded at Fodele and Elounda. In October recorded at Malia. Seen at Georgioupolis in November.

**Fan-tailed Warbler (*Zitting Cisticola*) *Cisticola juncidis* locally common *R***

Just one noted at Rapaniana on 20.4. and 22.4.

**Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* *PM***

Singles at Agia reservoir 6.4, Georgioupolis Lake 7.4. and Plakias 8.4. and 9.4. 3-4 at Agia reservoir 20.4. and 21.4. and 1 at Georgioupolis lake on 22.4. One there 31.8. 2+ at Agia reservoir 21.9.

**Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* *PM***

Heard at Agia reservoir 13.4. and at Almiros at Ag. Nikolaos on 16th and at Chiona beach on 20.4. Recorded at Analypsis early June and one singing at seawards side of Tavronitis river 27.6. One heard in the reedbed at Malia 3.10.

**Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* *PM***

One singing at Plakias 8.4. 2 calling at different sites at Chiona beach on 22.4. and 23.4. 2 at Agia reservoir 20.4. and 21.4. and 2 at Rapaniana 21.4. In June one at Georgioupolis 20.6. and one there 31.8. One at Malia 6.10.

**Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida* *SV* *PM***

Heard alongside Aposelemis river on 10.4. and 12.4. Elounda 4.9.

**Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* *PM***

On Autumn passage through Elounda 8, 9, and 10.9.

**Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* *SV* *PM***

A pair feeding in scrub at the mouth of Imbros Gorge 16.3. In April one seen most days in scrub behind Plakias beach 3.4-9.4. One male singing at Moni Preveli on 7.4. One at Plakias at 10.4. One at Elounda on 13.4.

**Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* *R***

Common recorded daily in a variety of habitats, throughout the year. Photographed (AG).

**Ruppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppelli* *SV* *PM***

Male at Moni Preveli on 7.4. and a pair in low scrub by Imbros Gorge on 8.4.

**Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* *PM***

Singles at Spili on 11.4. and Moni Preveli on 14.4. Three on headland at Malia 6.10.

**Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* *PM***

First record at Plakias on 3.4. and 5.4. then 4 at Moni Preveli on 7.4. and 6 at Frangocastello on 8.4. One at Plakias on 10.4. Above Spili 19.4. Singles at Rapaniana 22.4. and Creta Sun Hotel, Gouves 23.4. Recorded in early June at Analypsis.

In October only one record of a single at Elounda headland 3.10-7.10.

**Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* *PM***

One seen well and heard below dam at Agia reservoir 27.6.

**Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* *PM***

A few at all sites in March, especially Mylia. In April in Plakias on 3.4. and 5.4. 3 heard in Therisso Gorge 21.4. A male singing near Misiria on 7.11.

CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

**Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*** **PM**

2 at Moni Preveli on 7.4. and one still there on 8.4.

**Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*** **PM**

Recorded at Plakias, Spili, Moni Preveli 9.4.-16.4. Seen on 19.4 and 20.4. at Chiona Bay. Palekastro. On 20.4 at least two in Kato Zakros Gorge and on 21.4 in the beach bushes in Maradati valley. Single on passage 7.9. at Elounda. 2 at Agia reservoir Irini gorge 15.9. 4+ at Kefali 16.9. 3-4 Kalathas 20.9-21.9. in tamarisks next to the beach. In October 2 beside Bramiana reservoir 4.10 and 6.10. One in tamarisk on Elounda causeway 5.10, 6.10, and 7.10 and 2 there 8.10.

**Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*** **WV**

Winter visitor. Singles on Omalos 20.4. and Souda bay on 22.4. Late record at Agia Irini Gorge 28.4. In September 10+ Rethymnon Beach 2.9. mixed flock. Singles noted at Elounda 4.9.-7.9. 2 at Kefali 16.9. and 1 Kalathas 18.9. One in Tamarisk on Elounda causeway 5.10, 6.10 and 8.10. Seen in Kato Zakros Gorge 25.-28.11. photographed (AG). Recorded as common calling everywhere in November.

**Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*** **WV**

First record 2 at Moni Preveli 7.4. and one still there on 8.4. Heard on 17.4. at Ag. Ioannis Point above Plaka.

In September small numbers on passage 3.9.-10.9. with max. 6 on 9.9. and 10.9. Singles at Paleohora 13.9, Agia Irini gorge 15.9. and 3+ Kefali 16.9. One in Tamarisk on Elounda causeway 5.10, 6.10. and 8.10. Two there 7.10. Photographed in Kato Zakros gorge 25.-28.11. (AG).

**Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*** **rare WV PM**

One at Panagia Monument in April.

**Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*** **SV PM**

First seen on 5.4. with one at Phaestos. Singles at Agia reservoir on 13.4. and Moni Preveli on 14.4. 20th in Kato Zakro Gorge and at Xerocampos Gorge and Kastelli on 22nd. 1 at Souda Bay 22.4. and Agia Irini Gorge 28.4.

One at Zakros Gorge 6.6. Several family parties beyond church at Venizelos Graves, above Chania. 24.6. 2 Amari valley 26.8. In September recorded 3.9. -10.9. with 6 on 4.9. 1-3 seen in west 14.9-19.9. Several on hillside at Knossos 2.10. 3 in Elounda 4.10. One beside Bramiana reservoir on 4.10. and 6.10. and 2 Kato Zakros Gorge 7.10. Photographed Kato Zakros gorge 25.-28.10. (AG). One at Panormo on 1.11.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*** **rare PM**

One first winter bird in olive groves at top of Agia Irini gorge 15.9.

**Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*** **PM**

A male at Phaestos on 5.4. One at Moni Preveli on 14.4. One male at Afrata 17.4. One female/juv. Agia Irini gorge 15.9.

**Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*** **PM**

Two at Moni Preveli on 7.4. and one still there on 8.4. One at Moni Preveli on 14.4. Seen at Kato Zakros Gorge and Xerocampos Gorge on 20th and 22nd. One male at Afrata 17.4. and another at Gouves lagoons 23.4. One female/juvenile 26.8.

**Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus***

**R**

Common in uplands like Lassithi, Omalos and Katheron Plateaus and Imbros Gorge. Recorded on Lassithi in October and near Hamezi.

**Great Tit *Parus major***

**R**

Common recorded daily in April, May, June and September, October and November.

**Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla***

**rare**

**R**

One at head of Samaria Gorge 28.8. Photographed in Ag. Irini Gorge 2.11. (AG.)

**Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus***

**PM**

One at Prasses Gorge 17.4. 3 seen at Ag. Marina Village, Paleokastro on 20th. 6 at Agia reservoir 20.4. and 1 on 21.4. One flying over Megalo Horafia 21.4. 1 male at Kefali 11.9. and 1 in the olive groves at Agia Irini Gorge 15.9. and 1 at Kefali 16.9.

**Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio***

**Autumn PM**

One female/juvenile Rethymnon beach 22.8. 2 males near Asomatos 23.8. 2 on Akrotiri 24.8. 1 male and 1 juv. 25.8. 2 Argiroupolis 25.8. In Amari valley 1 male 26.8. 3 males Arkadi Monastery 27.8. and 2 there 29.8. and 1 female/ juv. 28.8. near Lakki. In September passage was common 4.9. and 50+ on 5.9. around Elounda and Spinalonga. In October singles recorded daily 1.10.-8.10. at Elounda, Bramiana reservoir, Lassithi, Malia and Kato Zakros Gorge. 2 juvenile Kato Zakros 25.-28.11. photographed (AG)

**Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor***

**rare Autumn PM**

One Rethymnon beach 21.8. (A&HG) One adult there 22.8. 1 Arkadi 27.8. and 29.8.

**Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator ssp badius***

**PM**

First record singles Plakias and Rethymnon harbour 5.4. and 9.4. 4 at Frangocastello on 8.4. Recorded almost daily from 10. 4. until 26.4. One at Bramiana reservoir 5.6. 2 on Lassithi plateau 3.6. 3 at Xelohambro Bay 4.6. Single on 7.6. at Aptera. and one male above Omalos village 23.6. and one female at top of Imbros Gorge 25.6. One male Amari Valley 26.8. and Arkadi 29.8. One at Elounda Saltpans 8.9.

**Jay *Garrulus glandarius***

**R**

Seen in the mountains on 16.4. descending from Katheron plateau. One at Samaria Gorge and on Omalos plateau. In June recorded in various gorges in the west and 2 on Omalos plateau.

**Alpine Chough *Pyrrhonorax graculus***

**R**

Two seen on 11th at Timios Stavros Church above Lassithi and 2 at Ha Gorge on 15th. Both pairs calling. In June 2 birds flying west over Omalos village on 23.6. and then 14 flying south over pass between peaks of Psilafi and Gingilos from Omalos Plateau. 2 on Mt Psiloritis nr the Idaion Antron in November.

**Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax***

**R**

Recorded between Kolimbari and Paleochora from road 22.4. Pairs noted at Kourtaliotiko Gorge and Samaria Gorge and also seen on Omalos plateau 27.4. and Kallergi Hut 28.4. 20 on Lassithi plateau 3.6.

In October a single noted through the eastern pass to Lassithi on 5.10. Seen at Kourtaliotiko Gorge 31.10 and Samaria Gorge carpark 2.11. photographed (AG).

## CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

In November heard at Lake Kournas and 12+ over Omalos plateau.

**Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* *R***

10 at Kotsifou Gorge on 7.4. One feeding in layby west of Paleokastro Bridge 9.4. Large flock nesting near Knossos in Morosini Aquaduct and seen at Ha Gorge on 15.4. Photographed at Morosini Aquaduct 5.11.(AG).

**Hooded Crow *Corvus corone corone* *R***

Common resident recorded daily. Flocks of 20 – 25 noted in the first week in October, otherwise singles pairs and small groups seen.

**Raven *Corvus corax* *R***

2 outskirts of Rethymnon 5.4. 2 Agia Irini 8.4. In the east recorded in good numbers almost daily with 10 on 11.4. and 6 on 16.4. 6 flocking and playing near ancient site at Falasarna 6.6. 1 at Pevki Gorge 30.5. 10 over Lassithi plateau 3.6. 8 at Xerokampos 4.6.

In October pairs over Knossos, Selinari Gorge, Bramiana reservoir and Elounda. Common throughout the east in small numbers. Photographed at Kato Zakros and Mount Yuchtas in October (AG).

**Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* *WV***

Winter visitor, but one at Agia reservoir 21.4. and 10+ above reeds on eastern edge of Agia reservoir 22.6. Single at Elounda salt pans 5.10. A handful of flocks recorded in the first week in November, with largest flock 1000 over Iraklion airport.

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* *R***

Thinly spread amongst the more common Italian Sparrow. One male at Plakias 8.4.

**Italian Sparrow *Passer domesticus x italiae*. *R***

Common breeding everywhere. Large flocks of several hundred birds flying into Elounda at dawn especially 4.10.

**Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* *R* *PM***

Four males at Plakias on 8.4. and at least one still on 9.4. Flocks on 50 on 12.4. and 100 on 13.4. heading west over Gouves (Creta Sun) Lagoons in the early morning. 60+ there 23.4. 40 at Plakias 11.4. and 80 there on 13.4. Common at Analipsis in early June. Photographed at Xerocampos 25.10. (AG.)

**Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* *R* *WV***

March: 2- 4 in Istro near North coast, at roadside and front gardens 26.3. Four or more in an olive grove near Panagia Kera, Kritsa 27.3. A few at Mylia 14-15th March and on Akrotiri peninsula 16th March. In June a single at Souda Bay War Cemetery 22.6. Nov: A few near Misiria 7.11.

**Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* *R***

Common breeding resident. In October only singles and small numbers recorded at Elounda, Malia, Pyrgos, Bramiana reservoir, Zenia, and Kato Zakros Gorge.

**Serin *Serinus serinus* *locally common R* *WV***

Locally common in centre and west. A flock seen in March on Lassithi. In April one male singing near Lake Kournas 6.4. Two on 11.4. at Ag Constantidos singing and seen in flower field behind the Taverna. 2 at Venizelou Memorial Park 19.4. 3 at

**CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002**

Therisso Gorge 21.4. and 2 at Souda Bay 22.4. Recorded in June around Megala Horafia. and Souda Bay war cemetery. In August in Kourtaliotiko Gorge 23.8.

**Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*** *WV* **R**

Common recorded daily in Spring. Sept: 15 on 9.9. and 3. on 10.9. in Elounda foothills. During the first week in October seen at Malia, Bramiana reservoir and Elounda.

**Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*** **R**

Common recorded throughout the island in small flocks.

**Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*** *WV* **R**

In March a few at Mylia 14-15.3. and on Akrotiri peninsula 16.3. Small flocks in mountains and Akrotiri in west. Seen in small groups in the centre of the island until 16th April. Not seen in far east in April but 2 on Lassithi 30.5. and 15 at Analypsis between 30.5- 7.6.

In June recorded at Megala Horafia. and good numbers on Omalos plateau.

In Sept 2 Elounda salt pans 6.9.

In October 2 on headland at Malia 3.10. 10 there 6.10. several Bramiana reservoir 4.10. Small flock near Ayios Haralambos on 5.10. and 3 Elounda headland 8.10.

**Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*** *WV* **PM**

One at Knossos on 12.11.

**Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirrus*** **R**

In March heard singing on Lassithi plateau. In April 2 singing Arkadi 4.4. One near Rethymnon on 13.4. Heard on 16.4 and 21.4 only at Katheron Plateau and above Palekastro at the winnowing circle. The cold late Spring may have delayed them returning to nesting sites. Seen above Spili 19.4. 10+ seen and heard on Omalos 20.4.

Seen on Lassithi plateau 3.6.

One male in the olive groves at Ag. Irini gorge 15.9. In Oct. a pair at eastern pass into Lassithi 5.10. A male was photographed at Ag. Irini Gorge 2.11.(AG). One male singing near Omalos 3.11. and one on Mt Psiloritis

**Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea*** *rare V*

2 believed to be females recorded at Rethymnon Fortezza 6.4. (TD).

**Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*** *rare V*

One just beyond the pool on Omalos Plateau 23.6.

**Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*** *SV* **PM**

April: Male at Moni Prevelli on 7.4. and others above Spili and at Lefkogia 19.4.

September: One male Arkadi Monastery 29.8.

**Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*** **R** **PM**

Five at Plakias 3.4.-9.4. 3-5 singing at Arkadi 4.4. 12 Rethymnon Fortezza 6.4. In south above Spili 19.4. In east only 2 recorded singing at Itanos on 19.4 One at Rapaniana and 5 more at Frangocastello on 18.4. also 2 Rapaniana 21.4.

In June good numbers on Rodopos peninsula, Omalos plateau and around the top of Imbros Gorge. A flock of at least 20 at Georgioupolis in November.



## CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

### MAMMALS:

Mammal List follows 'The Mammals of Britain and Europe' Corbet/Ovenden. Collins 1980.

**Eastern Hedgehog** *Erinaceus concolor* Recorded live in April and dead on the road.

**Ship Rat** *Rattus rattus*

**Beech Marten** *Martes fiona* Several dead on the road in April One Ag. Constandinos Lassithi 5.10.

**Badger** *Meles meles* One dead on road.

**Mouse sp.** *Acomys minous* *Cretan Spiny Mouse?* One dead on road.

### AMPHIBIANS

Amphibian and Reptile List follows 'Reptiles and Amphibians of Britain and Europe. Arnold/Burton. Collins 1978.

**Green Toad** *Bufo viridis* Elounda 5.10.

**Common Tree Frog** *Hyla arborea*

**Marsh Frog** *Rana ridibunda* Agia reservoir, Thrapsano pool, Plakias area.

### REPTILES

**Stripe-necked Terrapin** *Mauremys caspica* April at Agia reservoir. Almyros marsh (Ag. Nik) 4.10.

**Loggerhead Turtle** *Caretta caretta* 4 loggerhead turtle hatchlings on Rethymnon beach 23.8.

**Turkish Gecko** *Hemidactylus turcicus*

**Balkan Green Lizard** *Lacerta trilineata* Common

**Erhard' s Wall Lizard** Recorded on north and south coast in April.

**Dice snake** *Natrix tessellata*

**BUTTERFLIES** The order follows 'The Butterflies of Greece' Pamperis 1997.

**Swallowtail** *Papilio machaon* Elounda Byzantine Chapel, south coast. One at Chania April. Kourtaliotiko Gorge , Sept. Knossos 2.10.

**Scarce Swallowtail** *Iphiclides podalirius* Plakias, April. Akrotiri, Katholiko Moni, Argiroupolis, Sept.

**Cretan Festoon** *Z. cerisyi f. cretica* Elounda Byzantine Chapel, Kato Zakro Gorge. Plakias, and several locations in the west.

**Large White** *Pieris brassica* Plakias Common

**Small White** *Pieris rapae* Gouves lagoons 10th Plakias, Common. Knossos 2.10.

**Bath White** *Pontia daplidea* Plakias

**Eastern Dappled White** *Euchlonia simplonia* Plakias

**Clouded Yellow** *Colias crocea* Plakias and locally common in April. 2 Lassithi 30.8. Milatos 4.10.

## CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

**Cleopatra** *Gonepteryx cleopatra* Plakias April. Hersonissos 8.10.

**Wood White** *Leptidea sinapis*

**Southern Comma** *Polygonia egea* One at Xerocampos 22.4.

**Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui* Elounda Byzantine Chapel, Plakias Widespread first week in October.

**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* Itanos, Plakias, Common.

**Cardinal** *Pandoriana pandora* 5+ Arkadi Moni, Aug. 5-6 Lassithi 30.8. In Oct. 3.10. Selinari.

**Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina* Zakros Gorge 7.10.

**Southern Speckled Wood** *Pararge aegeria* Plakias

**Wall Brown** *Lasiommata megera* Plakias, 1 at Petres river.

**Baton Blue** *Pseudophilotes baton*

**Small Copper** *Lycaena phlaeas* Itanos, Plakias, in April One at Armeni Tombs. Sept.

**Small Blue** Plakias possibly noted.

**Holly Blue** Plakias, Common.

**Brown Argus** Plakias

**Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus* Plakias in April. Zenia in Oct. 5.10.

**Lulworth Skipper** Plakias

**Mallow Skipper** Plakias

**Dingy Skipper** Plakias

## INSECTS

**Egyptian Grasshopper** *Anacridium aegyptian* Common recorded everyday.

**Hungarian Grasshopper** *Acrida ungarica* Singles seen at Xerocampos, and Plakias in April. In October at Spinalonga peninsula.

**Cicada** *Cicada orni* Recorded at Knossos 2.10.

*Graphosoma italicum* Red and black shield bug. Plakias in April>

**Cretan Soldier beetle** *Lygaeus saxatilis* Common.

**Carpenter Bee** *Xylocopa violacea* Common recorded everyday in April.

**Paper Wasp** *Polistes gallicus* Seen at nest on Gouves Saltmarsh in April.

**7 spot Ladybird** *Coccinella 7-punctata* Common

**Mantid** *Ameles decolor* Malia 6.10.

**Hornet** sp. One on 17.4..

**Pine Processionary Moth** *Thaumethopoea pityocampa* Caterpillars in Pines near Knossos

**Hummingbird Hawkmoth** *Macroglossom stellatum* 1 at Arkadi 29.8. 2 Lassithi 30.8. Ag. Nikolaos 8.10.

## CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

**Emperor dragonfly** *Anax imperator* Almyros marsh (Ag. Nik.) 4.10.

*Crocothemis erythraea* 6.10. Bramiana reservoir.

*Sympetrum fonscolombei* 6.10. Bramiana reservoir.

*Aeshna* sp. *black/pale blue* 7.10. Bramiana reservoir.

Red Darter sp. *Sympetrum* sp Common near water, at Thrapsano Pool.

**Early Blue Hawker** sp. Common near water. Kato Zakro Gorge in April. Possibly *Brachyton pratense* one of the earliest dragonflies.

**Banded Demoiselle** *Agrion splendens* Plakias and at Agia reservoir.

### OTHER TAXA

Banded Snail *Ceriuella virgata* Common.

## CRETE BIRD REPORT 2002

### DATES OF RECORDS: CRETE 2002

JAN 1ST -	Michalis Dretakis
MARCH 9TH – 17TH 2002	Martin Skirrow
MARCH 25TH – 3RD APRIL 2002	Armin Vidal
APRIL 2ND – 9TH 2002	Tom Dougall/Gill Arbuthnot
APRIL 2ND– 9TH 2002	Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays
APRIL 3RD 2002	Sarah Tyacke
APRIL 9TH – 16TH 2002	Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays
APRIL 9TH – 23RD 2002	David Briddon
APRIL 9TH - 23RD 200	Snail's Pace Wildlife Holidays /Stephanie Coghlan
APRIL 16TH – 23RD	The Travelling Naturalist - Jim Coghlan /Mike Langman.
APRIL 22ND	Dr Peter Füsslein/ Günter Winkler
APRIL 24TH-29TH	Jim Coghlan
APRIL 26TH 2002	J C Waive
APRIL 16TH- 30TH 2002	A and Iris Simpson
MAY 3RD	Penny Mindelsohn
MAY 9TH	Adjan de Jong
MAY 28TH – 11TH JUNE 2002	Stephen Green
MAY 30 <sup>TH</sup> - 7 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	Judith Pentraeth
JUNE 13TH 2002	Nikos Dimitarakopoulos/ Tasos Dimalexis/ Michalis Dretakis
JUNE 16TH 2002	John Chidgey
JUNE 18TH - 2ND JULY	Rita and Mike Burstow
AUGUST 20TH- 3RD SEPTEMBER	Andrew Gouldstone and Hannah Gay
SEPTEMBER 3RD – 10TH 2002	John Sirrett
SEPTEMBER 10th – 23RD 2002	Nick Crouch
OCTOBER 1ST – 8TH 2002	Lincoln Birdwatchers, Stewart Foster
OCTOBER 9TH – 13TH 2002	Roy L Longland
OCTOBER 24TH – 6TH NOVEMBER 2002	Arthur Grosset
NOVEMBER 1ST – 13TH 2002	Peter J Wilkinson
NOVEMBER – DECEMBER	Michalis Dretakis

Stephanie Coghlan February 2003

Corrections and Additional records added March 2010

Apologies to anyone whose records I may have omitted or mangled.

These records are presented as submitted. Recorders of Rare and unusual records have been asked to submit their records to the Greek Records Committee via their Unusual Birds Recording Form. The website is [www.ornithologiki.gr](http://www.ornithologiki.gr)