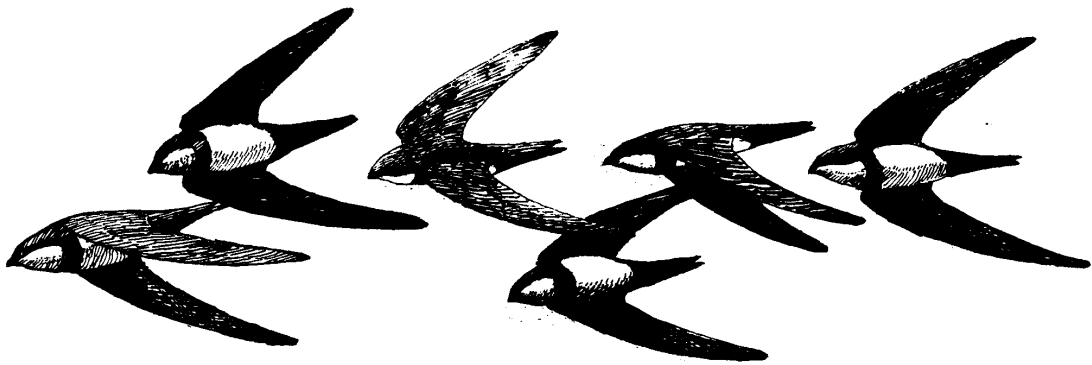


CRETE BIRD REPORT 2003

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Alpine Swifts

Introduction to Crete Bird Report 2003

Many thanks to everyone who contributed records for 2003. As usual Crete has produced plenty of surprises. Interesting birds like a first year Gannet, a Great Bittern, a Black Stork, and Egyptian and Black Vultures passed through but no large "falls" were recorded but the bad weather produced some good migrants on the south coast in April including Cretzschmar's Bunting.

Weather: April was a very wet and cold month. May was more settled.

Names and Spelling: The spelling used is from the Harms Verlag Part 1 and 2 1:100,000 mapping, 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.

RB – resident, PM – passage migrant, AV- vagrant, MB- migrant breeder,

WV - winter visitor.

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

CRETE BIRD LIST

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* RB WV PM

Records from Lake Kournas, Georgioupolis, Agia and Bramiana Reservoirs from April through to October. Usual numbers are between 2 and 10. Large numbers are recorded at each site with 40 at Agia on 7.4. and 30 there 19/20.4. Presumably passage birds. Numbers were higher in Autumn with 60-80 at Agia in September, and 50-100 there in October. There were 30 at Lake Kournas in mid October.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* WV PM

No records in 2003

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* WV PM

14 in a variety of plumages 10.4. at Lake Kournas. Singles at Lake Kournas on 3.5. In Autumn just one there on 16th Oct.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* MB PM

In April recorded off the North coast with 1-2 seen off Panormo, with 20+ there on 9.4. 14 West past Creta Sun Hotel, Gouves on 13th April a few on 21/22.4. and 10+ from Silver Beach Hotel, Gerani on 20.4. Only recorded off the south coast from Damnoni beach with 5+ on 23.4.

The only Autumn record was 50+ off Stavros on the Akrotiri peninsula on 8th Sept.

Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* WV? MB PM

3 west off Panormo on 8th April and 2 east there on 15th April.

Gannet *Morus bassanus* AV

One first winter flying east off Panormo on 8th April . (PW)

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* WV PM

April: Singles recorded from Itanos on 13th., Elounda 14th, Chania 16th and 18th. One imm. Souda Bay on 21.4.

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May: 2 Chania on 12th May.

Oct: 1 Plakias 19th Oct.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

RB

April: Singles off Kolimbari on 16th, 2 off Chania Harbour on 18th, one Silver Beach Hotel, Gerani on 20th. 2 off Plakias on 21st and 1 off Damnoni on 24th on south coast.

May: Singles off Spinalonga and off Palm Beach, Preveli 11th May.

Oct. One off Chania 12th Oct.

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

PM WV

May: One record from Georgiopolis river feeding seen well by crossing the footbridge and walking up towards the farm, on 20th May. (CW)

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

PM

April: Singles from 14th at Agia, Damnoni, Aposelemis delta, and Georgiopolis.

May: 2 at Agia reservoir on 2nd and 9th May and records of singles until 15th May from Aposelemis river mouth, Georgiopolis Reservoir, Iraklion Power Station, Petres river, Agia and Bramiana reservoirs.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

PM WV

April: First record with 5 at Agia Reservoir on 11th and 12th.

13th April 14 took off from a roost near Itanos. Singles at the Turkish bridge in the Megalopotamos valley on 19th Silver Beach Hotel, Gerani on 20th, and Platanos on 29th.

May: 2-3 Agia Reservoir on 12th May and 1 at Limnes Pool on 18th May.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola purpurea*

PM

April: Records from 8th with 4 at Panormo with 3 there and 2 at Thrapsano on 10th.

1 at Agia Reservoir on 11th, with 4 at Bramiana Reservoir on 12th.

Singles at Kato Zakro on 14th and Silver Beach, Gerani on 16th.

5 near Timbaki and 2 at Agia on 17th. The passage noted on 19th with 22 at Damnoni, 5 at Moni Preveli valley, 8 Silver Beach, Gerani, and 6 at Agia Reservoir with 9 there on 20th. Several each day recorded from 17th-30th April.

May: Singles or 1-2 daily until mid May at Platanos, Agia Reservoir, Georgiopolis, Iraklion Power Station, Elounda, Frangocastello, Aposelemis river mouth and Bramiana Reservoir.

Oct: Passage recorded with 50 and 100 at Malia and Elounda on 7th.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

PM

WV

One on 21st April feeding with Little Egrets at Aposelemis delta in breeding plumage.

12th May 1 in breeding plumage in an olive grove west of the castle at Frangocastello.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

PM

WV

April: First recorded from 4th April with 1-2 at Geropotamos river nr Panormo, Georgiopolis and Agia reservoirs. There were 27 at Panormo on the 5th. For the rest of the month it was a similar pattern with 1-2 recorded daily and small flocks recorded of between 4-12. The largest flock was 27 at Malia on 14th.

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May: Small numbers recorded daily until 18th May at wetland and coastal sites.

Sept: Records from 5th with 25 circling over Souda Bay and 140 passed Afrata on Rodopou peninsula. Then daily until 18th **October** with 1-2. Largest flock 50 past El Greco Hotel, Rethymnon on 7th Oct.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba* *PM* *WV*

No records in 2003.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* *OB* *PM* *WV*

April: Recorded daily in April in small numbers 1-4.

May: Largest flock 8 over Kourtaliotiko Gorge on 4th May, otherwise 1-3 daily until 20th May.

Sept: 3 at Agia Reservoir on 5.9. and 6 there 11.9. 23 in a flock with Little Egrets over Kalives on 13.9. and 14 there next day. Two flocks of 20+ east of Souda Bay and later 25 on Sept 15th. Then recorded daily.

Oct: Recorded daily until 16th Oct. with 18 west over Georgioupolis headland on 7th and 11 over Hania migrating with 2 Little Egrets on 18th being the only flocks noted.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* *PM*

April: Singles recorded daily from Agia Reservoir, Roumeli, Tavronitis, Aposelemis delta, Gouves, Platanes, Frangocastello with 7 at Damnoni on 18th April and 13 passing Frangocastello on 23rd.

May: 1-3 Aposelemis delta, Agia reservoir, Elounda saltpans, Lake Kournas, Prevelli Palm Beach, Georgioupolis Lake, Elounda, Bramiana Reservoir until 15th May.

Sept: 11 birds along east edge Agia Reservoir on 5th and 2 there on 11th Sept.

Oct: 14 at Malia on 1st Oct and 1 at Falasarna 11th.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* *PM*

19th May 1 seen flying west near Vrises. (CW).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* *PM*

May: 3 soaring over Pilalimata. (WE)

Oct: 5 offshore at Malia on 1st Oct. (AJS)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* *PM*

April: First record from 12th April with 20+ at Bramiana reservoir. 6 at Aposelemis delta and 30 flying west of Plakias on 16th and 34 there on 18th. Small flocks of 1-6 in the second half of April with records.

May: 5 Aposelemis delta 5th May, 3 there 7th May. 1 Bramiana reservoir 15th May

Spoonbill. *Platalea leucorodia* *PM*

No records for 2003

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* *WV?* *PM*

No records for 2003

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* *OB* *WV* *PM*

No records for 2003

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Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	<i>AV</i>		
No records for 2003			
White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i>	<i>WV</i>		
No records for 2003			
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	<i>WV</i>		
No records for 2003			
Red-breasted Goose <i>Branta ruficollis</i>	<i>AV</i>		
No records for 2003			
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	<i>WV</i>		<i>PM</i>
April 7 th one female at Agia reservoir was the only report.			
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	<i>WV</i>		<i>PM</i>
Only two records. One in Spring with a male on the pool on the Lassithi plateau on 15 th April.			
In Autumn a pair seen on Lake Kournas on 17 th Oct.			
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	<i>WV</i>		<i>PM</i>
Sept 30 th – Oct 7 th 1-3 at Thrapsano Pool.			
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	<i>RB</i>	<i>WV</i>	<i>PM</i>
Recorded from 9 th April with 1-4 at Agia Reservoir, near Thrapsano pool, Lake Kournas, Georgiopolis Lake until mid May. Up to 7 at Bramiana Reservoir were the largest counts. 12 th April and 15 th May.			
In Autumn recorded at Elounda, Thrapsano Pool, with 10 at Agia reservoir and a pair at Lake Kournas on 17 th October.			
Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	<i>WV</i>		<i>PM</i>
No Spring records. In Autumn 2 Agia Reservoir on 14 th October.			
Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>	<i>OB</i>		<i>PM</i>
Small numbers 1-12 passing through from 6 th April at wetland areas and on the sea off Plakias where there were 30 on 15 th April. There were records from Agia Reservoir and Georgiopolis Lake and river as well as Lake Kournas, Thrapsano Pool, Bramiana reservoir, Aposelemis long pool and from the seasonal pool at Lassithi until 15 th May.			
In Autumn singles from 8 th Oct at Agia Reservoir and several there on 18 th October.			
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	<i>WV</i>		<i>PM</i>
April: 3 at Agia Reservoir with 2 males and 1 female from 7 th April. Then 1-3 daily at Aposelemis long pool, Bramiana Reservoir, and Agia Reservoir until 17 th when there were larger flocks of 10 on Plakias Bay. Last record a single male at Bramiana reservoir on 15 th May.			
A few at Thrapsano pool Sept 30 th – Oct 7 th .			
Oct: 5 at Agia reservoir 14 th -17 th Oct. and 2 there on 18 th Oct.			
Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>	<i>WV</i>		<i>PM?</i>
No records from 2003			

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Pochard *Aythya ferina* *WV* *PM*

October: 5 at Agia reservoir until 17th October.

18th Oct 1 pair on Lake Kournas.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* *OB* *WV* *PM*

May: Male and female at Agia Reservoir on 2nd May.

Oct: 3 at Agia Reservoir rising to 6 on the 15th and 8 on 18th Oct. when there was also a male at Lake Kournas.

Smew *Mergellus albellus* *AV*

No records in 2003

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* *PM*

April: 1 over Panormo on 9th and 2 over Knossos on 13th, and 1 at Prevelli on 24th.

May: 1 just north of Georgiopolis on 8th May.

Oct: Seen on 1st and 2nd at Elounda.

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

3 recorded near Plakias on 17th April, and singles at Monastiraki on 12th May, and 1 on Omalos plateau on 19th May.

In October 1 at Falasarna on 15th.

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

April: 13th April One landed near Hotel on Omalos Plateau and joined by second displaying to each other. 14th April 2 sightings of adult over Kourtaliotiko gorge and from Turkish bridge. Also 2 recorded over Spili on 16th April and 1 seen several times over Kourtaliotiko Gorge on 9th.

May: Recorded from the Kourtaliotiko Gorge, south of the Prasses Gorge in the Amari valley, and over the Samaria Gorge.

Oct: Recorded circling over Zaros.

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* *RB*

Recorded in Gorges and in the mountains. At least one pair nesting in Selinari Gorge. In the lowlands recorded from Panormo, Thrapsano, and 26 in the Aposelemis Gorge, Gouves, Petres Gorge. In the mountains recorded from Selinari Gorge, Kourtaliotiko and Kotsiphos Gorges, Lassithi and Omalos Plateaux, Spili, Samaria Gorge, Ag Irini Gorge, Therisso Gorge, Imbros Gorge, Prevelli Valley, and Lake Kournas.

Egyptian Vulture *PM*

8th May 11-13 recorded inland from Elafonisos (JP)

Black Vulture *AV*

12th May 1 at 15.23 on the mountain road south of Anogia above the wind turbine. The bird was harried by two Ravens. (G&WW)

30th Oct 1 juv above Fourfouras , Mt Ida. (Giorgios Andreou)

Assuming this is the same bird these are the first records since 1976.

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

Only 3 records. 1 near Thrapsano on 9th April. (IH) and 1 flying past Phaestos on 20th April. (HG) In May 1 at Georgioupolis near the coast on 20th. (CW)

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

April: Recorded almost daily from 9th April, with 1-6 seen. Mainly females but solitary males were recorded from wetland sites like Agia and Georgioupolis reservoirs and the Aposelemis river, but also from drier sites such as Phaestos, Aghia Triada Monastery, Moni Prevelli and Frangocastello while on migration.

May: Similar sighting until 19th May.

Autumn migration not so notable with records at Agia reservoir on 7th and 11th September with 1-3 adult females and juveniles seen. In October 1-3 females recorded on 8th, 9th and 18th again at Agia reservoir.

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

April: Passage of 'ringtails' noted along the east coast from 13th-15th April. On 13th April one female was at Aposelemis delta and on the 14th one male and one female went over the Plakias headland near the wind farm.

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

April: One male at Panormo on 9th was the only record.

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

1-2 seen daily from 11th April until 26th April, with passage noted along the east coast 13th-15th April. Records from Aptera, between Gouves and Krassi, Spili, Kourtaliotiko Gorge, in the Geropotamos valley below Agia Triada and at Prevelli and Frangocastello indicate the birds are crossing the island while traveling north as well as using the east and west coast for migration.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* *WV* *PM*

1 over Damnoni valley in the early evening of 20th April. (SP)

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* *OB* *WV* *PM*

Records from April with 2 at Aposelemis delta on 13th and 1 near Panormo on 16th.

1 at Ag Triada Moni 18th April.

In May 1-2 seen at Georgioupolis on 4 dates between 7th-20th.

In September only one seen on 3rd near centre of Kalives in the early evening.

In October from 10th-18th singles were recorded on the Omalos plateau, Amari valley, Agia Triada, Megalopotamos valley, Plakias and over Lake Kournas.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* *RB* *WV* *PM*

A common resident seen daily by recorders in most habitats.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* *RB* *WV* *PM*

Passage reported with 1 perched near Kato Moni Prevelli on 14th April, and 2 N. off Hersonnisos on 15th and 2 at Xerocampos on 16th April. There was 1 on Akrotiri near Ag Triada Moni on 18th. At the end of the month singles were recorded at Prevelli on 27th and Aptera on 28th April.

In May 1 south of Prasses on 8th and 1 near Stylos on 11th May.

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In September 1-2 over Kalives between 3rd and 15th and 3 perched on radio masts at Akrotiri Drapanos on 10th September.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* **PM?**

No records in 2003

Steppe Eagle *Aquila rapax* **PM?**

No records in 2003

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* **RB**

Records of singles and pairs from Seli Ambelou Pass, Bramiana Reservoir, Spili, Omalos and Samaria Gorge, Kourtalioitiko Gorge, Diktamnos Gorge and above Lake Kournas during April and May.

In September 2 high over Expoli on 6th.

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

Singles from 13th April-23rd both dark and pale phase, with 2 dark phase over Lassithi plateau on 15th. One record in May on 10th from near Rethymnon.

Passage of single noted in early October until 18th October on 6 dates.

Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraetus fasciatus* **RB PM?**

4 seen while descending from the Lassithi plateau on 15th April and 5 near Spili on 16th April. 2 at Rodakino beach displaying together on 20th April. Then one at Prevelli on 24th. In May singles until 16th May from Prasses Gorge, Diktamos Gorge, Elafanisos, Agia reservoir, Samaria Gorge, Myli Gorge and the lower Potamos valley.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* **PM**

One record on 10th May from Georgioupolis beach. (CW)

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* **OB PM**

One first summer male with party of 12 Kestrel sp. at Petres Gorge on 6th (PW)

In the east on 13th April 4 near Paleokastro and there were 2 others at Vai. One near Chiona on 14th and 2 near Vai on 15th.

In the west 1 first summer male with other falcons at Agia Triada Moni on 18th, and later in the month 26th-28th April 1-2 at Frangocastello, Aptaera and Prevelli.

In the Autumn, 1-2 at Kakomouri headland, Plakias on 15th October.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* **RB WV PM**

Common recorded daily from April to mid May and in the Autumn from September until 19th October by all recorders.

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

Passage recorded from 15th April with 4 at Vai and 4 near Zakros on 16th April. On 14th–16th April there were small flocks of 1-4 around Aposelemis river, Rethymnon and Spili, Agia reservoir and Tavronitis river.

18th April was the main movement day with flocks of 23 and 12 seen at Agia Triada Moni, while 60 were seen between Plakias and Moni Prevelli with largest flocks of 14 and 24.

On 1st May there was one at Platanes and circa 10 at the monasteries at Akrotiri and 4 at Ag. Ioannis on 19th May.

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- Hobby *Falco subbuteo*** *scarce* *PM*
 Singles over Panormo 13th-16th April. On 18th April 15+ seen with other falcons at Agia Triada Moni on Akrotiri. On the same day singles seen at Damnoni and Moni Prevelli.
- Eleanora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*** *MB*
 2+ behind Frangocastello on 20th April, and a single there on 23rd.
 In May 1 on Omalos plateau on 2nd May and 1-6 seen almost daily until May 19th.
 In Oct 2 seen at Malia on 6th, Agia reservoir from 8th-14th and Eleftherna on 19th.
- Lanner *Falco biarmicus*** *scarce* *RB* *PM*
 No records from 2003.
- Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*** *RB* *WV* *PM*
 Recorded daily from 9th April-14th May from the coast, in Gorges and Lassithi plateau and Omalos plateau.
 In September 1 in among feral pigeons in Ellinospilios Gorge on 5th.
 In October records from Chania and 1 foraging at Lake Kournas on 17th and 18th.
- Chukar *Alectoris chukar*** *RB*
 Recorded from Samaria Gorge and Omalos plateau, Kakomauri headland, Plakias, Moni Prevelli and Megalopotamos valley, as well as Diktamnos Gorge, Elaphonisos and the Lassithi Plateau in April and May.
 In October the only record was from near Lake Kournas.
- Quail *Coturnix coturnix*** *RB* *PM*
WV
 The only records this year were on April 14th with 2 birds flushed twice at the Aposelemis delta and in the south 2 males calling on the Kakomauri headland, Plakias on the same day.
- Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*** *OB* *WV* *PM*
 One heard at North end of Lake Kournas on 17th & 19th October.
- Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*** *rare* *PM*
April: 1 found dead at Kalives on 7th April.
October: 1 Agia reservoir on 15th Oct.
- Little Crake *Porzana parva*** *PM*
 First reported at 1 male at Georgiopolis reservoir on 10th April. On the 11th there was a male and 2 females at Agia reservoir, and singles were seen there until 15th. From the 17th April there were between 6 and 10 until 22nd April around the edges.
 There were 3 at Frangocastello marsh on 23rd. In May there were 6 at Agia reservoir on the 2nd, and singles at Aposelemis river on 5th and Georgiopolis reservoir on 9th
- Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*** *rare* *PM*
 No records in 2003

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Corncrake *Crex crex* *rare* *AV*

No records in 2003

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* *RB* *WV* *PM*

Flocks seen at Lake Kournas, Georgioupolis, Agia, Bramiana, while there were singles and 1-5 at wetlands and river mouths.

In September there were 120 at Agia reservoir on 5th and a similar number in early October. Later in the month there were just a few at Lake Kournas, Agia, Georgioupolis and Keridis river.

Coot *Fulica atra* *RB* *WV* *PM*

Common with small flocks from 10-70 during April and May at Lake Kournas, Georgioupolis and Agia reservoirs. Thrapsano pool and river mouth had smaller numbers of 1-4.

In September there were 200+ at Agia on 5th falling to 100 in early October. The last record was 39 at Lake Kournas 17th-19th October.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* *PM*

No records for 2003

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* *PM*

April: Recorded at Thrapsano pool and fields on 9th April. On the 10th there were 2 at Aposelemis long pool until 16th, and 1+ at Bramiana reservoir on 12th April. 1+ at wetland near Timbaki and 1 at Agia Reservoir on 17th.

May: 1 at Aposelemis river mouth.

Sept: 2 adults and 3 juveniles at Agia reservoir.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* *PM?*

No records in 2003

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oediconemus* *RB* *WV* *PM*

May: 1 in flight over beach at Frangocastello on 12th May.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* *PM*

April: 1 in a damp field near Thrapsano pool on 9th April.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* *MB* *WV* *PM*

Common, nesting on beaches and rivermouths and at Elounda Saltpans. Pairs recorded from Gouves, Itanos, Chiona beach, Plakias beach, Aposelemis delta, Platanes, and Perama rivers in April and May.

In October 1 juvenile at river delta at Plakias harbour on 15th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* *WV* *PM*

April: Singles recorded from 8th April at Aposelemis delta, Rethymnon beach 10th, and Platanes from 22nd – 6th May.

May: Records from Aposelemis delta in 5th May and 3 there 18th May. 1 at Malia on 17th May.

Sept: 1 in pool at Spiliakos river mouth on 11th September.

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30th Sept –Oct 18th: Singles at Malia beach until Oct 7th. 14th Oct 2 in dunes nr El Greco Hotel and there were two at Chania 16th-18th Oct.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* *WV* *PM*

16th October 1 juvenile Frangocastello on rocks on shore.(PBM)

Spur-winged Plover *Vanellus spinosus* *AV* *PM?*

No records for 2003

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* *WV* *PM*

No records for 2003

Sanderling *Calidris alba* *PM*

No records for 2003

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* *WV* *PM*

Small flocks 1-7 throughout April and May until 18th, at Geropotamos river nr Panormo, Aposelemis delta and river mouth, Elounda salt pans, Georgiopolis reservoir, Agia reservoir, Malia beach and Bramiana reservoir. Largest flocks 16 east of Georgiopolis on 15th May and 20 at Aposelemis river mouth from 13th –18th May

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* *scarce* *PM*

April: 2 feeding on the road at Damnoni on 18th/19th.

May: 1 at Georgiopolis Lake on 9th May.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* *PM*

16th April 1 at Geropotamos river, Panormo, and 2 at Platanos on 30th April.

15th May 1 at marshy area east of Georgiopolis and 3 in breeding plumage at Aposelemis river mouth on 18th May.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* *WV* *PM*

April: 1 at Paleokastro river bridge pool on 15th April.

May: 1 on coast near Petres Gorge on 15th May.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* *PM*

Flocks recorded from 9th April until 15th May at river mouths, pools and reservoirs. Usually 8-20 in flock but in May smaller flocks from 1-4.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* *WV* *PM*

Singles at Thrapsano on 10th April, and at Vai on 15th. There was one at Aposelemis delta on 13th and 14th. In May 1 at Tersanas Pool on 6th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* *rare* *PM*

April On 16th 300+ flock of mystery birds seen whirling around near Plakias. Unidentified as recorder was inside a bus. Possibly Godwit?

Sept: 1 in reeds on S edge of Agia Reservoir on 5th.

Curlew *Numenius arquata* *WV* *PM*

10th April 1 at Aposelemis delta. (SP)

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- Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*** *rare* *PM*
 No records for 2003
- Redshank *Tringa totanus*** *WV* *PM*
 Only 1 record from the damp fields near Thrapsano pool on 9th April.
- Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatalis*** *PM*
April: Single at Geropotamos river, Panormo on 5th and 3 there on 9th and 1 at Aposelemis long pool on same day. 3 there on 13th. One at Paleokastro bridge river pool on 15th. Single at Aposelemis 21st/22nd and 1 at Platanes on 29th.
May: 2 in breeding plumage Aposelemis long pool on 5th May and 1 there on 7th. 1 at Georgiupolis Lake on 14th.
Nov: 1 at Skinias reservoir on 7th Nov. (MD)
- Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*** *PM*
April: Singles at Aposelemis long pool on 8th and at Geropotamos river. 3+ at Aposelemis river, Malia, Thrapsano pool, Paleokastro bridge river pool, Megalopotamos, Plakias, Rodakino beach and Panormo on 9th and 3 there on 15th. 1 at Aposelemis lagoon on 14th and 7 there 16th April. 1 at Agia reservoir on 20th. 2 at Aposelemis long pool on 22nd and 1 at Platanes on 23rd and 25th, which was the last record.
- Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*** *WV* *PM*
April: Singles from 8th-18th usually at Aposelemis long pool.
May: 1 at Georgiupolis Reservoir on 4 dates from 7th-13th May.
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*** *PM*
April: Recorded daily throughout from 8th, with small flocks seen at Aposelemis long pool, Lassithi pool, Geropotamos river mouth, Elounda saltpans, Damnoni, Agia reservoir, Tersanas Pool, with 4-25.
May: In May smaller flocks of 1-6 seen at Agia Reservoir, Aposelemis long pool, Tersanas Pool, Georgiupolis reservoir, Lassithi Plateau and Bramiana Reservoir until 15th May.
Sept: 1 at Agia Reservoir from 5th-11th September.
- Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleuca*** *WV* *PM*
 Recorded daily from 4th April around coasts, beaches, river mouths, in harbours, at reservoirs and inland at upland pools such as Lassithi, usually 1-2, until 11th May.
 In October singles seen daily at Malia, Souda Bay and Plakias river mouth.
- Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*** *rare WV?* *rare PM*
 No records for 2003
- Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*** *vagrant* *AV*
 No records in 2003
- Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*** *PM*
 No records in 2003

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Little Gull *Larus minutus* *WV* *PM*

April: 2 at Bramiana reservoir on 12th April. (SP)

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* *WV*

No records in 2003

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii* *MB*

May: 1 at Elounda on 8th and 18th May, 1 at Almyros near Ag.Nikolaos (NE).

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

Oct: 1 adult in Chania Harbour (PA).

Yellow-legged Herring Gull *Larus cachinnans* *MB* *WV* *PM* *RB*

In Spring common and widespread in small numbers. There is a breeding colony on Spinalonga. There were 400 on Bramiana reservoir on 15th May.

In the Autumn in September and October only small numbers recorded daily 1-2 with 30 in Chania harbour in mid October.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* *WV* *PM*

No record in 2003

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica* *PM*

April: 7 in Plakias Bay, 2 at Damnoni and 2 at Plakias on 18th April.

A single at Damnoni on 19th April.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* *WV* *PM*

April: 1 and later 2 flying west at Panormo on 6th April. 15th April 4 at Petres Beach and 3 at Souda Bay on 18th.

May: 1 Almyros (Ag. Nikolaos) on 9th May.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* *PM*

No records in 2003

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

April: 1 at Plakias Bay and 2 at Damnoni and Plakias all on 18th April.

May: 1 at Falasarna on 8th May.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* *PM*

April: 1 at Plakias Bay on 18th April.

May: 2 at Lake Kournas on 8th May and 7 at Agia Reservoir on 9th May.

On 10th May there were 5-10 at Agia and on 12th there were 3 there. Last record was of 2 at Bramiana reservoir including an oiled bird.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* *PM*

April: 1 inland from Plakias on 18th April.

May: 1 at Agia reservoir on 12th May, and 1 at Bramiana reservoir on 15th.

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

May: 4 at Agia and 2 at Georgioupolis on 9th May. On 12th May there were 8 at Moronis area, Souda and 8 at Agia reservoir.

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In the east there were 8 at Bramiana reservoir on 15th and centrally 1 at Aposelemis river mouth on 18th May.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* **RB**

Genuine wild type birds seen on sea cliffs and in gorges in the mountains.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* **RB** **WV** **PM**

Thinly spread with singles and pairs recorded at Kotsiphou Gorge, Kato Moni Preveli. Seli Ambelou Pass, Selinari Gorge, Lassithi plateau, near Spili and Phaestos in April and May. Recorded from Elounda in October.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* **RB**

Common and widespread in towns and countryside villages.

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

Passage of 2-4 from 15th April to 15th May with flocks of 20 on 19th April and 29 on the 3rd May being the largest groups recorded.

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

No records in 2003

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* **PM**

1-2 recorded throughout April from 5th, usually seen but also calling. Last record on 9th May on Omalos plateau. No Autumn records.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* **Escape**

2 seen around Platanes beach in late April early May. In late September 2 recorded from around Malia until October 7th. On 14th October 3 were seen flying over the dunes near El Greco Hotel, Rethymnon.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* **RB** **WV** **PM**

7th April 2 seen and heard over Panormo, 1 seen in Georgioupolis and 1 reported in Chania between 7th and 13th May. 1 flew over El Greco Hotel at 9.15 on 17th Oct.

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* **RB?**

No records in 2003

Scops Owl *Otus scops* **RB** **PM**

Heard from 12th April on Omalos plateau, Toplou Moni, Plakias Aptera, Megala Chorafia and Georgioupolis town.

In October 3 calling at Lake Kournas between 14th-18th October.

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

No records in 2003

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* **MB** **PM**

1 heard 'churring' Elounda between 7th-18th May.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* **MB** **PM**

First record from 6th -16th April when small numbers recorded daily. After 17th larger flocks seen of 20 - 100+ until 18th May.

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In Sept seen from 5th Sept with 12+ over Agia reservoir and 50+ on 9th Sept. ca 30 at Kournas Lake on 16th October. 1 on 18th Oct was taken over Agia reservoir by a Sparrowhawk, the bird was dropped and recovered and flew off safely.

Swift *Apus apus* **MB** **PM**

Recorded from 4th April. Large colonies in Rethymnon and Chania.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallida* **MB** **PM**

2+ in mixed flock on 23rd April. 1 at Thronos in Amari valley on 1st May. 3-4 over Georgioupolis on 4 dates in early May. 3+ Agia reservoir 12th May. 2 at Sitia 14th May. On October 8th 1 at Agia reservoir.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* **WV** **PM**

Singles seen during April at harbour at Panormo on 5th, 2 Petres river on 15th, 1 Chania swimming pool on 18th, 1 Silver Beach Gerani 20th, 1 at Plakias during the week 17th-24th, and 1 at Platanes. Last record in May at Petres Gorge on 15th.

Autumn records from September 3rd. Singles all around the coast, up to 3 at Agia reservoir, and ca. 5 in Chania Harbour in mid October. Common winter visitor.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* **MB** **PM**

April: 3 over Tavronitis river 16th April. 17th-24th April 1-2 at Plakias and 10+ near Agia Triada, Phaestos 20th April.

May: 11 over Moni Prevelli on 4th May, 1 Frangocastello and heard at 3 other sites on 12th May. 1 near Lakki on 19th May.

Sept: 30+ juveniles on wires above Karani off Omalos road on 7th Sept.

Roller *Caracius garrulus* **PM**

April: 1 perched by the road between Agia Triada and Phaestos on 20th April.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* **MB** **PM**

Singles recorded from 5th April until 8th May. 2-3 recorded at Panormo 6th and 16th April, Moni Prevelli 19th and 3 near Knossos on 21st April.

3 at Minithiana on 11th September and 1 at Ag. Georgios in October are the only Autumn reports.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* **MB?** **WV** **PM**

April: Singles at Panormo on 9th and 12th April. 3 on Omalos plateau on 13th April, while on 14th 1 seen and many heard there (IH). 2 at Damnoni on 19th April.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* **OB?** **PM**

No records in 2003

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* **MB** **WV** **PM**

April: 12+ at Malia near the taverna on 10th and 20+ there on 13th. 1 singing at Panormo on 12th and 20+ there on 16th. 7 at Plakias beach on 19th and 6 at Spili bumps on same day. On 20th April there were 6+ at Frangocastello delta and 2 at Silver Beach, Gerani.

May: 3 at Aposelemis delta on 5th May. 3-4 on Prevelli beach on 10th May, there were 3 near Ag. Ioannis on 19th May.

In **October** recorded on Nida plateau on 15th October.

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Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* **common** **RB**

Common and widespread breeding bird, in fields and coastal scrub.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea* **RB** **PM**

April: Recorded from 9th April from Omalos and Lassithi plateaus, and from sea level at Panormo, Xerocampos, Damnoni and Moni Prevelli valley, and Aptera.

May: Seen on Omalos and Katharo plateaus, at Kournas.

Oct: Several sightings at Malia. 2 foraging at north end of Imbros Gorge on 16th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* **OB?** **WV** **PM**

Oct: 1 heard over Plakias on 15th and one at Chania 17th October.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* **PM**

First records from 4th April. Flocks and small numbers recorded at river mouths and reservoirs. Largest passage noted in mid April on 17th with 1000 over Agia, meanwhile there were 500 at Georgioupolis on the same day taking refuge from foul weather. There were 500 at Agia the next day 18th. In May only 1-6 recorded until the last record of 12 at Bramiana reservoir on 15th May.

Autumn passage was 40+ at Agia reservoir on 5th Sept. 1 there on 14th October and a few at Ini reservoir on 7th Nov.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* **RB** **WV** **PM**

Recorded from 4th April from sea level at Panormo and Kato Zakro and Xerocampos as well as in the mountains in the Kourtaliotiko, Therisso, Kotsiphos, Imbros and Samaria. Gorges. Last passage record 5th May at Elounda.

In the Autumn ca. 10 at Samaria Gorge, Xyloskala and Nida plateau from 14th Oct. Also records of 1-15 from Ag. Ioannis at Ag. Nikolaos, Rouvas Gorge and Kakomauri headland, Plakias.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* **MB** **PM**

Common records from April 4th – 13th May. No large flocks reported.

In September and October small numbers reported from 2nd September to 17th Oct.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* **MB** **PM**

Singles reported from 14th April onwards. In May records continue until 15th with 8+ in Myli Gorge on 12th. No Autumn records received.

House Martin *Delichon urbica* **MB** **PM**

Recorded in small flocks from 4th April to 17th May. Largest counts were 500+ at Plaka headland on 17th, and many hundreds reported between 17th-24th April.

In September and October there were 5+ at Agia on 5th Sept, a flock at Selinari and Malia in early October and seen daily at the El Greco Hotel, Rethymnon from 8th- 20th

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* **MB** **PM**

April and May: 10+ at Panormo on 6th April and then 1-2 daily until 19th May from, Gouves, Malia, Aposelemis delta, Vai, Xerocampos, Plakias beach. Afrata, Frangocastello delta, Agia Triada Moni, Moni Prevelli, Omalos plateau and Sfakaki shore.

October: 1 at Malia and on 7th 2 near El Greco Hotel, Rethymnon.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* WV PM

April: 1-2 around Panormo from 5th-16th April. 1 at Malia on 10th April, and 2 at Aposelemis delta on 13th. From 15th-22nd recorded daily with 12 on the Omalos plateau on 19th April, and from 17th-24th April there were several each day at Damnoni on early morning visits.

October: 1 seen on two days at Malia during the first week of Oct.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* OB WV PM

Late winter records of 1 at Panormo on 5th April and Singles at Gouverneto Moni on 18th April and at Platanos Beach on 22nd April were very late.

In Oct there were 1-2 over Plakias on 15th October.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* rare WV PM

April: 10 at Malia on 10th April were the first report. On 13th there were 25+ at Aposelemis delta and on the coast at Malia. On 14th there were only 4 at Aposelemis, 2 at Elounda and 2 at Plaka headland. 20+ were at Tavronitis river on 16th April. 20+ flew over Halepa Hotel and there were 2 at Agia reservoir on 17th and 18th. There was a single at Plakias on 19th April and 20 there the day after. Then singles from Lake Kournas, Sfakaki shore, Aposelemis delta, Malia headland and Geropotamos river mouth until 13th May.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* MB PM

April: Flocks of 5 –50 seen from 4th April onwards at Panormo, Souda Bay cemetery, Malia, Agia reservoir, Platanos beach, Frangocastello. In **May** mainly singles or twos seen at Falasarna, Agia Reservoir, Georgiopolis and Elounda, and Aposelemis river mouth. Races included *flava*, *beema*, *thunbergi*, and *feldegg*.

September: Small family flocks seen with 12 in fields near Georgiopolis harbour on 6th and 20+ in alfalfa fields near Spiliakos, Minthiana on 11th. During **October** there were 1-4 at El Greco Hotel, Rethymnon, Agia Reservoir, damp fields near Plakias and 3 blue-headed (*beema*) at Ini reservoir on 7th November.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* RB? WV PM

October: 1 at Agia reservoir on dam wall on 8th Oct. 1-2 around Parking lot and Trout pool at Hotel Idi, Zaros from 12th- 14th Oct. In Plakias there was one on the stream from 14th –15th and 1 in Imbros Gorge on 16th and 1 in Kournas village on 18th October.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* RB WV PM

April and May: Records of 1-2 daily from 5th April until 19th May, from Panormo, Souda Bay cemetery, Gouves, Creta Sun gardens, Chiona Beach, Plakias beach, Aposelemis delta, Agia Triada Moni, Coastal records in May from Geropotamos river mouth, Swallows Canyon Beach, Moni Prevelli valley and Frangocastello.

October: Reported with 1-2 from Malia, Lassithi plateau, Agia reservoir outflow, Plakias beach and Georgiopolis. The largest group was 10 at stream mouth in the centre of Plakias on 15th Oct.

Races. All the above were *alba*. One record of 1 adult *yarrelli* was at Plakias stream mouth on 15th October.

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Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* RB WV PM

Common in the mountains and Gorges. Records from Xiloskalo, Omalos, Kotsiphou Gorge, Lassithi plateau, near Spili, Kourtaliotiko Gorge, Malos and Chromonastiro, Imbros Gorge and Myli Gorge. 30 + recorded on walk through Samaria Gorge on 13th May. Records also from Nida plateau, as well as Ag Nikolaos, Rouvas Gorge and Zaros and Katholikou Moni near the sea.

In October reported near Malia and on Lassithi plateau.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* RB

Resident but no reports in 2003.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* WV PM

October 1 heard at Plakias on 14th, 1 at Eleftherna on 17th October and common at Lake Kournas from 16th-19th of the month.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* MB PM

Common in small numbers from 9th April until 16th May in any suitable scrub or wet land area.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* WV PM

April: one record of a male singing at Spili on 19th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* WV? PM

April: Passage reported from 17th April with 1 female on Omalos plateau, 2 males at Gouvenatou Moni on 18th April. 2 at Moni Prevelli and 1 on Omalos on 19th. On 20th there was 1 at Therisso Gorge and on 23rd there was 1 at Platanes.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* MB? PM

April and May: Passage recorded from 4th April in small numbers until 17th April. Then rising to 10-20 daily and there were 100+ on 18th April in vineyard and olive grove at Ag. Triada Moni in poor weather. Then described as numerous until the end on April. 1-3 seen until 4th May.

September: 1 female on fence around the pool on Omalos plateau on 7th Sept.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* RB WV PM

Resident. Common breeding bird already with young in early April.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabelline* MB? PM

No records in 2003

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* MB PM

April: 1 male at Panormo on 5th April then recorded daily with singles around the coast 15-20 on Omalos plateau on 19th April. Last record 10th May at Agia reservoir and Samaria Gorge.

September: Singles daily in early September and passage noted on 11th on North coast.

October: 1 near El Greco Hotel, Rethymnon on 7th and 1 Chania on 17th.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* MB PM

April: Reported from 5th-9th April at Panormo, then in mountains and gorges from 14th April onwards, with 20+ on 17th April and 50+ on 18th. Then small numbers recorded until 10th May.

September: 1 near Gavalohori, Drapano peninsula on 10th.

Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* PM

April: 1 male at Seli Ambelou Pass on 11th and 1 male near Agia Irini Pass on 19th.

May: 1 female seen on Samaria Gorge walk on 13th May.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* RB PM WV?

Common with singing males from 4th April along suitable coastal cliffs and valleys and in Gorges such as Kourtaliotiko, Selinari, Afrata, Gouvernatou, Theriso, Imbros, Diktamos, and Petres and on the Akrotiri peninsula as well as the Drapanos and Rodopou peninsulas.

Still singing in September and October.

Blackbird *Turdus merula* RB PM WV

Resident and common in many habitats.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelus* WV PM

April: 1 near Minoan Cemetery, Armeni on 17th April.

October: 1 at Lake Kournas on 17th October.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* WV PM

No reports for 2003.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* common RB

Common breeding bird. Heard in a variety of habitats except high in the mountains.

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

1 seen and 2 calling in fields near Drama near Lake Kournas on 22nd April. On 7th May there were 6 near Iraklion Power Station and in October recorded at Falasarna.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella lusciniodes* PM

One watched at Platanos from an apartment balcony for one hour on 24th April.

Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon* PM WV

One at Prevelli Palm beach on 10th May.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* PM

Records from 11th April from Agia reservoir on 11th and 17th/18th April. One at Silver Beach, Gerani on 19th and one at Mylo river ford(now a bridge) on 21st April and one at Creta Sun Gardens on the same day. Reported daily during week 17th-24th April.

In May one singing in Geropotamos valley on 3rd May, while on the 7th there was a single at Iraklion Power Station and at Aposelemis river. Last record was 1 at Agia reservoir on 10th May.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* MB PM

No records for 2003

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

Singles recorded from 12th April until 20th May at Lake Kournas, Agia reservoir, Iraklion Power Station, Georgioupolis Lake and in reeds behind beaches and coastal scrub.

Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida* *MB* *PM?*

April: 2 at Kato Zakro lower river on 14th April. 2 on Omalos plateau on 17th and 5 near Kathilikou Moni on 18th April.

Singles at Platanes on 23rd and Frangocastello on 26th.

May: Reported as widespread from 7th May.

September: One at beach nr Almirida and Kalives on 10th, and one at Kalives on 15th.

October: One at Lake Kournas on 18th October.

Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum* *PM*

On April 23rd one in olive grove up river from Platanes.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* *PM*

One near church Ag. Eftikos, Chromonastio on 10th May and one at Georgioupolis Lake on 18th May.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* *MB* *PM*

One male near Panormo on 6th and a pair there on 9th. Single male on Omalos plateau on 17th. One at Damnoni on 19th. One at Frangocastello delta on 20th April, and one at Moni Prevelli on 21st April. In early May 1-2 at Mahes .

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* *RB* *PM* *WV*

Common and widespread. Breeding. Seen from a variety of habitats including in towns.

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

No reports from 2003

Orphee Warbler *Sylvia hortensis* *MB* *PM*

May: Three records. One at Frangocastello on 7th. One at Spili bumps on 9th and 1 at Agia reservoir on 11th May.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* *PM*

No records for 2003

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* *MB* *PM*

Reported form 6th April at Panormo. Then reported daily in 1-4 until 3rd May.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* *PM*

One flew into the restaurant window on 19th April at Plakias.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* *RB?* *PM* *WV*

One female at Argiroupolis on 10th April and one male at Laki on 11th. Then singles recorded from 18th April to 13th May, but scarce.

In October heard at Eleftherna on 17th.

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- Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*** *PM*
 No records in 2003
- Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*** *PM*
 Reported from 5th April until 26th in ones and twos.
 In October 1 foraging in conifers on the beach at Plakias on 15th.
- Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*** *PM* *WV*
 Reported from Panormo on 6th April, Agia on 12th and Kato Zakro on 14th.
 In May one heard at Megalo Chorafia.
 In October heard at Imbros Gorge on 16th, Lake Kournas on 17th and 19th and on 18th in Kournas village.
- Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*** *PM*
 One at Kalives on 12th April. 3 at Moni Prevelli on 19th April. 7th May one at Iraklion Power Station.
 In October records from Ag. Georgios, Agia reservoir, Chania and Plakias
- Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*** *RB?* *PM* *WV*
 No records in 2003
- Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*** *MB* *PM*
 Common migrant from 13th April until 11th May.
 In Autumn 1-2 recorded from Sept 30th until 16th October.
- Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*** *rare* *PM*
 No records in 2003
- Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*** *PM*
April: Reported from 5th April until 28th with small groups of 1-5 males usually at coastal sites.
- Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*** *PM*
 Singles reported from 5th April near Panormo. 10+ at Afrata on 16th April. There were 20+ at Moni Gouvernetou on 18th April. Then, numerous until 28th April. 1 male at Prevelli Palm beach on 10th May.
- Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*** *PM*
 1 male in pines below Moni Prevelli 19th April.
- Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*** *RB*
 Common in the uplands.
- Great Tit *Parus major*** *RB*
 Common recorded widely.
- Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*** *RB*
 13th May 4-5 seen and heard on Samaria Gorge Walk.
 16th October 1 heard in Imbros Gorge.

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Coal Tit *Parus ater*

PM?

10th May 1+ on track to Agios Eftikos, Chromonastiro. Seen and heard calling.

Penduline Tit *Remiz penduline*

WV

PM? PM?

A pair at Agia Reservoir dismantling reedmace on 17th April, and 2 males there on 20th.

On 7th September 2 by the tavernas at Omalos.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

PM

Passage from 12th April when reported daily with 2-6. Last records from 1st and 2nd May.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

PM

May: 1 on wires near Ag. Stavros, Akrotiri on 3rd May.

September: 2-3 juveniles on Akrotiri peninsula and on fields near Georgioupolis harbour on 6th-10th. In **October** recorded from 3 days at Malia until 7th.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

PM

No records form 2003

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator ssp badius*

MB

PM

Spring passage recorded from 5th April until 20th May with singles and 2-4 seen daily.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

PM?

One from a hotel balcony at Platanos on 1st May.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

RB

Seen at Samaria Gorge, Diktamnos Gorge and Katharo plateau in April and May. In October recorded from Imbros Gorge and Lake Kournas.

Alpine Chough *Pyrrhonorax graculus*

RB

20 on Omalos plateau on 10th May.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*

RB

Flocks over Samaria Gorge, and Omalos plateau. With 1-6 usually seen. Largest flocks 28 over Samaria Gorge on 11th April and 34 at Monastiraki on 12th May.

In September and October 6+ seen at Samaria Gorge and Omalos plateau.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

RB

Recorded from Petres Gorge, Kourtaliootiko Gorge, Morosini viaduct nr Knossos and Geropotamos river mouth and Monastiraki.

Hooded Crow *Corvus corone corone*

RB

Common and widespread resident.

Raven *Corvus corax*

RB

Common in small numbers daily.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

WV

PM

April: 16th/17th April 2 Tavronitis river and seen near Plakias.

October: 3 flocks in Chania from 12th-18th. 5 at Frangocastello village on wires on 16th.

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House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* **RB** **WV**

Less common than Italian but males seen at Agia reservoir, Platanos and Knossos.

Italian Sparrow *Passer domesticus x italiae* **RB**

Common breeding everywhere. Breeding colonies in holes in concrete posts and hotel walls.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* **OB** **WV** **PM**

April: Small flocks from 9th April – 23rd from Aposelemis river mouth, Plakias, Souda Bay cemetery, Afrata, Silver beach, Gerani, Platanos and on Omalos.

October: 50+ Vrondisi Moni 4km west of Zaros on 13th Oct. 25 at Plakias on 15th October and 20 at Lake Kournas 17th-19th October.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* **RB** **WV** **PM?**

3+ around gravestones in Souda Bay War Cemetery on 18th April, and 12+ there on 21st. 2 at Elounda on 19th May.

In September and October records from Souda Bay War Cemetery and at Malia.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* **RB** **WV** **PM**

Common widespread resident.

Serin *Serinus serinus* **RB** **WV** **PM**

Recorded from April 6th from Panormo, Agia Reservoir, Knossos, Souda Bay cemetery, Ag. Constantides, Lassithi, Gouverneto Moni, Tavronitis river, Venizelou Memorial Park, Chania and Therisso Gorge.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* **RB** **WV** **PM**

Common widespread resident.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* **RB** **WV** **PM**

Common and widespread in small flocks in April and May.

In September and October larger flocks of 200+.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus* **WV** **PM**

13th April, One male in Creta Sun Hotel grounds, Gouves.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* **RB** **WV** **PM**

Small flocks 1-6 in the Spring in the mountains. Flocks of 10-20 in September and October.

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

No records reported in 2003

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus* **RB**

1-2 recorded daily from 9th April from route to Lassithi, Omalos plateau, ceramic factory near Thrapsano. Ag Constandinos, Lassithi, Kato Zakro, Minoan cemetery at Armeni, Katharo plateau and lower Potamos valley until 19th May.

In October 1 male on Omalos plateau on 10th Oct.

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Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea* AV

No reports in 2003

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia* PM PM

No reports in 2003

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* PM

One at Damnoni singing briefly on 23rd April. One on Omalos on 27th April. 2 singing near Prasses on 8th May and 2-3 on Omalos plateau on 13th-19th May.

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia* OB PM

23rd April One near Georgioupolis beach on wall. (ATS)

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* RB WV PM

Thinly spread. One near Panormo on 9th April, and 20+ on Lassithi plateau on 11th April. A few along the south coast and at Kedros fields, above Spili, from Malia, Plaka headlands and Silver Beach Gerani, in fields behind Plakais, Frangocastello and Eleftherna.

MAMMALS:

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

Eastern Hedgehog *Erinaceus concolor* One on 20th April on south coast. Several dead on the roads in April.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* One on 15.4. in Venezelou Memorial Park, Chania and another sighting not recorded on the same date.

Weasel *Mustela nivalis* One crossed the road in the east on 15th April.

Beech Marten *Martes fiona* Several dead on the roads in April.

Badger *Meles meles* Two recorded dead on road in April and one dead in Oct near Rodakino 16.10.

Mouse sp. *Acomys minous* Cretan Spiny Mouse? One on Lassithi plateau on 15.4. and one dead on road at Therisso 20.4.

Bat sp. 10+ flying around Chania 16.4. 1 on Lassithi plateau on 15.4. 1 flying around at lunchtime in Therisso on 20th April.

AMPHIBIANS

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

Green Toad *Bufo viridis* One caught at Silver Beach Gerani and 6-7 calling at Creta Sun Hotel.

Common Tree Frog *Hyla arborea* One at Spili 16.4. Several heard and two seen Agia reservoir 19/20th April. Many in the orange trees there.

Cretan Frog *Rana cretensis* Agia reservoir, Thrapsano pool, Plakias area, Bramiana reservoir and Toplou Moni in April.

REPTILES

Stripe-necked Terrapin *Mauremys caspica* Several at Agia reservoir in April. Lake Kournas in Oct.

Balkan Green Lizard *Lacerta trilineata* Recorded singles in April.

Erhard' s Wall Lizard *Podarcis erhardii* One at Kolimbari 16.4.

Dice snake *Natrix tessellata* One in river at Plakias 24.4.

Balkan Whip Snake *Coluber gemonensis* 1 at Lake Kournas in Oct.

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

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon* Recorded from 10th throughout April and in Oct in Plakias.

Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius* Plakias, April.

Cretan Festoon *Z. cerisyi f. cretica* One at Kolimbari 16.4. Plakias mid April.

Large White *Pieris brassica* Common in April.

Small White *Pieris rapea* Common. mid April in west.

Bath White *Pontia daplidea* Ag. Triada archaeological site in April.

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea* Locally common in mid April in south and west.

Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni?* Seen on 16.4.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* 2-3 noted on 16.4. and Plakias. In Oct at Plakias, Georgiopolis and Lake Kournas.

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* Just one noted 16.4. and Plakias and at Kournas and Lake Kournas in Oct.

Cardinal *Pandoriana pandora* In Oct. 2 at Lake Kournas.

Southern Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* Plakias

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* Recorded in west 15th and 16th April. and Plakias. In Oct at Lake Kournas.

Cretan Grayling *Hipparchia cretica* Dominant in Imbros Gorge on 16th October.

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis* 1 at Lake Kournas 18.10.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* Seen Plakias in April.

INSECTS

Egyptian Grasshopper *Anacridium aegyptian* recorded daily mid/late April

Hungarian Grasshopper *Acrida ungarica* Singles seen on 15.4.

Pollen Beetle *Oxythira funestra* Several at Agia reservoir.

Cretan Soldier beetle *Lygaeus saxatilis* Seen on 10th/13th and 14th April.

Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa violacea* Common on several days in April.

7 Spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* Recorded on 3 dates mid April.

22 Spot Ladybird *Psyllobora 22-punctata* recorded at Tavronitis river 16.4.

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Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumethopoea pityocampa* Caterpillar nests noted in many pine trees.

Silver –Y Moth *Autographa gamma* Seen on 24.4.

Hummingbird Hawkmoth *Macroglossom stellatum* Plakias in mid April.

Early Blue Hawker sp. Common near water at Agia in April. Possibly *Brachyton pratense* one of the earliest dragonflies.

OTHER TAXA

Land Crab *Potamon potamios* Recorded at Plakias

Banded Snail *Ceriuella virgata* Common.

Mediterranean White Snail *Albea candidissima* Common

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DATES OF RECORDS: CRETE 2003

Michalis Dretakis Highlights throughout the year Univ of Crete. NHMC
Peter Wilkinson 5th April- 16th April 2003 H B GROUP.
Sarah Tyacke 14th April – 17th April 2003
Jenny Willsher 7th April- 16th April 2003 ISLAND HOLIDAYS
Stephanie Coghlan 8th April – 22nd April 2003 SNAIL'S PACE
Kevin Elsby/ John Boarder 12th April- 19th April 2003 viaNATURETREK
Mike Langman 15th April – 22nd April 2003 THE TRAVELLING NATURALIST
David Collins 17th April – 24th April 2003 HONEYGUIDE
Gordon & Wendie Wright 23rd April- 7th May 2003
Sean Huggins April 29th – May 13th 2003
Judith Pentreath 6th May – 13th May 2003
Colin Wilson 7th May – 20th May 2003
Norman Elkins 7th May – 19th May 2003
Mike & Rita Burstow 2nd Sept. – 16th Sept 2003
Peter & Barbara Murphy 6th Oct. – 20th October 2003
Pirkka Aalto 12th October – 18th October 2003 Chairman of the
Ornithological Society of Finnish Lapland (Birdlife Finland)
Thomas Vikström 12th October – 19th October 2003
Michalis Dretakis email: 10.11.2003.

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

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Completed February 2010.