

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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EASTERN GREECE

8 – 16 MAY 2009

Eastern Greece 8 – 16 May 2009

Holiday participants

David and Steph Bennett
David Goode
Suzanne Hunter
Hilary MacBean

David Nind and Shevaun Mendelsohn
Juliet Prior
Lesley Scott
Susie Turner
Wendy Wilson

Leaders

Robin and Rachel Hamilton

Our base for this holiday is the Dadia Lodge and Ecotourism Centre, run by the municipality of Dadia and WWF Greece.

<http://www.ecoclub.com/dadia/index.html>

The picture of a golden jackal on page 8 is reproduced from Wikipedia.

All other photographs in this report were taken during the week, those edged in blue by Rachel Hamilton, and those edged green by Wendy Wilson.

Front cover: Mountains and birdwatchers. Below: Alyssum on Blue Rock Hill.



As with all Honeyguide holidays, part of the price of the holiday was put towards a local conservation project, in this case for the wildlife of the Dadia Forest reserve. This project is managed by WWF Greece in collaboration with the community-based co-operative in Dadia village and is achieved by its integration with forestry, farming and ecotourism. The conservation contribution this year of £35 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, resulting in a donation of €550. A thank you letter from WWF Greece is on the final page of this report.

The overall total for conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £60,821 as at September 2009.

Friday 8 May: Stansted to Dadia

Aegean Airlines, a new airline for this holiday, did us proud: on-time, comfortable and quite decent food. We took off from a damp and overcast Stansted but the clouds became more broken as we flew over the snowy Alps. Soon the sky was clear, and we had some lovely views of the Dalmatian coast. At Athens we had 3½ hours to wait for our onward flight to Alexandroupolis so we sat in the sun and watched a few of the city birds (disappointingly, mostly house sparrows) or explored the busy airport and bought postcards, and then met in the airport restaurant for our first taste of Greek cuisine. The flight across the Aegean was beautiful with views of the islands in the evening sunshine and the yellow of the spurge lit the airport grassland as we came in to land at Alexandroupolis.

We had a lovely, all-in-Greek, welcome from Vangelis who was waiting with the old green van to take our luggage to Dadia. We collected our minibuses from Evros Cars and drove up the old road for the 50 minutes or so to the Ecotourism Centre, arriving just as it got dark. We had another wonderful welcome, this time from Chrysoula, our hostess at the Centre. She showed us to our rooms and after a drink on the bar terrace with swallows sleeping on their nests just overhead, some of us paused to listen to a woodlark singing in the pitch darkness, accompanied by a nightingale. We were lulled to sleep by a Greek chorus of marsh frogs.

Saturday 9 May: A leisurely day with local walks

We had a later start than usual to recover from the long day travelling and the time-change. It was warm and sunny when we woke and we enjoyed the song of the nightingales in the woods behind the Centre. We all met for breakfast: wonderful creamy Greek yoghurt and local honey, cereals, cold meats and cheeses, fresh bread and jams, fruit juice, tea and coffee. Some people had been up and about: Hilary had been watching a red squirrel from her balcony, Wendy and Susie had seen a black-eared wheatear, and David G came in with an impressive list including a golden oriole.

We planned only brief, local excursions for the first day so that we could get to know the immediate surroundings of the Ecotourism Centre, so we set off on foot, down the lane towards the village of Dadia. Almost immediately a cry of 'raptor' from Suzanne brought us all to a halt and we opened our raptor account for the week with an excellent view of a juvenile golden eagle. A black-eared wheatear appeared on a telegraph pole; there were house martins and common swifts and small groups of bee-eaters flying over, occasionally swirling and dipping after food. A pair of woodchat shrikes bobbed up and down among the rocks and bushes on the hillside on our left. Goldfinches twittered around the treetops and on the wires, giving us a chance to get to grips with their song, and we caught a good view of a pair of red-rumped swallows over the hilltop.

Lesley and Juliet had their eyes turned to the ground where the grassland was rich with flowers: deep blue grape hyacinths, bright pink stork's-bills, mauve thymes, red bartsia, yellow St John's-wort, purple and yellow irises, brilliant blue alkanet and little white-flowered tufts of the endemic sandwort, *Minuartia greuteriana*, whose only sites are in Dadia forest and especially this rocky hillside. Wendy was after the invertebrates: she came upon a pair of cockchafer mating on a terebinth bush and then found us our first clouded yellow, scarce swallowtail and brown argus butterflies.

We were watching a white wagtail feeding on a rock amongst the wild thyme when a Syrian woodpecker flew by and then a raptor-fest began: Hilary's shout alerted us to a long-legged buzzard, then David G spotted a short-toed eagle. While we were watching them, a griffon vulture appeared over the hilltop and beyond that, first a pale phase booted eagle and then a distant black vulture. A small silhouette on the pavilion on top of the hill turned out to be a woodlark, which we watched in its characteristic song-flight. Distant specks resolved into the lovely sight of three black storks, and a long-legged buzzard that eventually came close enough to give us a good view of its underside. A serin flew by singing - a nice comparison with the goldfinch songs that we were still hearing from time to time.

The lane drops down into a little valley where a small stream flows under the road. We could hear a nightingale singing from the deep cover there and we had almost given up the challenge of tracking him down when Hilary eventually spotted him low down in a willow tree. Another dense bush was giving cover to a very persistent olivaceous warbler but an equally persistent David G finally tracked it down and we had a very good view. The vegetation is lush near the stream and when she scrambled down to look at two cistus bushes in full flower, Juliet found a beautiful little flower chafer, *Oxythyrea funesta*, lurking in one of the flowers. Shevaun was exploring the hillside there too and came upon a great find: a spur-thighed tortoise, which patiently allowed us all to examine, if not its thighs, at least its single supracaudal plate and the diagnostic blunt tip of its tail.

Back on the road we spent several minutes using a telescope to watch a hoopoe at its nest hole under an outbuilding on the edge of the village, noting the position so that we should be able to catch up with it again later in the week. We turned back towards the Centre. A violet carpenter bee was collecting wood from a telegraph pole beside the road. A great tit perched above us and a pair of turtle doves flew overhead. The sky had not exhausted itself of big birds either; we had a nice view of a very pale booted eagle, another black stork flew over, three white storks came into view, circling upwards in a thermal and then three more black storks flew by. What a feast!

A big box of filled rolls and fruit awaited us and we sat to eat our lunch on the shady bar terrace and watched the birds above us in the trees. A red squirrel was scuttling along the branches of a nearby pine tree and came very close, apparently fearless in our presence.

It was hot and sunny after lunch so, donning sunhats again and applying another layer of sunscreen, we set off along the track through the pine woods behind the Centre. Under the trees, the bay-leaved cistus was still in bud and the mauve flowers of the *Phlomis* were just coming out. As we came out of the wood and into a broad firebreak we could hear a distant golden oriole and a short-toed eagle floated across the open sky. There were red-winged grasshoppers about and we found a rose chafer high on a rose bush beside the track. Further on, we were able to watch through the telescopes while a male and two female red-backed shrikes on nearby trees made repeated sorties after insects and then, for very useful comparison, a woodchat shrike also appeared. Hilary and David G went off in pursuit of an elusive warbler which turned out to be an eastern Bonelli's warbler and we heard and then briefly saw a girl bunting singing from the top of a tree near to the track. Small groups of bee-eaters passed overhead from time to time and high above us, the succession of raptors was not abating: a lesser spotted eagle, a common buzzard and a black kite all flew by in quick succession.

Turning back, the botanical group were examining a St John's-wort plant when they discovered the perfect nest of a woodlark, beautifully formed in a depression in the ground in the shelter of the little bush; it had four eggs. A baby grass snake was basking, curled up in a pool of sunshine and wriggled away into the shelter of some oak leaves when we pried too close. And again, with eyes on the ground for plants, we discovered a bizarrely frilled mantis *Empusa fasciata* making its way across the sandy track. Other insects caught our eye too: a field cricket, a dung beetle and a paper wasp at its exquisitely constructed nest. The dry sand was dotted with the pits of ant-lions.

Back at the Centre, we had a little while to relax and then met at the bar for a drink and a chance to go over the day's sightings. Chrysoula had booked a table for us at the Taverna in the centre of the village, belonging to Mr Panagotis, so we set off in good time in the pleasant evening air and allowed ourselves a few minutes to watch the antics of a family of starlings getting the better of one of the many village cats. We enjoyed an excellent and varied Greek dinner, all fresh and homemade by the Panagotis family, and a plentiful supply of local wine. As we walked back after supper we heard the woodlark singing in the darkness again.

Sunday 10 May: The Evros Delta - The Doriskos Byway, the Anthi Lagoons and the Aegean

Sunshine greeted us for our early walk. While everyone assembled we watched a grey wagtail singing and then we set off along the track behind the Centre. The previous week's heavy rain had turned the arid hillside into a rocky streamlet.



There was lots of bird song including woodlark and nightingale and nearby a collared dove. A male black-eared wheatear was joined by a female and we watched two bee-eaters feeding and occasionally perching on trees. We could hear a golden oriole again and Susie's sharp ears caught the call of a distant cuckoo.

Replete with breakfast we set off in the minibuses, retracing our tracks towards Alexandroupolis. Our first stop was in the village of Provatonas where a substantial telegraph pole in the heart of the village is adorned with a magnificent storks' nest (*left*). It is shared by at least twenty pairs of Spanish and one or two house sparrows all nesting in the tangle of branches and twigs. The two storks towered over them, one calmly incubating eggs and the other standing guard while an interfering magpie was sent packing by the indignant sparrows. Jackdaws and collared doves were busy in the gardens and on the rooftops around.

There are some good birds to be seen from the main road so we kept a sharp lookout as we continued on our way. Crested larks were feeding on the 'hard shoulder' and we caught sight of both a goshawk and a kestrel. We turned off along a byway near the village of Doriskos in an area where rollers can often be seen and, true to form, two rollers soon appeared and we watched them for a while on the telegraph wires. Corn buntings and a whitethroat were singing from song posts on the bushes. A white stork flew very close past us and perched on a tall lamp post across the road. The raptors at this brief stop were represented by a very pale buzzard and a kestrel; then we had a wonderful view of the first Levant sparrowhawk of the week, watching it for some time hawking over the fields and along the hedgerows and eventually disappearing into the distance. We also found some large pellets of rabbit fur, the size of plums, presumably cast up by a large predator, under a tree.

We were preparing to move on when we caught a glimpse of our first black-headed bunting flying past. Our next stop was a few hundred yards further on, beside the road, for a black-headed bunting posing in brilliant light on a treetop. There were a few crested larks too, singing in flight and from perches and giving us some good views.

We stopped again a little further on, where there is a commanding view across a shallow, fertile valley to the hillside beyond. Here, we were captivated by the roadside flowers and the weeds of the cornfield: bright purple Venus's looking glass, scarlet pheasant's eye, an array of yellow and purple vetches and peas, bright pink kholrauschia, and the yellow shades of verbascum and spurge.

Our next destination was the Evros Delta Information Centre in Loutros where we were due to collect our permit for the restricted zone which we would visit later in the week. The Centre is a useful stop with some informative displays, aerial photographs and maps and opportunities to buy postcards, booklets etc. On the way back to the minibuses we were distracted by the extraordinary sight of a group of black-headed buntings close by in the garden, feeding and singing around a crab apple tree: very beautiful.

Eventually, we tore ourselves away and were quickly onto the rough track system that leads deep into the heart of the Evros Delta. The first stop was caused by a stunning view of a juvenile imperial eagle which we watched flying towards us and then off towards the Loutros Hills. A little further on there were several black-headed buntings on wires - clearly large numbers had recently arrived. A pair of red-backed shrikes nearby in a bush near the road brought us to a halt again and when we stopped for a tree full of bee-eaters we also heard a quail calling and a Cetti's warbler shouted at us from deep in a bush.

We forced ourselves to press on to our destination and parked the minibuses beside the first of the Anthi Lagoons. Here, former salt pans are segmented by straight, tamarisk-lined causeways to form shallow, brackish lagoons. Reeds and rushes grow around the edge and areas of saltmarsh, dense with samphire and sea purslane, have formed beside some of the causeways. We soon spotted a group of 17 spoonbills and several little egrets feeding in the water. A wood sandpiper and three squacco herons lurked at the edge of the reeds and a number of black-winged stilts strutted about in the deeper water. There were a group of shelducks, two mute swans, a coot and two garganey, all spread out and busy feeding in the deeper lagoon beyond.

The air was full of bee-eaters, swallows and small parties of sand martins, all swooping and darting after insects of various sizes. We spread out to have our lunch at viewpoints of choice: some within sight of a pair of swallows feeding young in a nest under a bridge, others under the tamarisk bush where one of the many Cetti's warblers was singing - they were all around us - in the hope of catching a glimpse. Others manned 'scopes, sandwich in hand, and scanned the mud for new waders. There was bird activity in every direction. A black-headed (yellow) wagtail tantalised us for a while as we couldn't detect where the noise was coming from. Everyone's patience with the elusive Cetti's warblers was rewarded when one at last broke cover and flew close by while we ate. We had a fine view of a glossy ibis too as it flew slowly past. Great consternation was caused when a marsh harrier flew over and then dropped into a tree: the spoonbills and black-winged stilts all sprang up and circled round and an anxious purple heron appeared out of the reeds and flew away. The stars of the show were perhaps a wonderful flock of collared pratincoles which appeared across the lagoon. They were hawking elegantly for insects and we watched for a long time as they gradually drew nearer and passed gracefully overhead. We could even see the diagnostic dark reddish-brown colour of their armpits.

There were other creatures to be seen too: Lesley and Shevaun were watching the invertebrate life in the water under the bridge when they called us over to see a large snake, probably a dice snake, swimming under the bridge. It was obligingly unfazed by being watched and everyone had an excellent view before it disappeared into the mud. A little European pond terrapin was less easy to see, but charmed those who did and then Wendy urged us to follow her along the causeway to where she had found a tree-frog (*right*), perfectly still, clinging to a tamarisk twig. We hurried back to the track at David G's shout of "penduline tit!" just in time to see it disappear into the tamarisk.



We walked along between the lagoons and there were still more species to delight us. The number of wood sandpipers went up to three and the wader tally was added to by a greenshank, a redshank, several lapwings and eleven little stints. A reed bunting appeared and sang on some tamarisk and on a small island in the lagoon, there were three common terns. A group of mallard and three more garganey were feeding in an area of open water. Again, pratincoles stole the show when two of them settled on the ground very

close to us just after we had climbed aboard the minibuses, giving superb views, especially when David set his telescope up so that Susie could see them from the extra height of the front seat.

Continuing along the track we soon came to a line of sand dunes and, over the rise we could see the great expanse of the Aegean Sea: Turkey to our left and the island of Samothraki in the mist in front of us. There were some familiar flowers in the sand dunes: marram grass, sea holly, sand catchfly. But the birds were a little disappointing after the riches of the lagoons. We could see a group of cormorants sitting about on a stranded log and a group of little terns were fishing off shore. There were oystercatchers, a Kentish plover, eleven grey plovers and a few sanderlings all on the shore and a party of four curlews flew past along the beach. We enjoyed the beach though, a little beachcombing and sitting in the sunshine, and Susie and Wendy found the temptation to paddle irresistible.

We had a good run back to Dadia, only held up when we slowed down to make sure that a tortoise crossed the road safely. Shortly after we turned off the main road, a large cat crossed in front of the second minibus and strode away across a field, its long ringed tail and large ears clearly visible and leaving us in no doubt that it was a wild cat. Though they are not uncommon in the region, it was a treat to see one so clearly.

Dinner at the Simos taverna – another excellent array of delicious local Greek cooking – was interrupted by the appearance of a giant peacock moth, the largest European moth species, with a wingspan of 15 cm. Rachel carried it outside, where it allowed itself to be photographed (*see checklists*). Half the group decided to walk back after dinner, and were rewarded with another giant peacock moth, a mole-cricket crossing the road, and an enormous female common toad, nearly twice the size of the British race. A tawny owl was hooting from near the Centre, and the woodlark's song rang out through the darkness.

Monday 11 May: Walk Down to the Diavolorema River

Again, bright sunshine greeted us as we emerged for our early walk. Wendy had already been exploring the hillside and had heard a hoopoe calling. We set off up the main track into the forest and soon heard a golden oriole. A serin was singing from the top of a pine tree and we met Shevaun and Hilary who had just been watching a spotted flycatcher. A woodlark flew across and sang from a treetop, giving us good telescope views, and so did a mistle thrush, and the usual cirl bunting sang briefly but again, tantalisingly, refused to show itself.

Our expedition for today was on foot again, exploring the landscape beyond the village where it drops down into the valley of the Diavolorema River. We set off down the lane towards the village and stopped by the bridge where we all heard a golden oriole and had a good view of an olivaceous warbler. We also had a good view of a southern white admiral in a village garden before turning off, onto a rough track that leads downhill towards the river.

The track runs at first between high hedge banks bright with sweetbriar and yellow jasmine and bramble bushes dotted with butterflies. Then the view opens out and we looked across a little valley to the woods beyond. There were plenty of birds to see and to hear; the first was a woodchat shrike that waited on top of a bush for us to look at it – though at a respectful distance. A Syrian woodpecker flew up into a tree and then required considerable patience before it reappeared. We heard a lesser whitethroat, but it remained elusive and then a very confiding woodchat shrike allowed us to watch it for some time within just a few yards.



We strolled off the track and into a meadow full of butterflies. Wendy found a wood white, a southern white admiral (*left*) obligingly settled on Hilary's leg and posed for photographs and we identified a green-underside blue. There were carpets of wildflowers under our feet and in the hedge banks and we picked out the bright blue of bugle *Ajuga genevensis*, crosswort, field eryngo, wild love-in-a-mist and yellow jasmine. Along the stream, we were perplexed by a flowering tree which turned out to be the unusual maple, *Acer tartarica*.

We carried on down the track, a pale-phase booted eagle soaring overhead and an eastern Bonelli's warbler singing from the wood. A few people glimpsed a golden oriole as it flashed along the woodland edge. Where a tiny stream crosses the track, we found smooth newts, marsh frogs, pond-

skaters and a small grass snake. At the foot of the hill, the tracks divide to cross the fertile valley floor between beautiful overblown hedges. 'Shrike corner' lived up to its name, with two or three red-backed shrikes, as well as a black-headed bunting and yet another olivaceous warbler, and the hedge banks were jewelled with the charming delicate yellow flowers of moth mullein.

We were eating our picnic lunch by the river in the shade of an almond orchard, watching bee-eaters prospecting for nest holes, when a small shrike flew past us, under the trees, showing a lot of white on its back and wings and with a noticeably long tail – surely a masked shrike. Hilary came over from the riverside, where she had had a good view of the bird, and was able to confirm our identification.

After lunch, we wandered along the riverbank where house martins, sand martins and two red-rumped swallows were feeding over the water and we watched the red-rumped swallows collect mud from a ditch. A little ringed plover was darting about and scuttling among the stones on the far side. A pair of stonechats posed on a bush and a fine view of two lesser grey shrikes completed a rare four-shrike day. A juvenile golden eagle soared above us and a hoopoe flew across so that at last, most people at least got a decent view. We could occasionally hear the ‘song’ of a green toad from the opposite bank.

Nothing was planned for the afternoon so some of us returned to the Centre in a minibus that Robin and Rachel had delivered to the riverside after breakfast, and planned a relaxing afternoon. The energetic ones who walked back to the village were rewarded with two juvenile golden eagles.

Before dinner Yannis Marinas, the head of the WWF project in Dadia Forest (which is based in Dadia village and has an office at the Ecotourism Centre), gave us a short talk with a slide presentation about the achievements of WWF in Dadia Forest and the problems they face in their work on raptor conservation. It is this project which the Honeyguide donation would be supporting and, on WWF’s behalf, Yannis received the group’s contribution of €550 towards their work.

We had booked dinner again at Simos Taverna, on the far side of the village, so the group divided into walkers and riders. We had another lovely meal chosen from a wide menu of fresh, home-cooked Greek dishes, and local wine, rounded off with platters of mysterious, delicious sweetmeats and crystallized fruits. Returning home, some of us listened to the distant churring and flight call of a nightjar, but it was too dark to see it.

Tuesday 12th May: Evros Delta: the Sarantametros Canal and the Drana Lagoon

Another sunny morning – we were hardly able to believe our luck. The serins were very active and vocal along the wires and among the pines in front of the Centre and we watched a grey wagtail singing on the rocky hillside. We could hear a cuckoo and a hoopoe calling not far away but they didn’t appear. As usual, the woodlark’s song was ringing out across the valley.

After breakfast we headed down to the Evros Delta again. We were gradually exploring it from west to east and this was the second of three visits there. We turned off the main road just before Loutros, along the old road. The pace slowed and we had very nice views of a long-legged buzzard and some red-rumped swallows. We could hear a Cetti’s warbler singing through the open windows of the minibus. We followed a track that took us under the main road and through a cutting and then the view suddenly opened out to display the vast expanse of the delta spread out in front of us, with the hills of Turkey beyond. We were keen to press on but soon came to an abrupt halt at the sight of an enormous Spanish sparrow colony in a thicket of Christ’s-thorn *Paliurus spina-christi* beside the track. There were dozens of birds carrying trails of grasses and weaving bundles into untidy nests among the prickly branches. The sun was in front of us so the light was poor but it was clearly a ‘must’ for photographs so we resolved to stop again on the way back.

We stopped next at the bridge over the Sarantametros Canal where a noisy chorus of frogs and great reed warblers greeted us. A great reed warbler finally showed itself well, singing from high up on a reed stalk. We could hear a little grebe and a moorhen calling from within the dense reedbed and we watched a purple heron languidly flapping low over the reeds. Lesley and Suzanne were peering into a pool of clear water under the bridge and called us over to get a lovely view of a Balkan terrapin, at first swimming and then crawling along the bank just below the water surface. The great reed warbler never stopped singing, and was from time to time joined by neighbours up and down the canal, that periodically appeared on the reeds for us to watch. Then at last a reed warbler joined the chorus and we were able to compare the two songs, the reed warbler’s ‘churr churr churr chirruck chirruck’ contrasting strongly with the great reed warbler’s louder and more guttural notes. We were on the point of leaving the bridge when we realized that there was a great reed warbler’s nest (*right*) visible just below the bridge parapet. As the wind blew the reeds about we could occasionally get a clear view of it and the intricate structure of grasses wound around the reed stems.



Across the bridge there is a group of farm buildings and a pair of isabelline wheatears is known to breed there regularly – so much so that the area of fertile delta farmland around is known as ‘Isabelline Flats’. Perfectly on cue, the isabelline wheatear appeared, at first feeding on the track and then among the rank vegetation and bushes near to the buildings. We had excellent views and it performed well, showing its characteristic long legs and pale buff colouring. We also had an excellent view of a black-headed bunting posing nicely on a wire and then another flock of collared pratincoles came into view, swirling and swooping after insects, rather like large swallows.

It was time to move on and find somewhere with some shade for lunch further along the canal. We drove a little way and then settled down underneath a row of tamarisk bushes along the bank. We watched a pair of marsh harriers, apparently visiting a nest not far away. There was a commotion as a kestrel repeatedly mobbed a black kite; presumably it too had a nest nearby. We had a brief but good view of a long-legged buzzard and then an excellent view of a male golden oriole as it flew along the opposite bank. Much closer, we could see movement among the tamarisk bushes as a sedge warbler quietly made its way along, feeding and apparently oblivious of us all quietly sitting and munching our sandwiches. A pygmy cormorant – a new species for the week – woke us from our reveries as it flew close by along the canal.



We drove slowly along the bank and admired the brilliant display of wild flowers colouring the grassland: huge expanses of poppies, dog daisies and mulleins (*left*), the mixture of colours startling in the bright sunshine. Then, the track turned sharply left and we could see the great expanse of open water – Drana Lagoon – in front of us.

We stopped on the corner where tamarisk scrub and marsh pools form an edge to the lagoon. There were squacco, grey and purple herons and little egrets wading in the water feeding very close. Then came a shout from David B and a moment of great excitement when a bittern flew in and alighted nearby. There was so much to see that it was hard to tear ourselves away: a cormorant was perched on a dead branch; a pratincole was flying around above our heads; a little grebe, a shelduck and two drake shovelers were swimming in a pool away to our left. Suzanne found a snipe and a redshank was feeding along the edge of an island; then we spotted a spotted redshank moving strangely – it was actually swimming along in some deeper water.

It was very hot, with a heat haze on the distant water. We carried on in the minibuses for a few hundred yards to where there was a large expanse of dry saltmarsh beside the track. A very dapper tawny pipit was perched on a rock near to the track and skylarks were singing

above our heads. We got out of the minibuses and set up telescopes to scan the flats. There was a distant oystercatcher and we caught a glimpse of a Kentish plover amongst the sea purslane. A greenshank called a few times but we didn't see it. A common tern and small groups of sand martins flew over and then, further to our right, there were two Kentish plovers, probably a pair, running about amongst the vegetation. On the far bank, a hooded crow sat tight on its nest in a low tamarisk bush.

A few hundred yards further on, a track turns off to the right leading to some moorings for fishing boats and fishermen's huts. We left the minibuses and strolled out along the sea wall. The view and the light were beautiful and the scene was very tranquil, but the birds were limited to a party of yellow-legged gulls and a few more terns.

Back at the minibuses we drove on to find a turning place and, ahead of us, an animal crossed the track and turned back along the shore on our right. Then Steph spotted it crossing the track again behind us and going down to the shore on our left. It reappeared from beneath the bank, carrying an unidentifiable piece of prey, then loped off across the mudflat, occasionally stopping to look back over its shoulder. By now we had leapt out of the minibuses and put up telescopes, and were able to identify the animal as a golden jackal, not uncommon in the Delta but seldom seen by day. We watched it into the distance and out of sight among the bushes.



We stopped, as we had promised ourselves, to photograph Spanish Sparrow City and then headed along the main road back to Dadia, with time for a shower before we gathered under the pines at the bar for a drink and the daily review. We returned to the Panagotis Taverna for dinner – switching between the two village tavernas because we were enjoying them

both equally but for their entirely contrasting characters. As we arrived in the middle of the village we noticed for the first time that a new platform had been erected earlier in the year, replacing one that had collapsed four years ago, and that storks were again nesting in the middle of Dadia. After dinner we were listening to the night sounds when Susie appeared with news of several moths and a gecko that she had found around a security light behind the Centre building. The gecko was still there when we arrived, and was identified as a Turkish gecko. We found two more giant peacock moths, then went off to bed to the sound of the woodlark singing at midnight.

Wednesday 13 May: Raptor feeding station at Dadia; Lefkimi and Kapsalo

It was yet another lovely day. We took our early walk through the woods behind the Centre. We heard, but didn't manage to see, a Syrian woodpecker drumming and then followed a quiet contact call among the trees, which we tracked down to a shy spotted flycatcher.

After breakfast we were driven in a bumpy bus up the rough track through the forest to the hide from which one can view the vulture feeding station. There had been a hiccup in the supply of carcasses but we were lucky: a 'fresh' supply had arrived the day before. So, when we arrived the feast was well under way, being enjoyed by four black, fifteen griffon and two Egyptian vultures as well as two ravens, a few hooded crows and a white wagtail. We watched the curious choreography as the scavengers all took their turn, occasionally showing those lower down in the order precisely who was boss. The other ornithological delight there was a swallows' nest on a beam inside the hide. They had clearly had the hide to themselves in the early morning but it didn't take long for them to gain confidence and they flew in and out above our heads.

We left the hide and strolled down through the wood for our rendezvous with the return bus. The woodland flora is dominated by pine, of both the local species: black pine *Pinus nigra* ssp *nigra* and Calabrian pine *P. halapensis* ssp *brutia*. Oaks are represented by several species too: Turkey oak *Quercus cerris*, downy oak *Q. pubescens* and the local species Italian oak *Q. frainetto*. The understorey – prickly juniper *Juniperus oxycedrus*, the eastern strawberry tree *Arbutus andrachne*, tree heath *Erica arborea*, two species of cistus: grey-leaved cistus *Cistus incanus* and the local species bay-leaved cistus *C. laurifolius* — is scattered, leaving space for ferns and mosses as well as a wide variety of woodland flowers.

Back at the Centre we had a few minutes to have a cup of coffee and get ready to leave for the day. We were sitting on the bar terrace when a very shaken and out of breath Shevaun and David N came up; they had decided against the visit to the feeding station and had instead been for a 'quiet' walk in the forest. At the edge of a clearing they had found themselves in the company of a large, dog-like animal, grey-brown, with a long tail and with familiar yellow eyes. Both parties were very startled. David and the animal briefly made eye contact and then they all decided to go their separate ways, the animal limping slightly as it walked away into the forest. We were in little doubt that they had had a very exciting encounter with a wolf. The only explanation that could be found for this extremely surprising sighting was that the animal was troubled by an injury and had been forced to wander far from its usual haunts. Shepherds in the area around Dadia are very vigilant and there are large numbers of dogs around whose purpose is to keep wolves far away from sheep and habitation. The staff at the WWF Office were inclined to think it was one of the shepherd's dogs but Shevaun and David's descriptions clearly indicated a wolf.

After that excitement we headed south again and turned off the main road in Provatonas. We paid our respects to the storks on their nest and drove on, up a winding lane through the village of Lefkimi. The road climbs steeply, through a mosaic of deciduous woodland, coniferous woodland, open scrub and small cultivations. There was much evidence of bee keeping: rows of brightly coloured hives in clearings and beside fields. At last we arrived at the highest point in this part of the forest, Kapsalo Hill and its radio mast.

As we drew up we caught sight of the first ortolan bunting on a rock beside the road. Hilary, quickly out of the minibus and scanning the rocks, was rewarded with a peregrine. The flowers were spectacular. We had parked on a grassy area beside the road but it was vivid yellow with the spurge-like perfoliate alexanders *Smyrniium perfoliatum*. The road is flanked with light woodland: flowering ash, Montpellier maple with yellow jasmine scrambling underneath.

We made our way round the top of the hill to find a viewpoint and a comfortable picnic spot. Grape hyacinths (both species), orlaya, Jersey snapdragon, paronychia and irises were all growing amongst the rocks and on the scree. We set up telescopes and settled down to eat our lunch. We had a wonderful view across the rolling forested hills far into the distance and looking down on a kestrel soaring below us. A blue rock thrush popped up in silhouette on the rocks near on our left and we could hear an ortolan bunting singing. A short-toed eagle, a black and a griffon vulture glided by very close and then a golden eagle a little further off. Down below, we could see and hear a chukar calling from on the top of a large rock.

Robin and Rachel dropped one of the minibuses off at a good parking place well down the hill and then we all set off on foot down the road. All the way, the flowers were breathtaking, both on the road verge and in the woodland edge. We walked in the shade of the white-flowered manna ash *Fraxinus ornus* and the Montpellier maple *Acer monspessulanum* whose fruits were just beginning to colour. Wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis* was in flower. Whitebeam *Sorbus* sp and silver lime *Tilia tomentosa* with its soft white-felted leaves, smoke bush *Cotinus coggygria* and cornelian cherry

Cornus mas flanked the lane. In the verges and among the rocks there were colourful patches of bastard balm *Melittis melissophyllum*, irises *Iris attica*, perennial cornflower *Centaurea triumfetti* and wild tulips *Tulipa sylvestris*. Italian catchfly *Silene italica* and its relative, the dark red subspecies of the red catchfly *Lychnis viscaria* ssp *atropurpurea* appeared from time to time in the ditch and a solitary lady orchid *Orchis purpurea* caught everyone's eye. At the place where the minibus was awaiting us, on one side of the road was another wonderful view, this time across the forest towards the delta. On the other side, down the bank and in the shade of hazel trees, was a magnificent display of bright red wild peonies (*below*).



The birds were good too: we watched a black-eared wheatear on the rocks to our left and two ortolan buntings on the hillside below were singing at each other; we managed to get one of them in a telescope for everyone to see. Wendy photographed a clouded Apollo and while we were admiring the view at 'peony corner' and watching crag martins and a green woodpecker, everyone who had a camera photographed a charming red and black jumping spider (*Philaeus chrysops*) and an ascalaphid (known in Australia and north America as owl-flies) *Libelloides coccajus*.

We collected the other minibus from the top of the hill and retraced our tracks down towards Lefkimi. A mountain stream tumbles down beside the road with an open grassy area beside it. We decided to stop and explore. The scree slope above the stream was a rockery of tiny flowers, with Juliet in heaven

among the array of sedums, and a fine plant of dragon arum grew beside the stream. Two long-tailed tits were calling and flitting about in the treetops and there was a turtle dove on the telegraph wire. Below the road, we followed the stream a little way and, turning over a stone, to everyone's delight we found a fire-bellied toad. There were several peacock anemones *Anemone pavonina* flowering under the shelter of various thorny bushes which had protected them from grazing. A hoopoe flew over and perched, calling, on a tree, beautifully picked out in the late afternoon light and at last giving everyone an opportunity for a good view.

Through Lefkimi we stopped again, this time very briefly, to look at a dead glass lizard beside the road. However, we were quickly distracted as it turned out that we were right beside a bee-eater colony and we watched for a while as they visited their nest holes in the cliff beside the river.

There were no further distractions and we drove back to the Centre to prepare for dinner at the Taverna Simos where we had put in a special request for their authentic and delicious moussaka.

Thursday 14 May: Evros Delta, in the Restricted Zone

Before breakfast there was a hazy sun but it was warm, so for a change we drove down to the river to see what was about there. Immediately we could hear a golden oriole and a hoopoe and eventually we glimpsed them both. There were curious mounds about the size of molehills, newly appeared in an arable field; we tiptoed over to investigate and they turned out to be enormous ant mounds, shaped like volcanoes. We had the hoped-for proper view of the pair of masked shrikes; they were collecting strips of bark from some dead bushes in the hedgerow. Beside the river the frogs were quiet but the little ringed plover was busy on the shore and both white and black-headed wagtails were feeding among the rocks.

We drove south again after breakfast for our last visit to the delta, this time to the most easterly section, near the town of Feres and closest to the Turkish border. Passports and permits were at the ready just in case we aroused the attention of the authorities, though this is a very rare occurrence nowadays.

Before we were over the dyke and onto the delta proper we could see a flock of ten glossy ibises flying over some trees and as we drove along the track we stopped to 'scope a small raptor which turned out to be a female red-footed falcon – an excellent start to the visit. Our first scheduled stop was at a fork in the main track where there is a path down onto the flood plain of the river. This is very beautiful meadowland with huge poplars and scattered shrubs, lightly grazed in summer by cattle. We could hear several nightingales and an olivaceous warbler singing from various dense bushes – the willows here clothed in thick tangles of silk-vine *Periploca graeca* sadly not yet in flower. One of the many butterflies was causing some puzzlement and when Wendy eventually had a chance of a good look it turned out to be an eastern festoon; after that, we seemed to see them everywhere. Marsh and Balkan stream frogs were resting at the edge of the water in a concrete drainage channel beside the track. All the time there were bee-eaters around and we got some good views of them perched on the telegraph wires. A cuckoo flew by and then we had the brilliant sight of a smart male Levant sparrowhawk perched on a nearby post.

There is a long, straight track along a dyke, leading out to the seaward edge of the delta, with areas of farmed land, grazing marsh, tamarisk scrub and shallow pools – with characteristic birds for every area. We spotted two squacco herons by a pool on our left and small flocks of ibises flew by from time to time. There was a lesser spotted eagle soaring over the nearby Turkish border. Whenever we paused, we could hear penduline tits calling everywhere, but they allowed only fleeting glimpses. On our right, where the agricultural land and tamarisk gives way to shallow lagoons – mostly dry by mid May – we were driving past ideal spur-winged plover habitat. We saw two pairs at first – though there were many more individuals later on. In each case one of the pair was incubating and the other guarding the nest and strutting elegantly about, feeding - what style! A great white egret stood beside some little egrets – no doubt about the identification there. There was a small flock of curlew sandpipers feeding in the lagoon and we saw two avocets and several small groups of shelducks as we neared the sea.

We were in good time to enjoy our lunch, watch the swallows and make use of some of the facilities at what must be a candidate for the most isolated taverna in the world. Then our two boatmen appeared, with arms full of life jackets, and we were invited to board our two substantial fishing boats. We set off along the main channel. Several marsh harriers were quartering the reed beds and black-headed wagtails were bobbing about on the fishermen's huts that were dotted along the edge of the water. Everyone in one of the boats saw a little owl perched on the chimney of a hut. A Caspian tern flew in front of the boats for some distance and common terns and a few sandwich terns were flying and feeding around us. Our boatmen and guides took us out along the main channel to where the sea becomes very shallow at the mouth of the delta. Here, there are sandbanks where material gets caught up as it floats down the river and huge dead trees stick up out of the water. Many species of birds love these: cormorants were perched in rows on the dead branches and common terns were dotted along the more slender twigs. There were a few black-headed and several yellow-legged gulls flying about and we had a lovely view of a white pelican. The line of white birds that we could see in the distance turned out to be a large number of mute swans. The boatmen were quite surprised at our disappointment that they were not flamingos and they were, admittedly, very beautiful. Suddenly a large flock of common terns took off in alarm and we were astonished to see an arctic skua harrying them. No sooner had the terns settled down than an adult gannet flew by – two unexpected northern seabirds in quick succession. Arctic skuas are scarce but regular passage migrants here, but the gannet was a rare wanderer to the northern Aegean.



We stopped for a welcome drink at the taverna where a fisherman was creating an astonishing structure of tied shrimps and tiny hooks, to use as eel bait (*left*). The whole process was reminiscent of lace-making and Susie took the opportunity to make a beautiful and evocative watercolour – much to the fisherman's bewilderment. Some of us climbed up the watchtower above the taverna, which gives a 360° panoramic view of the whole delta. Others scanned the lagoon for waders: large flocks of curlew sandpipers and little stints, several grey plovers, a few spotted redshanks and oystercatchers and a ringed plover. Three black terns flew by as we began our return journey and on the way back we had good views of short-toed larks and a few black-winged stilts with three curlew sandpipers and a redshank. We stopped to look at two bee-eaters which were perched on a branch just on our right; they were looking surprisingly ruffled. We soon saw why, as they dived into a shallow pool like kingfishers after some small prey. As we left the delta, we could see a strange, dome-shaped creature at the edge of the road. It soon became clear that it was a hedgehog, paler in colour and with flatter profile than ours, the edge of the pale underside spread like a skirt. Rachel helped it out of danger (for the time being); it was an eastern hedgehog *Erinaceus concolor*, a new mammal for the week.

Friday 15 May: The Loutros Hills and back to Dadia by the Pesani Road through the Forest

It was another warm and sunny day, so before breakfast we went down to the river again. We drove along the bank so that the low morning sun was behind us and we had some very well lit views of a nightingale, a woodlark and a golden oriole. A moorhen was preening in the river under the overhanging bushes and the marsh frogs were all singing lustily; we watched a frog calling, vigorously blowing out its cheeks. We had an excellent view of an olivaceous warbler in a bush beside the river. Suddenly David G called urgently from further along the path to say that he had located a penduline tits' nest hanging from a willow tree. Two golden orioles flew by as we hurried to see the almost completed nest, and watched as the male bird went in and added to the structure, which swayed and pulsated as he wove in more poplar fluff. Breakfast was calling so we resolved to return in the evening and make sure everyone had seen it. We passed some burrows of the European souslik on our way back to the minibuses.

We had a big circuit planned for today, starting with the main road to the south and then taking a great sweep on a much smaller road that cuts through the forest and returns to Dadia from the west – with many stops on the way. So after breakfast we set off south, diverting briefly to watch two rollers on telegraph wires, brilliantly coloured in the bright light. We turned off the main road through Loutros and then followed a steep track leading up into the Loutros Hills. We parked on the little-used track, with panoramic views over the forested hills in one direction and across the delta to the Aegean in the other. The scent of thyme surrounded us as we climbed out of the minibuses. The vegetation here was quite unlike any we had seen elsewhere in the area – the result of a local outcrop of limestone in a very complex, largely volcanic geology. There was box *Buxus sempervirens*, prickly juniper *Juniperus oxycedrus* and kermes oak *Quercus coccifera* all browsed into tight topiary shapes. As well as the thyme there were spurges, cornflowers, vetches, medicks and flaxes and a tremendous diversity of grasses – feather grass *Stipa pennata* just coming out. We saw a Sardinian warbler singing its rattling song from a song post on top of a bush and had very good views of a pair of red-backed shrikes; a hobby flew by. The butterflies were very active in the sun: red admiral, wall brown and swallowtail. Wendy called us over to watch a mating pair of robber flies, one of which was devouring a Queen of Spain fritillary whilst carrying on regardless (*below*).



We ate our lunch there, enjoying the peace and the view in the beautiful sunshine, then retraced our tracks down the rough road. Turning westwards when we got to Loutros, we continued along the back road. We drove slowly for the next few miles, alert to the possibility of catching sight of an extremely rare tree: *Eriolobus trilobatus* (*below*). It is related to the apple and has flowers very like those of apple but larger, and produces them later in the year. It has a very limited distribution, from Bulgaria, through this part of Greece and into Turkey and the Middle East but there are few individuals at each station and consequently the wild plant is seriously endangered. At last, we spotted one, in fairly good flower, on the left hand side of the road. We got out of the minibuses to admire and photograph it and to photograph its location for future reference. Then we drove on, only to come upon a second tree, in even prettier flower, on the right – more photographs.



Our next stop was at the Pesani Bridge. While some of us watched several red-rumped swallows and a grey wagtail, Wendy potted off in search of butterflies and returned in great excitement, having seen a Camberwell beauty. Susie had also been exploring and had found a beautiful clustered bellflower in full flower.

We carried on through the hilly and varied forest – at times driving through pine wood, at times oak, and frequently through an open mosaic of scrub and grassland with terebinth *Pistachia terebintha*, *Rhus coriaria*, related to our garden

sumac and eastern strawberry-tree *Arbutus andrachne*. The views when they opened out were wonderful, with rolling, wooded hills disappearing into the misty distance across the Bulgarian border.

The soil through much of our drive was a rich terracotta colour but our last stop was at an area of strikingly different rock type – a greenish-blue, with a soft, soapy feel. The site is at the eastern extreme of a sequence of serpentinite rocks (also known as ophiolitic rocks, or ophiolites, on account of their snake-skin-like feel) which extends through the Balkans. David G explained how they formed: they are volcanic in origin, and are the result of the melting of the earth's mantle during volcanic activity under the ocean. They are characterised by extremely low concentrations of calcium but high concentrations of other minerals such as aluminium, cobalt, iron and chromium. The area has a magical quality. There are few species able to tolerate these 'ultrabasic' conditions but those that can present a fine spectacle, and some are what are known as 'serpentine endemics'. Bright yellow patches of alyssum *Alyssum densistellatum* stood out, as did a similarly bright yellow lichen, against the blue rocks. We found the much paler lemon yellow 'golden'-drop, the endemic *Onosma kittanae* in several places among the scree. Peacock anemones were still looking lovely where they could find light shade and a bit of soil, but the fritillaries were all in fruit. There were birds too: a hoopoe, a pair of red-backed shrikes, a woodchat shrike, a woodlark and a singing Bonelli's warbler.

We had booked the Simos Taverna for our last evening but before that, we wanted to visit the river again and see how the penduline tits were progressing with their nest. We drove right along the track beside the river and set up telescopes so that everyone could have a good view. The birds had been hard at work during the day and the tunnel entrance had grown considerably. We saw both birds at the nest and heard them calling from the surrounding willows. We must have presented a strange spectacle, bird watching in our finery, but there was nobody there to see us!

Relaxing in the warm evening while we enjoyed the last moments of our final Greek meal together, we reflected on the holiday and, as is usual after a Honeyguide trip, everyone was asked to recall their highlights.

Highlights (clockwise round the table)

David N	The verges and fields full of flowers, especially the yellow alyssum on the blue rock, Venus' looking-glass and thymes; the penduline tit at its nest, watched by us all dressed up for dinner.
Juliet	The stop by the stream on the way down from Kapsalo with the sedums, the anemones, the fire-bellied toad and the dragon arum.
David B	The boat trip out into the edge of the Aegean and spectacular display of swans; the penduline tits; but most of all the bittern at Drana Lagoon.
Steph	The abundance of bee-eaters on wires and trees, and just flying around; the 'secret garden' of wild peonies near Kapsalo.
Wendy	Surprises: the tree frog, the cornflowers in an unexpected place on the Loutros Hills; the robber flies eating a Queen of Spain fritillary while mating, and carrying on regardless.
Shevaun	The stream below Kapsalo at dusk; the snake at Anthi lagoon, swimming with its head up; the bee-eaters everywhere.
David G	Everything, but especially a long-awaited good view of a cirl bunting singing; the yellow alyssum and yellow flax; holding a tiny baby Hermann's tortoise that wee-ed on my hand.
Lesley	The woodlark's nest under the Hypericum bush; the wild peonies; the river on the last evening with the evening light on the water and on the grasses, and the bird song.
Suzanne	The best day - the third day on the delta with the great flocks of glossy ibises; black storks for the first time.
Susie	The kindness of everybody: Steph helping me and David G insisting that I saw the pratincoles on the ground through his telescope.
Hilary	My third Honeyguide trip, and every day full of little gems; the Delta days, particularly the bittern and the party of spoonbills; four shrikes and five buntings, all seen well; making a tawny owl speechless by answering his hooting.
Rachel	The jackal; the bee-eaters everywhere; the little special group of glossy ibises and little egrets; the peonies; finding that the storks had come back to nest in Dadia.
Robin	The unexpected northern seabirds: gannet and arctic skua; the jackal.

Saturday 16 May: Dadia-Athens-Stansted

We said goodbye to Chrysoula and all our friends at the Centre who had looked after us so well and set off at 8 o'clock, after an early breakfast, to drive to the airport, pausing only for petrol and to watch some rollers on wires beside the road. As we drove on, Hilary looked back and saw a roller going into its nest in an old Syrian woodpecker hole in a telegraph pole.

We were leaving three of our party to continue their holiday in Athens. So we said goodbye to Susie, Wendy and David G, and returned to Stansted and the 'cool' climate of the UK. It was an uneventful flight, at the end of an anything but uneventful holiday, in beautiful weather and lovely company.

Eastern Greece 2009 - Systematic lists

BIRDS

English and scientific names and status are based on *The Birds of Greece* (Handrinos & Akriotis 1997) except Bonelli's Warbler which is now, following a taxonomic review, considered to be the distinct species Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*. Status, in italics, refers to Greece as a whole

Little Grebe

Widespread and locally common resident

One or two at Anthi lagoons, on the Sarantametros canal and at Drana lagoon

Great Crested Grebe

Resident

One in the Evros restricted zone

Gannet

Rare and irregular winter visitor and passage migrant

One adult offshore in the Evros restricted zone

Cormorant

Fairly widespread and locally common resident, common and widespread winter visitor

Small numbers on the Evros Delta; a few nests in the Evros restricted zone

Pygmy Cormorant

Scarce and local resident, locally common winter visitor

One on the Sarantametros canal; a few in the Evros restricted zone

White Pelican

Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant

One offshore in the Evros restricted zone

Bittern

Widespread but scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

One at Drana lagoon

Squacco Heron

Common but local summer visitor, common and

widespread passage migrant

Small numbers each Evros Delta day

Little Egret

Fairly common and widespread resident, common and

widespread passage migrant

Several each Evros Delta day

Great White Egret

Rare and local resident, widespread and locally common

winter visitor

One in the Evros restricted zone

Grey Heron

Common and widespread resident

Small numbers each Evros Delta day

Purple Heron

Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common passage migrant

Small numbers each Evros Delta day

Black Stork

Rare and local summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen almost daily around Dadia

White Stork

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen almost daily, including occupied nests at Dadia and Provatonas

Glossy Ibis

Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and

widespread passage migrant

Seen each Evros Delta day; good numbers in the Evros restricted zone

Spoonbill

Rare and local resident

Small numbers each Evros Delta day; a flock of 17 at Anthi lagoons

Mute Swan

Rare and local resident, locally common winter visitor

Seen each Evros Delta day, including a large flock in the restricted zone

Shelduck

Scarce and local resident, fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor

Small numbers each Evros Delta day

Mallard

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, very common and widespread winter visitor

Small numbers each Evros Delta day

Garganey

Scarce and local summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant

Five at the Anthi lagoons.

Shoveler

Fairly widespread and common winter visitor and passage migrant

Two drakes at Drana lagoon

Black Kite

Rare and local resident, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Odd individuals near Dadia and in the Delta

Egyptian Vulture

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

Two at the raptor feeding station

Griffon Vulture

Fairly common but local resident

Odd individuals around Dadia, 15 at the raptor feeding station, and one at Kapsalo radio mast

Black Vulture

Rare and local resident

Odd individuals around Dadia, four at the raptor feeding station, and one at Kapsalo radio mast

Short-toed Eagle

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor

Odd individuals around Dadia; one at Kapsalo radio mast

Marsh Harrier

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, common winter visitor and passage migrant

One at Anthi lagoons; a pair apparently visiting a nest on the Sarantametros canal; several in the Evros restricted zone

Goshawk

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common resident

One by the main road south of Provatonas

Levant Sparrowhawk

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

One near Loutros; superb views of a male perched in the Evros restricted zone near Feres

Buzzard

Common and widespread resident and winter visitor

Individuals seen almost daily

Long-legged Buzzard

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common partial migrant

Odd individuals around Dadia and the edge of the Delta

Lesser Spotted Eagle

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

Odd individuals near Dadia and in the Evros restricted zone

Imperial Eagle

Rare and local breeder

Excellent views of a juvenile bird on the edge of the Delta near Loutros

Golden Eagle

Widespread and locally fairly common resident

One or two juveniles on three occasions near Dadia and one at Kapsalo radio mast

Booted Eagle

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

Two near Dadia and one near the Diavolorema River, all pale phase birds

Kestrel

Common and widespread resident

Occasional birds seen almost every day

Red-footed Falcon

Common and widespread passage migrant

A female in the Evros restricted zone

Hobby

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

One on the Loutros hills

Peregrine

Widespread but scarce resident and winter visitor

One near Kapsalo radio mast

Chukar

Fairly widespread and locally common resident

One near Kapsalo radio mast

Quail

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant, locally resident

One heard calling on the edge of the Delta near Loutros

Pheasant

Rare and local resident

One near the Ecotourism Centre

Moorhen

Common and widespread resident

One on the Sarantametros canal; one by the Diavolorema River

Coot

Common and widespread resident, very common winter visitor

Small numbers each Delta day

Oystercatcher

Scarce and local resident, fairly common winter visitor

Small numbers each Delta day

Black-winged Stilt

Fairly widespread and locally common summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant

Several at Anthi Lagoons and in the Evros restricted zone

Avocet

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common resident and winter visitor

Two in the Evros restricted zone

Collared Pratincole

Fairly common but local summer visitor, widespread passage migrant

Sizeable flocks every Delta day

Little Ringed Plover

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

One seen twice by the Diavolorema River, apparently holding territory

Ringed Plover

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, rare winter visitor

One in the Evros restricted zone

Kentish Plover

Common and widespread resident

Small numbers each Delta day

Grey Plover

Fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor and passage migrant

11 on the shore by Anthi Lagoons; several in the Evros restricted zone

Spur-winged Plover

Rare and local summer visitor

Several individuals and pairs in the Evros restricted zone

Lapwing

Scarce and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor

Small numbers each Delta day

Sanderling

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

A few on the shoreline near Anthi lagoons

Little Stint

Very common and widespread passage migrant, locally common winter visitor

11 at Anthi lagoons; many in the Evros restricted zone

Curlew Sandpiper

Widespread and locally common passage migrant

A few near Anthi lagoons; many in the Evros restricted zone, including several in breeding plumage

Ruff

Very common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

One or two at Anthi lagoons

Curlew

Common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant

Four on the shore near Anthi Lagoons; a small flock in the Evros restricted zone

Spotted Redshank

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

One watched swimming at Drana Lagoon and a few in the Evros restricted zone

Redshank

Widespread and locally common resident

One seen on each Delta day

Greenshank

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

Single birds at Anthi and Drana lagoons

Wood Sandpiper

Common and widespread passage migrant

Four at Anthi lagoons

Common Sandpiper

Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and widespread passage migrant

One near Anthi Lagoons

Snipe

Common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant

One at Drana lagoon

Arctic Skua

Widespread but scarce passage migrant

One harrying terns by the shore in the Evros restricted zone

Black-headed Gull

Rare and local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor

A few in the Evros restricted zone

Caspian Tern

Fairly widespread but scarce non-breeding visitor

One offshore in the Evros restricted zone

Yellow-legged Gull

Very common and widespread resident

Common throughout the coastal area

Sandwich Tern

Rare and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant

A few offshore in the Evros restricted zone

Common Tern

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Three at Anthi lagoons; one at Drana lagoon; a large flock in the Evros restricted zone

Little Tern

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers along the coast each Delta day

Black Tern

Rare and local summer visitor, common passage migrant

Three in the Evros restricted zone

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon

Common and widespread resident

Common in towns and villages

Woodpigeon

Resident

Odd individuals in the woods around the Ecotourism Centre

Collared Dove

Common and widespread resident

Frequent in towns and villages

Turtle Dove

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers seen daily, including migrating individuals and flocks

Cuckoo

Fairly widespread but scarce summer visitor, widespread and fairly common passage migrant

Seen or heard on most days, mostly around the Ecotourism Centre

Little Owl

Fairly common and widespread resident

One perched on a fisherman's hut in the Evros restricted zone

Tawny Owl

Fairly common and widespread resident

Heard on most nights from the Ecotourism Centre

Nightjar

Common and widespread summer visitor

Heard once near the Ecotourism Centre

Swift

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant

Several flocks seen every day

Bee-eater

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen every day; a nesting colony near Lefkimi; two diving like kingfishers in the Evros restricted zone

Roller

Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen perched on wires along roads and over open farmland almost every day; one at nest-hole near Doriskos

Hoopoe

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers seen or heard almost daily; one visiting a nest-hole in Dadia

Green Woodpecker

Widespread and locally fairly common resident

One near Kapsalo radio mast

Syrian Woodpecker

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen regularly near Dadia

Short-toed Lark

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

A pair in the Evros restricted zone

Crested Lark

Common and widespread resident

Seen almost every day. Common and widespread in open arable farmland and along the national highway

Woodlark

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen daily around the Ecotourism Centre and heard singing every night; a nest found in a forest clearing

Skylark

Fairly common but local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor

Small numbers each Delta day

Sand Martin

Widespread and locally common summer visitor, very common passage migrant

Small flocks in and around the Delta on several days

Crag Martin

Fairly common and widespread partial migrant

A few seen near Kapsalo radio mast

Swallow

Very common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen every day. Several pairs nesting at the Ecotourism Centre

Red-rumped Swallow

Widespread and locally common summer visitor

Seen every day, including a pair collecting mud by the Diavolorema river

House Martin

Common and widespread summer visitor

Small flocks seen every day

Tawny Pipit

Widespread but scarce summer visitor

One at Drana lagoon

Yellow Wagtail

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers seen almost every day. All showed the characteristics of the black-headed race, *Motacilla flava feldegg*

Grey Wagtail

Fairly common and widespread resident and winter visitor

A pair seen regularly near the Ecotourism Centre; one at Pesani bridge

White Wagtail

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, common and widespread winter visitor

Small numbers seen on most days around the Ecotourism Centre; one at the raptor feeding station

Robin

Fairly common and widespread resident, very common winter visitor.

Occasionally seen or heard in the Dadia area

Nightingale

Common and widespread summer visitor

Seen or heard every day, including one or more males singing nightly behind the Ecotourism Centre

Stonechat

Common and widespread resident

A pair seen regularly by the Diavolorema River

Isabelline Wheatear

Rare and local summer visitor

A pair seen well at the usual location near the Sarantametros Canal bridge

Northern Wheatear

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

A single bird near Dadia

Black-eared Wheatear

Common and widespread summer visitor

Seen regularly near the Ecotourism Centre; one near Kapsalo radio mast

Blue Rock Thrush

Fairly common and widespread resident

One on a rocky outcrop near Kapsalo radio mast

Blackbird

Common and widespread resident

Seen daily, especially around the Ecotourism Centre

Mistle Thrush

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen daily around the Ecotourism Centre

Cetti's Warbler

Common and widespread resident

Heard in damp places on most days and occasionally glimpsed

Sedge Warbler

Passage migrant and summer visitor

One seen by the Sarantametros Canal

Reed Warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Occasionally heard and seen in the Delta

Great Reed Warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Several heard and seen by the Sarantametros Canal

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor

Heard and seen well by the bridge below the Ecotourism Centre and in the Diavolorema river valley

Sardinian Warbler

Very common and widespread resident

One heard and seen in the Loutros hills

Lesser Whitethroat

Fairly common but local summer visitor, locally common passage migrant

One singing male in the valley below Dadia

Whitethroat

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

One seen and heard beside the national highway near Doriskos

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen or heard on most days, mostly in woods around Dadia

Chiffchaff

Fairly common but local summer visitor, common and widespread winter visitor

Occasionally heard and seen near the Ecotourism Centre

Spotted Flycatcher

Widespread and locally common summer visitor, very common passage migrant

Seen twice near the Ecotourism Centre

Long-tailed Tit

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen occasionally around the Dadia forest

Great Tit

Common and widespread resident

Seen every day

Penduline Tit

Fairly widespread and locally common resident

A pair seen well at their nest by the Diavolorema river; several in the restricted part of the Evros Delta; one at Anthi lagoons

Golden Oriole

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen or heard daily around Dadia; two by the Sarantametros canal

Red-backed Shrike

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Individuals or pairs seen every day

Lesser Grey Shrike

Fairly widespread but scarce summer visitor and passage migrant

A pair seen well near the Diavolorema river

Woodchat Shrike

Common and widespread summer visitor

Individuals or pairs seen almost daily

Masked Shrike

Scarce and local summer visitor

A pair seen well in the Diavolorema River Valley

Jay

Widespread and locally common resident

Seen every day in wooded areas

Magpie

Common and widespread resident

Seen almost daily

Jackdaw

Common and widespread resident

Frequently seen in towns and villages

Hooded Crow

Very common and widespread resident

Common throughout the area; one on its nest by Drana lagoon

Raven

Fairly common and widespread resident

One at the raptor feeding station

Starling

Fairly common but local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor

Frequently seen throughout the area in small numbers

House Sparrow

Very common and widespread resident

Seen daily in towns and villages

Spanish Sparrow

Widespread and locally very common resident and summer visitor

Seen every day. Several pairs nesting in a stork's nest in Provatonas; a large colony in the delta near Loutros

Chaffinch

Very common and widespread resident and winter visitor

Seen every day

Serin

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen regularly near the Ecotourism Centre and by the Diavolorema River

Greenfinch

Common and widespread resident

Frequently heard and seen near the Ecotourism Centre

Goldfinch

Common and widespread resident

Several seen every day

Linnet

Resident

A few near the Anthi lagoons

Crossbill

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, common and widespread in invasion years

Two in the Diavolorema river valley

Cirl Bunting

Common and widespread resident

Seen every day around Dadia and elsewhere in farmland and scattered scrub

Ortolan Bunting

Widespread and locally common summer visitor

A few near Kapsalo radio mast

Black-headed Bunting

Widespread and locally very common summer visitor

Frequently seen in open country everywhere

Reed Bunting

Scarce and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor

Individual birds near the Anthi and Drana lagoons and in the Evros restricted zone

Corn Bunting

Very common and widespread resident

Very common throughout the area

Total – 147 species

MAMMALS**Eastern Hedgehog** *Erinaceus concolor*

One crossing a road near Feres

Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*

Very confiding individuals seen around the Ecotourism Centre

European Souselik *Spermophilus citellus*

Burrows seen near the Diavolorema River

Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*

One seen well at Drana lagoon

Wolf *Canis lupus*

An injured individual seen near the Ecotourism Centre

Beech (Stone) Marten *Martes foina*

Occasional road casualties

Wild Cat *Felis sylvestris*

One seen near the national highway, possibly a hybrid with domestic cat, but with the appearance of a wild cat

Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*

Slots found near the Ecotourism Centre

REPTILES**Hermann's Tortoise** *Testudo hermanni*

Occasionally found in open areas

Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca*

One near Dadia

European Pond Terrapin *Emys orbicularis*

Several in the Evros restricted zone

Balkan Terrapin *Mauremys rivulata*

A few in the Sarantametros canal

Turkish gecko *Hemidactylus turcicus*

Two at the Ecotourism Centre

Balkan Green Lizard *Lacerta trilineata*

One on the Loutros hills

European Glass Lizard *Ophisaurus apodus*

Occasional road casualties

Dice Snake *Natrix tessellata*

One in a ditch by the Anthi lagoons

Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*

One found near the Ecotourism Centre; one in a stream near the Diavolorema river

AMPHIBIANS**Smooth Newt** *Triturus vulgaris*

Three in a stream near the Diavolorema River

Fire-bellied Toad *Bombina bombina*

Two in a stream near Lefkimi

Common Toad *Bufo bufo*

A female in Dadia village

Green Toad *Bufo viridis*

One heard by the Diavolorema River

Common Tree Frog *Hyla arborea*

One by Anthi lagoons

Balkan Stream Frog *Rana graeca*

By the Diavolorema river and in the Evros restricted zone

Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda*

Heard daily; seen behind the Ecotourism Centre and in the Diavolorema River

BUTTERFLIES**Swallowtail** *Papilio machaon***Scarce Swallowtail** *Iphiclides podalirius***Eastern Festoon** *Zerynthia cerisyi***Clouded Apollo** *Parnassius mnemosyne***Small White** *Artogeia rapae***Mountain Small White** *Artogeia ergane***Eastern Bath White** *Pontia edusa***Orange Tip** *Anthocharis cardamines***Greek Clouded Yellow** *Colias aurorina***Clouded Yellow** *Colias crocea***Berger's Clouded Yellow** *Colias alfacariensis***Brimstone** *Gonepteryx rhamni***Wood White** *Leptidia sinapis***Green Hairstreak** *Callophrys rubi***Small Copper** *Lycaena phlaeas***Lesser Fiery Copper** *Lycaena thersamon***Small (Little) Blue** *Cupido minimus***Holly Blue** *Celastrina argiolus***Green-underside Blue** *Glaucoopsyche alexis***Brown Argus** *Aricia agestis***Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus***Southern White Admiral** *Limenitis reducta*

Camberwell Beauty *Nymphalis antiopa*
Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*
Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*
Silver-washed Fritillary *Argynnis paphia*
Queen of Spain Fritillary *Issoria lathonia*
Glanville Fritillary *Melitaea cinxia*
Knapweed Fritillary *Melitaea phoebe* (below)

Marsh Fritillary *Eurodryas aurina*
Comma *Polygonia c-album*
Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*
Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*
Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus malvi*
Hungarian (Orbed Red Underwing) Skipper *Spialia orbifer*



Lackey *Malacosoma neustria*
Giant Peacock Moth *Saturnia pyri* (below left)
Small Grass Emerald *Chlorissa viridata*
Garden Carpet *Xanthorhoe fluctuata*
Pine Hawk-moth *Hyloicus pinastri*
Many-lined *Costaconvexa polygrammata*
Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea pytiocampa*

MOTHS

Cream-spot Tiger *Arctia villica*
Oak Hook-tip *Drepana binaria*
Marbled Coronet *Hadena confusa*
Pale Shoulder *Acontia lucida*
Silver Y *Autographa gamma*
Geometrician *Prodotis stolid*
Argentine moth *Spatalia argentina* (below right)



OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Red-winged Grasshopper *Oedipoda germanica*
Field Cricket *Gryllus campestris*
Mole-cricket *Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa*
Frilled Mantis *Empusa fasciata*
Pond-skater *Gerris sp*
Ant-lion *Myrmeleon sp*
Ascalaphid *Libelloides coccajus*

Robber Fly *Eutolmus sp*
Paper Wasp *Polistes gallicus*
Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa violacea*
Cockchafer *Melolontha melolontha*
Flower Chafer *Oxythyrea funesta*
Rose Chafer *Cetonia aurate*
Red jumping spider *Philaeus chrysops*

PLANTS

The list is of species seen during the Honeyguide visit. It is by no means comprehensive and excludes many grasses and similar species.

D - Dadia area generally	d = dominant
DA - Agricultural areas close to Dadia and in the Diavolorema valley	a = abundant
DF - Dadia Forest	f = frequent
DLK - Kapsalo Radio Mast area and road down to Lefkimi	o = occasional
DP - Back road through Pesani	r = rare
L - Loutros Hills area generally	l = local/locally
E - Evros Delta generally	ld = locally dominant
ED - Drana lagoon	co-d = co-dominant
EA - Anthi lagoons	la = locally abundant
	no prefix = one record only
	RDB = Greek Red Data Book of Rare and Endangered Plants or rare endemics
	TBD = To be determined, where precise identification is unconfirmed or in doubt

PTERIDOPHYTES: Horsetails, Clubmosses and Ferns

<i>Azolla filliculoides</i>	Water Fern	d-la: on fresh waterways in the Delta area	E
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback Fern	l: in shelter of rocks on Blue Rock Hill, Pesani road	DP
<i>Cheilanthes vellea</i>		l: in shelter of rocks on hill above Centre and in the shelter of bushes on Blue Rock Hill, Pesani road	D, DP
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	d: on dry soils around Centre and on woodland edges throughout	D, DA, DF

GYMNOSPERMS: Conifers

<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress	la: eg in woodland near Feres	DF
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper	f: on alkaline grassland among the hills in forest area	DA, DF
<i>Pinus halapensis</i> ssp <i>brutia</i>	Calabrian Pine	ld - co-d: in Dadia Forest	DF
<i>Pinus nigra</i> ssp <i>nigra</i>	Black Pine	ld - co-d: in Dadia Forest	DF

FLOWERING PLANTS

DICOTYLEDONS

Aceraceae: Maples

<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	o: in deciduous woodland	D
<i>Acer hyrcanum</i>	Balkan Maple	o: on roadsides and in scrub in hilly areas - usually with <i>A. monspessulanum</i> , <i>Fraxinus ornus</i> etc	D
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier Maple	f: in scrub and deciduous woodland throughout forest area	D, DLK
<i>Acer tartaricum</i>	Tartar Maple	Along streamside near track down to Diavolorema river	DA

Anacardiaceae: Pistachio Family

<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke Bush	la: on roadside below radio mast; component of scrubby woodland	DLK, DP
<i>Pistachia terebintha</i>	Terebinth	o: roadside between Centre and Dadia village; la: conspicuous component of the scrub along Pesani road	D, DP
<i>Rhus coriaria</i>	Sumac	la: roadside between Centre and Dadia village; conspicuous component of scrub in forest areas	D, DP

Apiaceae (Umbelliferae): Umbellifers

<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	a: waste, grassy places	DA
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	a: dry calcareous grassland	D, L, E
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea-Holly	a: coastal sand dunes	EA
<i>Ferulago sylvatica</i>	A Yellow Umbellifer	o: shady places around Centre; open woodland; roadsides and rocky areas throughout	D
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	a: roadsides and waste places	DA
<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>	Orlaya	a: widespread in dry grassland	D, DA
<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	f: on roadsides in agricultural areas	DLK
<i>Torilis tenella</i>	A Burr Chervil	a: dry grassland on Loutros Hills	L

Aristolochiaceae: Birthwort Family

<i>Aristolochia clematitis</i>	A Birthwort	o: near stream crossing track down to Diavolorema river	DA
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Apocynaceae: Periwinkle Family

<i>Vinca herbacea</i>	Herbaceous Periwinkle	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
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Asclepiadaceae: Milkweeds

<i>Periploca graeca</i>	Silk-Vine	l: dark purple-flowered climber on bushes on Evros flood plain	E
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-Wort	o: roadsides; scrub	D

Asteraceae (Compositae): Composites

<i>Achillea nobilis</i>	A Yarrow	o: below radio mast	DLK
<i>Anthemis chia</i>	An Anthemis	la: roadside near Doriskos, grassland in Loutros Hills	D, L
<i>Anthemis tomentosa</i>	An Anthemis	o: roadside near Doriskos	D
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	la: arable and grassland; grassland in Loutros Hills; among rocks on Blue Rock Hill	DA, DP, L, E
<i>Centaurea triumfetti</i>	Perennial Cornflower	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Rhagadiolus stellatus</i>	Star Hawkbit	o: track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	la: roadsides and waste grassy places	D
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	A Goat's Beard	o: grassland and light woodland	D
<i>Tragopogon hybridum</i>	A Goat's Beard	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Tragopogon porifolius</i>	Salsify	Garden escape, Dadia village	DA

Betulaceae: Birches, Alders, Hazels and Hornbeams

<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Eastern Hornbeam	f: shrubby plants in understory	DF
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	f: as coppice and in understory	DF

Boraginaceae: Borage Family

<i>Alkanna lehmanii</i>	Dyer's Alkanet	o: alkaline grassland; Loutros	D, L
<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	Alkanet	o: dry grassland	D
<i>Cerinthe glabra</i>	Cerinthe	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Neotostoma apulum</i>	Yellow Gromwell	o: dry grassland; Loutros Hills	D, L
<i>Onosma heterophylla</i>	A Golden Drop	f: beside Pesani road	DP
<i>Onosma kittanae</i>	A Golden Drop	RDB f: Blue Rock Hill	DP
<i>Symphytum bulbosum</i>	Bulbous Cumfrey	o: beside track leading to Diavolorema river; Pesani Bridge	DA, DP

Brassicaceae (Cruciferae): Crucifers

<i>Alyssum corymbosum</i>	An Alyssum	o: firebreaks and tracksides	L
<i>Alyssum saxatile</i>	An Alyssum	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Alyssum densistellatum</i>	An Alyssum	f: Blue Rock Hill	DP
<i>Arabis turrita</i>	Tower-Cress	o: roadsides and rocky places	DLK
<i>Bunias erucago</i>	Bunias	o: track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary Cress	o: roadsides and waste places; la: tracksides in delta area	DA, E

Buxaceae: Box

<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	o: in woodland understory; la: Loutros Hills	DF, L
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Campanulaceae: Bellflower Family

<i>Campanula lingulata</i>	A Clustered Bellflower	By Pesani Bridge	DP
<i>Campanula spatulata</i>	A Slender Bellflower	r: rocky hillside near Centre	D
<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	Large Venus's-Looking-Glass	o: track to Diavolorema river; grassland in Loutros Hills	D, L

Caprifoliaceae: Honeysuckle Family

<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf Elder	f: roadsides around Dadia village	DA
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	f: near habitations	D

Caryophyllaceae: Chickweeds, Pinks and Campions

<i>Cucubalus baccifer</i>	Berry Catchfly	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Lychnis viscaria</i> ssp <i>atropurpurea</i>	Sticky Catchfly	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK

<i>Minuartia greuteriana</i>	A Sandwort	RDB la: rocky hillside between the Ecocentre and Dadia village	
<i>Kholrauschia velutina</i>	Kholrauschia	f: dry grassland; rocky habitats	D, DLK, L
<i>Paronychia sp</i>	Paronychia	f: dry, rocky habitats, often on rocks; la: Blue Rock Hill	D, DP
<i>Scleranthus perennis</i>	Perennial Knawel	la: scree slope near radio mast; o: open woodland tracks near Centre	DLK, D
<i>Silene alba</i>	White Campion	a: roadsides	DA
<i>Silene dichotoma</i>	Forked Catchfly	Track down to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Silene italica</i>	Italian Catchfly	f: rocky grassland; roadside below radio mast; o: woodland edges near Centre	D, DLK
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Spergula marina</i>	Sea Spurrey	f: on paths in delta	E
Chenopodiaceae: Goosefoot Family			
<i>Arthrocnemum fruticosum</i>	Shrubby Glasswort	a: saltmarshes and beside lagoons	E
<i>Arthrocnemum perenne</i>	Perennial Glasswort	a: saltmarshes and beside lagoons	E
<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Sea-Purslane	a: saltmarshes and beside lagoons	E
<i>Salicornia europaea</i>	Glasswort	a: saltmarshes and beside lagoons	
Cistaceae: Cistuses and Rockroses			
<i>Cistus incanus</i> (=C. creticus)	Grey-Leaved Cistus	a: widespread in open situations on rocky hillsides and woodland margins	DF
<i>Cistus laurifolius</i>	Bay-Leaved Cistus	o: rocky slopes, light woodland and woodland margins	DF
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-Leaved Cistus	a: widespread in open situations on rocky hillsides and woodland margins	D
Clusiaceae (Hypericaceae): St John's-worts			
<i>Hypericum cerastoides</i>	A St John's-wort	o: rocky hillside between the Centre and Dadia village	DF
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perfoliate St John's-wort	o: sandy tracks and firebreak	DF
<i>Hypericum sp</i>	A (very delicate) St John's-wort	o: in forest areas	DF
Convolvulaceae: Bindweeds			
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	o: roadsides around Dadia village	D
<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	Pink Bindweed	o: rocky hillsides	DLK, L
Cornaceae: Dogwoods			
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	o: track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian Cherry	o: roadside below radio mast	D, DK
Crassulaceae: Stonecrop Family			
<i>Sedum cespitosum</i>	A Stonecrop	f: rocky places	D, L
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Thick-leaved Stonecrop	la: on rocks and scree; by river near Lefkimi	DLK
<i>Sedum reflexum</i>	Rock Stonecrop	f: rocky places	D
<i>Sedum rubens</i>	Reddish Stonecrop	la: on rocks and scree; by river near Lefkimi	DLK
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	f: rocky places	D
Dipsacaceae: Scabious Family			
<i>Knautia sp</i>	A scabious	r: wasteland near Evros Visitor Centre	D
<i>Scabiosa sp</i>	A scabious	f: widespread in alkaline grassland	D
Ericaceae: Heaths and Rhododendrons			
<i>Arbutus andrachne</i>	Eastern Strawberry-tree	o: woodland and scrub	DF
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree-heath	f: woodland and scrub on acid soils	DF
Euphorbiaceae: Spurge Family			
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	Broad-leaved Glaucous spurge	f: among rocks Loutros Hills	L
<i>Euphorbia seguierana</i>	Sequier's spurge	la: widespread on roadsides and in grassland	D

Fabaceae (Leguminosae): Pea Family, Legumes

<i>Colutea arborescens</i>	Bladder Senna	o: roadsides in Dadia area	DA
<i>Genista januensis</i>	A Dyer's Greenweed	o: rocky slopes below radio mast	DLK
<i>Hymenocarpus circinatus</i>	Disk Trefoil	o: track to Diavolorema river; alkaline grassland in Loutros Hills	DA, L
<i>Lathyrus hirsutus</i>	Hairy Vetchling	o: woodland bank, track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	Grass Vetchling	o: track to Diavolorema river; alkaline grassland in Loutros Hills	DA
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Brown Vetch	o: woodland bank, track to Diavolorema river; roadside below radio mast	DA, DLK
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Large Disk Medick	o: dry grassland around Dadia and on the edge of the delta	D, E
<i>Melilotus altissimus</i>	Tall Melilot	Tracksides on delta	E
<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	Cockscomb Sainfoin	o: dry grassland around Dadia and in the Loutros Hills	D, L
<i>Pisum sativum ssp elatius</i>	Wild Pea	Roadside near Lefkimi	DLK
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	o: beside track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	o: standard trees in Dadia area	D
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	f: waysides and rocky hillsides	D
<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-Leaved Crimson Clover	f: waysides and nutrient-rich grassland	D
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Haresfoot Clover	o: dry grassland	DL
<i>Trifolium boissieri</i>	A Trefoil	o: dry grassland on edge of the delta	ED
<i>Trifolium globosum</i>	A Trefoil	o: dry grassland in the Loutros Hills	L
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover	o: tracksides on way to Diavolorema river; o: near Anthi lagoon	EA
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover	o: dry grassland in the Loutros Hills and on edge of delta	L, E
<i>Trigonalla monspeliaca</i>	Star-Fruited Fenugreek	Near bridge over Sarantametros Canal	E
<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy Yellow Vetchling	o: roadsides near Doriskos	DA
<i>Vicia sativa agg.</i>	Common Vetch	o: track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Vicia pannonica</i>	A Vetch	o: track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch	o: track to Diavolorema river	DA

Fagaceae: Oaks, Beech and Chestnut

<i>Fagus moesiaca</i>	Eastern Beech	f: scattered in understory	DF
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak	f: scattered in forest	DF
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	f: tightly browsed bushes on Loutros Hills	L
<i>Quercus frainetto (=Q. conferta)</i>	Italian Oak	ld-la: in deciduous forest	DF
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	la: forest and open woodland	DF
<i>Quercus. petraea ssp medwediewii</i>	Sessile Oak	o: deciduous forest and as isolated standard trees eg nr Doriskos	D, DF

Geraniaceae: Crane's-bills and Stork's-bills

<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	o: roadsides in Dadia area and below radio mast	D, DLK
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	o: woodland rides near Centre	D
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	la: Pesani Bridge	DP
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	o: waysides and track sides	DA
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	o: roadsides in Dadia area and near Lefkimi	D, DLK

Lamiaceae (Labiatae): Deadnettle Family, Labiates

<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Blue bugle	la: meadow near track to Diavolorema; Pesani Bridge	DA, DF, DP
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted deadnettle	white-flowered form on roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White horehound	o: rough grassland	L, E
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard balm	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Phlomis herba-venti</i>	Phlomis	r: open, sandy woodland edge; firebreak	DF
<i>Teucrium polium</i>	Felty germander	o: calcareous grassland Loutros Hills	L

<i>Teucrium</i> sp TBD	(white flowers with mauve veining)	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Thymus capitatus</i>	A thyme	o: alkaline grassland in Loutros Hills	L
<i>Thymus longicaulis</i>	A thyme	o: rocky hillside between the Ecocentre and Dadia village D, L	
Linaceae: Flaxes			
<i>Linum nodiflorum</i>	Yellow flax	o: roadsides along Pesani road; o: on Blue Rock Hill	DF
Loranthaceae: Mistletoe Family			
<i>Viscum ?abietis</i> TBD	Mistletoe	on <i>Populus</i> sp in Diavolorema valley	DA
Malvaceae: Mallows			
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Least mallow	o: track to Diavolorema river	DA
Moraceae: Fig Family			
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	f: around Dadia village	DA
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry	f: around Dadia village	D
Oleaceae: Olive Family			
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna ash	f: roadside below radio mast, la: Pesani road	DLK, DP
<i>Jasminum fruticans</i>	Wild jasmine	o: track to Diavolorema river; roadside below radio mast	DA, DLK, L
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild privet	o: in forest understory	DF
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	Phillyrea	o: roadside below radio mast; widespread in scrub and woodland	D
Orobanchaceae: Orobanches			
<i>Orobanche caryophyllacea</i>	Bedstraw broomrape	o: near radio mast; Blue Rock Hill, Pesani road	DLK, DP
Paeoniaceae: Peony Family			
<i>Paeonia? peregrina or officinale</i> TBD	Wild peony	o: roadside below radio mast; o: beside Pesani road	DLK, DP
Papaveraceae: Poppy Family			
<i>Papaver dubium</i> ssp <i>albiflorum</i>	White poppy	trackside on way to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy	la: grassland and as an arable weed	DA, L, E
Plantaginaceae: Plantain Family			
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain	tracksides near the sea; dunes	E
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	Hare's-foot Plantain	tracksides near the sea; dunes	E
Platanaceae: Plane Family			
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane	r: beside river at Loutros	L
Plumbaginaceae: Sea Lavenders and Thrifts			
<i>Limonium</i> sp	Sea Lavender	f: saltmarshes and beside lagoons	E
Polygalaceae: Milkworts			
<i>Polygala comosa</i>	Tufted milkwort	o: dry rocky grassland	D, DLK
<i>Polygala</i> sp	A milkwort	o: Blue Rock Hill	DP
Polygonaceae: Dock Family			
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock	o: grassland and wasteland	DA
Primulaceae: Primrose Family			
<i>Lysimachia atropurpurea</i>	Purple loosestrife (not as UK)	r: roadside between Centre and Dadia village	DD
Ranunculaceae: Buttercup Family			
<i>Adonis</i> sp TBD	Pheasant's-eye	f: cornfield weed	E
<i>Anemone pavonina</i>	Peacock anemone	o: roadside below radio mast; Blue Rock Hill	DLK, DP
<i>Clematis flammula</i>	Fragrant clematis	o: hedgerows and scrubby areas	DF
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Consolida orientalis</i>	Eastern larkspur	o: grassland on Loutros Hills	L, E

<i>Nigella damascena</i>	Love-in-a-mist	r: track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser celandine	f: Beside river below radio mast	D, DLK
<i>Ranunculus gracilis</i>	A buttercup	o: in woodland close to the Centre	D
<i>Ranunculus ?lanuginosus?</i> <i>TBD</i>	(Trifoliolate with linear leaflets, hairy, but reflexed sepals)	r: woodland edge near Centre	D
<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	A buttercup	o: in woodland close to the Centre	D
<i>Ranunculus muricatus</i>	A buttercup	la: by stream on track to Diavolorema river	DA

Rhamnaceae: Buckthorns

<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	Christ's-thorn	a: hedgerows and isolated in shrubby areas	D, L, E
<i>Rhamnus oleoides</i>	A buckthorn	o: woodland edge below radio mast	DLK

Rosaceae: Rose Family

<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	f: hedgerows beside track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Eriolobus trilobatus</i>	Eriolobus	RDB; a few trees in woodland beside Pesani road	DP
<i>Potentilla recta</i>	Sulphur cinquefoil	o: rocky hillside below Centre; rocky grassland in Loutros Hills	D, DLK
<i>Poterium verrucosum</i>	A cinquefoil	o: below radio mast	DA, DLK
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	o: hedgerows on track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Firethorn	o: roadsides in scrubby areas	DA
<i>Pyrus caucasica</i>	Wild pear	f: trees and bushes on the roadside and in scrub	DA
<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>	Almond-leaved pear	o: single trees or bushes beside the road	D, L
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose	f: waysides and hedgerows	D
<i>Rosa glutinosa</i>	Mediterranean sweet briar	Track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	Bramble	f: in hedgerows around Dadia; beside canals	D, E
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Wild service-tree	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Sorbus sp</i>	Whitebeam	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK

Rubiaceae: Bedstraws

<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	o: roadsides, alkaline grassland, meadows	D
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder	f: grassland on edge of delta	E

Salicaceae: Willows and Poplars

<i>Populus canescens</i>	Grey poplar	a: widely planted	D
<i>Populus nigra ssp nigra</i>	Black poplar	o: Diavolorema valley	DA
<i>Salix alba</i>	White willow	f: along Diavolorema river	D

Scrophulariaceae: Foxgloves, Toadflaxes and Speedwells

<i>Linaria pelisseriana</i>	Jersey toadflax	o: rocky hillside between the Ecocentre and Dadia village	DF
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Southern red bartsia	o: rocky hillside between the Ecocentre and Dadia village	D
<i>Schrophularia canina</i>	French figwort	Roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Verbascum blattaria</i>	Moth mullein	o: hedgerows on track leading to Diavolorema river; rocky places on Pesani road	DA, DP
<i>Verbascum ?ovalifolium</i>	A mullein	o: woodland rides and clearings	DF
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	A mullein	o: roadsides	D, E
<i>Verbascum undulatum</i>	A mullein	f: roadsides; f: dykes in Delta	D, F

Tamaricaceae: Tamarisk Family

<i>Tamarix hampeana</i>	Tamarisk	d-a: Evros delta	E
<i>Tamarix spp</i>	Tamarisk	a: Evros delta	E

Tiliaceae: Lime Family

<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver lime	f: woods below radio mast	DLK
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Ulmaceae: Elm Family

<i>Ulmus canescens</i>	Elm	la: hedgerows around Dadia village and on track to Diavolorema river	DA
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Urticaceae: Nettles			
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle	Beside stream and along track to Diavolorema river	DA
Violaceae: Violets and Pansies			
<i>Viola (arvensis) kitaibeliana</i>	Dwarf pansy	o: dry grassland beside track to Diavolorema river	DA
MONOCOTYLEDONS			
Araceae: Arum Family			
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon arum	By river below radio mast near Lefkimi	DLK
Cyperaceae: Sedge Family			
<i>Scirpus maritimus</i>	Sea club-rush	ld: edges of lagoons and canals	EA
Iridaceae: Iris Family			
<i>Gladiolus illyricus</i>	Wild gladiolus	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Iris attica</i>	An iris	o: rocky hillside between the Centre and Dadia village; below radio mast; dry rocky places elsewhere	D, DLK
<i>Iris sintenisii</i>	An iris	Beside track to Diavolorema river	DA
Juncaceae: Rush Family			
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp rush	f-ld: close to water	E
Liliaceae: Lily Family			
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow asphodel	Roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White asphodel	f: Loutros Hills; grassland on the Pesani road	DP, L
<i>Muscari botryoides</i>	A grape hyacinth	o: open woodland	D
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth	a: dry grassland and rocky places	D
<i>Muscari commutatum</i>	A grape hyacinth	o: dry grassland and rocky places	D
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	A grape hyacinth	o: dry grassland and rocky places	D
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem	o: below radio mast ; Blue Rock Hill on Pesani road	DLK, DP
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom	o: forest understory; o: track to Diavolorema river	DA, DF
<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i>	Wild tulip	Road verge below radio mast	DLK
Orchidaceae: Orchids			
<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>	Red helleborine	Single plant on road below radio mast	DLK
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet bird's-nest-orchid	o: in forest	DF
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady orchid	Roadside below the radio mast	DLK
Poaceae (Gramineae): Grasses			
<i>Aegilops ovata (= neglecta)</i>	Aegilops	f: dry grassland	D, L
<i>Aira elegantissima</i>	Elegant hair-grass	f: rocky places	D
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal grass	o: firebreak, woodland rides around Centre	D
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Wood soft brome	la: meadow beside track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Large quaking-grass	f: dry grassland	D
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Drooping brome	f: agricultural grassland; a: dykes in delta	DA, E
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's foot	a: agricultural grassland, woodland rides near Centre	DA
<i>Festuca vivipara</i>	Viviparous fescue	a: dry grassland and rocky places	D
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall barley	f: agricultural grassland and waste places	DA
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed	ld: fresh and brackish water bodies	D, E
<i>Stipa pennata</i>	Feather grass, Angel's Hair	o: alkaline grassland	L
Typhaceae: Reedmace Family			
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser reedmace	f: edge of canals	E
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Greater reedmace	f: edge of canals	E



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Mr. Chris Durdin
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Athens, May 29th 2009

Dear Mr. Durdin,

I was recently informed of Honeyguide's latest donation of € 550 in support of our Dadia Project. Once again I would like to thank you for your steady support of WWF Greece's work. We particularly appreciate it during these hard financial times.

Please extend our thanks to the staff of Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays & Charitable Trust for all their help.

I hope all participants enjoyed their stay and I look forward to seeing you again in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Demetres Karavellas
CEO WWF Greece

WWF Greece's mission is to conserve the rich biodiversity of Greece as an integral part of the Mediterranean, to prevent and eventually reverse its environmental degradation, seeking the harmonious co-existence between humans and nature.

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