

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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**Eastern Greece
22 April –1 May 2010**

Participants

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Leaders

Robin and Rachel Hamilton

Report by Robin and Rachel Hamilton

Photos in this report were taken during the holiday week by Robin and Rachel Hamilton except boat trip photo on page 13 which is by Stan Lovett, and Ecotourism Centre photo on page 20 from Honeyguide's Gallery.

Front cover: *Paronychia manfrediana*, a species new to science, photographed on Blue Rock Hill.

See footnote on page 26 and http://www.bio.bas.bg/~phytolbalcan/PDF/14_1/14_1_05_Tan_&_Strid.pdf

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

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



As with all Honeyguide holidays, part of the price of this one 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 £540. A thank you letter from WWF Greece is on the final page of this report.

The total amount of conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays since 1991, as at August 2010, is £66,727.

Thursday – Friday: The Outward Journey; Exploring the Local Area

We arrived at Heathrow, grateful to be on our way, only two days after the volcanic dust cloud had threatened to prevent our departure. It was a pleasant evening in England, and after a comfortable overnight flight we arrived in Athens on time and took off for Alexandroupolis just as the sun was rising over the Aegean. We arrived there in hazy sunshine to a warm welcome from Vangelis, who collected our luggage while we collected our two brand new minibuses for the drive to Dadia.

The road was quiet in the early morning and we slowed down to pick out hooded crows on the wires and a white stork on its nest in Provatonas. We stopped for a moment in the square in Dadia for a warm greeting from Mr Panagotis whose village taverna we would be frequenting. Swallows and serins welcomed us as we arrived at the Ecotourism Centre, dumped our bags and gathered in the dining room for a very appetising traditional Greek breakfast.

We spent a little while settling into our accommodation and then set off in the warm sunshine for a short walk to begin exploring the local area. Strolling down the lane towards the village of Dadia there was so much to see and hear. The air above the car park was full of goldfinches, swallows and house martins, all making use of the convenient perches on the treetops and telegraph wires. We could hear a nightingale clearly singing from the valley. The pale yellow and mauve irises (*Iris attica*, right) were looking spectacular on the rocky hillside on our left, with patches of bright yellow St John's wort and deep blue alkanet. We scabbled about, looking for the little treasures that dotted the rocky grassland: a tiny white chamomile, a delicate bellflower, sand catchfly, forget-me-nots, purple thyme and yellow fumana.



The flowers in their turn were studded with butterflies: brimstone, wall brown, scarce swallowtail, brown argus, large white and wood white. Above us, the first of many iconic black vultures came into view, soaring magnificently, and we watched a pair of white storks doing aerobatics. We caught a glimpse of a Balkan wall lizard basking on a rock and an Egyptian locust flew inelegantly past us, its wings clattering, and then came to rest and enabled us to have a good look at it and peer into its striped eyes. Rosemary called us over to where she had found a large spur-thighed tortoise sheltering from the sun in the shade of a rock and we took the opportunity to investigate the diagnostic features: spurs on the thighs, not the tail tip, and a single central plate in the edge of the shell above the tail.

We were scrambling over the rocks with everyone calling attention to new finds: the tiny delicate nest of a paper wasp, a clouded yellow butterfly, a group of Venus's looking glass, a patch of Jersey toadflax. Elisabeth was scanning the rocks to find the origin of a charmingly sweet bird song and located a beautiful male black-eared wheatear singing from a rock silhouetted on the skyline. We watched him for a while, happy to pause in the gathering heat of the day. Then a good call from Brenda alerted us to a large raptor overhead, which turned out to be a steppe buzzard.

Down on the roadside again we were watching the antics of a violet carpenter bee scraping at the surface of a post when Grace picked out a resting green hairstreak, the underside of its wings blending almost perfectly with the bright green vegetation. We turned up the hill again and watched a migrating flock of common swifts swirling over our heads; for us, the first of the summer. There were more butterflies, including an eastern festoon and another clouded yellow.

The nightingale was still singing as we walked back to the Centre to eat our picnic lunch in the shade of the pine trees outside the bar, and as we sat there we were treated to a superb view of a lesser spotted eagle flying low overhead, giving us an excellent chance to see the characteristic double comma marks on the underside of its wings.

The overnight travelling, the time-change, the unaccustomed warmth and the morning's walk all contributed to a feeling of relaxed sleepiness, so we decided on an afternoon siesta to help to restore us after the journey and adjust to our new environment. We met again on the bar terrace for a review of the day, and Rosemary and Gerald arrived with news that they had been watching a black stork and both seeing and hearing a cuckoo.

We parked in the village square and paid our respects to the pair of Dacia storks nesting on a pole put up for them near the church. The Panagotis family were very pleased to see us all turn up for dinner and a great assortment of salads and grilled meats were offered to us. The local wine, from the Panagotis's own vineyard, and local bread and homemade desserts completed the meal. We were still feeling the effects of the time change so we departed for an early night just as the Taverna began to fill up with the locals coming in for their evening meal.

Saturday 24 April: The Evros Delta – the Western End, the Anthi Lagoons and the Aegean Shore

We were lazy on the first morning – no early walk – so we met for our excellent breakfast: a spread of cold meats and cheeses, wonderful thick yoghurt, local honey and jams, toast, orange juice, tea and coffee. There was some high hazy cloud but it promised to be sunny and warm.

The draw of the delta is irresistible so we retraced our tracks towards Alexandroupolis. We paused in Provatonas to pay our respects to the storks and saw the first jackdaws of the week. A little further on we paused again at a fleeting view of a roller beside the road; it soon flew off, but we hoped there would be better to come.

Our first stop was at the Evros Delta Information Centre in Loutros where we went through the necessary formalities in order to be issued with permits to visit the military zone later in the week. The Centre also provides a very informative display about the delta, its layout and wildlife, and a loo and postcard opportunity. We were soon on our way again, and turned off the main road on the edge of Alexandroupolis to bump along the track into the delta.

There were Cetti's warblers singing by the river – a chance to get to grips with the song early in the week. All along the track we disturbed feeding crested larks picking up minute bits and pieces from the dusty surface. We stopped first for a good view of a lesser spotted eagle and then for a very picturesque herd of goats accompanied by a charming old Bulgarian couple who posed contentedly for photographs with their goats and dogs.



The next spectacle to bring us to a halt was a group of six white storks circling in a thermal, shortly to be joined by seven white pelicans and a juvenile Dalmatian pelican – a marvellous opportunity for comparison. In the other direction we picked out a distant flock of about twenty glossy ibises and while we watched them, two flocks, each of about fifty white pelicans, approached each other and joined the same thermal but instead of merging into a single flock they criss-crossed each other's paths in an aerobatic display directly overhead (left). The light and the blue sky and the nearness of the birds above us made for some memorable views and decent photographs.

A little further on we rounded a corner in the track and the open water of the Anthi lagoons came into view. A black-headed yellow wagtail perched on a bush beside the track – a spectacular bird in an improbable shade of yellow. We parked, hidden from the shallows by a hedge of tamarisk, and crept ahead to see what was about. There were several squacco herons and a nice purple heron in easy view; a grey heron was standing, still as a statue, at the edge of the reeds. Two shelducks and several coots were feeding among the weeds and in the open water. Close by, the frogs were croaking so loudly we could hardly hear the distant hoopoe calling. High in the sky, a few black kites seemed to be ever-present.

In the shallow water to the left of the track four ruffs and a reeve were feeding among the reeds along with two wood sandpipers, and we had a brief glimpse of a little crane scurrying in the mud from one tamarisk bush to another. The now familiar Cetti's warblers were shouting at us regularly from the tamarisk and a crested lark sang its feeble little song. Just as we were moving on, we heard the harsh call of the little crane from deep in the tamarisk cover; he wasn't going to risk being seen again, and in the tamarisk above we first heard and then caught sight of a pair of penduline tits. Above us we had a nice view of a female marsh harrier and two pratincoles flying elegantly around with some gulls, hawking for flying insects.

Further along there were more ruffs - two pairs, one of the males already showing signs of the spectacular breeding plumage, and on the right there were a few lapwings and a small group of black-winged stilts. At the high point, where two tracks cross, Gerald spotted a grey wagtail and a little further on we saw our first red-backed shrike, a fine male perched high on a bush.

Another short drive brought us through the belt of sand dunes to the Aegean shore. The light was quite good – a little overcast and not too glaring. Close by at the edge of the sea there was a little stint running about in the company of a couple of oystercatchers, with two Kentish plovers and a sanderling a little more distant. There were a few cormorants perched on dead tree branches and offshore, little terns and Sandwich terns were patrolling and diving after fish. Along the shore to our right, the town of Alexandroupolis looming in the distant haze, a great white egret stood lazily in the shallows and, in sharp contrast, four dunlins, two of them in breeding plumage rushed about stirring up the mud after food. We heard, and then saw a distant grey plover with a few more oystercatchers, another Kentish plover and several yellow-legged gulls. Gerald noticed a flurry of activity among the Sandwich terns and we witnessed an arctic skua, textbook style, harrying one of the terns until it regurgitated its latest catch. We were puzzled by yet another wader that Stan had spotted, apparently sitting on the beach. We approached to get a better view and it turned out to be a pratincole, resting peacefully, with a ringed plover scuttling about beyond it.

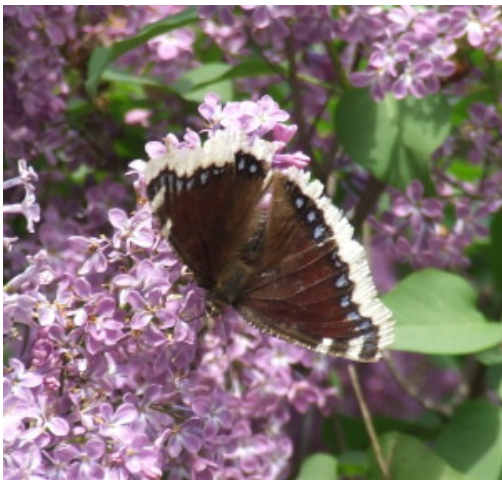
We tore ourselves away and back along the track the red-backed shrike appeared again. A hoopoe flew across in front of us and we were able to watch a male whinchat clearly visible on a clump of rushes. There was nothing to delay us on the main road but we had brief passing views of both white and black storks.

It was the turn of the Simos Taverna tonight – equally delightful, but very different. A warm welcome, a great assortment of exciting salad starters and a selection of Greek dishes chosen from the menu, were followed by platters of fruit desserts with panna cotta – all very delicious and charmingly presented.

Sunday 25 April: A Local Walk down to the Diavolorema River

We set off down the lane towards the village before breakfast. It was fine and warm with a few swifts flying with the swallows and martins. A serin was singing away up on the telegraph wire, shining yellow in the morning sunlight. The telegraph wire was useful down by the bridge too, providing a perch for a singing girl bunting. We managed to get a good view of it, its face pattern showing clearly in the telescope. We heard the mellow sound of a blackcap in full song as we strolled back up the hill and caught sight of a whitethroat singing from the top of a pine tree. Just as we were arriving back for breakfast a pair of white storks flew across from the direction of the village, probably the pair nesting in the square.

It was warm with a pleasant breeze and light scattered cloud when we set off after breakfast to walk down the hill, through Dadia village and into the valley of the Diavolorema river. It was Sunday morning and the villagers were gathering for church. We went to look at the Dadia village storks and found a substantial colony of Spanish sparrows sharing their nest. We added feral pigeons to our list and enjoyed the sight of one griffon and three black vultures flying above us. As we paused to admire several rose chafers, a violet carpenter bee and a scarce swallowtail all feeding on a lilac bush, we were delighted to see them joined by a Camberwell beauty, then by two common swallowtails. We feasted our eyes on this for some time and several people took highly successful photographs.



Camberwell beauty



Grecian copper



Speckled wood

We set off down the track between high hedges, the bushes dotted with bright blue jewel-like leaf beetles. Our attention was drawn to a speckled yellow moth and then a large white and two blue butterflies. The blues eventually settled for long enough for us to identify them as green-underside blues. The birds were very active: a whitethroat was singing from a high bush and we watched it fly up in its characteristic song-flight. Both a male red-backed shrike and a woodchat shrike showed well so that we could learn their field characters. We had more very good butterflies: brown argus, wall brown, Queen of Spain fritillary, green-veined white and several speckled woods, surprisingly not with the orange spots characteristic of south western European individuals, but cream-spotted like the British race. A movement beside the track caught our eye and a Hermann's tortoise trundled

among the dried leaves. We looked at the sharp point on its tail and the clear line dividing the pair of supracaudal plates.

A distant golden oriole was calling as we turned off the main track into a little meadow. We could hear the mellow bell-like call echoing in the trees. Several Bonelli's warblers were singing too, and proved equally impossible to see. We had a brief view of a large tortoiseshell butterfly and then at last a golden oriole flew across and perched briefly on a pine tree for several of us to see. We stopped to look at some bushes of the rare Tartar maple, just coming into flower, when a pair of brilliant orange butterflies danced into view, in their courtship flight. They were Grecian coppers, very engrossed in their own business and perching for a while, allowing us to take photographs.

We admired the fine patch of blue bugle by the gate and the surprising array of blue, purple, yellow and brown members of the pea family flowering at the edge of the wood. The wild jasmine was out, sadly not fragrant, scrambling through the hedgerow bushes showing off its bright yellow stars, prettily contrasting with the flowering hawthorn. A few white anemones, *Anemone blanda*, were still in flower and the dainty umbellifer orlaya was at its best.

At the bottom of the hill, the woodland gives way to more open scrub and a few small arable fields. A woodlark was singing in full view and we had a much better view of a large tortoiseshell butterfly on the ground. There were painted ladies and Glanville fritillaries and a fine Egyptian locust. As we joined the road that leads to the river bridge an adult golden eagle was circling overhead.

We had spirited a minibus containing the lunch down to await us so we sat by the river and had our picnic, entertained by more raptors: a juvenile golden eagle, then a lesser spotted eagle which was being mobbed by a hooded crow.

After lunch we decided to walk along the path beside the river. There was a black-headed wagtail and a little ringed plover bobbing about on the shingle bank in the river. The little ringed plover flew off upstream and then an olivaceous warbler began singing from deep in a bush on the far bank. A pair of white wagtails fed among the stones and a small group of goldfinches were bathing in the shallow water. The butterflies on the bank were good too: an eastern Bath white, good views of small and large tortoiseshells and a clouded yellow.

We were ready for a cup of tea, so we ran a shuttle service back to the Ecocentre and then, after a short tea break, we took a stroll before supper along the track behind the Centre. A lesser spotted eagle flew low overhead and we visited the woodland pond where we could watch the marsh frogs who regularly drew attention to themselves by their noisy antics during the night.

We assembled as usual on the bar terrace to go over our day's records. We looked up and, low over the trees, an Egyptian vulture flew slowly past: a three-vulture day!

Monday 26 April: Lefkimi and Kapsalo

There was a chilly edge to the breeze when we set off before breakfast to head up the hill behind the Centre. The cloud was fast moving and broken – it was hard to predict what the weather would hold for us. There was not a great deal about. We walked down the side of the firebreak; a raven flew over the nearby hilltop and a greenfinch was singing by the gate. It was probably too windy and chilly for raptors to be out in force but there were a few black vultures moving across the open sky and a couple of black storks. We crossed into the wood below the Centre and visited the solitary donkey who was glad of some conversation and a branch or two of willow. The frogs in the pond eyed us suspiciously but silently.

Today we were heading for the highest point in Dadia forest, the hilltop at Kapsalo, surmounted by a complex of radio masts and transmitters.

We stopped briefly in Provatonas where there is a very useful and well-stocked little general store. The owner there speaks German, accessible to a few more Honeyguiders than Greek, the only language spoken in the shops in Dadia. We admired at close quarters the ancient and enormous storks' nest in the centre of the village where both house and Spanish sparrows share the labyrinthine structure for their nesting colonies.

We drove along the winding road from Provatonas to Lefkimi and, rounding a corner, we came upon a considerable flock of bee-eaters, perched in a long row on a telegraph wire and within easy binocular view. They were startled by our arrival and didn't stay long, but it was good to know that they were arriving. As we were watching them, a raptor appeared which turned out to be a pale-phase booted eagle.

Our first scheduled stop was where a gently flowing stream meanders through a grassy clearing in the wood. It is a very pretty place and everyone spread out to follow their interests. We found a specimen of the red jumping spider *Philaeus chrysops*; adept with her bugbox, Ailsa caught a common blue butterfly; Gerald followed a fritillary until it settled and he was able to identify it as a marsh fritillary, there were spider (probably tarantula) burrows

though we were unable to lure the female out for clarification. On the other hand, a larger burrow under a rock had a field cricket standing guard at the entrance. It would occasionally emerge and then, startled by the collection of faces peering at it, it would scuttle back out of sight, only to emerge again after a few moments. A female orange-tip and an eastern Bath white skipped among the cornflowers, avoiding the dramatic and threatening ascalaphids.

The meadow beside the stream and the scree slope above the road were both rich with wild flowers (photo, next page): stonecrops, vetches and trefoils, grape hyacinths, cranesbills, rockroses and moth mullein. Pam called us over to a beautiful group of peacock anemones in the shade of some thorn bushes and Gerald called us up to a wonderful patch of pale yellow wild salsify. Barbara found a fine plant of dragon arum flourishing by the stream, surrounded by a prodigious collection of its offspring. A startled Grace returned from her explorations having seen what must, from her clear description, have been a European glass lizard, like a giant slowworm, slithering past her at high speed.

We returned to the minibuses for the drive up to Kapsalo. There was a roller on the wire, silhouetted against the bright sky so it was an awful view, but it was still a roller and a compelling sight. Eventually we set off for the beautiful drive up the steep hill.

We parked at the top but were nearly blown off our feet as we got out of the buses. The wind whistled through the stays of the radio mast and bits of metal from the old buildings and derelict pylons clanked and creaked eerily. So we were surprised to hear the song of a blue rock thrush clearly penetrating the background racket. We found a sheltered corner or lurked out of the wind in and around the buses to eat our picnic. The first blue tit of the week showed itself briefly and then we had a few minutes of excitement when a raptor was spotted, skulking in a rocky crevice near the top of the crag. At last the telescope revealed it to be nothing more thrilling than a miserable kestrel sheltering from the wind.



It seemed much calmer as we strolled down the road but the wind that still whistled above us was too much for the raptors. A raven croaked overhead and we caught a good view of it and of an ortolan bunting that delighted us with a few moments of its sweet song. The manna ash and whitebeam were in full flower and the flowers on the rocky banks beside the road were unaffected by the wind. In fact the slightly subdued light was helpful for photography. Several fine clumps of *Iris attica* stood out but it was probably the banks of wild tulips (above, left), still at their peak, that stole the show. There were violets and vetches, sparges and scabious, big clumps of creamy-white Italian and deep pink sticky catchflies. One solitary lady orchid stood on the verge in perfect condition and Brenda and Ailsa, climbing the bank to admire the view, found a weird little clump of the parasitic *Cytinus ruber* (above, right) lurking under their host, a cistus bush. Butterflies were few but several people did have an excellent view of a Queen of Spain fritillary, rather torpid in the cool afternoon.

We got back into the buses for the drive down the hill but were soon brought to a halt by the spectacle of a wonderful group of fritillaries (the flowers, not butterflies – *Fritillaria pontica*) beside the road. All the photographers piled out. A little further on we stopped again, this time for Ailsa and Stan to scramble up the bank for a close look at some extremely photogenic orchids that we had somehow missed on the way up. We were leaving the wood behind us when at last we had a series of prolonged views of a roller – first on a wire to our left, then across to the right, then ahead on some bushes and on wires beyond. The light was good and he was ignoring us; everyone got some good views of the extraordinary colours.

That was not the end of the story. Approaching the village of Lefkimi, the people in the second minibus caught sight of a male black-headed bunting on a bush near to the road. At last, it seemed that these special birds had arrived, but sadly, it proved to be the only one of the week. A little further on a woodchat shrike posed well for

everyone and a pair of turtle doves flew up ahead of us as we drove out of the village.

We assembled as usual for our daily review. The wind had dropped and it was warm enough to sit outside. During the listing we were seriously distracted as a griffon vulture flew over.

Operating a strict rotation between the two tavernas, it was dinner at the Simos Taverna tonight. And we were honoured to be taught how to make the delicious, crisp aubergine dish that was everyone's favourite starter. Cut the aubergine slices very thin. Prepare a pan of very hot olive oil and dip the aubergine slices first in cold water, then in flour, then in cold water again. Drop them in the hot oil and fry until brown and crisp. It works every time.



Tuesday 27 April: The Raptor Feeding Station, a Walk through the Forest; Soufli

There was a hazy sun and a cool northerly breeze as we took our early walk into the woods behind the Ecotourism Centre. Rosemary smelt the unmistakable musky scent of a fox. A woodlark was feeding in the firebreak, then it flew up into the far trees and we could hear it singing. The raptors and vultures were not in evidence. We hoped that was a good sign; today we were to visit the feeding station and we hoped for a good muster there.

So after breakfast we assembled for the bumpy bus ride along the forest track and the final walk up to the hide overlooking the feeding station. There was a wonderful crowd at the feast. Black and Griffon vultures in good numbers and several Egyptians, all clearly conscious of their position in the order of things. A juvenile white-tailed eagle, less experienced, was chancing a dart into the fray every few minutes but he was often shooed off by the lumbering vultures. There were also several ravens and hooded crows waiting discreetly for their opportunity to pick up scraps. We were well equipped with telescopes and there was so much activity to watch. It was fascinating.

We were dropped off a little way down the hill so that we could walk back through the forest. We followed the path among the rocks and through the pines; it was a chance to get to know the two species common in the forest – *Pinus nigra*, black pine and *Pinus brutia*, Calabrian or Turkish pine. The open, scrubby understorey was full of cistuses, tree heath, juniper and scattered plants of eastern hornbeam, Italian oak and downy oak saplings. In open clearings among the rocks, asphodel was in flower. We heard a chiffchaff, a short-toed treecreeper and a distant turtle dove. Amongst some leaf litter, Stan found a frilled mantis, the bizarre nymphal stage of *Empusa pennata*.

An 'afternoon off' was planned, with an optional excursion to the nearby town of Soufli, famous for its silk manufacturing tradition. Everyone chose the 'Soufli option'. We arrived back after our walk in good time for lunch, so we decided to set off straight away and find a good spot for a picnic. We went off-road a little, and found ourselves down by the Diavolorema, much further downstream, where the river meanders broadly through its flood plain. We were enjoying our sandwiches when we heard the call of an adult golden eagle. We soon picked it up, flying aerobatically over the hill below the village. Then it was joined by a second bird, also an adult. They were clearly a pair and the magnificent display to which we were treated must have lasted for half an hour. They were extraordinarily agile and inventive, manoeuvring around one another, flying apart and together again, calling, silently stooping and wheeling; it was quite unforgettable and a real treat. For several of us it was the highlight of our week.

Eventually they flew off and it was time for us to do the same. A short drive took us to Soufli where we parked in the village square, shaded by mulberry trees, and went our various ways. Paths crossed at coffee shops, ice cream stalls and at the silk shops and silk museum, and we returned home in time to visit the Information Centre and to enjoy a talk by the local WWF Officer, Yannis Marinos. He described the work of the Black Vulture Conservation Project in Dadia, and we were able to present to him the cheque from Honeyguide, the contribution from all the holiday participants, topped up by Gift Aid and the Honeyguide Charitable Trust.

We speedily reviewed the sightings of the day, and arrived at the Panagotis Taverna in time for dinner. We were very surprised and touched to find that they had actually prepared a whole roast goat in our honour. There was some confusion; we didn't discover that there was goat on the menu until some people had already ordered and begun to eat, but several of us enjoyed a delicious and succulent plate of roast goat.

Wednesday 28 April: The Evros Delta – Sarantametros Canal and Drana Lagoon

We had promised ourselves that if today dawned fine and sunny we would take a minibus down to the Diavolorema river for our early walk. So, with the promise of a beautiful sunrise, this is what we did. We drove along the river bank towards the rising sun, parked the minibus and then were able to walk with the light behind us.

Almost immediately we heard a cat-like snarl from a female golden oriole, followed by the liquid song of the male. A slight stirring in the top of a poplar tree alerted us to a pair of orioles, which flew out and circled round above us in full view – what a thrill. We also heard the call of a penduline tit, but it refused to show itself despite many pairs of eyes looking for it, or the sign of a nest. We could hear a distant Syrian woodpecker drumming but that also proved elusive. A little ringed plover flew down the river and settled briefly on a shingle bank opposite the bush where an olivaceous warbler was singing vigorously from deep cover. A black-headed wagtail flew up and perched in full view quite close to us and a small group of Spanish and house sparrows was squabbling in the hedgerow on our right. We were following a jay as it flew by down the river when Ailsa caught sight of a nightingale. She guided our binoculars and we all managed a glimpse of it singing away in a nearby willow tree. On the opposite bank, a red-backed shrike and a pair of whinchats perched on bushes and showed themselves well. We walked cautiously along the river and to our surprise – and its – we put up a black stork from the shingle bank. It flew up and around us, giving us an excellent view.

We set off for our second visit to the Evros Delta. The main road bypasses the village of Doriskos but we have frequently found it worthwhile to take the detour. Today was no exception. We had no sooner turned off when we saw a flock of over two hundred white pelicans flying in our direction. They soared overhead and whirled around us in stately formation for several minutes; it was truly spectacular. They gained height in their thermal and drifted off and we turned our attention to the fields and hedgerows. A group of six shelducks were busy in a field nearby and our eye was caught by the display of cornfield weeds at our feet: cornflowers, vetches, daisies, purple Venus's looking glass and the brilliant scarlet pheasant's eye (right).



We drove on to the Visitor Centre to collect our permits for later in the week and to ensure the permission we needed to follow our intended route for today. They, as always, were very helpful and we were all presented with fine posters of flamingos and white-tailed eagles as souvenirs.

We drove onto the delta via a rough road that took us through a bridge under the main road. The vista that opens out as we emerged was breath taking; we stopped to admire the delta laid out in front of us with the distant hills of Turkey beyond. There were no fewer than three red-backed shrikes on the fences and bushes on either side of the track; we paused beside a Spanish sparrow colony which occupies an extensive area of scrub at the bottom of the hill. The light was in front of us, so we promised a photo-stop on the return journey. There were several butterflies about: both large and small whites and clouded yellow. Another distant roller appeared on a wire and it perched for long enough for us to get the scopes on it so that several people saw it well.

We stopped next at the bridge over the Sarantametros canal. A Cetti's warbler was singing, as usual completely hidden from view and in the water under the bridge we could see two European pond terrapins swimming sluggishly in the shallows. On the far side there is a curious set of buildings, some derelict and some used for various sorts of livestock. Dozens of Spanish sparrows make their home there and the derelict barn is generally where a pair of isabelline wheatears holds territory. This is such a regular feature that the area is known to British visitors as 'Isabelline Flats'. With a little patience we found the wheatears and, as we were focussing our binoculars and telescopes on one of them, to our amazement, a European souslik popped up from its burrow right beside it – a great treat, as we had often found their burrows but never before managed to see them. The souslik and the wheatears entertained us for many minutes, the souslik repeatedly popping up, giving us all a chance to see it, frequently standing upright like a meercat, with the wheatear steadfastly ignoring it. But there were plenty of other things going on too. A fine female marsh harrier flew close by, passing within a few feet of Gerald. Ray potted off along the canal bank and returned with news of a pair of golden orioles that he had been watching.

A good shout of 'raptor' from Rosemary alerted us to a hobby dashing past. A flock of about twenty common terns flew by, causing consternation among a gaggle of farmyard geese. The hobby flew rapidly by again and startled a purple heron that started up from the dense reedbed by the bridge.

We were driving along the canal bank looking for a sheltered and shady spot for lunch when a hoopoe flew along beside us. While we ate our lunch we were treated to a wealth of bird sightings. A bee-eater swooped low overhead; a black kite flew slowly above, hungrily eyeing our picnic; a migrating party of alpine swifts and several sand martins hawked for insects; a long-legged buzzard gave us a superb view and a red-footed falcon swooped down and sped away, showing its dark grey plumage. Brenda noticed a dung beetle eating a crumb of feta cheese that she had dropped.

The canal banks were rich with wild flowers: cornflowers, poppies, spurge, mullein and daisies created a classic palette of colour, while the spectacle of the tamarisk, much of it in full flower, was wonderful.

We drove on to Drana lagoon, the largest area of open water in the delta. We stopped by the corner of the lagoon to get our bearings and to gain a first impression of the huge expanse of shallow, enclosed water. Four squacco herons appeared from nowhere and dropped in beside us. The use of the main track beside the lagoon is restricted to the fishermen whose livelihood is dependent on this wild and isolated area, but we had obtained permission to drive the long distance to the far side of the lagoon.

There were birds about, but not in huge numbers. A curlew was feeding in the company of three little egrets; nine black terns and a small flock of common terns flew by; a great white egret took off and flew past us, showing its dark feet and greater size in comparison with a little egret; we watched two redshanks wading in the shallow water and swimming when they got out of their depth; two cormorants were perched on a little island in the lagoon.

We drove on to the turning to some fishermen's huts where two little terns were diving for food. We watched a common sandpiper on some rocks, two more great white egrets and three oystercatchers in the shallows. We turned back. The time for the return journey was short, so we didn't linger, except for a brief stop for the Spanish sparrow colony.

Dinner tonight was at the Simos Taverna. They had offered to cook us a Greek dish of our choice and tonight we had selected pastitsio – a traditional Greek pasta bake, flavoured with herbs and spices and served with an excellent Greek salad.

Thursday 29 April: The Loutros Hills and Dadia Forest

Yesterday's early walk had proved so productive that we decided to repeat it. It was sunny again though not so warm. We were greeted by a pair of little ringed plovers foraging on the shingle with a few black-headed wagtails bobbing about. The morning chorus consisted of a cuckoo, a nightingale and an olivaceous warbler. They are all normally very hard to see but the olivaceous warbler appeared on the edge of its bush giving clear views, while the nightingale was singing uncharacteristically from a high exposed branch of a willow tree.

After breakfast we set off south again and a mile or two before Alexandroupolis, near to the Delta Information Centre, we turned away from the delta and took a rough farm track up into the heart of the Loutros Hills. The Loutros Hills are a limestone outcrop, unusual in the surrounding setting of largely volcanic rocks. They share with much limestone the characteristic of carrying a very interesting and rich flora. We piled out of the minibuses to be assailed by the scent of thyme. Huge patches of Venus's looking glass were set off by clumps of the delicate umbellifer, *orlaya*; the fruits of starry clover sparkled among the wealth of grasses, a very delicate white poppy cowered in the shelter of some juniper and charming clumps of pink hawksbeard flanked the track.

It was sunny but still breezy and a woodlark and a curlew were singing in the distance, their songs being brought to us intermittently on the wind. Those whose noses were not glued to the ground had a good view of a honey buzzard as it flew by. Butterflies were warming up and we saw wall brown, common blue and green-underside blue.

We returned to the main road and continued in a huge loop that would take us through the heart of Dadia Forest. Almost immediately though, we were startled to see signs of an extensive fire. We drove on and on, more and more horrified by the bare, blackened hillsides and charred stumps. Large areas had been cleared and the standing, burned timber was being gathered up and logged on what seemed to be an industrial scale. Quite suddenly, the burned area ended and we were soon at the first of our stopping places, a viewpoint with a spectacular view to the north. The soft contours of the tree-covered hills rolled away on all sides. We were looking deep into Bulgaria across many miles of continuous forest.

Butterflies fluttered about: plenty of common and green-underside blues and Glanville fritillaries and we found another frilled mantis. We walked down a track through the wood and enjoyed the trackside flowers: scabious and mullein and a lovely clump of globularia.

We stopped for lunch a little further on, in a clearing above the road. Everyone managed to find a little shade in the now powerful sunshine. A sessile oak was host to a large plant of the mistletoe relative, *Loranthus*. Elisabeth went for a wander and found a wonderful clump of peonies in flower, with birthwort and moth mullein, in the shade of the bushes nearby.

There was a good deal of bird activity. For a long time we tracked the song of a probable barred warbler singing in the valley below but it refused to show itself for confirmation. Long-tailed tits were moving about and calling and a blackbird was singing below us. We heard a single, but unmistakable, figure of song from a migrating willow warbler, still many miles south of its breeding grounds. We were about to get back into the minibuses when we realised we had almost parked on a patch of mammoose orchids.

Our next stop was at the Pesani bridge. As we stood on the bridge, admiring a wonderful hawthorn tree in full flower and looking down onto the scrubby riverbed, we watched one, then two Camberwell beauties, flying together in circles. In turn one would come to rest, only to be harried by the other. We watched for a long time, a very special few moments. There were a few large tortoiseshells as well, another treat for British naturalists. With binoculars, looking down on the edge of the water we could see a common frog and two common toads. There were plenty of swallows about, swooping over and under the bridge and feeding above the river; three of them turned out to be red-rumped swallows. A short-toed eagle soared overhead and we watched a pair of common buzzards in courtship flight, the male diving from a great height with closed wings and then soaring up again only to repeat the spectacle. We hoped his mate was as impressed as we were.

A few miles further on we stopped at the place we have come to know as 'Blue Rock Hill'. It is an area of ultrabasic, serpentinitic rock (of a type known as ophiolyte because its texture is said to resemble snake skin), a testament to the volcanic origins of the region. Here, the concentration of toxic minerals in the soil is such that few plants can tolerate the conditions. But there are some that can and, the spring being somewhat late this year, the spectacle was very special. We got out of the minibuses and immediately everyone gravitated towards an astonishing display of peacock anemones, all still in full flower in the shade of some overhanging bushes. On the other side, also in the shade, the pale lemon-yellow golden drop *Onosma kittanae* was at its best; on the otherwise bare blue-green flaky rock, there were carpets of bright yellow alyssum *Alyssum sibiricum* and tufts of the shining silver flowers of *Paronychia manfrediana* (photo on front cover and see Footnote on page 26). The golden drop and the paronychia are extremely rare endemics to this rock type and the paronychia was a new species only discovered and described from here within the last few years. There were some small dragon arum plants. Would they survive in these specialised conditions? And, sheltering, and almost buried in the scree was a tiny Hermann's tortoise (right), less than two inches long.



It was our last visit for dinner at the Panagotis Taverna. We made amends for the misunderstanding of Tuesday evening and tucked in to another delicious meal. We explained as best we could that we were leaving soon and there were many fond farewells, the whole family turning out to shake everyone by the hand. Rumour has it that Mr Panagotis is soon to retire.

Friday 30 April: The Evros Delta: The Eastern End and the Restricted Area

The last full day was calm and sunny when we gathered to set off for the early walk. We admired a cream-spot tiger moth that had been attracted to the security light overnight and was now resting by the front door.

The last two mornings by the river had been so satisfactory that we decided to go again and we gathered at the minibuses. No sooner had Brenda mentioned that she would like a really good view of a girl bunting than one appeared and sang from a wire above our heads.

Down at the river a buzzard flew heavily over to the woods beside the valley, an effort in the cool, early morning air. A little ringed plover quickly appeared and flew along beside us and a green sandpiper called from a shingle bank and then flew past us up the river, in the opposite direction from the little ringed plover. There were both black-headed and white wagtails bobbing about on the shingle and on the stones by the bridge and we could hear a distant cuckoo. When the little ringed plover returned to the shingle spit opposite we managed to get it in the telescopes and we had excellent views of it feeding beside the water.

A golden oriole gave a short burst of song from the tall willow near to where we had heard and seen them yesterday, but it slipped away giving us only a brief glimpse. We could hear a hoopoe and a cuckoo calling simultaneously, seeming to sing a duet: 'hoo-hoo-hoo-cuc-koo hoo-hoo-hoo-cuc-koo'. Then the male golden oriole sang again from closer than before and its mate replied with her jay-like call; sadly, neither of them showed itself. We listened again to a Syrian woodpecker drumming, noting the sound fading away, unlike the abrupt end to a great spotted woodpecker's drum.

Today was the day for our final visit to the delta, into the restricted zone, where permits and passports might be called for. As we drove down the main road we passed two large flocks of circling white storks. Then, just after we turned off at Feres, there was a huge flock of white pelicans and as we came into the restricted area both the white storks and the white pelicans were circling together in a thermal. What a sight!

They had warned us at the Evros Delta Information Centre that there had been major flooding during the winter and that some of the delta banks had been breached and tracks were impassable. So we stopped at the information board to consult a map and check that our route was not affected. Reassured, we carried on and soon came to a halt at the sight of a roller on a wire. This time it had the sun shining full on it, and though we couldn't get very close it did allow us to have a good look and even get some photographs. A great white egret appeared on our left, flying along the poplar-lined river that marks the Turkish border. We stopped at a point where we could walk down a path onto the flood plain and we all enjoyed exploring, looking at the flowers and butterflies and listening to the bird song. Elisabeth spotted a lesser grey shrike on the wire, there was yet another Camberwell beauty and a whitethroat was singing in full view on top of a poplar tree. The shrike reappeared and perched close by, giving us all an excellent view. Then Ted found a female red-backed shrike on a nearby bush and Gerald found a painted lady laying eggs on some thistles. We could have stayed here all day – but it was a long way to our destination.



Tamarisk, cattle and a white stork on the flood plain

It is a long, straight, dusty track on top of the flood bank but, sure enough, we came to a point where it had clearly suffered a dramatic breach and we had to negotiate a rather Heath Robinson repair. A white stork strutted elegantly across the grass. Tamarisk extends into the distance on the left, towards Turkey; on the right the fertile delta soil is farmed, where possible; in other places there are shallow lagoons and mudflats.

We had reached an area of drying mud when Ted in one bus and Stan in the other called us more or less simultaneously to a halt. Stan's shout of 'is that a lapwing?' summed it up and drew our attention to our first spur-winged plover, the rare and elegant iconic species of the Evros delta. Where there is one bird standing guard there is often another, sitting on a nest; in this case there was also another pair. What a delight these birds are! Joan remarked that they would not look out of place on a Paris catwalk. As we drove on there were more and more lagoons beside the track with shelducks, more spur-winged plovers, a white-winged black tern and a little grebe. We heard a penduline tit calling and a small flock of sand martins and four pratincoles flew around us, quite low, feeding on the plentiful supply of insects. Amazingly, a spur-winged plover alighted right beside the track, giving Pam a grandstand view from the minibus window.

We paused beside a reed bed where a party of Dutch birdwatchers were listening to a great reed warbler and as we drove on, a hoopoe flew along beside us. On a lagoon to our right there was a superb drake garganey and through the screen of tamarisk on our left, Gerald had a brief view of a pygmy cormorant. More and more standing water was visible on our right. There were great and little egrets standing side by side, clearly showing the size difference. More spur-winged plovers clearly held territory; parties of black terns flew to and fro, dipping down to the water; common terns were nesting on rafts in the lagoon; a small party of dunlins in summer plumage flew by; we heard a greenshank calling.

At last we reached the end of the track and a most improbable place for a taverna. Not only is it incredibly isolated but they were busy unpacking dozens of chairs from a van – in preparation for a great gathering celebrating May Day tomorrow. Where do they get their customers from?

We unpacked our picnic and set up the telescopes so that we could watch while we ate. A small group of gull-billed terns flew along, their yapping calls quite unlike other terns; two of them settled on the shore, giving us good views through the telescopes. Then a party of twenty white-winged black terns flew gracefully by, followed by a few black terns. We heard greenshanks calling and spotted a couple of them passing overhead, and a reed bunting perched very near until it was disturbed by a lad setting up a tractor-driven pump.

Spot on two o'clock, two boatmen appeared, their arms full of life-jackets. They directed us down to the jetty and we distributed ourselves between our two boats. We set off along the canal, reeds towering above us. There were marsh harriers in all directions. Three black terns and a Caspian tern dived close to our boats and fish were jumping all around us – it was not surprising that the tiny fishermen's huts dotted along the bank are clearly very well used. We sped along the canal and out towards the mouth of the delta. Stan's hat blew off, but the other boat (right) did a swift turn and quickly rescued it before it got too wet.



On the edge of the open sea, flocks of waders crowded onto the offshore banks: a few hundred dunlins with a good scattering of grey plovers. A small flock of little stints flew round and then settled on a sandbank nearby. Further on we were amazed to see a flock of about 500 spotted redshanks (above), shoulder to shoulder on a tiny sandbank, all in superb black breeding plumage. Several common, little and gull-billed terns flew past followed by two more Caspian terns as we set off back across the bay.

The drive back along the delta track held two welcome surprises for us. The first, perhaps a little mundane, was the sight of a drake mallard in the lagoon to our left, the only one that we saw all week. The second was much more exciting: a Levant sparrowhawk flew across the track ahead of us and then circled round so that we were able to see its colour well and catch sight of the characteristic black tips to its rather pointed wings. We also had a nice view of a hoopoe on a track to our left – the best view of the week, and to finish the day, a picturesque red-backed shrike on a bramble patch.

The last evening's dinner was at the Simos Taverna and, by popular request, they had made us a moussaka. It was sizzling away when we arrived and the smell was delicious. As ever here we began with an array of exciting starters, including the renowned crisply fried aubergine, had a wonderful Greek salad with our moussaka and finished off with home-made desserts and crystallized pumpkin and fruit. As usual on the last evening, we asked everyone in turn round the table to recall the highlights of the week.

Saturday 1 May: The Return Journey: Dadia-Athens-Heathrow

Our last morning dawned sunny and warm. The red roofs of the village (right) glowed in the sunlight and we all set off after breakfast for a short stroll down the lane. An eastern race (steppe) buzzard flew low overhead as we set off and we had a nice view of a girl bunting singing from a wire. A pair of red-backed shrikes perched on the tops of pines and flew after prey. The usual nightingale in full song accompanied us from its hiding place down in the valley and a black vulture soared over the hilltop. Down by the stream, the elusive olivaceous warbler was singing at last from the top of a willow tree, for once giving us excellent views, and the last addition to our bird list was a tree sparrow among the flock of house sparrows twittering among some dog kennels. We walked back and saw house martins collecting mud for their nests from puddles in the car park.



We drove to the airport along the great new dual carriageway that leads across the Evros to Turkey and just before we joined the main road, a lesser spotted eagle flew close by. We were in plenty of time for our midday flight which took off on time and gave us lovely views of many of the Aegean islands. We had a comfortable wait at Athens airport, seemingly untouched by the riots that were disrupting life in the city. The flight to London, too, was trouble-free. We had fine, sunny views of the Balkan coast, but it became increasingly cloudy as we crossed the Adriatic, and we found Heathrow overcast and drizzly – a stark change from the near-perfect weather we had enjoyed.

Highlights

Ailsa	The golden eagles displaying; the flights of storks and pelicans; the golden oriole song, a new experience; peonies and anemones; the raptor feeding station.
Barbara	My <i>Mona Lisa</i> bird – the beautiful black-headed wagtail; the flight of pelicans; wild peonies.
Brenda	The spur-winged plover; early mornings by the river; the scenery everywhere; the landscape of the Delta; the drake garganey.
Elisabeth	The boat trip; the pelicans' effortless and majestic flight; peonies.
Gerald	The butterfly bush in Dadia village (with Camberwell beauty and both swallowtails); the golden eagles displaying.
Grace	The flight of the pelicans, almost rivalling flamingos in the Algarve; the speed of the glass lizard.
Joan	The flight of pelicans; the cornflowers and the peonies.
Pam	Peacock anemones; cornflowers everywhere; the lovely weather; squacco herons and pelicans.
Ray	The Camberwell beauty on the bush; the golden eagles displaying.
Rosemary	The golden eagles displaying; the black stork fishing by the river; peacock anemones and cornflowers.
Stan	Having spent so much time listening to golden orioles, so pleased to see them; the spur-winged plovers.
Ted	Spur-winged plovers; the strong wind up at the Kapsalo radio mast.
Rachel	The amazing merging flock of pelicans and storks; golden eagles displaying; the peacock anemones.
Robin	Five hundred spotted redshanks in summer plumage; the butterfly bush; the golden eagles displaying.

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	<i>Widespread and locally common resident</i>	One in the Evros restricted zone
Cormorant	<i>Fairly widespread and locally common resident, common and widespread winter visitor</i>	Small numbers each Evros Delta day
Pygmy cormorant	<i>Scarce and local resident, locally common winter visitor</i>	One in the Evros restricted zone
White pelican	<i>Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	100 near Anthi lagoon, 200 near Doriskos and about 20 near Feres
Dalmatian pelican	<i>Fairly common but local resident</i>	One near Anthi lagoon
Squacco heron	<i>Common but local summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant</i>	Small numbers each Evros Delta day
Little egret	<i>Fairly common and widespread resident, common and widespread passage migrant</i>	Several each Evros Delta day
Great white egret	<i>Rare and local resident, widespread and locally common winter visitor</i>	Small numbers each Evros Delta day
Grey heron	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Small numbers each Evros Delta day and elsewhere in river valleys
Purple heron	<i>Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common passage migrant</i>	Small numbers each Evros Delta day
Black stork	<i>Rare and local summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Seen every day around Dadia
White stork	<i>Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Seen every day, including occupied nests at Dadia and Provatonas
Glossy ibis	<i>Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and widespread passage migrant</i>	About 20 near Anthi lagoons
Mute swan	<i>Rare and local resident, locally common winter visitor</i>	A few at Anthi lagoons; a large flock in the restricted zone
Shelduck	<i>Scarce and local resident, fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor</i>	Small numbers each Evros Delta day
Mallard	<i>Fairly widespread but scarce resident, very common and widespread winter visitor</i>	One in the Evros restricted zone
Garganey	<i>Scarce and local summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant</i>	One in the Evros restricted zone
Honey buzzard	<i>Widespread but scarce summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	One in the Loutros hills
Black kite	<i>Rare and local resident, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant</i>	A few at Anthi lagoons and one by the Sarantametros Canal
White-tailed eagle	<i>Rare and local resident</i>	A juvenile bird at the raptor feeding station
Egyptian vulture	<i>Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	One over the Ecotourism Centre and a few at the raptor feeding station
Griffon vulture	<i>Fairly common but local resident</i>	Odd individuals around Dadia and several at the raptor feeding station
Black vulture	<i>Rare and local resident</i>	Odd individuals around Dadia and four or five at the raptor feeding station
Short-toed eagle	<i>Fairly common and widespread summer visitor</i>	Odd individuals around Dadia on several days
Marsh harrier	<i>Fairly widespread but scarce resident, common winter visitor and passage migrant</i>	One or two each Evros Delta day
Sparrowhawk	<i>Fairly widespread and locally fairly common resident, common and widespread winter visitor</i>	One near Doriskos
Levant sparrowhawk	<i>Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	One in the Evros restricted zone
Buzzard	<i>Common and widespread resident and winter visitor</i>	Individuals seen almost daily
Long-legged buzzard	<i>Fairly widespread and locally fairly common partial migrant</i>	One by the Sarantametros Canal
Lesser spotted eagle	<i>Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Odd individuals near Dadia almost every day
Golden eagle	<i>Widespread and locally fairly common resident</i>	One or two birds on several occasions near Dadia, including a pair displaying over the Diavolorema river
Booted eagle	<i>Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	A pale phase bird near Lefkimi

Kestrel	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Occasional birds seen almost every day
Red-footed falcon	<i>Common and widespread passage migrant</i>	A male by the Sarantametros Canal
Hobby	<i>Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	One by the Sarantametros Canal
Little crane	<i>Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common passage migrant</i>	One at Anthi lagoons
Coot	<i>Common and widespread resident, very common winter visitor</i>	Small numbers at Anthi lagoons and in the Evros restricted zone
Oystercatcher	<i>Scarce and local resident, fairly common winter visitor</i>	Small numbers each Delta day
Black-winged stilt	<i>Fairly widespread and locally common summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant</i>	A small group at Anthi Lagoons
Collared pratincole	<i>Fairly common but local summer visitor, widespread passage migrant</i>	At Anthi, two by the lagoons and one on the seashore; four in the Evros restricted zone
Little ringed plover	<i>Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	A pair seen several times by the Diavolorema River, apparently holding territory
Ringed plover	<i>Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, rare winter visitor</i>	A few on the seashore near Anthi lagoons
Kentish plover	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Small numbers on the seashore near Anthi lagoons and at Drana lagoons
Grey plover	<i>Fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor and passage migrant</i>	One on the shore by Anthi Lagoons; a large flock on an offshore bank in the Evros restricted zone
Spur-winged plover	<i>Rare and local summer visitor</i>	Several individuals and pairs in the Evros restricted zone
Lapwing	<i>Scarce and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor</i>	A few at Anthi lagoons
Sanderling	<i>Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor</i>	One on the seashore near Anthi lagoons
Little stint	<i>Very common and widespread passage migrant, locally common winter visitor</i>	One at Anthi lagoons; a small flock in the Evros restricted zone
Dunlin	<i>Common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant</i>	Four on the seashore near Anthi lagoons; a few hundred on an offshore bank in the Evros restricted zone
Ruff	<i>Very common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor</i>	Several at Anthi lagoons
Curlew	<i>Common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant</i>	One at Drana lagoons
Spotted redshank	<i>Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor</i>	A flock of about 500, all in summer plumage on an offshore bank in the Evros restricted zone
Redshank	<i>Widespread and locally common resident</i>	Two wading and swimming at Drana lagoons
Greenshank	<i>Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor</i>	One at Anthi lagoons and three in the Evros restricted zone
Green sandpiper	<i>Fairly common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant</i>	One by the Diavolorema river
Wood sandpiper	<i>Common and widespread passage migrant</i>	Two at Anthi lagoons
Common sandpiper	<i>Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and widespread passage migrant</i>	One at Drana lagoons
Arctic skua	<i>Widespread but scarce passage migrant</i>	One harrying terns by the shore near Anthi lagoons
Black-headed gull	<i>Rare and local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor</i>	A few at Anthi lagoons
Yellow-legged gull	<i>Very common and widespread resident</i>	Common throughout the coastal area
Caspian tern	<i>Fairly widespread but scarce non-breeding visitor</i>	Three offshore in the Evros restricted zone
Gull-billed tern	<i>Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Several in the Evros restricted zone
Sandwich tern	<i>Rare and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant</i>	Several by the shore near Anthi lagoons
Common tern	<i>Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	20 by the Sarantametros Canal; several at Drana lagoon; a nesting colony in the Evros restricted zone
Little tern	<i>Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Small numbers along the coast each Delta day
Black tern	<i>Rare and local summer visitor, common passage migrant</i>	Nine at Drana lagoons and many in the Evros restricted zone
White-winged black tern	<i>Common and widespread passage migrant</i>	About 20 in the Evros restricted zone
Rock dove/Feral pigeon	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Common in towns and villages

Collared dove	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Frequent in towns and villages
Turtle dove	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Small numbers seen almost daily, mostly migrating individuals
Cuckoo	<i>Fairly widespread but scarce summer visitor, widespread and fairly common passage migrant</i>	Seen or heard on most days, mostly around the Ecotourism Centre
Swift	<i>Very common summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Several flocks seen almost every day
Alpine swift	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	A small migrating flock by the Sarantametros Canal
Bee-eater	<i>Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	A small flock near Lefkimi; one by the Sarantametros Canal
Roller	<i>Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Seen perched on wires along roads and in open farmland almost every day
Hoopoe	<i>Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Small numbers seen or heard almost daily
Syrian woodpecker	<i>Fairly common and widespread resident</i>	Seen or heard regularly near Dadia; one near Lefkimi
Crested lark	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Seen almost every day. Common and widespread in open arable farmland and along the national highway
Woodlark	<i>Fairly common and widespread resident</i>	Seen or heard almost daily around the Ecotourism Centre
Skylark	<i>Fairly common but local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor</i>	Seen and heard occasionally in and around the Delta
Sand martin	<i>Widespread and locally common summer visitor, very common passage migrant</i>	Small migrating flocks by the Sarantametros Canal and in the Evros restricted zone
Swallow	<i>Very common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Seen every day. Several pairs nesting at the Ecotourism Centre
Red-rumped swallow	<i>Widespread and locally common summer visitor</i>	Seen almost daily in small numbers
House martin	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor</i>	Small flocks seen every day
Yellow wagtail	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Small numbers seen almost every day. All showed the characteristics of the black-headed race, <i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>
Grey wagtail	<i>Fairly common and widespread resident and winter visitor</i>	One at Anthi lagoons
White wagtail	<i>Fairly widespread but scarce resident, common and widespread winter visitor</i>	Small numbers seen on most days, mostly in the Dadia area
Robin	<i>Fairly common and widespread resident, very common winter visitor.</i>	Occasionally seen or heard in the Dadia area
Nightingale	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor</i>	Seen or heard every day throughout the area
Whinchat	<i>Scarce and local summer visitor, common passage migrant</i>	One near the beach at Anthi lagoons and a pair by the Diavolorema river
Isabelline wheatear	<i>Rare and local summer visitor</i>	A pair seen well at the usual location near the Sarantametros Canal bridge
Northern wheatear	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	A single bird near Anthi lagoons
Black-eared wheatear	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor</i>	Seen regularly near the Ecotourism Centre
Blue rock thrush	<i>Fairly common and widespread resident</i>	One heard on rocky outcrop near the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park
Blackbird	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Seen daily, especially around the Ecotourism Centre
Cetti's warbler	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Heard in damp places on several days and occasionally glimpsed
Reed warbler	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Heard and seen on each Delta day
Great reed warbler	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	One heard and seen in the Evros restricted zone
Eastern olivaceous warbler	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor</i>	Heard and occasionally seen on most days
Whitethroat	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Seen and heard almost daily
Blackcap	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Occasionally heard in the Dadia area
Eastern Bonelli's warbler	<i>Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Seen or heard on most days, mostly in woods around Dadia
Chiffchaff	<i>Fairly common but local summer visitor, common and widespread winter visitor</i>	Occasionally heard and seen near the Ecotourism Centre
Willow warbler	<i>Very common and widespread passage migrant</i>	One heard briefly by the Pesani road

Long-tailed tit	<i>Fairly common and widespread resident</i>	A family group seen by the Pesani road
Blue tit	<i>Very common and widespread resident</i>	One near the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park
Great tit	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Seen every day
Penduline tit	<i>Fairly widespread and locally common resident</i>	A pair at Anthi lagoons; one heard by the Diavolorema river; one in the restricted part of the Evros Delta
Short-toed treecreeper	<i>Fairly common and widespread resident</i>	Heard once near the Ecotourism Centre
Golden oriole	<i>Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Seen or heard on most days around Dadia; two by the Sarantametros canal
Red-backed shrike	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	Individuals or pairs seen on most days
Lesser grey shrike	<i>Fairly widespread but scarce summer visitor and passage migrant</i>	One seen well in the restricted part of the Evros Delta
Woodchat shrike	<i>Common and widespread summer visitor</i>	Seen occasionally near Dadia, one near Lefkimi
Jay	<i>Widespread and locally common resident</i>	Seen occasionally in wooded areas
Magpie	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Seen almost daily
Jackdaw	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Frequently seen in towns and villages
Hooded crow	<i>Very common and widespread resident</i>	Common throughout the area
Raven	<i>Fairly common and widespread resident</i>	Seen almost every day
Starling	<i>Fairly common but local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor</i>	Frequently seen throughout the area in small numbers
House sparrow	<i>Very common and widespread resident</i>	Seen daily in towns and villages
Spanish sparrow	<i>Widespread and locally very common resident and summer visitor</i>	Seen almost daily, often nesting in storks' nests; a large colony in the delta near Loutros
Tree sparrow	<i>Widespread and locally common resident</i>	One in Dadia village
Chaffinch	<i>Very common and widespread resident and winter visitor</i>	Seen every day
Serin	<i>Fairly common and widespread resident</i>	Seen regularly near the Ecotourism Centre
Greenfinch	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Frequently heard and seen near the Ecotourism Centre
Goldfinch	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Several seen every day
Girl bunting	<i>Common and widespread resident</i>	Frequently seen around Dadia and elsewhere in farmland and scattered scrub
Ortolan bunting	<i>Widespread and locally common summer visitor</i>	One near Kapsalo radio mast
Black-headed bunting	<i>Widespread and locally very common summer visitor</i>	One seen near Lefkimi
Reed bunting	<i>Scarce and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor</i>	One in the Evros restricted area
Corn bunting	<i>Very common and widespread resident</i>	Very common throughout the area

Total – 131 species

MAMMALS

Eastern hedgehog <i>Erinaceus concolor</i>	Road casualties
Mole <i>Talpa europea</i>	Mole hills
Red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Occasionally seen around the Ecotourism Centre
European souslik <i>Spermophilus citellus</i>	Seen well by the Sarantametros Canal bridge; burrows found near the Diavolorema river
Beech (Stone) marten <i>Martes foina</i>	Occasional road casualties

REPTILES

Hermann's tortoise <i>Testudo hermanni</i>	Occasionally found in open areas
Spur-thighed tortoise <i>Testudo graeca</i>	Occasionally found in open areas
European pond terrapin <i>Emys orbicularis</i>	Occasionally seen in the Delta and near the Diavolorema river
Balkan terrapin <i>Mauremys rivulata</i>	Occasionally seen in the Delta
Green lizard <i>Lacerta viridis</i>	Occasionally seen in dry places
Balkan wall lizard <i>Podarcis tauricus</i>	Seen near the Ecotourism Centre
European glass lizard <i>Ophisaurus apodus</i>	One near Lefkimi
Large whip snake <i>Dolichopis caspius</i>	One by the Pesani road

AMPHIBIANS

Smooth newt *Triturus vulgaris*
Common toad *Bufo bufo*
Balkan stream frog *Rana graeca*
Marsh frog *Rana ridibunda*

Common frog *Rana temporaria*

Two in a stream near the Diavolorema river
 One in Dadia village
 By the Diavolorema river
 Heard daily; seen behind the Ecotourism Centre and in the Diavolorema river
 One near Dadia

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*
Scarce swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius*
Eastern festoon *Zerynthia cerisyi*
Large white *Pieris brassicae*
Small white *Artogeia rapae*
Green-veined white *Artogeia napi*
Eastern Bath white *Pontia edusa*
Orange tip *Anthocharis cardamines*
Clouded yellow *Colias crocea*
Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*
Wood white *Leptidia sinapis*
Green hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*
Small copper *Lycaena phlaeas*
Grecian copper *Heodes ottomanus*
Small (Little) blue *Cupido minimus*

Green-underside blue *Glaucopsyche alexis*
Brown argus *Aricia agestis*
Common blue *Polyommatus icarus*
Camberwell beauty *Nymphalis antiopa*
Small tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*
Large tortoiseshell *Nymphalis polychloros*
Red admiral *Vanessa atalanta*
Painted lady *Vanessa cardui*
Queen of Spain fritillary *Issoria lathonia*
Glanville fritillary *Melitaea cinxia*
Marsh fritillary *Eurodryas aurina*
Comma *Polygonia c-album*
Speckled wood *Pararge aegeria*
Small heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*
Wall brown *Lasiommata megera*

MOTHS

Pine hawk-moth *Hyloicus pinastri*
Cream-spot tiger *Arctia villica*

Pine processionary moth *Thaumetopoea pytiocampa*
Speckled yellow *Pseudopanthera macularia*

OTHER INSECTS

Red-winged grasshopper *Oedipoda germanica*
Field cricket *Gryllus campestris*
Egyptian locust *Anacridium aegyptium*
Friiled mantis *Empusa fasciata*
Ascalaphid *Libelloides sp*
Hornet *Vespa crabro*

Paper wasp *Polistes gallicus*
Violet carpenter bee *Xylocopa violacea*
Flower chafer *Oxythyrea funesta*
Longhorn beetle *Cerambycidae*
Dung beetle *Scarabaeus sp*
Rose chafer *Cetonia aurata*

OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Roman snail *Helix pomatia*

Red jumping spider *Philaeus chrysops*



The Ecotourism Centre at Dadia

PLANTS

The list is largely of species seen in flower, 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 filiculoides</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 Ecocentre and in the shelter of bushes on Blue Rock Hill, Pesani road	D, DP
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	d: on dry soils around Ecocentre and 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 ssp brutia</i>	Calabrian Pine	ld - co-d: in Dadia Forest	DF
<i>Pinus nigra ssp 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: Pistacio 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 Ecocentre and Dadia village; la: conspicuous component of the scrub along Pesani road	D, DP
<i>Rhus coriaria</i>	Sumac	la: roadside between Ecocentre 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 Ecocentre; 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
<i>Aristolochia rotunda</i>	A Birthwort	o: beside Diavolorema river, near the bridge	DA

Apocynaceae: Periwinkle Family

<i>Vinca herbacea</i>	Herbaceous Periwinkle	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Vinca major</i>	Great Periwinkle	o: just below radio mast	DLK

Asclepiadaceae: Milkweeds

<i>Periploca graeca</i>	Silk-Vine	l: dark purple-flowered climber on bushes, 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>Carduus macrocephalus</i>	Nodding Thistle	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>Crepis rubra</i>	Pink Hawk's Beard	o: grassland in Loutros Hills	L
<i>Rhagadiolus stellatus</i>	Star Hawkbit	o: track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Scorzonera hirsuta</i>	Hairy Viper's Grass	la: rocky meadow below radio mast	DLK
<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 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
<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	Hop Hornbeam	o: woodland beside track to Diavolorema river	DA
Boraginaceae: Borage Family			
<i>Alkanna lehmanii</i>	Dyer's Alkanet	o: alkaline grassland; Loutros	D, L
<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Bugloss	la: meadow beside track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Cerinthe glabra</i>	Cerinthe	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum</i>	Purple Gromwell	o: beside track to Diavolorema river	DA, DF
<i>Neotostoma apulum</i>	Yellow Gromwell	o: dry grassland; Loutros Hills	D, L
<i>Nonea pulla</i>	Nonea	o: field margin beside Diavolorema river	DA
<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 Comfrey	o: beside track to Diavolorema river; Pesani Bridge	DA, DP
Brassicaceae (Cruciferae): Crucifers			
<i>Alyssum corymbosum</i>	An Alyssum	o: firebreaks and tracksides	D
<i>Alyssum saxatile</i>	An Alyssum	la: scree below radio mast	DLK
<i>Alyssum sibiricum</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; Loutros	DA, L
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary Cress	o: roadsides and waste places; la: tracksides in delta area	DA, E
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse	o: track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	Flixweed	o: grassland and waste places	DA, E
Buxaceae: Box			
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	o: in woodland understory; la: Loutros Hills	DF, L
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 Ecocentre	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 coronaria</i>	Rose Campion	o: roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Lychnis viscaria ssp. atropurpurea</i>	Sticky Catchfly	o: roadside below radio mast; bedside Pesani Bridge	DLK, DP
<i>Minuartia greuteriana</i>	A Sandwort	RDB la: rocky hillside between Ecocentre and Dadia village	D
<i>Moenchia mantica</i>	A Chickweed	la: rocky hillside below Ecocentre	DA
<i>Kholrauschia velutina</i>	Kholrauschia	f: dry grassland; rocky habitats	D, DLK, L
<i>Paronychia manfrediana</i>	Paronychia	RDB f: dry, rocky habitats, often on rocks; Blue Rock Hill	DP
<i>Scleranthus perennis</i>	Perennial Knawel	la: scree slope near radio mast; o: open woodland tracks near Ecocentre	DLK, D

<i>Silene alba</i>	White Campion	a: roadsides	DA
<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly	a: dry sandy and rocky habitats	D, L
<i>Silene cretica</i>	Cretan Catchfly	lunch place on Pesani road	DP
<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 Ecocentre	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
<i>Fumana arabica</i>	A Fumana	o: rocky hillside between the Ecocentre and Dadia village	DF
<i>Helianthemum hymettium</i>	A rockrose	Streamside below radio mast	DLK

Clusiaceae (Hypericaceae): St John's-worts

<i>Hypericum cerastoides</i>	A St John's-wort	o: rocky hillside between Ecocentre and Dadia village; track to Diavolorema river	DF, DA
<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; Pesani road	DLK, L, DP

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, DLK

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; Blue Rock Hill	DLK, DP
<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>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	o: field beside track to Diavolorema river	DA
<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>	A broad-leaved Glaucous Spurge	f: among rocks Loutros Hills	L
<i>Euphorbia seguierana</i>	Seguier's Spurge	la: widespread on roadsides and in grassland	D

Fabaceae (Leguminosae): Pea Family, Legumes

<i>Bisserula pelicinus</i>	Bisserula	o: rocky scree beside Kapsalo road	DLK
<i>Chamaecytisus hirsutus</i>	Hairy Broom	o: woodland edges beside track to Diavolorema river; below radio mast	DA, DLK
<i>Colutea arborescens</i>	Bladder Senna	o: roadsides in Dadia area	DA
<i>Coronilla emerus</i>	Shrubby Scorpion-Vetch	r: woodland edges beside Pesani road	DP
<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	f: tracksides on delta	E
<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	Cockscomb Sainfoin	o: dry grassland around Dadia and in the Loutros Hills	D, L
<i>Ononis natrix</i>	Large Yellow Rest-Harrow	o: track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Pisum sativum ssp elatius</i>	Wild Pea	roadside near Lefkimi	DLK
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	o: 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 near Doriskos	D, DF
Fumariaceae: Fumitory Family			
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Fumitory	o: beside track to Diavolorema river	DA
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: disturbed ground	DA; E
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	la: Pesani Bridge	DP
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	o: disturbed ground	DA; E
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	o: waysides and track sides	DA
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill	o: beside track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Geranium sangiuneum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	o: roadsides in Dadia area and near Lefkimi	D, DLK
Globulariaceae: Globularia Family			
<i>Globularia puncta</i>	A Globularia	r: beside the Pesani road	DP
Lamiaceae (Labiatae): Deadnettle Family, Labiates			
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine	o: arable weed in Diavolorema valley	DA
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Blue bugle	la: meadow near track to Diavolorema; la: Pesani Bridge	DA, DF, DP
<i>Ajuga laxmanii</i>	A large cream-flowered bugle	roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Lamium garganicum</i>	A deadnettle	r: large patch below radio mast	DLK
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted deadnettle	r: 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>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>Loranthus europaeus</i>	Loranthus	on <i>Quercus petraea</i> beside Pesani road	DP
<i>Viscum sp</i> TBD	Mistletoe	on <i>Populus sp</i> in Diavolorema valley	DA
Malvaceae: Mallows			
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Least mallow	o: track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common mallow	f: widespread in waysides and rough ground	DA, E
Moraceae: Fig Family			
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	f: around Dadia village and on the delta	DA, E
<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; Loutros Hills; Pesani road	DA, DP, DLK, L
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	o: in forest understorey	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</i>	Wild Peony	o: roadside below radio mast; o: beside Pesani road	DLK, DP
Papaveraceae: Poppy Family			
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy	o: grassland	DA, L, E
<i>P?albiflorum</i> TBD	A White Poppy	r: calcareous grassland on Loutros Hills	L
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 gmelinii</i>	Sea Lavender	f-lid: saltmarshes and beside lagoons	E
Polygalaceae: Milkworts			
<i>Polygala comosa</i>	Tufted milkwort	o: dry rocky grassland	D, DLK
<i>Polygala nicaensis</i>	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 Ecocentre and Dadia village	DD
Rafflesiaceae: Rafflesia Family			
<i>Cytinus</i>		R: beneath Cistus bushes below radio mast	DLK
Ranunculaceae: Buttercup Family			
<i>Adonis sp</i> TBD	Pheasant's-eye	f: cornfield weed	E
<i>Anemone blanda</i>	Anemone	track to Diavolorema river	DA
<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; beside track to Diavolorema river	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 Ecocentre	D
<i>Ranunculus ?lanuginosus?</i> TBD	(Trifoliate with linear leaflets, hairy, but reflexed sepals)	r: woodland edge near Ecocentre	D
<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	A buttercup	o: in woodland close to the Ecocentre	D
<i>Ranunculus muricatus</i>	A buttercup	la: by stream on track to Diavolorema river	DA
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Crowfoot	r: beside stream below Pesani bridge	DP
<i>Ranunculus velutinus</i>	A buttercup	o: beside 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 by track to Diavolorema river; by Pesani bridge	DA, DP
<i>Eriolobus trilobatus</i>	Eriolobus	RDB; a few trees in woodland beside Pesani road	DP
<i>Fragaria viridis</i>	Wild Strawberry	o: beside track to Diavolorema river	DA
<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, DLK
<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>	Almond-leaved pear	o: single trees or bushes beside the road	D, L, DLK
<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>	White beam	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; Blue Rock Hill	E, DP
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>Populus tremulus</i>	Aspen	a: in light woodland	D
<i>Salix alba</i>	White willow	o: 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 thapsus</i>	Great mullein	o: roadsides	D
<i>Verbascum undulatum</i>	A mullein	f: roadsides; f: dykes in Delta	D, F
<i>Veronica austriaca v. austriaca</i>	Large speedwell	r: roadside near Doriskos	D
Tamaricaceae: Tamarisk Family			
<i>Tamarix hampeana</i>	Tamarisk	d-a: Evros delta	E
<i>Tamarix smyrnensis</i>	Tamarisk	o: Evros delta	E
<i>Tamarix tetrandra</i>	Tamarisk	o: Evros delta	E
Tiliaceae: Lime Family			
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver lime	f: woods below radio mast	DLK
Ulmaceae: Elm Family			
<i>Ulmus canescens</i>	Elm	la: hedgerows around Dadia village and on track to Diavolorema river	DA
Urticaceae: Nettles			
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle	la: 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
<i>Viola sp</i>	A large blue violet	r: roadside below radio mast	DLK
MONOCOTYLEDONS			
Araceae: Arum Family			
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon arum	r: by river below radio mast near Lefkimi; Blue Rock Hill	DLK, DP
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 Ecocentre and Dadia village; below radio mast; dry rocky places elsewhere	D, DLK
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow flag	la: in dyke beside Drana Lagoon	E
<i>Iris sintenisii</i>	An iris	beside track to Diavolorema river	DA

Juncaceae: Rush Family			
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp rush	f-lid: close to water	E
Liliaceae: Lily Family			
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow asphodel	roadside below radio mast	DLK
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Asphodel	f: forest clearings	DF
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White asphodel	f: Loutros Hills; grassland on the Pesani road	DF, DP, L
<i>Fritillaria pontica</i>	A Fritillary	r: several in a patch on the rocky hillside above the road below the radio mast	DLK
<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; beside the Diavolorema river	DLK, DP, DA
<i>Polygonatum sp</i>	Soloman's Seal	r: road verge below radio mast	
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom	o: forest understory; o: track to Diavolorema river	DA, DF
<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i>	Wild tulip	la: road verge below radio mast	DLK
Orchidaceae: Orchids			
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White helleborine		DLK
<i>Cephalanthera epipactoides</i>	A white helleborine	RDB r extensive patch on road below radio mast	
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved helleborine	r: grassy area beside Pesani road	DLK
<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>	Red helleborine	single plant on road below radio mast	
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet bird's-nest-orchid	o: in forest	DF
<i>Ophrys mammosa</i>	Mammose orchid	r: small group on road verge below radio mast; verge beside Pesani road; Blue Rock Hill	DLK, DP
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady orchid	roadside below the radio mast	DLK
<i>Orchis sp (TBD)</i>		la: 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 Ecocentre	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; dykes in delta	DA, E
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's foot	a: agricultural grassland, woodland rides near Ecocentre	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

FOOTNOTE

Ref: the abstract to the paper '*Paronychia manfrediana* (Caryophyllaceae), a new species from northeast Greece' by Kit Tan & Arne Strid, published in Phytologia Balcanica vol 14(1), January 2008.

Paronychia manfrediana (Caryophyllaceae) was recognised as a species new to science in 2008, based on material collected near the Turkish border in northeastern Greece. Although belonging to *Paronychia* sect. *Heterosepalae* it bears a strong resemblance to *P. macedonica* (*Paronychia* sect. *Anoplonychia*), differing by its leaves with prominent midvein beneath, the number of stipules (four) at each node and the outer surface of the sepal which is completely glabrous or adpressed-pubescent only in the upper part. In *P. macedonica*, the leaf midvein is not as conspicuous, there are two stipules at each node and the entire outer surface of the sepal is densely sericeous. The leaves of *P. capitata* and *P. macrosepala*, both in sect. *Heterosepalae*, differ in being strongly scabrid-hirsute and densely sericeous respectively.

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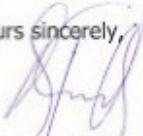
Dear Mr. Durdin,

I would like to thank you and the rest of the crew at Honeyguide for your recent donation of € 580 in support of our work in the Dadia Forest Project. We particularly appreciate your ongoing support during these difficult times for all of us.

It is with great pleasure that we are finally able to send you something that I believe you will appreciate - especially as it is not in Greek *and* it relates to the Dadia Forest! The brand new book entitled "The Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest National Park, Greece: Biodiversity, Management and Conservation" has been edited by two experts in the field, who also work as scientific advisors to our project and it is the first integrated edition of its kind on the Dadia Forest. I believe you will find it interesting!

Please extend our thanks to all those at Honeyguide who contribute towards our cause. We are humbled and deeply inspired by your continued commitment.

Yours sincerely,


Demetres Karavellias
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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