

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Lesvos
23 – 30 September 2010

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Holiday participants

Sue Davy
Norman Sheppard
Robert Lyndon
Barbara Priest

Leader

Rob Lucking

Our hosts at Madonna Studios in Vatera (pictured below): Dimitra & Vaios Balkizas.

www.vatera-lesvos.co.uk

Report by Rob Lucking.

Photos by Robert Lyndon, except cover shot of flamingos at Kalloni salt pans by Nick Upton.



As with all Honeyguide holidays, £35 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case to Friends of Green Lesbos, who are involved in the future of the salt pans at Polichnitos and Kalloni. The conservation contribution this year of £35 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, and a total of £170 given to John Bowers for Friends of Green Lesbos.

The total for conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays since 1991 was at £67,114 at the end of September 2010.

Lesvos
23 – 30 September 2010

Itinerary

Thursday 23 September

Morning flight from Gatwick to Mytilene and transfer to Vatera.
After lunch, birding around Polichnitos salt pans.

Friday 24 September

Morning walk along the Vourkos river at the eastern end of Vatera Bay.
After lunch, birding around Polichnitos salt pans.

Saturday 25 September

Morning in Achladeri pine woods via Agia Pavlos.
Afternoon: lunch in Agiassos followed by birding in woodland above Agiassos.

Sunday 26 September

Morning: Kalloni salt pans and drive to north coast.
Afternoon: north coast and drive back via Napi Valley.

Monday 27 September

Morning: drive to Petrified Forest Museum at Sigri.
Afternoon at Petrified Forest Park, Ipsilou Monastery and Kalloni salt pans.

Tuesday 28 September

Morning: Agia Fokas and Palia Vigla.
Afternoon: Skala Vasilkon and Polichnitos salt pans.

Wednesday 29 September

Morning: Kalloni salt pans.
Afternoon: Kremasti bridge, Skala Kalloni area, Kalloni salt pans again.

Thursday 30 September

Drive to Mytilene airport and return home.

Daily diary

Thursday 23 September

The group, minus Sue who was meeting us in Lesvos, met up at Gatwick Airport for our early morning check-in. The outward flight had to detour around France due to the French air traffic control strike but made good time, arriving at Mytilene more or less on schedule. We collected our luggage, met up with Sue who had arrived from Athens a couple of hours earlier, and were soon on our way to Vatera in a more luxurious minibus than we were used to!

After a substantial lunch of Greek salad, meatballs and rice at Madonna Studios, we loaded the minibus and headed off to the nearby Polichnitos salt pans.



Norman on the beach at Vatera

The first waders we saw were single greenshank and redshank, two spotted redshanks and three Kentish plovers. A distant short-toed eagle hung motionless in the air. A dark circling object turned out to be a black stork and we watched it as it made rapid progress towards the salt pans. A single spotted flycatcher was seen catching flies from a fence. Moving on, we discovered that the black stork had joined four others, along with three grey herons and a great white egret. Smaller waders were thin on the ground but we did find eleven Mediterranean gulls along with two distant Sandwich terns.

By now, the light was going so we made one final stop to look at three spoonbills and a small flock of 22 greater flamingos. A large flock of 50+ corn buntings was impressive and a pair of stonechats and juvenile northern wheatear rounded the day off nicely.

After a wash and brush up we headed out to Maria's Taverna for the first of many memorable Greek meals. We were joined by the local wildlife with an Egyptian locust and house cricket flying in to the veranda. On the way back to Madonna Studios, a mustelid crossed the road in front of us – a beech marten!

Friday 24 September

Our first full day on Lesvos dawned clear and settled. A pre-breakfast wander along the beach yielded little, with just a couple of spotted flycatchers, chiffchaff, great tits and the usual hooded crows and collared doves.

After breakfast we drove the short distance down to the mouth of the Vourkos River at the eastern end of Vatera Bay, stopping en route to admire clumps of the autumn-flowering sea daffodil growing along the beach crest. The first of several Sardinian warblers was watched foraging along the edge of the river and we watched stripe-necked terrapins and some unidentified frogs in the river's terminal pool just behind the beach.

Walking down the track past the abandoned hotel project we saw several hummingbird hawk-moths feeding on Vervain flowers and a blue rock thrush flew over. Migrant birds were thin on the ground with just a few spotted flycatchers in the olive groves and a single swallow heading purposefully south. Wood grayling, mallow skipper and painted lady were new butterflies for the trip and we started the Odonata list with Eastern willow emerald *Lestes parvidens* and red-veined darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii*.

A small chapel provided an idea lunch spot with several shady benches. While eating lunch we heard and then briefly saw a middle spotted woodpecker. Walking back to the minibus we saw two common buzzards and a clouded yellow butterfly.

After lunch we paid a return visit to the Polichnitos saltpans, this time parking at the entrance and walking along the beach side of the pans. Eleven spotted redshanks fed in one of the nearer pans with a solitary greenshank. Other waders were few and far between but small numbers of chiffchaffs and several very confident willow warblers were all migrants on the move. A rest at the abandoned salt works proved fruitful with 22 whiskered terns (nine adults and thirteen juveniles) flying past and later returning to perch obligingly on the old jetty with the resident shags.

Beyond the salt works we saw a single black stork. Spoonbills had dropped to two but there were two great white egrets and six grey herons. The highlight however was two slender-billed gulls feeding in one of the pans.

Tonight's meal, being Friday, was fish, dominated with taramasalata for starters and grilled grey mullet. Desert was ice cream.

Saturday 25 September

Another settled day with a plenty of sun and a light southerly breeze.

We drove the scenic route from Vatera to the pine woods at Achladeri via the little fishing harbour of Agia Pavlos. After a missed turn in Vasilika we were soon pointed in the right direction by the friendly locals and back on the coastal track. Two juvenile red-backed shrikes were the first of the trip with a single spotted flycatcher and ten swallows. In the small harbour of Agia Pavlos we enjoyed good views of Mediterranean gulls in varying plumages and were easily able to pick out the key identification features separating them from black-headed gulls. A common sandpiper feeding along the edge of the gulf was a new species for the holiday.

The pinewoods at Achladeri (below, left) were very quiet, with plenty of great tits and chaffinches but no sign of the hoped-for Krüper's nuthatch. A cirl bunting called from within the woodland and some recompense was gained by superb close views of a short-toed eagle carrying an unfortunate snake in its bill.



We then made our way to the mountain village of Agiassos (above, right), parking at the bottom of the village and walking past the shops selling ceramics, religious icons and other touristy items to the top of the village for our

traditional taverna lunch. We were fed splendidly with local deep-fried cheese, local sausage, fried aubergine, meatballs, white beans and, of course, Greek salad with feta.

We wandered back down through Agiassos, stopping at Manos's famous bakery for further supplies, and some of the group looked around the church of Panayia Vrefokratoussa which, according to Dimitra, was in its third incarnation as the previous two burnt down.

Back at the minibus we drove to the north of Agiassos past the old Sanatorium to continue our quest for Krüper's nuthatch in the mixed pine and sweet chestnut woodland. Again the woods were very quiet but we were distracted by some magnificent displays of autumn crocus and the supplies from the bakery. Just as panic was starting to set in, a Krüper's nuthatch finally flew into a pine tree just behind a concrete water tank and almost as if to apologise for making us wait so long, stayed motionless for a good few minutes so that we could enjoy lovely views of this diminutive little nuthatch.

On the way back to the minibus we had a quick chat with an illegal immigrant (very charming lad) and exchanged the remains of our cakes for some apple and walnuts with a local farmer Robert and Norman had befriended!

Maria was busy tonight with a full house – clearly Saturday night is when the locals go out for dinner! Dinner tonight was white bean soup followed by tomatoes and green peppers stuffed with rice.

Sunday 26 September

Pre-breakfast walkers recorded a range of interesting species – twenty red-backed shrikes and two hobbies from Barbara, a peregrine from Sue and a marsh harrier from Rob.

After breakfast we loaded the minibus with our packed lunch and headed over to the salt pans at Skala Kalloni. These salt pans are much larger than those at Polychnitos and still managed on a commercial basis. Usually in the autumn they are not as good as Polichnitos but this time the Kalloni pans held a good array of species. In one of the first lagoons was a large flock of 286 avocets with hundreds of greater flamingos in the distance. We also picked up no fewer than eight stone-curlews along one of the low banks that separate the pans. Heading further along, in the corner of salt pans, was a small flock of waders. Most were redshanks but to our delight we picked out two marsh sandpipers, two wood sandpipers, a single ruff, eight little stints and a red-necked phalarope, the last being a very rare Lesvos bird with only around ten records. Unfortunately the new hide, generously paid for by the EU was firmly locked! Rob got a bit cross.

A quick stop at a viewpoint on the road from Kalloni to Petra revealed a single dark-phase Eleonora's falcon, a short-toed eagle and a sparrowhawk.

A lunch stop in the town of Molivos revealed a kingfisher on the edge of the harbour (good find, Barbara) with a hobby from the coastal track along the north coast east of Molivos. A drink/ice cream/toilet stop in the picturesque village of Skala Sikaminias was appreciated by all!

We returned to Vatera via the Napi Valley where a couple of productive stops produced our first western rock nuthatch, raven, black-eared wheatear, middle spotted woodpecker, red-backed shrike, woodlark and best of all, a pair of sombre tits and a Persian squirrel.

Dinner tonight was stuffed vines leaves followed by moussaka.

Monday 27 September

An earlier breakfast than usual today owing to the long journey to the far west of the island. Our departure was however delayed by a fine juvenile red-footed falcon perched obligingly on the wires behind the Madonna Studios (enhanced digiscoped view, right).

The journey over to Sigrí was long and slow as we were stuck behind an army convoy with no safe over-taking opportunities. Fortunately we lost the convoy following a few impromptu stops for birds. The first stop was for a distant long-legged buzzard that didn't hang about – frustrating! A second stop between the villages of Filia and Skalachori was much more productive with a flock of 20+ bee-eaters and another two sombre tits.



At Sigrí we parked up outside the Petrified Forest Museum and saw two distant lesser kestrels. We then visited the excellent Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest where we learned about one of the world's

most important geological sites, where volcanic activity in the Aegean area 20m years ago fossilised and preserved the forest that covered the area at the time.

We had lunch at the Petrified Forest Park, where we were surrounded by friendly cats, followed by short walk. During the heat of the day birds weren't very active but we enjoyed good views of a western rock nuthatch feeding just outside the visitor shelter. Reptiles were rather more active and we saw our first starred agama lizards.

Bidding the cats a fond farewell we started on our journey home, en route stopping at Ipsilou Monastery. A cypress and adjacent fig tree were full of migrant passerines, with willow warblers, blackcaps, lesser whitethroats and spotted flycatchers all busily feeding up for their onward flight. A big female peregrine flew over and we all enjoyed watching a fine Persian squirrel detaching acorns from a Valonia oak tree.

As we were driving past anyway, we stopped in at the Kalloni Salt Pans where there was a similar selection of waders as yesterday, with the red-necked phalarope still present and more little stints compared with our previous visit. New species for the list were two little ringed plovers and a whinchat feeding among a flock of more than 30 blue-headed wagtails.

Dinner tonight was stifado – beef cooked long and slow in a tomato sauce.

Tuesday 28 September

After yesterday's long drive we stayed a bit more local today and started off at the nearby headland of Agia Fokas. The bridge over the Almiropotamus River gave us a new species for the trip list – moorhen – but the river itself was very choked with reeds making viewing very difficult.

The sea off Agia Fokas was very quiet with only a few yellow-legged gulls and a single, distant Yelkouan shearwater to show for our troubles. Recompense was found though in the shape of two blue rock thrushes.

The gentle south-westerly wind was ideal for raptor migration so we headed up to the nearby chapel of Palia Vigla with its good views to the north up the Almiropotamus Valley. Already there was local birder Terry Robinson and a friend, who reported little raptor movement yet. Almost immediately we saw a common kestrel with two short-toed eagles and two common buzzards in the distance. Sue got some good photos of scarce swallowtail. Three more common buzzards, presumably migrants, made their way down the valley as did a female sparrowhawk, and two red-footed falcons, one a male, shot through quickly. A constant procession of swallows moved south, along with a single sand martin and four house martins.



Kentish plover



Mediterranean gulls

After lunch we moved back down to the coast and paid a return visit to Skala Vasilikon. We fed our left-over rolls to the mixed flock of Mediterranean and black-headed gulls and recorded another new species for the list – jackdaw!

An ice cream stop beckoned, and after drawing a blank at one of the local tavernas we finally found what we were after at one of the roadside kiosks in Polychnitos.

A late afternoon visit to the Polichnitos Salt pans revealed an increase in spoonbill numbers to six. A peregrine chased the few waders on the pans and a mystery duck refused to wake up and be identified!

Dinner tonight was pork chop and we all agreed that it was tastiest pork we had eaten for a long time!

Wednesday 29 September

Our last day and we decided on a return visit to the Kalloni Salt pans, this time exploring the eastern track. We started in the hide overlooking the pans and counted a minimum of 500 greater flamingos feeding in one of the central pans. The hide was an interesting design with the viewing slits too high for the seats but it did give an excellent panoramic view over the salt pans and contained an interesting interpretive panel showing how the salt pans are operated.

Walking down the track towards the beach it was noticeable that the number of herons was much higher along this side of the salt pans with an impressive 59 grey herons, 18 great white egrets, five spoonbills and five black storks.

Three whinchats perched on fence posts alongside the track and our first and only curlew of the holiday roosted among the shags on the pans. A surprise was just round the corner when an osprey was found perched on the chain link fence surrounding the saltworks proper. Whilst watching the osprey, four Eleonora's falcons barrelled through, followed by a peregrine.

We ate our lunch by the old bridge at Kremastes and then made our way through the olive groves, rejoining the Petra to Kalloni road.

We stopped briefly on the outskirts of Skala Kalloni where a pair of white storks fed in a field of alfalfa, before making our way into the village itself for a coffee/ice cream stop.

A final look at the Kalloni Salt pans on the way back to Vatera revealed 360 avocets, around 40 little stints, five garganey, a single ringed plover and 20 dunlin.

Dinner tonight was a meze of Greek specialities including fried thin slices of aubergine, octopus, meatballs, deep-fried cheese (good for the cholesterol!) and, of course, Greek salad.

Thursday 30 September

A leisurely breakfast followed by loading the minibus for our return home. We bid farewell to Dimitra and Vaios, exceptional hosts as usual, and made our way to the airport. The traffic in Mytilene was chaotic as usual but somehow we made it through and arrived at the airport in good time. We checked in our bags without delay and then grabbed a coffee to drink outside whilst we waited for our flight to be called. As proper Honeyguiders, our wildlife watching doesn't end at the airport and Sue picked out a magnificent two-tailed pasha butterfly in one of the roadside trees.

Eventually our flight was called and we bade farewell to Sue who had a little while longer to wait for her flight to Athens. The return flight to Gatwick was uneventful and we arrived home just in time to do battle with the rush hour traffic!



Polychnitos salt pans

Systematic lists

BIRDS

Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	15 Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept; 18 Polichnitos Salt pans 24 Sept; 23 Polichnitos Salt pans 28 Sept; 25 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	8 Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept; 6 Polichnitos Salt pans 28 Sept
Great White Egret <i>Egretta alba</i>	1 Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept; 2 Polichnitos Salt pans 24 Sept; 1 Kalloni Salt pans 26 Sept; 3 Kalloni Salt pans 26 Sept; 18 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	3 Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept; 6 Polichnitos Salt pans 24 Sept; 1 Kalloni Salt pans 26 Sept; Polichnitos Salt pans 28 Sept; 59 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Purple heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	1 Kalloni Salt pans 26 Sept
Black Stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	5 Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept; 1 Polichnitos Salt pans 24 Sept; 4 Kalloni Salt pans 26 Sept; 1 Polichnitos Salt pans 28 Sept; 5 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	2 nr Skala Kalloni 29 Sept
Spoonbill <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	3 Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept; 2 Polichnitos Salt pans 24 Sept; 6 Polichnitos Salt pans 28 Sept; 5 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	22 Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept; ca. 500 Kalloni Salt pans 26 Sept; 17 Polichnitos Salt pans 28 Sept; ca 500 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>	5 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Short-toed Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1 Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept; 1 Achladeri 25 Sept; 2 Palia Vigla Chapel 28 Sept; 1 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1 Vatera 26 Sept; 1 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1 Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept; 1 between Kalloni & Petra 26 Sept; 1 Palia Vigla Chapel 28 Sept; 1 Kremasti Bridge 29 Sept
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	2 Vourkos River Valley 24 Sept; 2 above Agiassos 25 Sept; 1 Grand Canyon 27 Sept; 3 Palia Vigla Chapel 28 Sept
Long-legged buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	1 distant bird near Filia 27 Sept
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	2 Sigri 27 Sept
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1 Petrified Forest 27 Sept; 1 Palia Vigla Chapel 28 Sept
Red-footed Falcon <i>Falco vespertinus</i>	1 Vatera 27 Sept; 2 Palia Vigla Chapel 28 Sept
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2 Vatera & 1 between Molivos & Skala Sikiminia 26 Sept; 1 Vatera 27 Sept
Eleonora's Falcon <i>Falco eleonora</i>	1 between Kalloni & Petra 26 Sept; 4 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrines</i>	1 Vatera 26 Sept; 1 Ipsilou Monastery 27 Sept; 1 Polichnitos Salt pans 28 Sept; 1 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Chukar <i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Heard Petrified Forest 27 Sept
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1 Almiropotamus River bridge 28 Sept
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	4 Almiropotamus River bridge 28 Sept; 1 nr Agios Pavlos 29 Sept
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	288 Kalloni Salt pans 26 Sept; 360 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oedichnemus</i>	8 Kalloni Salt pans 26 Sept
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	2 Kalloni Salt pans 27 Sept; 7 Polichnitos Salt pans 28 Sept; 2 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	1 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	10+ Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept; 5 Polichnitos Salt pans 24 Sept; 5 Kalloni Salt pans 26 & 27 Sept; 10+ Polichnitos Salt pans 28 Sept; ca 30 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	2+ Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept; 8 Kalloni Salt pans 26 Sept; ca 40 Kalloni Salt pans 27 Sept; 1 Polichnitos Salt pans 28 Sept; 40 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	1 Polichnitos Salt pans 24 Sept; 4 Kalloni Salt pans 27 Sept; 1 Polichnitos Salt pans 28 Sept; 20 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	2+ Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	1 Kalloni Salt pans 26 Sept; 2 Kalloni Salt pans 29 Sept

Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	1 Kalloni Saltpans 29 Sept
Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>	11 Polichnitos Saltpans 23 Sept; 11 Polichnitos Saltpans 24 Sept; 5 Kalloni Saltpans 26 Sept
Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i>	5 Polichnitos Saltpans 23 Sept; 1 Polichnitos Saltpans 24 Sept; 35 Kalloni Saltpans 26 Sept; 30+ Polichnitos Saltpans 28 Sept; ca 30 Kalloni Saltpans 29 Sept
Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	2 Kalloni Saltpans 26 Sept; 1 Kalloni Saltpans 27 Sept
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1 Polichnitos Saltpans 23 Sept; 1 Polichnitos Saltpans 24 Sept; 1 Kalloni Saltpans 27 Sept; 7 Polichnitos Saltpans 28 Sept; 2 Kalloni Saltpans 29 Sept
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	2 Kalloni Saltpans 26 Sept; 2 Kalloni Saltpans 29 Sept
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1 nr Agios Pavlos 25 Sept; 1 Kalloni Saltpans 26 Sept
Red-necked phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1 Kalloni saltpans 26 & 27 Sept
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	12 Polichnitos Saltpans 23 Sept; 23 Polichnitos Saltpans 24 Sept; 19 Agios Pavlos 25 Sept; 35 Agios Pavlos & 30 Polichnitos Saltpans 28 Sept
Little Gull <i>Larus minutus</i>	1 Kalloni Saltpans 26 & 27 Sept
Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	5 Polichnitos Saltpans 23 Sept; 10 Polichnitos Saltpans 24 Sept; 5 Agios Pavlos 25 Sept; ca 50 Kalloni Saltpans 26 & 27 Sept; 5 Agios Pavlos & 30 Polichnitos Saltpans 28 Sept
Slender-billed Gull <i>Larus genei</i>	2 Polichnitos Saltpans 24 Sept
Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus cachinnans michahellis</i>	Seen daily. Common throughout the island.
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	2 Polichnitos Saltpans 23 Sept
Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	22 Polichnitos Saltpans 24 Sept
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Common throughout
Middle Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	1 Vourkos River Valley 24 Sept; heard Achladeri 25 Sept; 1 Napi Valley 26 Sept; 1 Grand Canyon 27 Sept; 1 heard Palia Vigla Chapel 28 Sept
Crested Lark <i>Galerida cristata</i>	Seen daily. Abundant throughout the island.
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	1 Vourkos River Valley 24 Sept; 4 Napi Valley 26 Sept; 1 Petrified Forest 27 Sept
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	1 Palia Vigla Chapel 28 Sept
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	2 Polichnitos Saltpans 23 Sept; 1 Vourkos River Valley 24 Sept; 10 nr Agios Pavlos 25 Sept, many moving south from Palia Vigla Chapel 28 Sept
House Martin <i>Delichon urbica</i>	4 Palia Vigla Chapel 28 Sept
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava ssp.</i>	1 Polichnitos Saltpans 23 Sept. 30+ Kalloni Saltpans 27 Sept
White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	Several Polichnitos Saltpans 23 Sept; 1 Vourkos River Valley 24 Sept; several Kalloni saltpans 26 Sept
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	2 heard above Agiassos 25 Sept
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1 above Agiassos 25 Sept
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1 Kalloni Saltpans 27 Sept; 1 Vatera 28 Sept; 3 Kalloni Saltpans 29 Sept
Stonechat <i>Saxicola torquata</i>	2 Polichnitos Saltpans 23 Sept; 1 Agios Pavlos & 5 Polichnitos Saltpans 28 Sept
Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	1 juv Polichnitos Saltpans 23 Sept; 1 nr Agios Pavlos 25 Sept; 1 Kalloni Saltpans 26 Sept; 1 Kalloni Saltpans 27 Sept; 1 Polichnitos Saltpans 28 Sept; 2 Kalloni Saltpans 29 Sept
Black-eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe hispanicus melanoleuca</i>	3 Napi Valley 26 Sept
Blue Rock Thrush <i>Monticola solitaries</i>	1 Vourkos River Valley 24 Sept; 2 Agios Fokas 28 Sept
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	1 nr Skala Polichnitos 23 Sept; 1 Vourkos River Valley 24 Sept; 1 Napi Valley 26 Sept
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	1 Almiropotamus River mouth 28 Sept
Sardinian Warbler <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Several Vourkos River Valley 24 Sept; 2 Almiropotamus River mouth 28 Sept
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	1 Ipsilou Monastery 27 Sept

Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	4 Ipsilou Monastery 27 Sept
Willow warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Seen daily – the commonest passage migrant
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus colybita</i>	Seen daily in small numbers.
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Small numbers seen daily around the island
Blue Tit <i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Small numbers throughout
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	Small numbers throughout
Sombre tit <i>Parus lugubris</i>	2 Napi Valley 26 Sept; 2 between Filia & Skalochori 27 Sept
Kruper's Nuthatch <i>Sitta krueperi</i>	1 above Agiassos 25 Sept
Western Rock Nuthatch <i>Sitta neumayer zarudnyi</i>	1 Napi Valley 26 Sept; 1 Petrified Forest 27 Sept
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	Seen almost daily in small numbers. An early morning count of 20 in Vatera on 26 September was exceptional.
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius atricapillus</i>	Heard Vourkos River Valley 24 Sept; several Achladeri 25 Sept; several Napi Valley 26 Sept; common in the west of the island 27 Sept
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	1 Agios Pavlos 28 Sept
Hooded Crow <i>Corvus cornix</i>	Common throughout
Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	Heard above Agiassos 25 Sept; 3 Napi Valley 26 Sept
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Common throughout
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Several Vourkos River Valley 24 Sept
Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	2 Madonna Studios 23 Sept
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1 Madonna Studios 23 Sept; 2 Vourkos River Valley 24 Sept
Cirl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	1 seen Achladeri, several calling 25 Sept; 1 near Palia Vigla 28 Sept
Corn Bunting <i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Flock of 50-60 Polichnitos Salt pans 23 Sept; 2 Vourkos River Valley 24 Sept

Total – 89 species

MAMMALS

Bat spp. Seen nightly from Taverna Kalamakia	Red Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> Roadside casualty en route to Agiassos 25 Sept
Persian Squirrel <i>Sciurus anomalus</i> Seen in the Napi Valley, Ipsilou Monastery	Beech Marten <i>Martes foina</i> 1 in Vatera 23 Sept

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Balkan (=stripe-necked) Terrapin <i>Mauremys rivulata</i>	Starred Agama <i>Laudakia stellio</i>
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BUTTERFLIES

Scarce Swallowtail <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Large White <i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Woodland grayling <i>Hipparchia fagi</i>
Small White <i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Southern grayling <i>Hipparchia aristaeus</i>
Clouded Yellow <i>Colias crocea</i>	Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Small Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Wall Brown <i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Two-tailed Pasha <i>Charaxes jasius</i>	Lattice Brown <i>Kirnia roxelana</i>
Peacock <i>Inachis io</i>	Mallow Skipper <i>Carcharodus tripolinus</i>
Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	

MOTHS

Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*

DRAGONFLIES

Eastern willow emerald <i>Lestes parvidens</i>	Red-veined darter <i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>
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OTHER INSECTS

Cricket sp. *Gryllus sp.*
Egyptian Locust *Anacridium aegyptium*
Red-winged grasshopper *Oedipoda germanica*

Blue-winged grasshopper *Oedipoda caerulans*
Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocarpa violacea*

PLANTS

Common plants from northern Europe generally omitted.

Trees and shrubs (except those noted in families below)

Calabrian pine *Pinus halepensis ssp. brutia*
Italian cypress *Cupressus sempervirens*
Sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*
Kermes oak *Quercus coccifera*
Valonia oak *Quercus aegilops*

Downy oak *Quercus pubescens*
Fig *Ficus carica*
Oriental plane *Platanus orientalis*
Oleander *Nerium oleander subsp. oleander*
Mediterranean elm *Ulmus canescens*

Fathen family

Glasswort sp. *Salicornia sp.*
Perennial glasswort *Arthrocnemum perenne*

Sea purslane *Halimione portulacoides*
Halocnemum strobilaceum

Aizoon family

Red hottentot fig *Carpobrotus acinaciformis*

Poppies

Yellow-horned poppy *Glaucium flavum*

Rose family

Thorny burnet *Sarcopoterium spinosum*

Mediterranean salad burnet *Poterium*

Almond-leaved pear *Pyrus spinosa (Pyrus amygdaliformis)*

verrucosum [Sanguisorba minor ssp. magnoliifolia]

Pea family

False acacia *Robinia pseudacacia*

Albizia julibrissin

Geranium family

Maltese Cross *Tribulus terrestris*

Spurges

Narrow-leaved glaucous spurge *Euphorbia rigida*

Greek spiny spurge *Euphorbia acanthothamnos*

Pistacio family

Turpentine tree *Pistacia terebinthus.*

Mastic tree *Pistacia lentiscus*

Umbellifers & carrot family

Sea holly *Eryngium maritimum*

Rock samphire *Crithmum maritimum*

Giant fennel *Ferula communis subsp. communis*

Primrose family

Cyclamen sp. Flowering cyclamen at Agiassos were probably *Cyclamen hederifolium*

Thrift family

Winged sea lavender *Limonium sinuatum* *Vatera*

Limonium graecum

Borage family

Heliotrope *Heliotropium europaeum*

Verbena family

Chaste tree *Vitex agnus-castus*

Vervain *Verbena officianalis*

Lantana *Lantana camara*

Composites and daisy family

Carline thistle *Carlina corymbosa*

Woolly thistle *Cirsium eriophorum*

Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*

Picnoman *Picnoman acarna*

Milk thistle *Silybum marianum*

Chicory *Cichorium intybus*

Lily family

Sea daffodil *Pancratium maritimum*

Colchicum bivonae

Grasses, rushes etc

Giant reed *Arundo donax*

Reedmace sp. *Typha sp.*

Common reed *Phragmites australis*

