Eastern Greece
5 – 12 May 2006
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5–12 May 2006 (with Athens extension 12–14 May)
Cambridge RSPB local group

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Front cover: whiskered terns

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year of £25 per person towards WWF Greece’s Dadia Project was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of €224 (£160). This brings the total conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays since 1991 to £43,378 (£60,729) at the end of September 2006. A thank-you letter from WWF Greece is the final page of this holiday report.

Some of the photos that Ivan Nethercoat took on this holiday are in a gallery on Honeyguide’s website: see http://www.honeyguide.co.uk/greece.htm
Itinerary & highlights

Friday 5/5/06 – east bound
Afternoon Olympic Airways flight from London Heathrow at 12:20hrs, arriving Athens 17:55hrs (Greek time).
Drinks and evening meal in Athens airport.
Internal evening flight to Alexandroupolis (‘Alex’) at 21:20hrs, arriving around 22:20hrs. Picked up the minibus at the airport and drove north on Route 95 to the Ecotourism Centre on the edge of Dadia village.

Saturday 6/5/06 – Dadia and the Diavolorema Valley
Morning: relaxing circular walk through Dadia village, downhill through farmland into the Diavolorema River valley, northeast of the village.
Lunch in Dadia at the taverna in the square.
Late afternoon: walk by the Diavolorema River, northeast of the village. Discovered ‘Bunting Corner’!
Evening taverna meal in the village.

Highlights of the day were: spur-thighed tortoise, lesser spotted eagles displaying over the river valley, the diversity of raptors, the migrating storks, waking up to the song of a nightingale, seeing nightingale, black-headed bunting and all the buntings at ‘Bunting Corner’!

Sunday 7/5/06 – vultures and an introduction to the Evros delta
Morning: a visit by bus to the raptor ‘feeding station’, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park.
Afternoon: Anthi lagoons and the beach, Evros Delta, west of the Loutros River.
Evening taverna meal in the village.

Highlights of the day were: ‘marsh’ terns feeding over the lagoons near Anthi, collared pratincole and the roadside rollers.

Monday 8/5/06 – return to the delta
Evros Delta - open arable and scrubby area north of the railway line, the Sarantametros Canal and circuit of Drana Lagoon.
Picnic lunch at Drana Lagoon.
Evening taverna meal in the village.

Highlights of the day were: the large group of waders on Drana Lagoon, the exceedingly cute and fluffy little ringed plover chicks and for the holiday leaders at least, the great spotted cuckoo.

Tuesday 9/5/06 – the peace and tranquillity of Kapsalo
Morning: the high, craggy rocks and radio mast at Kapsalo in Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi.
Picnic lunch.
Afternoon cakes, ice-creams and drinks in Provatonas.
Evening taverna meal in the village.

Highlights of the day were: green lizard, the wild tulips and last but not least, the views
from and the peace and tranquillity of Kapsalo.

**Wednesday 10/5/06 - in the restricted zone Evros Delta.**
Morning: slide presentation by Eleni Makrigianni at the Evros Delta Visitor Centre at Traianoupolis, followed by a lagoon boat trip through the saltmarsh towards the sea and a guided tour of Drana Lagoon and Anthi lagoons.
Picnic lunch.
Afternoon: a guide-free visit to the restricted access, eastern part of the delta, eventually exiting at Feres.
Evening taverna meal in the village.

Highlights of the day were: adult white-tailed eagle carrying food, a marsh harrier ‘food pass’, the perched male Levant sparrowhawk, spotted redshank, bee-eater and for Melvyn and Brenda, the post-evening meal giant peacock moth on the road in Dadia village.

**Thursday 11/5/06 - around Dadia and a trip to ‘Turkish’ Soufli**
Walk through Dadia village, downhill through woodland, scrub and small fields into the Diavolarema River valley, north of Dadia village.
Picnic lunch under the hedge near ‘Shrike Corner’.
Late afternoon: shopping trip into Soufli.
Evening taverna meal in the village.

Highlights of the day were: pallid swifts in Soufli, golden oriole seen from the minibus, Orphean warblers feeding young and a southern white admiral butterfly through the ‘scope.

**Friday 12/5/06 - homeward bound (via an Athens weekend)**
Very early morning: departed Dadia Ecotourism Centre as dawn broke with a thunderstorm, southwards on Route 95 again for a delayed 07:10hrs Olympic Airways flight from Alexandroupolis to Athens. There, Steve and Ivan bid the group a hasty farewell before rushing through transfers, just managing to catch their 09:20hrs onward flight to London Heathrow, leaving behind Andrew, Audrey, Thea, Brenda and Melvyn to enjoy their weekend stay in Athens.

Highlights of the week were: the ‘marsh’ terns at the lagoons near Anthi, the Evros Delta lagoons themselves, ‘thermalling’ white storks, the adult white-tailed eagle carrying food, masked shrike and seeing wild tortoises!
Systematic lists

Birds
English and scientific names and status are based on The Birds of Greece (Handrinos & Akriotis 1997) except under Mediterranean Shearwater and Bonelli’s Warbler which are now considered, following a taxonomic review, to be the distinct species Yelkouan Shearwater Puffinus yelkouan and Eastern Bonelli’s Warbler Phylloscopus orientalis respectively. Status refers to Greece as a whole.

Little Grebe
Widespread and locally common resident.
Two, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, on 7 May, with one also seen there 10 May.

Yelkouan Shearwater Puffinus yelkouan
A raft of c.250 in the bay offshore from the Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.

Cormorant
Fairly widespread and locally common resident, common and widespread winter visitor.
Small numbers on the Evros Delta, mainly in the coastal margins, on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Pygmy Cormorant
Scarce and local resident, locally common winter visitor.
One, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.

White Pelican
Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant.
Groups of 11, four, three & five circling north of Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May & one in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Bittern
Widespread but scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.
Heard booming, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.

Little Bittern
Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant.
One in Phragmites reed near the bridge over the Sarantametros Canal on 8 May & one dead on the track in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Squacco Heron
Common but local summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant.
c.30, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May, with seven there 10 May & two Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Little Egret
Fairly common and widespread resident, common and widespread passage migrant.
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Great White Egret
Rare and local resident, widespread and locally common winter visitor.
One, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May & four, Evros Delta on 10 May.

Grey Heron
Common and widespread resident.
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Purple Heron
Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common passage migrant.
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Black Stork
Rare and local summer visitor and passage migrant.
See daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May, including birds over Dadia National Park & the Diavolorema River valley north of Dadia, where there was a maximum of seven birds on 6 May.

White Stork
Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant.
See daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May, with a number of occupied nests including at Provatonas and in Soufli town, but not in Dadia this year where the nest had fallen down - at least one of the pair remained, perched on the still present nest frame atop the telegraph pole. Thermalling flocks of 350, 96, 80, 76 & 50 over Dadia village & the Diavolorema River valley north of Dadia on 6 May; a flock of c.100 over the national highway near Lyfkon on 7 May & a thermalling flock of 72 over the western side of the Evros Delta near Traianoupolis on 10 May.

Glossy Ibis
Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and widespread passage migrant.
Five, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May, with seven there on 10 May.

Spoonbill
Rare and local resident.
Two, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.
Greater Flamingo
Fairly widespread and locally common non-breeding visitor
A distant 80+, Evros Delta on 8 & 10 May.

Mute Swan
Rare and local resident, locally common winter visitor
107, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May & also seen on the Evros Delta, 8 & 10 May.

Ruddy Shelduck
Scarce and local partial migrant
Two in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Shelduck
Scarce and local resident, fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor
Small numbers, Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Wigeon
Fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor
One, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 & 10 May.

Gadwall
Scarce and local resident, fairly common winter visitor
One, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 & 10 May.

Mallard
Fairly widespread but scarce resident, very common and widespread winter visitor
Five, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, on 7 May & five in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Garganey
Scarce and local summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant
c50 at the Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.

Shoveler
Fairly widespread and common winter visitor and passage migrant
15 Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May, with two there 10 May.

Honey Buzzard
Widespread but scarce summer visitor and passage migrant
One over the Ecotourism Centre near Dadia Village on 6 May.

Black Kite
Rare and local resident, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Two in riverine forest adjacent to the River Evros, in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta near Feres on 10 May.

White-tailed Eagle
Rare and local resident.
An adult, carrying food, flew over the national highway on the western side of the Evros Delta near Traianoupolis on 10 May.

Egyptian Vulture
Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant
Two, Dadia village on 6 May; three at the raptor feeding station, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park on 7 May & a single, Dadia village area on 10 May.

Griffon Vulture
Fairly common but local resident
Nine at the raptor feeding station, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park on 7 May & two at Kapsalo (the radio mast), Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Black Vulture
Rare and local resident
Circa six over Dadia village and the edge of Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park on 6 May; 14 at the raptor feeding station, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park on 7 May & circa six at Kapsalo (the radio mast), Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Short-toed Eagle
Fairly common and widespread summer visitor
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Marsh Harrier
Fairly widespread but scarce resident, common winter visitor and passage migrant
One over farmland on the edge of the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May & good numbers on the Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Montagu’s Harrier
Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and widespread passage migrant
A female, west of the Sarantametros Canal on the western side of the Evros Delta on 8 May & a ‘ringtail’ of indeterminate age and sex in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta near Feres on 10 May.
Levant Sparrowhawk
Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant.
Three over farmland on the edge of the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May & 1-3 seen daily, 8-11 May, including a male perched on a telegraph pole in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta near Feres on 10 May.

Buzzard
Common and widespread resident and winter visitor.
Over farmland on the edge of the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May & seen daily, in several locations, 9-11 May.

Long-legged Buzzard
Fairly widespread and locally fairly common partial migrant.
An immature near the national highway, on the western side of the Evros Delta near Traianoupolis on 8 May.

Lesser Spotted Eagle
Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant.
c.5 over the Dadia area and the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May & seen daily, 8-11 May including three in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Booted Eagle
Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant.
Two over the Dadia area and the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 6 May; a single near Doriskas on 7 May.

Kestrel
Common and widespread resident.
Seen daily on 7-11 May, including a pair at Kapsalo (the radio mast), Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Red-footed Falcon
Common and widespread passage migrant.
Three over the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 6 May & a female over farmland near the River Evros, in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta near Feres on 10 May.

Hobby
Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant.
Singles seen daily on 6-8 May & two in riverine forest adjacent to the River Evros, in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta near Feres on 10 May.

Peregrine
Widespread but scarce resident and winter visitor.
Two at Kapsalo (the radio mast), Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Chukar
Fairly widespread and locally common resident.
One heard calling at Kapsalo (the radio mast), Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Moorhen
Common and widespread resident.
Evros Delta on 7, 8 and 10 May.

Coot
Common and widespread resident, very common winter visitor
Evros Delta on 7 and 10 May.

Oystercatcher
Scarce and local resident, fairly common winter visitor.
Small numbers, Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Black-winged Stilt
Fairly widespread and locally common summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant.
Evros Delta on 7 & 8 May.

Avocet
Fairly widespread and locally fairly common resident and winter visitor.
Four, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Collared Pratincole
Fairly common but local summer visitor, widespread passage migrant.
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May, with maximum of five on both 7 & 8 May.

Little Ringed Plover
Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant.
One at the Diavolorema River, north of Dadia village, on 6 May; a pair with two recently-fledged young, east of Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8 May & one in the in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Ringed Plover
Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, rare winter visitor.
Two on the shoreline, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May & 14, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Kentish Plover
Common and widespread resident.
Evros Delta on 7, 8 and 10 May; maximum three on the beach including a female sitting on the nest, Anthi
lagoons on 7 May.

Grey Plover
Fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor and passage migrant
Evros Delta on 8 & 10 May; maximum 27+ on 8 May.

Spur-winged Plover
Rare and local summer visitor
c.6 in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Lapwing
Scarcely widespread and locally common winter visitor
Four, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May & also seen on the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Sanderling
Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May, maximum 16 on the shoreline, Anthi lagoons, 7 May.

Little Stint
Very common and widespread passage migrant, locally common winter visitor
Evros Delta on 8 & 10 May; maximum 28 in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Curlew Sandpiper
Widespread and locally common passage migrant
Evros Delta on 8 & 10 May; maximum c.37 on 8 May & 35 in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Dunlin
Common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant
Evros Delta on 8 & 10 May; maximum c.18 on 8 May.

Ruff
Very common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor
Evros Delta on 7 & 10 May; maximum 30 in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Whimbrel
Widespread but scarce passage migrant
Two on the saltmarsh fringing Laki Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Curlew
Common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant
Several on the saltmarsh fringing Laki Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Spotted Redshank
Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May; maximum 49 in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Greenshank
Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor
A single, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Wood Sandpiper
Common and widespread passage migrant
Four, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 10 May.

Common Sandpiper
Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and widespread passage migrant
A single, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Turnstone
Fairly common and widespread passage migrant
One on the shoreline, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May; two, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May & one in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Mediterranean Gull
Widespread and locally common resident
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Little Gull
Widespread and locally common passage migrant, scarce winter visitor
A single first-year bird, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Black-headed Gull
Rare and local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor
A single, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Yellow-legged Gull
Very common and widespread resident
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Sandwich Tern
Rare and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant
One along the shoreline, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.

Common Tern
Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant
Evros Delta on 7 & 10 May.

**Little Tern**
Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant
Small numbers, Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

**Whiskered Tern**
Rare and local summer visitor, common passage migrant
36 in a mixed flock of 72 marsh terns, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May.

**Black Tern**
Rare and local summer visitor, common passage migrant
12 in a mixed flock of 72 marsh terns, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May; a flock of c.20, Evros Delta on 8 May & a single, Evros Delta on 10 May.

**White-winged Black Tern**
Common and widespread passage migrant
24 in a mixed flock of 72 marsh terns, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta on 7 May & three with black terns, Evros Delta on 8 May.

**Collared Dove**
Common and widespread resident
Seen daily, 7-11 May.

**Turtle Dove**
Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant
Small numbers seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

**Great Spotted Cuckoo**
Rare and local summer visitor and passage migrant
An adult seen by Ivan and Steve as it flew from scrub in front of the minibus, on the western edge of the Evros Valley near the national highway north of Monastiraki, 8 May.

**Cuckoo**
Fairly widespread but scarce summer visitor, widespread and fairly common passage migrant
Small numbers seen or heard daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

**Little Owl**
Fairly common and widespread resident
One in Dadia village on 8 May.

**Swift**
Very common summer visitor and passage migrant
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

**Pallid Swift**
c.8-10 circling the houses near the railway line and seen at the nest nearby, in Soufli on 11 May.

**Bee-eater**
Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May including 33 over the Dadia and Diavolorema River Valley on 6 May & 39+ over the Evros Delta on 8 May.

**Roller**
Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant
Seen perched on wires over open scrub and farmland adjacent to Route 95 between Peplos south to the Monastiraki area, particularly around the turning to Doriskos at Akriati: 13 on 7 May including six at the Doriskos turning at Akriati; 9 on 8 May and smaller numbers, 10-11 May. One on the Evros Delta on 8 May.

**Hoopoe**
Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant
Small numbers seen or heard daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

**Green Woodpecker**
Widespread and locally fairly common resident
One heard near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 10 May.

**Syrian Woodpecker**
Fairly common and widespread resident
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

**Calandra Lark**
Widespread and locally common resident
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

**Short-toed Lark**
Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant
Singles, Evros Delta on 8 & 10 May.

**Crested Lark**
Common and widespread resident
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May. Common and widespread in open arable farmland and along the national highway.

**Skylark**
Fairly common but local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor  
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May. Occurs in open brackish and saltmarsh areas.

Sand Martin  
Widespread and locally common summer visitor, very common passage migrant  
One, Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May and small numbers on the Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Crag Martin  
Fairly common and widespread partial migrant  
3+ around the crags near the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Swallow  
Very common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant  
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May. Nests at the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park.

Red-rumped Swallow  
Widespread and locally common summer visitor  
Small numbers seen at several locations on 6-7 May & 9 May.

House Martin  
Common and widespread summer visitor  
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Tawny Pipit  
Widespread but scarce summer visitor  
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May.

Black-headed Wagtail  
Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant  
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May. All showed the characteristics of the black-headed race, Motacilla flava feldegg. Numerous on the Evros Delta.

White Wagtail  
Fairly widespread but scarce resident, common and widespread winter visitor  
Small numbers seen on 6, 9-10 May including a pair around the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 6 & 10 May and one at the Diavolorema River on 6 May.

Robin  
Fairly common and widespread resident, very common winter visitor.  
Seen or heard around the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 7-8 & 10 May & at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Nightingale  
Common and widespread summer visitor  
Seen or heard daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May, including one or more males in song nightly behind the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park.

Whinchat  
Scarc and local summer visitor, common passage migrant  
Four at ‘Bunting Corner’ in the Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May & four nearby on 11 May; two in the Evros Delta on 8 May.

Isabelline Wheatear  
Rare and local summer visitor  
A male in territory and displaying near the Sarantametros Canal bank north of Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Black-eared Wheatear  
Common and widespread summer visitor  
Seen on 6-7 & 9-10 May. This is the eastern race Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca in which males of the black-throated form are spectacular!

Blue Rock Thrush  
Fairly common and widespread resident  
3 around rocky outcrops near the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Blackbird  
Common and widespread resident  
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Song Thrush  
Scarc and local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor  
Seen and heard singing around the Ecotourism Centre and in the nearby Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park, on 8 & 10-11 May.
Mistle Thrush
Fairly common and widespread resident
Seen and heard singing around the Ecotourism Centre and in the nearby Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park, on 6 & 9 May & at the raptor feeding station, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park on 7 May.

Cetti’s Warbler
Common and widespread resident
Evros Delta on 7, 8 & 10 May. Mostly heard but one or two birds glimpsed briefly.

Reed Warbler
Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant
In the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Great Reed Warbler
Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant
Sarantametros Canal, Evros Delta on 8 May & in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May. This large warbler becomes very visible when singing, as it climbs the reed stems.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler
Common and widespread summer visitor
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Subalpine Warbler
Common and widespread summer visitor
A male in stream valley scrub west of Lefkimi on 9 May.

Orphean Warbler
Widespread but scarce summer visitor
A pair seen well, carrying food, in a hedgerow in fields near ‘Shrike Corner’ (seen in same territory in 2004) & another three heard singing, Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village on 11 May.

Whitethroat
Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant
Seen on 6 May & daily, on 8-11 May.

Blackcap
Common and widespread resident
One heard in Dadia Forest near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 6 May; one at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May & one heard in forest along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 11 May.

Eastern Bonelli’s Warbler
Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant
Seen or heard daily at several locations, 7-11 May.

Chiffchaff
Fairly common but local summer visitor, common and widespread winter visitor
Heard in Dadia Forest on 7 May & near the Ecotourism Centre, both Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Spotted Flycatcher
Widespread and locally common summer visitor, very common passage migrant
One on the track running parallel with the Sarantametros Canal, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Pied Flycatcher
Common and widespread passage migrant
1 near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 6 May.

Long-tailed Tit
Fairly common and widespread resident
1 near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Blue Tit
Very common and widespread resident
Heard around the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 7 May & at Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Great Tit
Common and widespread resident
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Penduline Tit
Fairly widespread and locally common resident
A pair attending the nest in scrub along the bank of the Sarantametros Canal, Evros Delta on 8 May & several heard calling among dense tamarisks in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Golden Oriole
Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant
Seen or heard daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Red-backed Shrike
Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May. Numerous in scrub along the track running parallel with the Sarantametros Canal, Evros Delta on 8 May.

Lesser Grey Shrike
Fairly widespread but scarce summer visitor and passage migrant
A pair, Evros Delta on 8 May & a single north of Dadia village on 11 May.

Woodchat Shrike
Common and widespread summer visitor
Small numbers seen daily, 6-8 & 10-11 May, including two in the ‘Shrike Corner’ area, Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 11 May.

Masked Shrike
Scarc and local summer visitor
A pair in the Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May; a male in scrub north of the railway line, Evros Delta on 8 May & a male near ‘Shrike Corner’, Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 11 May.

Jay
Widespread and locally common resident
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Maggie
Common and widespread resident
Seen on 7-8 & 10-11 May.

Jackdaw
Common and widespread resident
Seen on 7-10 May.

Hooded Crow
Very common and widespread resident
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Raven
Fairly common and widespread resident
1-2, Kapsalo, Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Starling
Fairly common but local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

House Sparrow
Very common and widespread resident
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Spanish Sparrow
Widespread and locally common resident and summer visitor
Seen daily on 6 & 8-11 May.

Tree Sparrow
Widespread and locally common resident
Single in Dadia village on 6 & 11 May.

Chaffinch
Very common and widespread resident and winter visitor
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Serin
Fairly common and widespread resident
One at the Diavolorema River on 6 May & one at the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park, daily on 9-11 May.

Greenfinch
Common and widespread resident
Seen on 6-7 & 9-11 May.

Goldfinch
Common and widespread resident
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May.

Hawfinch
Fairly widespread but scarce resident, widespread and locally common winter visitor
3-4 near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 6 May.

Cirl Bunting
Common and widespread resident
Seen daily, 6-7 and 10-11 May.

Ortolan Bunting
Widespread and locally common summer visitor
Three males, Diavolorema River Valley, north of Dadia village on 6 May & several at Kapsalo (the radio mast), Dadia National Park on 9 May.

Red Bunting
Scarce and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor
Two in the eastern (restricted access) part of the Evros Delta on 10 May.

Black-headed Bunting
Widespread and locally very common summer visitor
Corn Bunting
Very common and widespread resident
Seen daily throughout the holiday, 6-11 May. Very common and widespread.

Total - 151 species

Mammals
European Souslik Spermophilus citellus
Evros Delta on 8 May.
Red Fox Vulpes vulpes
One crossing the forest track in front of the bus on the way up to the raptor feeding station, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park, 7 May.

Amphibians & Reptiles
Common Toad Bufo bufo
Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park.
Green Toad Bufo viridis
Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 6 & 7 May.
Marsh Frog Rana ridibunda
Heard daily throughout the holiday from behind the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park; Diavolorema River, north of Dadia village, on 6 May; Evros Delta, on 7, 8 & 10 May; in the stream, west of Lefkimi, on 9 May.
Hermann’s Tortoise Testudo hermanni
One at the roller spot next to the Doriskos turning, on Route 95 (main highway) & two, Dadia area on 11 May.
Spur-thighed Tortoise Testudo graeca
Singles in the Dadia area on 6 & 11 May; Evros Delta on 10 May.
European Pond Terrapin Emys orbicularis
Two adjacent to the bridge over the Sarantametros Canal, Evros Delta, on 8 May & several on the side of the stream, along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia, 11 May.
Balkan Terrapin Mauremys rivulata
Several on the side of the stream, along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia, on 11 May.
Kotschy’s Gecko Cyrtopodion kotschyi
One clinging to the walls adjacent to the wall lights outside the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park, on the evenings of 6 and 8 May.
Green Lizard Lacerta viridis
An immature between the Ecotourism Centre and Dadia village on 6 May.
European Glass Lizard Ophisaurus apodus
Unfortunately only dead ones seen: on 6, 8 and 11 May.
Dice Snake Natrix tessellata
An individual probably of this species seen by Melvyn, Dadia, on 6 May.

Butterflies
Swallowtail Papilio machaon
Scarce Swallowtail Iphiclides podalirius
Clouded Apollo Parnassius mnemosyne
Kapsalo (radio mast), Dadia National Park, on 9 May.
Small White Artogeia rapae
Orange Tip Anthocharis cardamines
Clouded Yellow Colias crocea
Green Hairstreak Callophrys rubi
Along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia on 11 May.

Small Copper Lycaena phlaeas
Lesser Fiery Copper Lycaena thersamon
Along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia on 11 May.

Holly Blue Celastrina argiolus
Along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia, on 11 May.
Green-underside Blue Glaucopsyche alexis
Dadia, on 10 May.

Brown Argus Aricia agestis
Common Blue Polyommatus icarus
Southern White Admiral Limenitis reducta
Along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia, on 11 May.

Camberwell Beauty Nymphalis antiopa
Diavolorema River, north of Dadia village, on 6 May.
Red Admiral Vanessa atalanta
Painted Lady Vanessa cardui

Glanville Fritillary Melitaea cinxia
Kapsalo (radio mast), Dadia National Park, on 9 May and along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia, on 11 May.

Marsh Fritillary Euphydryas aurinia
North edge of Dadia village, on tracks down into the Diavolorema River Valley, on 6 & 11 May. The pattern of the markings indicates that this is the bulgarica sub-species.

Speckled Wood Pararge aegeria
Kapsalo (radio mast), Dadia National Park, on 9 May.

Wall Brown Lasiommata megera
Along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia, 11 May.

Mallow Skipper Carcharodus alceae
Along the track down to the Diavolorema River Valley, Dadia on 11 May.

Moths

Pine Hawk-moth Hyloicus pinastri
Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 8 May.

Cream-spot Tiger Arctia villica
Ecotourism Centre, Dadia National Park on 6-8 May.

Giant Peacock Moth Saturnia pyri
Dadia village on 10 May.

Pine Processionary Moth Thaumetopoea pityocampa
Woven, protective 'nests' that harbour the caterpillars; in the pines, Dadia Forest, Dadia National Park.

Dragonflies

Blue-tailed Damselfly Ischnura elegans
Evros Delta on 8 May.

Grasshoppers & Crickets

Red-winged Grasshopper Oedipoda germanica
Dadia area and the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 6 May.

Blue-winged Grasshopper Oedipoda coerulescens
Dadia area and the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 6 May.

Field Cricket Gryllus campestris
Other insects

Ascalaphus sp.
Numerous at Kapsalo (radio mast), Dadia National Park, on 9 May.

Hornet Vespa crabro
Diavolorema River Valley, on 6 May.

Violet Carpenter Bee Xylocarpa violacea

Rose Chafer Cetonia aurata

Other invertebrates

Tortoise tick
One seen lodged on a spur-thighed tortoise in the Dadia area, 6 May.
Plants
Predominantly species seen in flower, excluding most grasses, sedges and rushes. The list is based on Chris
Gibson’s list from 2000, updated in 2004. English names are given where one is in general use in the books.

The localities in which each species was recorded are given the following codes:
D - Dadia area generally  
DA - agricultural areas close to Dadia in the Diavolarema valley  
DF - Dadia Forest  
DK - Kapsalo (radio mast)  
DL - valley above Lefkimi  
L - Loutros hills area generally  
E - Evros Delta generally  
ED - Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta  
EA - Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta

**Gymnosperms** (conifers)
- Prickly juniper *Juniperus oxycedrus*  
  - Localities: DF
- Calabrian pine *Pinus brutia*  
  - Localities: DF
- Black pine *Pinus nigra*  
  - Localities: DF

**Dicotyledons**

**Aceraceae** (maple family)
- Field maple *Acer campestre*  
  - Localities: D
- Montpelier maple *Acer monspessulanum*  
  - Localities: DK

**Apocynaceae** (periwinkle family)
- Herbaceous periwinkle *Vinca herbacea*  
  - Localities: DK

**Apiaceae** (carrot family)
- Hemlock *Conium maculatum*  
  - Localities: DA
- Field eryngo *Eryngium campestre*  
  - Localities: D, L, E
- Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare*  
  - Localities: DA
- Orlaya *Orlaya grandiflora*  
  - Localities: DK
- Perfoliate Alexanders *Smyrnium perfoliatum*  
  - Localities: DK

**Aristolochiaceae** (birthwort family)
- Birthwort *Aristolochia clematitis*  
  - Localities: DA

**Asteraceae** (daisy family)
- Slender thistle *Carduus tenuiflorus*  
- Cornflower *Centaurea cyanus*  
  - Localities: DA, L, E
- Perennial cornflower *Centaurea triumfetti*  
  - Localities: DK
- Milk thistle *Silybum marianum*  
- Tragopogon dubius  
  - Localities: D

**Boraginaceae** (borage family)
- Dyer’s alkanet *Alkanna lehmanii*  
  - Localities: D
- Alkanet *Alkanna officinalis*  
  - Localities: D
- Alkanna undulata  
  - Localities: D, E
- Pale bugloss *Echium italicum*  
  - Localities: L
- Purple viper’s-bugloss *Echium plantagineum*  
  - Localities: L
- Purple gromwell *Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum*  
  - Localities: DF, DA
- Nonea *Nonea pulla*  
  - Localities: DA

**Brassicaceae** (cabbage family)
- Alyssum saxatile  
  - Localities: DK
- Tower-cress *Arabis turrita*  
  - Localities: DK
- Hoary cress *Cardaria draba*  
  - Localities: DA, E

**Campanulaceae** (bellflower family)
- Clustered bellflower *Campanula lingulata*  
  - Localities: L
- Spreading bellflower *Campanula patula*  
  - Localities: L
Large Venus's-looking-glass *Legousia speculum-veneris* L, D

Caprifoliaceae (honeysuckle family)
Dwarf elder *Sambucus ebulus* DA
Elder *Sambucus nigra* D

Carophyllaceae (pink family)
Corncockle *Agrostemma githago* DA
Sticky catchfly *Lychnis viscaria* ssp. *atropurpurea* DK
Kohlrauschia *Kohlruschia velutina* D
White campion *Silene alba* DA
Sand catchfly *Silene conica* L
Bladder campion *Silene vulgaris* DK

Chenopodiaceae (goosefoot family)
Sea-purslane *Atriplex portulacoides* E
Glasswort *Salicornia europaea* E

Cistaceae (sun-rose family)
Grey-leaved cistus *Cistus incanus* (=*Cistus creticus*) DF
Sage-leaved cistus *Cistus salviifolius* D
Spotted rock-rose *Tuberaria guttata* DF

Convolvulaceae (bindweed family)
Field bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* D
Pink bindweed *Convolvulus cantabrica* DK, L

Cornaceae (dogwood family)
Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* DA
Cornelian cherry *Cornus mas* D

Corylaceae (hazel family)
Hop hornbeam *Ostrya carpinifolia* D

Dipsacaceae (teasel/scabious family)
Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum* DA
Knautia *orientalis* DK

Ericaceae (heather family)
Eastern strawberry-tree *Arbutus andrachne* DF
Tree-heath *Erica arborea* DF

Euphorbiaceae (spurge family)
Euphorbia *myrsinites* L

Fagaceae (beech family)
Turkey oak *Quercus cerris* DF
Kermes (=prickly) oak *Quercus coccifera* L
Downy oak *Quercus pubescens* DF

Fumariaceae (fumitory family)
Fumitory *Fumaria officinalis* DA

Geraniaceae (crane’s-bill family)
Common stork’s-bill *Erodium cicutarium* D
Cut-leaved crane’s-bill *Geranium dissectum* DA
Dove’s-foot crane’s-bill *Geranium molle* DA
Little robin *Geranium purpureum* DF
Small-flowered crane’s-bill *Geranium pusillum* DF
Bloody crane’s-bill *Geranium sanguineum* DF
Round-leaved crane’s-bill *Geranium rotundifolium* DA
Hypericaceae (St. John’s-wort family)
- Hypericum cerastoides
- Hypericum perforatum
- Perforate St. John’s-wort Hypericum perforatum

Lamiaceae (mint family)
- Spotted dead-nettle Lamium maculatum
- Bastard balm Melittis melissophyllum
- Felty germander Teucrium polium
- Thymus longicaulis

Leguminoseae (pea family)
- Milk vetch Astragalus hamosus
- Bladder senna Colutea arborescens
- Shrubby scorpion-vetch Coronilla emerus
- Disk trefoil Hymenocarpus circinatus
- Yellow vetchling Lathyrus aphaea
- Brown vetch Lathyrus sativus
- Bur medick Medicago minima
- Large disk medick Medicago orbicularis
- Small melilot Melilotus indicus
- Cockscmb sainfoin Onobrychis caput-galli
- Onobrychis ebenoides
- Pitch trefoil Psoralea bituminosa
- False acacia Robinia pseudoacacia
- Spanish broom Spartium junceum
- Narrow-leaved crimson clover Trifolium angustifolium
- Hare’s-foot clover Trifolium arvense
- Hop trefoil Trifolium campestre
- Trifolium globosum
- Trifolium pilulare
- Reversed clover Trifolium resupinatum
- Trifolium speciosum?
- Starry clover Trifolium stellatum
- Tufted vetch Vicia cracca
- Large yellow vetch Vicia grandiflora
- Hairy tare Vicia hirsuta
- Hairy yellow vetchling Vicia hybrida
- Vicia pannonica
- Fodder vetch Vicia villosa

Linaceae (flax family)
- Pale flax Linum bienne
- Purging flax Linum catharticum
- Yellow flax Linum nodiflorum
- Linum tenuifolium

Loranthaceae (mistletoe family)
- Mistletoe Viscum album

Malvaceae (mallow family)
- Common mallow Malva sylvestris

Moraceae (fig family)
- Fig Ficus carica

Oleaceae (olive family)
- Flowering (Manna) ash Fraxinus ornus
- Wild jasmine Jasminum fruticans

Orobanchaceae (broomrape family)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedstraw broomrape</td>
<td>Orobanche caryophyllum</td>
<td>DK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paeoniaceae (peony family)</td>
<td>Paeonia peregrina</td>
<td>DK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papaveraceae (poppy family)</td>
<td>Common poppy, Papaver rhoeas</td>
<td>DA, L, E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanaceae (plane family)</td>
<td>Oriental plane Platanus orientalis</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polygalaceae (milkwort family)</td>
<td>Tufted milkwort Polygala comosa</td>
<td>DK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranunculaceae (buttercup family)</td>
<td>Traveller's-joy Clematis vitalba</td>
<td>DK</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peacock anemone Anemone pavonina</td>
<td>DL, DK</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fan-leaved crowfoot Ranunculus circinatus</td>
<td>EA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ranunculus gramineus?</td>
<td>DK</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ranunculus velutinus</td>
<td>DA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhamnaceae (buckthorn family)</td>
<td>Christ's-thorn Paliurus spina-christi</td>
<td>D, E, L</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rhamnus oleoides</td>
<td>L, DK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosaceae (rose family)</td>
<td>Geum bulgaricum</td>
<td>DK</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sulphur cinquefoil Potentilla recta</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Almond-leaved pear Pyrus amygdaliformis</td>
<td>L</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dog-rose Rosa canina</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubiaceae (bedstraw family)</td>
<td>Crosswort Galium cruciata</td>
<td>DF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salicaceae (willow family)</td>
<td>Grey poplar Populus canescens</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aspen Populus tremulus</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White willow Salix alba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scrophulariaceae (figwort family)</td>
<td>Jersey toadflax Linaria pelisseriana</td>
<td>DF</td>
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<td>Parentucellia latifolia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>French figwort Schrophularia canina</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verbascum sinuatum</td>
<td>D, E</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Verbascum undulatum</td>
<td>D, DF</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large speedwell Veronica austriaca v. austriaca</td>
<td>DF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamaricaceae (tamarisk family)</td>
<td>Tamarix hampeana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tiliaceae (lime family)</td>
<td>Silver lime Tilia tomentosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ulmaceae (elm family)</td>
<td>Ulmus canescens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valerianaceae (valerian family)</td>
<td>a cornsalad sp. Valerianella sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violaceae (violet family)</td>
<td>Dwarf pansy, Viola (arvensis) kitaibeliana</td>
<td>DA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monocotyledons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyperaceae (sedge family)</td>
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<tr>
<td>False fox-sedge Carex otrubae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iridaceae (iris family)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild gladiolus Gladiolus illyricus</td>
<td>DF, DL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iris attica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow iris Iris pseudacorus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liliaceae (lily family)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allium nigrum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asphodel Asphodelus aestivus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tassel hyacinth Muscaria comosum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grape hyacinth Muscaria neglectum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honey garlic Nectaroscordum siculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Star-of-Bethlehem Ornithogalum umbellatum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butcher’s-broom Ruscus aculeatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild tulip Tulipa sylvestris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orchidaceae (orchid family)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sword-leaved helleborine Cephalanthera longifolia</td>
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<td>Lax-flowered orchid Orchis laxiflora</td>
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<td>Poaceae (grass family)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large quaking-grass Briza maxima</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wood melick Melica uniflora</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common reed Phragmites australis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bearded fescue Vulpia ambigua</td>
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<tr>
<td>Typhaceae (reedmace family)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesser reedmace Typha angustifolia</td>
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