Holiday participants

David Hastings                      Edinburgh
Diana Hastings

Margaret Cox                        Norfolk
Edward Cox
Helen Cox

Pam Muirhead                        Norfolk
Mary Seal Coon                      Norfolk

Pete Peters                         High Wycombe
Rita Peters

Mike Bonney                         Newton Abbot
Rosemary Bonney

Frank Dunn                          Hartlepool
Joyce Dunn

Meryl Sherry                        Norfolk

Leaders
Ivan Nethercoat                     Sandy
Chris Durdin                        Norwich

Report written by Ivan Nethercoat & Chris Durdin. Bird list by Ivan and plant list by Chris.

Illustrations by Rob Hume. Cover: griffon vultures

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for the lammergeier conservation project of the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), which is based in Athens but whose work covers the whole of Greece and its islands. £350 was sent this year - £25 per person. This brings Honeyguide’s total contributions since the first Honeyguide holiday in Crete in 1995 to £2,395, and to conservation projects in Europe to £22,805. A thank-you letter from HOS appears at the end of this report.
Crete
3-10 April 2001

Tuesday 3 April – Heraklion and Plakias
Day 1 and after queues at Gatwick we were quickly on board and on route to our sun drenched Mediterranean destination. Three hours later we descended through low clouds and a strong wind and rain to escort us in our coach to the southern town of Plakias. From the bus there were quick glimpses of swallows and house martins, the striking yellow flowers of giant fennel, while in the mountains a lone griffon sailed overhead, a hint of better to come. A temperature of only 13 degrees was not what was expected but the reception at the Sofia Hotel was warm and the evening meal at Gio-Ma taverna was excellent.

Wednesday 4 April – Plakias to Mirthios
A pre-breakfast trip for a few early risers proved productive but very cool and windy. Some migrant waders were feeding in the smelly stream that enters the bay. Common sandpiper, little ringed plovers and little stint remained obligingly close as we approached. Further on a small flock of short-toed larks were feeding among crested larks and whinchat, while a field or two away there were a couple of woodchat shrikes, all good signs of migration.

Back for breakfast and then a walk to the hillside village of Mirthios in warm sunshine and a pleasantly cooling wind. Alpine swifts greeted us at the start, soon to be followed by buzzards and kestrel. As soon as the village was left behind the flowers became a great source of interest, particularly as the path developed and the orchids became more numerous. As the day warmed up butterflies took to the wing, particularly in the sheltered areas.

After a steep climb up above the Venetian mill we were soon taking off the layers as the sun shone hot from the south while it appeared that the north of the island was in heavy cloud. Surprise find of the day was a still blind, baby beech martin lying in the path. Apparently healthy, we assumed we had disturbed its mother while moving her young to another nest. We quickly left and hoped she would return.

Into Mirthios for a lunch break and drink in a technically closed taverna and then a quicker route back down the hill to Plakias. This is a great introduction to the delights of Crete, birds of prey, great flowers and eventually good weather, with a super meal in the Corali taverna.

Thursday 5 April – Kourtaliotiko Gorge and the Kedros foothills above Spili
A warm but quieter start to the day for the early risers. New to the smelly river was wood sandpiper and from the cliffs a peregrine was seen taking home its latest kill. Spanish sparrow, little egret and wheatear were some of the highlights before breakfast.

First stop of the day was the Kourtaliotiko Gorge. Griffon vultures were the bird stars of the gorge with the delights of wild cyclamen and numerous other rock garden flowers making for a slow descent to the little chapel at the bottom of the gorge.

With all of the group reassembled, we took the short trip to Spili for a lunch of gyros – like a donner kebab mix of meat and salad – eaten by the stone lion fountains in the town centre. Then to Spili ‘bumps’, a unique area for orchids, breathtaking in its mix of species and aesthetic splendour. Some of these are fairly straightforward; for example hundreds of yellow few-flowered orchids, four-spotted, mammose and Cretan bee orchids are reasonably consistent in appearance and taxonomy. The bravest botanists also got stuck into sorting out three different yellow bee orchids and hybrid sawfly x marengo orchids. Easier were the black widow irises and sheets of wild tulips, both of which were pushing through both grass and the arable that seems to be nibbling around the edges of the orchid hills.

While this is a site primarily for flowers it also has some interesting birds, not least of which was the lammergeier which cruised low over the heads of the orchid hunters while the vulture hunters watched from slightly more of a distance but with excellent views none the less. A special mention in despatches for Frank who had been searching for years for lammergeier. He’d had to withdraw from a
Spanish Pyrenees holiday where they were seen, then making it the following year when they weren’t for the only time. So Frank isn’t a jinx after all…

Woodlark, blue rock thrush, and numerous griffon vultures were other highlights but all a little overshadowed by the big one!

Supper was at the Kri-kri taverna.

Friday 6 April – Phaestos

Spoke too soon about the good weather. After a warm evening, the day started with heavy rain. The vehicle hire company had swapped one minibus for a ‘new’ one, in fact rather older, and this was taken out for shelter for the early morning birdwatch towards the next coastal bay at Souda (but not the famous Souda on the north coast). Having decided to go west for a change, the bus promptly broke down about two miles from the hotel leaving us to walk back for breakfast through heavy rain. However in between the heavy showers migration was very visible with flocks of whimbrel and glossy ibis to keep us entertained.

The return of previous bus was soon arranged and arrived at 10 o’clock so no great problem on transport, but the rain continued. We drove to Phaestos to try and get away from it but instead took it with us. There was a short respite of a few dry minutes in a small valley filled with giant fennel along the roadside and a possible steppe buzzard soaring overhead. The valley below Phaestos was briefly alive with swallows and swifts and martins including red-rumped swallow and flocks of alpine swift. However the rains we had escaped soon caught up with us and the heavens opened. All we saw of the historic site was a rainy view from the Phaestos souvenir shop and café.

Maybe the weather was better further west? Reluctantly we took the drive back, after lunch at the café, calling in at Moni Preveli in the hope that things would be better. Much better weather as we arrived and then torrential rain again as we parked! So after a coffee we headed back towards the hotel.

As we approached Plakias a dark heron was seen circling the fields – a purple heron, soon to be joined by another 30 companions, a flock of birds seemingly unable to decide what to do, should we land or carry on? Land or carry on? Like a driver in a car park unable to decide on which bay to occupy they appeared and disappeared for quite some time. The rain had all but stopped now when a marsh harrier appeared, joined later by three more.

Things were looking up so we took the beach road back for an early finish, or so we thought. Two hours later we were still there, in bright sunshine and calm wind, watching all sorts of migrants coming and going:

• Purple herons flying in off the sea
• c100 garganey flying over the bay
• c 200 short-toed larks on the beach
• up to six marsh harriers in the air together
• a ringtail Montagu’s harrier doing a low close fly past before soaring away over the hill
• wheatear, whinchat and tawny pipits running about in the scrub

So after atrocious weather all day, the island redeemed itself in the end with an excellent display. At the suggestion of George from the Hotel Sofia, our taverna supper was a short drive away at the Damnoni in the small resort of Mythos.
Saturday 7 April - Kotsifou Gorge, Lake Kournas and Ayia Reservoir

Pre breakfast today was a little disappointing after the excitement of the night before, a lone glossy ibis being the highlight. Today was to be spent to the north, via the Kotsifou Gorge first and then on to Lake Kournas and Ayia Reservoir.

The gorge was very windy but interesting with our first views of chukar, an excellent aerial display from jackdaws chasing a raven away from nests and a constant fly by from griffon vultures. Blue rock thrush looked superb in the full sun, while down below the botanists were being treated to yellow tree flax hanging from the gorge face and added early spider and monkey orchid to the already long orchid list.

On and farther north to Lake Kournas, Crete's only natural freshwater lake. Small tavernas on the lake shore provided a useful stop for coffee and excellent Greek yoghurt with honey. The Sardinian warblers had been a little elusive up until today when a fine male greeted us as we left the bus. The lake itself was a little quiet but formed a beautiful backdrop to a coffee and raki. Then on the way out, a brief chat with our old friend Doug Ireland and a group from Island Holidays.

Moving on to the reservoir involved an unexpected detour through the back streets of Hania as the main road was closed. However due to a great team effort of eagle eyes and Greek translation this proved to be no trouble. Not long out of Hania a cry went up of ‘Glossy ibis!’; fortunately near a turn off. The unexpected often has added value and these birds were truly superb and lived up to their name in the bright sun and clear skies. There were ten birds resplendent in their bronze plumage and giving excellent views in the telescope. As usual other birds appeared once 16 pairs of eyes get scanning in an area; tree sparrow, little egret and squacco heron popped up in the few minutes we were there.

Ayia Reservoir is a small artificial lake, but very natural looking with reeds and trees along three of its banks and a dam on the fourth from where were we able to watch. Garganey and a large flock of yellow-legged gulls were first on view, two non-breeding cattle egrets and a very obliging squacco heron which was reluctant to leave the path as Pam walked along the shore. The site is well known for its crakes; and eventually one was seen by the group, but across the water in the reeds. Mary wandered off to the edge of the dam to have her own private view of a very close little crake but was unable to attract our attention. Marsh harrier, alpine swift, water rail, kingfisher and ruff added to our sightings.

A detour to the small wetland at Giorgiopoulou was very worthwhile. The light was perfect and showed off black-winged stilt in all its leggy glory and in front of us a great reed warbler showed well for a few minutes before settling down behind some reed.

A late lunch/early evening meal was had in the Platia taverna at Giorgiopouli which turned out to be one of the best we had all week, which was no mean feat as all the tavernas had been excellent. Two bottles of fizz were ordered to celebrate Pete’s birthday. Chris, suspecting there was no alcohol in it – helpful for the drivers, of course – presented the bottle to Mary to take advantage of her knowledge of the Greek language with the question “Is there alcohol in this”, to which the reply was “No, the bottle’s empty”. OK, it was funny at the time.

Sunday 8 April – Moni Preveli

A half day in theory, with a free afternoon. A morning drive to the headland at Moni Preveli, only a few kilometres from Plakias. Inland was grey and cloudy but here on the coast we were in warm sunshine with a pleasant wind.
A chukar called from one hillside and an ortolan bunting from another. In the valley floor a pied flycatcher took its place among the Sardinian warblers, stonechats and goldfinches. A walk onto the headland proved very productive when a beautiful male black-eared wheatear hopped up onto a fence post giving everybody excellent views. A cuckoo put in a brief appearance but star bird for most of the group was a very obliging nightingale hopping about on the path long enough to be seen in the telescope by all who wanted to. For many this was the sight of the week, perhaps a measure of the mystique this rather plain bird has.

A long, late lunch in a taverna in Plakias was followed by a siesta. Ivan went to see friends in Rethymnon and Chris took most of the group for short walk west along the coast in the early evening. Cretan ebony, or shrubby sainfoin, an island endemic, is abundant here, and there was a small flock of little egrets on the rocks. We returned to eat at the Sofia taverna, which had just opened for the year so hadn’t quite got its act sorted.

Monday 9 April – Frankocastello
A change of plan before breakfast with a trip west to Souda bay, home of wild Cretan palm and very promising hillsides. Two subalpine warblers greeted us on a short walk up the road followed shortly by Chris’s hearing picking up a different warbler call. A male Ruppell’s warbler was soon found to be the owner to the surprise and delight of the group. Busy nest building, the bird stayed in view until we had to leave for breakfast.

There was a slight detour after breakfast back to show the rest of the group the Ruppell’s warbler before heading a few kilometres west to Frankocastello. From a very warm early morning the cloud came in and the wind got faster so by the time we arrived only one or two pair of shorts were still being worn. Still there were birds around and we set off; however the weather suddenly turned into a fierce storm and we beat a hasty retreat to the taverna on the cliff top.

Bad weather is often very good for birdwatchers and today was no exception. During the storm a redstart came down onto the taverna’s outside eating area. While we were inside watching from the warmth of coffee and lunch, with occasional forays outside to see what else was around, wood warbler and subalpine warbler also took refuge in the taverna garden.

After the storm we set off again but this time the area was alive with birds blown in with the storm. The wind cleared the sky and the day ended in glorious sunshine. Some of the highlights of a short walk along the headland were 8-10 subalpine warblers; three black-eared wheatears, both pale-throated and black-throated; three nightingales; another redstart; c50 tree pipits; a wryneck; spotted flycatchers; spectacled warbler and two magnificent fly pasts by Montagu’s harriers, the first a adult male and the second a young male, still a ringtail but showing grey plumage. An excellent day and the sort of place that makes Crete so special at this time of year.

Our final meal was a return to the Corali taverna. Very sociable it was too, but the young lady with ‘olive skin and raven hair’ may have had something to do with Chris’s choice.

Tuesday 10 April – Plakias, Heraklion and return to Gatwick
The last day! The pre breakfast crew went on patrol again hoping some of yesterday's action had also happened at Plakias. A first winter night heron greeted us in the river which was a great start but little else showed up apart from a very nice bee orchid growing beside a track among giant reed.

Back for breakfast, packing and last minute shopping before boarding the coach to Heraklion, our final bird in Plakias being a squacco heron in breeding plumage, flying over us as we approached the hotel.

Vultures soared over the gorge as the bus took us across the island and a turtle dove almost collided into the vehicle near Heraklion, our last new bird for the trip.

**Butterflies**
- Scarce swallowtail
- Large white
- Clouded yellow
- Southern comma
- Painted lady
- Red admiral
- Speckled wood
- Wall brown
- Small copper
- Holly blue
- Common blue
- Essex skipper
**Other notable insects**

*Acerdia ungarica*, a stick-insect like grasshopper  
*Graphasoma italicum*, a red and black shield bug  
*Egyptian locust*  
*Violet carpenter bee*

### BIRD LIST - Crete April 3-10, 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little grebe</td>
<td>Ayia reservoir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night heron</td>
<td>Small flock over Plakias (5th)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Squacco heron         | Non breeding bird at Ayia Reservoir  
(para breeding bird Plakias (10th)) |
| Little egret          | Flock of 10 at Plakias (5th)  
(Separate flocks of 11 & 32 (8th) birds flew in off the sea, Plakias) |
| Grey heron            | 2 birds Frankocastello        |
| Purple heron          | Separate flocks of 26 (6th) & 38 (6th) birds at Plakias,  
20 past Moni Preveli (8th) |
| Glossy ibis           | Flocks of 10 (6th) & 12 (7th) Birds off the sea, Plakias and 10 more near Ayia (7th) |
| Mallard               | 1 Ayia reservoir               |
| Garganey              | C100 birds on the sea at Plakias (6th) |
| Shoveler              | Ayia reservoir                 |
| Lammergeier           | 1 adult at Spili              |
| Griffon vulture       | Frequent sightings of small numbers at Kourtaliotiko gorge, 10 + birds at Spili |
| Marsh harrier         | 6 at Plakias (6th)            |
| Montagu's harrier     | 1 “ringtail” Plakias (6th)  
(1 adult male and 1 young male Frankocastello) |
<p>| Sparrowhawk           | Plakias                        |
| Buzzard               | Frequent                       |
| Steppe buzzard?       | 1 buzzard, with a uniform pale tail, west of Timbaki (6th) showing characteristics of this subspecies |
| Kestrel               | Frequent                       |
| Peregrine             | With prey at Plakias, carried prey toward Myrthios. 1 bird seen from Spili town centre apparently defending territory from griffon vultures |
| Chukar                | Moni Preveli, Kotsiphou Gorge  |
| Water rail            | Ayia Reservoir                 |
| Little crake          | Ayia Reservoir                 |
| Moorhen               | Giorgiopouli                  |
| Coot                  | Giorgiopouli                  |
| Little stint          | 1 Plakias                      |
| Ruff                  | 12 Ayia (7th)                  |
| Whimbrel              | Small flock off the sea, Plakias (6th) |
| Black-winged stilth   | 1 at Giorgiopouli             |
| Little ringed plover  | 3 Plakias                      |
| Green sandpiper       | 1 Ayia reservoir               |
| Wood sandpiper        | 1 at Plakias, 1 Ayia           |
| Common sandpiper      | 3 Plakias                      |
| Black headed gull     | Ayia reservoir                 |
| Yellow-legged gull    | Large flock Ayia               |
| Rock dove             | Kourtaliotiko Gorge           |
| Woodpigeon            | Myrthios                       |
| Collared dove         | Frequent sightings             |
| Cuckoo                | 1 at Moni Preveli              |
| Swift                 | Odd birds throughout          |
| Alpine swift          | Large flock, Phaestos (6th), odd birds throughout the week. |
| Kingfisher            | Plakias, bird flew into taverna window, carried off by cat! (4th) 1 at Ayia reservoir |
| Hoopoe                | 2 brief sightings from vehicles only |
| Wryneck               | 1 Frankocastello (9th)        |
| Short-toed lark       | 3 (4th) followed by two flocks of c100 and c50 (6th) at Plakias |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Type</th>
<th>Species/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crested lark</td>
<td>Numerous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodlark</td>
<td>Spili</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand martin</td>
<td>Myrthios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crag martin</td>
<td>Myrthios, Kourtaliotis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swallow</td>
<td>Numerous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-rumped swallow</td>
<td>1 at Plakias, at least two in large flock of swallows, swifts and martins east of Phaestos (9th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House martin</td>
<td>Frequent sightings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tawny pipit</td>
<td>Plakias, Frankocastello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree pipit</td>
<td>Several odd birds, flock of c.50 off the sea at Frankocastello (9th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow wagtail (M. flava flava)</td>
<td>Plakias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow wagtail (M. flava cinereocapilla)</td>
<td>1 at Plakias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey wagtail</td>
<td>Frankocastello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White wagtail</td>
<td>Kourtaliotiko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Pied wagtail)</td>
<td>Plakias, Kourtaliotiko Gorge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wren</td>
<td>Frequent sightings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nightingale</td>
<td>Moni Preveli 1 bird feeding on track, 2 poss 3 birds Frankocastello (9th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redstart</td>
<td>2 Frankocastello (9th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whinchat</td>
<td>Plakias, Frankocastello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonechat</td>
<td>Plakias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheatear</td>
<td>Plakias, Frankocastello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-eared wheatear</td>
<td>2 Moni Preveli, 3 at Frankocastello (1 black-throated) (9th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue rock thrush</td>
<td>Frequent sightings in hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackbird</td>
<td>Frequent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cetti's warbler</td>
<td>Frequently heard, seen at Myrthios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fan tailed warbler</td>
<td>1 heard from vehicle west of Giorgiopouli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grasshopper warbler</td>
<td>1 singing at Damnoni (7th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedge warbler</td>
<td>Ayia reservoir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed warbler</td>
<td>1 strange plumaged bird at Damnoni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great reed warbler</td>
<td>1 Giorgiopouli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sardinian warbler</td>
<td>Frequent sightings toward the end of the week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subalpine warbler</td>
<td>At least 10 birds at Frankocastello (9th) after thunderstorm. 1 pair at Souda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruppell's warbler</td>
<td>1 male apparently nestbuilding at Souda (9th) (just west of Plakias)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackcap</td>
<td>1 at Plakias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood warbler</td>
<td>1 Frankocastello (9th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted flycatcher</td>
<td>2 Frankocastello (9th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pied flycatcher</td>
<td>Moni Preveli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue tit</td>
<td>Frequent in woodland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great tit</td>
<td>Frequent in woodland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodchat shrike</td>
<td>Frequent sightings throughout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackdaw</td>
<td>Kourtaliotiko Gorge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooded crow</td>
<td>Frequent sightings throughout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raven</td>
<td>Plakias, Moni Preveli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish sparrow</td>
<td>A few birds (up to six) at Plakias Flock of several hundred at Frankocastello (9th); not counted but in region of 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian sparrow</td>
<td>Numerous throughout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree sparrow</td>
<td>1 near Ayia (9th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaffinch</td>
<td>Frequent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serin</td>
<td>Ayia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenfinch</td>
<td>Plakias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldfinch</td>
<td>Frequent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linnet</td>
<td>Plakias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cirl bunting</td>
<td>1 heard Myrthios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ortolan bunting</td>
<td>Moni Preveli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn bunting</td>
<td>Frequent, winter flocks and singing males</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following list comprises the more obvious plants seen and identified during the week.

**Key and nomenclature:** Latin names of plants follows those used in *Flora of the Cretan Area* (Turland et al 1993), any alternative names as used in Mediterranean Wild Flowers (Blamey & Grey-Wilson 1993) follow in brackets.

* Endemic to Crete
# Introduced and not native to Crete and cultivated or planted species

### 1 SPERMATOPHYTES

#### i) Gymnosperms

**Cupressaceae - Cypress Family**

*Cupressus sempervirens* forma. *horizontalis* Cypress
*C. sempervirens* forma. *sempervirens* Funeral Cypress

**Ephedraceae – Joint pines**

*Ephedra fragilis* Joint pine

**Pinaceae – Pines**

# *Araucaria araucana* Norfolk Island pine (widely planted)

#### ii) Angiosperms

##### a) Dicotyledons

**Aizoaceae - Aizoon Family**

# *Carpobrotus edulis* var. *rubescens* Hottentot Fig

**Anacardiaceae - Pistacio Family**

*Pistacia lentiscus* Mastic Tree

**Apocynaceae - Oleander Family**

*Nerium oleander* subsp. *oleander* Oleander

**Boraginaceae - Borage Family**

*Anchusa cretica* An alkanet
*Anchusa italica* (A. *azurea*) Large Blue Alkanet
*Borago officinalis* Borage
*Cynoglossum creticum* Blue Hound's Tongue
*Echium italicum* subsp. *biebersteinii* Pale Bugloss
*Echium plantagineum* Purple Viper's Bugloss
*Onosma erecta* A Golden Drop
*Symphytum creticum* (*Procopiania cretica*) Procopiania

**Cactaceae - Cactus Family**

# *Opuntia ficus-barbarica* (O. *ficus-indica*) Prickly Pear

**Campanulaceae - Bellflower Family**

* Petromarula pinnata Cretan Wall Lettuce (on Venetian mill under Mirthios, but not in flower)

**Caprifoliaceae - Honeysuckle Family**

# *Sambucus nigra* Elderflower

**Caryophyllaceae - Pink Family**

*Petrorrhagia velutina* (*Kohlrauschia velutina*)
Silene bellidifolia
Silene colorata subsp colorata

**Cistaceae - Rockrose Family**
Cistus creticus  Cretan Cistus
Cistus salvifolius  Sage-Leaved Cistus

**Compositae - Daisy Family**
Anthemis rigida subsp. rigida  Rayless Chamomile
Astericus aquaticus
Asteriscus spinosa (Pallensis spinosa)
Bellis annua  Annual daisy
Calendula arvensis  Field Marigold
Chrysanthemum coronarium var.coronarium  Crown Daisy
C. coronarium var. discolor  Crown Daisy
Galactites tomentosa  Mediterranean Thistle
Scorzonera cretica  Cretan vipers grass
Silybum marianum  Milk thistle
Tragopogon sinuatus (T. porrifolius)  Wild Salsify

**Convolvulaceae - Bindweed Family**
Convolvulus althaeoides  Mallow-leaved Bindweed
Cuscuta epithymum  Dodder

**Crassulaceae - Stonecrop Family**
Umbilicus parviflorus  Small-Flowered Navelwort

**Cruciferaceae - Cress Family**
Arabis verna  Spring rockcress
Biscutella didyma  Buckler Mustard
Capsella bursa-pastoralis  Shepherd’s purse
*Ricotia cretica  Ricotia
Sinapsis arvensis  Charlock

**Dioscoraceae - Yam Family**
Tamus communis  Black Bryony

**Euphorbiaceae - Spurge Family**
Euphorbia acaanthothamnos  Greek Spiny Spurge
Euphorbia characias  Mediterranean Spurge
Euphorbia dendroides  Tree Spurge
Euphorbia helioscopia  Sun Spurge
*Ricinus communis  Castor Oil Plant
Mercurialis annua  Annual mercury

**Geraniaceae - Geranium Family**
Erodium gruinum  Long-beaked Storksbill
Erodium moschatum  Musk storksbill
Geranium dissectum  Cut-leaved Cranebill
Geranium lucidum  Shining Cranesbill
Geranium molle  Dovesfoot cranesbill
Geranium purpureum  Little robin
Geranium rotundifolium  Round-leaved Crane’s-Bill

**Guttiferae - Hypericum Family**
Hypericum empetrifolium subsp. empetrifolium  Shrubby St. John’s Wort

**Labiateae - Mint Family**
Coriodythymus capitatus (Thymus capitatus)  Shrubby Thyme
Lamium amplexicaule  Red hemp-nettle
Marrubium vulgare  White horehound
Phlomis fruticosa  Jerusalem Sage
Prasium majus  Spanish Hedge-nettle
Salvia fruticosa  Three-Leaved Sage
Stachys sp  Clary sp

Leguminosae - Pea Family
# Acacia spp  Mimosa
Anthyllus vulneraria ssp.praepropera  Red (Mediterranean) Kidney Vetch
Bituminaria bituminosa (Psoralea bituminosa)  Pitch Trefoil
Calicotome villosa  Hairy Thorny Broom
Cercis siliquastrum  Judas tree
Ceratonia siliqua  Carob Tree
Coronilla cretica
* Ebenus creticus  Shrubby Sainfoin (Cretan ebony)
Hippocrepis multisiliquosa?  A horseshoe vetch
Lupinus micranthus  Hairy Lupin
Medicago arabica  Spotted Medick
Medicago marina  Sea Medick
Medicago orbicularis  Large Disk Medick
Medicago scutellata  another large disk medick (with glandular hairs on pods)
Robina pseudacacia  False acacia
Spartium junceum  Spanish Broom
Tetragonolobus purpureus  Asparagus Pea
Trifolium campestre  Hop trefoil
Trifolium stellatum  Star Clover
Trifolium tomentosum  Woolly Trefoil
Trifolium uniflorum  One-Flowered Clover
Tripodion tetraphyllum (Anthyllis tetraphyllum)  Bladder Vetch
Vicia sativa agg  Common vetch
Vicia sepium  Bush vetch

Linaceae - Flax Family
Linum arboreum  Tree Flax (=shrubby flax)
Linum bienne  Pale Flax

Malvaceae - Mallow Family
Lavatera cretica  Lesser Tree Mallow
Malva sylvestris  Common Mallow

Moraceae - Fig Family
Ficus carica  Fig
# Morus alba  White Mulberry

Myrtaceae - Myrtle Family
Myrtus communis subsp. communis  Common Myrtle

Oleaceae - Olive Family
Olea europaea subsp. europaea  Olive

Orobanchaceae - Broomrape Family
Orobanche ramosa  Branched Broomrape

Oxalidaceae - Sorrel Family
# Oxalis pes-caprae  Bermuda Buttercup

Papaveraceae - Poppy Family
Glaucium flavum  Yellow-Horned Poppy
Papaver rhoeas  Common Poppy
# Papaver somniferum  Opium poppy
Platanaceae - Plane Tree Family
Platanus orientalis  Oriental Plane

Polygalaceae - Milkwort Family
Polygala venulosa  Eastern Milkwort

Primulaceae - Primrose Family
Anagallis arvensis  Scarlet Pimpernel (Scarlet and blue forms)
*Cyclamen creticum  Cretan Cyclamen

Punicaceae – Pomegranate family
Punica granatum  Pomegranate

Ranunculaceae - Buttercup Family
Anemone coronaria  Crown Anemone
Anemone hortensis ssp. heldreichii
Ranunculus asiaticus  Turban Buttercup
Ranunculus gracilis

Resedaceae - Mignonette Family
Reseda lutea  Wild Mignonette

Rosaceae - Rose Family
Rubus sanguineus  Bramble
Sanguisorba minor subsp. verrucosa  Mediterranean Salad Burnet
Sarcopoterium spinosum  Thorny Burnet

Rubiaceae - Bedstraw Family
Sharardia arvensis  Field Madder

Rutaceae - Rue Family
# Citrus limon  Lemon
# Citrus sinensis  Orange

Scrophulariaceae - Figwort Family
Bellardia trixago  Bellardia
Linaria pelisseriana  Jersey Toadflax
Misopates orontium  Lesser Snapdragon (= weasel’s snout)
Parentucellia viscosa  Yellow Bartsia
Scrophularia lucida  Shining Figwort
Scrophularia peregrinum  Nettle-leaved Figwort
* Verbascum arcturus  Hanging Mullein
Verbascum sinuatum
Verbascum pulverulentum  Hoary mullein

Solanaceae - Potato Family
Hyoscyamus albus  White Henbane
Mandragora autumnalis  Mandrake
Solanum nigrum  Black nightshade

Styracaceae - Storax Family
Styrax officinalis  Storax

Tamaricaceae - Tamarix Family
Tamarix syrniensis  Tamarisk

Thymelaeaceae - Daphne Family
Thymelaea hirsuta  Thymelea
**Umbelliferae - Carrot Family**
- *Daucus carota* - Wild Carrot
- *Ferula communis subsp. communis* - Giant Fennel
- *Tordylium apulum* - Mediterranean Hartwort (equally 2-lobed petals)
- *Tordylium officianale* - a hartwort (with unequally lobed petals)
- *Torylis arvensis* - Spreading Hedge-parsley

**Urticaceae - Nettle Family**
- *Parietaria judaica* - Pellitory of the Wall
- *Urtica pilulifera* - Roman Nettle

**Valerianaceae - Valerian Family**
- *Valeriana asarifolia* - Cretan Valerian
- *Valerianella sp (discoidea?)* - A Corn Salad

**Verbenaceae - Verbena Family**
- *Verbena officinalis* - Vervain

**Vitaceae - Vine Family**
- *Vitus vinifera subsp. vinifera* - Grape Vine

**b) Monocotyledons**

**Agavaceae - Agave Family**
- *Agave americana* - Century Plant

**Amaryllidaceae - Daffodil Family**
- *Pancratium maritimum* - Sea Daffodil (leaves only)

**Araceae - Arum Family**
- *Arisarum vulgare* - Friars Cowl
- *Arum creticum* - Cretan Arum
- *Dranunculus vulgaris* - Common Dragon Arum

**Graminaceae - Grass Family**
- *Arundo donax* - Giant Reed
- *Briza maxima* - Giant Quaking Grass
- *Lagurus ovatus* - Hare’s-tail
- *Phragmites australis* - Reed

**Iridaceae - Iris Family**
- *Gladiolus italicus* - Field Gladiolus
- *Gynandriris sisyrinchium* - Barbary Nut
- *Hermodactylus tuberosus* - Widow Iris
- *Iris pseudocorus* - Yellow Flag

**Liliaceae - Lily Family**
- *Asphodeline lutea* - Yellow Asphodel
- *Asphodelus aestivalis* - Common Asphodel
- *Drimia maritima (Urginea maritima)* - Sea Squill
- *Muscari comosum* - Tassle Hyacinth
- *Ornithogalum collinum* - Tassle Hyacinth
- *Ornithogalum narbonense* - A spiked Star of Bethlehem
- *Ornithogalum umbellatum* - Star of Bethlehem
- *Tulipa cretica* - Cretan Tulip
- *Tulipa sylvestris* - Wild Tulip

**Orchidaceae - Orchid Family**
- *Aceras anthropophorum* - Man Orchid
Anacamptis pyramidalis  Pyramidal Orchid
Ophrys apifera  Bee orchid
Ophrys bombyliflora  Bumble Bee Orchid
Ophrys doerfleri (O. cretica)  Cretan Bee Orchid
Ophrys fuciflora  Late Spider Orchid
Ophrys heldreichii (O. scolopax ssp. heldreichii)  Marengo Orchid
Ophrys iricolor  Rainbow Orchid
Ophrys lutea  Yellow bee orchid
Ophrys phrygana  Phrygana Orchid
Ophrys bombylora (O. sphegodes ssp. mammosa)  Mammos Orchid
Ophrys spegoides  Early spider orchid
Ophrys tentredinifera  Sawfly Orchid

Orchis boryi
Orchis Ianica  Italian Man Orchid
Orchis lactea  Milky Orchid
Orchis pauciflora (O. provincialis subsp. pauciflora)  Few-flowered Orchid
Orchis quadripunctata  Four-Spotted Orchid
Orchis simia  Monkey orchid

Serapia bergonii (S. vomeracea ssp. laxiflora)  Bergon's Tongue Orchid

Plus hybrid sawfly x marengo orchid at both Spili and Kotsiphos gorge

**Palmae – Palm Family**
Phoenix theophrasti  Cretan Palm
#Washingtonia filifera  Washingtonia

**Pteridophyta – Ferns**
Adiantum capillus-veneris  Maidenhair fern

And finally nominations for wildlife of the week:
Rosemary  orchids at Spili, especially few-flowered orchids
Margaret  orchids at Spili
Helen  nightingale on the ground at Moni Preveli
Rita  few-flowered orchids
Pete  lammergeier
Mary  orchids at Spili
Meryl  nightingale on the ground at Moni Preveli
Diana  sheets of Bermuda buttercup
David  warblers
Frank  lammergeier, hirundine flock and orchids at Spili
Joyce  nightingale on the ground at Moni Preveli
Edward  orchids at Spili
Ivan  beech marten
Mike  nightingale on the ground at Moni Preveli
Pat  Spanish sparrow flock
Chris  tulips and orchids at Spili

We experienced an island full of culture and heritage, a culture expressed in food, drink lifestyle and buildings and a rich natural heritage of wildlife. Vultures, eagles and orchids are always special, partly because of their fragility but also because of what they represent. Your visit here has helped conserve some of that natural heritage and expressed in a very positive way to local people that there is real value in having an island rich in wildlife.

Thank you for your company, your stories and good nature, we hope to see you on future trips with Honeyguide.

Ivan and Chris