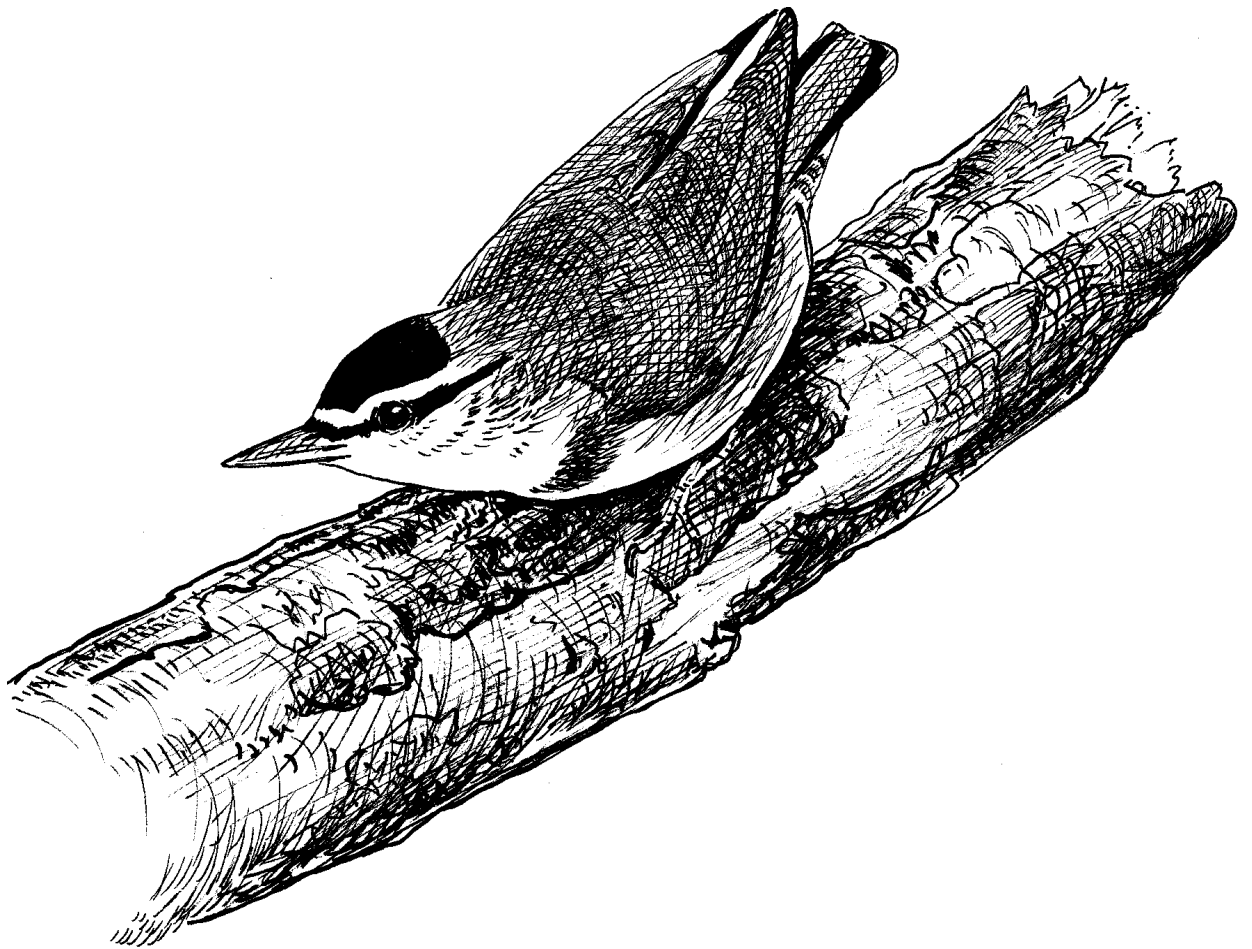


Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Lesvos
7 – 14 April 2004

Lesvos 7 – 14 April 2004

Holiday participants

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Derek Boughton | Canterbury |
| Bill Simmonds Margaret Chilvers | Huntingdon |
| Martin George Barbara George | Norfolk Broads |
| Ann Russell | Norfolk Broads |
| Ron Waters | London |
| David Jones | Middlesex |
| Malcolm Crowder Helen Crowder | Norfolk Broads |
| Angela Henson | Poringland, Norwich |
| Leaders | |
| Rob Lucking | Norwich |
| Steve Henson | Poringland, Norwich |

With commiserations to John and Joy Gammon, who had to withdraw from the holiday just before departure.

Report by Rob Lucking and Steve Henson.

Illustrations by Rob Hume. Front cover: Krüper's nuthatch

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for surveys in the Kalloni Bay Important Bird Area by the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), which is based in Athens but whose work covers the whole of Greece and its islands. £1200 was given to HOS this year - £25 per person from the holidays in Crete and two in Lesvos. This brings Honeyguide's total contributions to HOS since the first Honeyguide holiday in Crete in 1995 to £4,945, and to conservation projects in Europe from all Honeyguide holidays to £33,330. We usually include a thank-you letter from HOS, but this hadn't been received when the report went to print.

Lesvos 7 – 14 April 2004

Itinerary

Wednesday, 7/4/04

Mid-day flight from London Heathrow to Athens and onward, evening internal flight to Mytilini, arriving 9:12pm.

Transfer by minibuses to Vatera.

Evening meal at Maria's taverna, Kalamakia.

Thursday, 8/4/04

Morning: local walk westwards from House Voudouris in Vatera to the Almiropotamos river mouth and upstream into surrounding olive groves and scrub.

Picnic lunch in the sun at House Voudouris.

Afternoon: Skala Polichnitos Saltpans and Alikoudi Pool on the eastern side of Kalloni Bay.

Evening meal at Kalamakia.

Friday, 9/4/04

Pre-breakfast: seawatch from Agias Fokas.

Morning: brief roadside stop near Vasilika for alpine swifts followed by the Kruper's nuthatch site at the army camp at Achladeri.

Afternoon: Agiassos, including picnic lunch in sweet chestnut woodland on circular walk and stop for flowers in olive groves below village. Coffee and visit to Manos's bakery.

Evening meal at Kalamakia.

Saturday, 10/4/04

Morning: roadside stop at the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, *en route* to the west of the island.

Picnic lunch and afternoon at the Petrified Forest Park.

Late afternoon: Ipsilou Monastery and the Sigri-Eressos road junction for Isabelline wheatear.

Evening meal at Kalamakia.

Sunday, 11/4/04

Pre-breakfast: walk westwards from House Voudouris in Vatera to the Almiropotamos River.

Morning: walk north along the Vourkos River valley at the eastern end of Vatera Bay, through olive groves to the village of Kato Stavros. Picnic lunch.

Evening meal at Kalamakia.

Monday, 12/4/04

Pre-breakfast: seawatch from Agias Fokas.

Morning: 'Mini Soccer' and taverna on the Molivos road on the outskirts of Kalloni for roosting scops owl, followed by Kalloni II Pool.

Coffee in Skala Kalloni harbour followed by picnic lunch on the beach.

Afternoon: Kalloni Saltpans and roadside stop for orchids near the T-junction on the Achladeri-Vasilika road.

Evening meal at Kalamakia.

Tuesday, 13/4/04

'North coast' group -

Morning: the north coast and Molivos, including bakery stop.

Late afternoon: Kalloni II Pool and Kalloni Saltpans.

'Orchids' group -

Morning: Kato Stavros to Melinda drive, including roadside stops for orchids and other flowers.

Afternoon: picnic lunch and walk along stream valley above Melinda.

Evening 'meze' at Kalamakia.

Wednesday, 14/4/04

Early morning transfer to Mytilini for return flights home, via Athens.

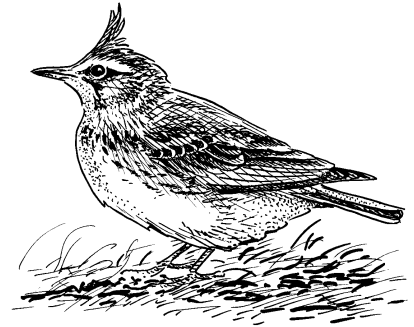
Daily diary

Wednesday 7/4/04 – east bound

We left behind a dry but cloudy Heathrow airport just before 1:00pm, our Boeing 737 400 heading southeast towards Greece, arriving in Athens at 6:20pm (Greek time), to be greeted by sunshine and a very pleasant 18°C. After a two-hour wait, we took the short fifty-minute flight hop to Lesvos, arriving at Mytilini after dark, around 9:10pm, where it was still 16°C. We loaded up the luggage truck and collected our Fiat Scudo minibuses, heading off through the maze of Mytilini town and on to the coastal resort of Vatera, arriving at 10:50pm to be welcomed by Dimitra and Vaios Balkizas. A much-needed evening meal at Maria's taverna Kalamakia followed, where the fassolada, spinach pie and walnut cake were very welcome.

Thursday 8/4/04 – introduction to Vatera & area

A bright and sunny morning and, after bacon and eggs for breakfast at Kalamakia, we set off to walk the short distance from House Voudouris to the Almiropotamos rivermouth at the western end of Vatera Bay. The beach crest vegetation included abundant Mediterranean catchfly, yellow-horned poppy, three-horned stock and the purple flowered clover *Trifolium grandiflorum (speciosum)*. The weather was very settled and few migrants seemed to be moving but nonetheless there were birds of interest in evidence with crested larks (*right*) and corn buntings in the cultivated areas, while swallows and red-rumped swallows fed overhead.



After admiring the Balkan terrapins hauled out on the riverbanks and on the concrete structure of the bridge, we came across the amazing sight of a spotted crane and male little crane feeding side by side on a patch of exposed mud along the margin of the river. A second, this time female, little crane was feeding nearby and also along the river were little egret, marsh harrier, little ringed plover, green sandpiper and yellow wagtails of the black-headed race *feldegg*. Steve heard a penduline tit calling from the olive groves beside the river and there were a number of more typical Lesvos olive grove species including great and blue tits, chaffinch and ciril bunting, as well a Persian squirrel. Along the track a couple of impressively marked adult green lizards sported bright blue throats while in the hot sun Ron was diligently searching the mosaic of rough grassland and scrub for butterflies. Swallowtail, scarce swallowtail, Eastern festoon, clouded yellow, small copper, brown argus and mallow skipper were all showing well and there was a large and photogenic clump of flowering Pheasant's-eye.

After a picnic lunch we headed off to the saltpans at nearby Skala Polichnitos, stopping *en route* to admire the white stork at its nest on the chimney of the old olive press in Polichnitos. Despite many of the pans being dry, we found a small but often distant selection of waders, including Kentish, little ringed and grey plovers, greenshank and little stint, with five distant juvenile greater flamingos feeding on one of the flooded pans. Much closer to hand was a flock of very flighty black-headed wagtails and in an area of rough grassland there was an abundance of chirruping field crickets, a yellow-and-black millipede and a lone flowering spike of mambose [early spider] orchid, keenly spotted by Angela. Continuing on towards Alikoudi Pool, near Skamnioudi we enjoyed close views of a pair of masked shrikes and, from Rob's bus, a wryneck creeping along the top of a stone wall. The pool at Alikoudi held common sandpiper, nine Kentish plovers and white wagtail, while a hoopoe fed on the beach.

Highlights of the day were the spotted and little crakes (seen in the same field of view!), the wryneck and masked shrike (also seen by some in the same field of view!), black-eared wheatear, Balkan terrapins and the lone mambose [early spider] orchid.

Friday 9/4/04 – Achladeri & Agiassos

Those on the pre-breakfast seawatch at the nearby headland of Agias Fokas were treated to close views in good light of a feeding party of 16 Cory's (Scopoli's) and around 50 Yelkouan shearwaters. After breakfast we headed for Achladeri, stopping along the road near Vasilika to watch a party of 50 migrating alpine swifts accompanied by a couple of crag martins. The pine forest at the army camp near Achladeri is renowned for its obliging pair of Kruper's nuthatches and this morning was no exception with the male calling from the branches above our heads upon arrival. Short-toed treecreepers were singing in the vicinity although it took some time before one was seen reasonably well and two long-tailed tits of the Asia Minor race were also seen briefly.

The mountain village of Agiassos was our next stop, where we walked the steep, walled track into the sweet chestnut woodland above the village. As is often the case, the woodland was quiet from a birding perspective

although we did enjoy the familiar sounds of singing wren, robin and blackbird as we ate our picnic. A middle spotted woodpecker called nearby and a number of subalpine warblers and up to four nightingales were singing from scrub on the woodland slopes. Barbara found a spur-thighed tortoise stumbling through the undergrowth and we admired the superb show of flowering peacock and crown anemones, while having to be content with *Fritillaria pontica* and paeonies only at the bud stage. Remarkably, a bat was in active flight over the trees in the middle of the day. Butterflies were also active in the warm sun and it wasn't long before Ron caught us up having located a number of false Apollos, his principal quest of the holiday, on the terraced slopes just above the village. After watching a splendid large tortoiseshell for some time, we returned towards the village, looking out for Ron's strategically placed green sock that marked out the false Apollo site! A coffee and a visit to Manos's delightful bakery followed, before we moved to olives groves just below the village where we found green-winged, four-spotted, sombre bee and lesser yellow bee orchids in exactly the same place as in 2003.

Highlights of the day were the shearwaters, including close-up views of Cory's (Scopoli's), nightingales singing above Agiassos, Kruper's nuthatch, spur-thighed tortoise, all the butterflies including false Apollo and large tortoiseshell, the olive groves and their show of flowers (including anemones and orchids), not forgetting Manos's bakery in Agiassos and its wonderful cakes.

Saturday 10/4/04 – to the rugged west

An earlier start today, with a long drive to the west of the island. A stop *en route* at the 'Grand Canyon' on the Sigri road yielded a pair of Western rock nuthatches at their nest on the sheer rock face opposite, as well as two middle spotted woodpeckers and a distant long-legged buzzard perched on top of a tree. Ron found more Eastern festoons and brown argus while the botanisers were busy finding acorns and sorting out the different oak species dominant in the scrub.

Continuing our drive into increasingly rugged, rocky terrain we reached the Petrified Forest Park at lunchtime, passing the wind turbines *en route*. The famous Petrified Forest was formed 20 million years ago when pyroclastic flows from a now extinct volcano covered the dense forests on that part of the island. Over time the organic molecules in the trees were replaced with inorganic minerals from the lava, resulting in a fossilised forest. A number of large sections of the fossilised trunks, including those of giant sequoias, have been carefully excavated and can be seen at close hand. We promptly ate our picnic in the strong breeze before setting off along the designated footpaths that wind downhill and through the site. Our target bird species here was cinereous bunting, another Lesvos 'speciality' and without too much difficulty we soon located a pair feeding around a steep rocky cleft. Cretzschmar's buntings sang around us as we made our way downhill to look for horseshoe orchids. At least six flowering spikes were found, with a single fan-lipped orchid for good measure. Ron found a fast moving large wall brown butterfly, while overhead a pair of peregrines indulged in aerial display before moving off to harass a long-legged buzzard.

A brief hilltop stop at Ipsilou Monastery produced two crag martins and a Western rock nuthatch but there was no sign of any rock sparrows. Our final stop of the day was at 'Izzy junction' where the Sigri and Eressos roads meet. Within a few minutes, we were watching two pairs of Isabelline wheatears, sometimes in territorial boundary dispute and a woodchat shrike, plus there was a number of spikes of fan-lipped orchid at the roadside. To top off the day, we located a superb spring-plumaged tawny pipit that seemed to materialise from nowhere as it fed among the rocky grassland.

Highlights of the day were long-legged buzzard, the displaying peregrines and the interactions between these two raptor species, middle spotted woodpecker, tawny pipit, Isabelline wheatear, Western rock nuthatch, the buntings and last but not least, the petrified forest.

Sunday 11/4/04 – the Vourkos River valley

Easter Sunday. Early risers taking a pre-breakfast walk to the nearby Almiropotamos River were rewarded with a black stork feeding in the river just beyond the bridge. Two green sandpipers and four little ringed plovers were present and both the spotted and little crane performed for us once again.

After breakfast we drove the short distance to the eastern end of Vatera Bay to the mouth of the Vourkos River where we headed inland along the side of the river valley, through scrub and olive groves towards Kato Stavros. A Cetti's warbler burst loudly into song from the cover of the giant reed behind the beach. Several basking Balkan terrapins occupied the remaining vestige of a coastal pool and we recorded our first dragonfly of the holiday - a freshly emerged broad-bodied chaser. Butterflies flitted everywhere in the bright, warm sunshine with, among others, swallowtail, scarce swallowtail, Eastern festoon, clouded yellow, green hairstreak, green underside blue, small copper, wall brown and mallow skipper all on the wing. Ann saw a Persian squirrel, a buzzard crossed the valley overhead carrying a large lizard or a snake and a circling black stork was mobbed by

a peregrine. The day was becoming hot so we stopped to eat our picnic by the side of the river and Helen found a spur-thighed tortoise nearby which she duly carried back to show to us. By early afternoon, having reached the edge of Kato Stavros, we retraced our steps in the hot sunshine towards the beach. Some athletic manoeuvres from Martin and his net resulted in the deft capture of a fritillary that, after much consultation with the Tolman fieldguide, was identified as Knapweed fritillary. Meanwhile, at about the same time a few hundred metres further on, Ron came across a colony of the very same fritillary on a sun-baked, stony slope. Back towards the beach, a pair of Cretzschmar's buntings were found feeding unobtrusively in one of the small, cultivated olive groves; a chukar was flushed from the track and there was a fine male Northern wheatear flitting around the structure of the unfinished hotel project near the beach.

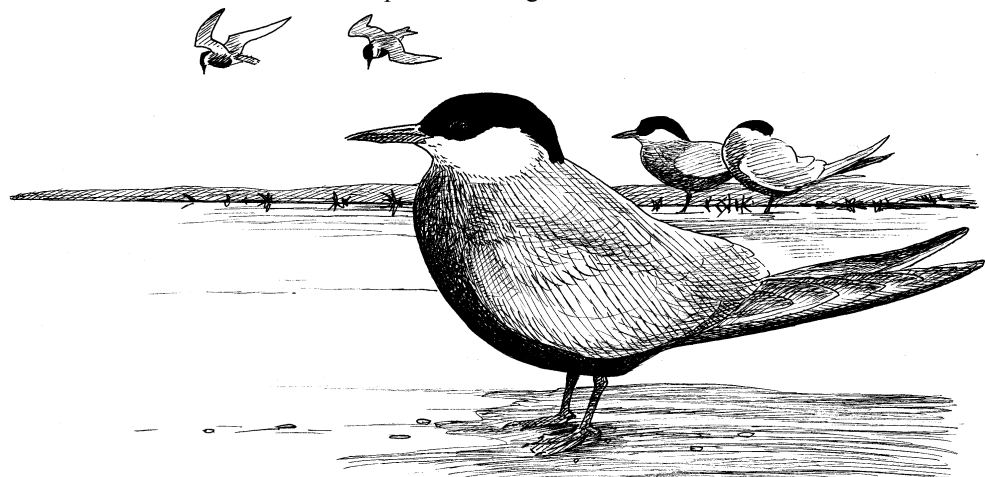
Highlights of the day were black stork and the black stork being harried by a peregrine, a common buzzard with prey (either a snake or a lizard), the two crakes, Helen holding the tortoise, Knapweed fritillary and the broad-bodied chaser at the tiny pool. The river valley and olive groves, the relaxing day in general and the peace and quiet all received special mention while for Bill it was a few moments sitting alone in the sun watching others chasing butterflies!

Monday 12/4/04 – Kalloni wetlands

Around 20 Yelkouan and 12 Cory's (Scopoli's) shearwaters were seen moving past the headland on a second pre-breakfast seawatch from Agias Fokas, although the hoped-for close-range feeding party didn't materialise on this occasion. On the way back to House Voudouris, a Persian squirrel crossed the road too quickly for some of the group to see, as did a typical fly-over hoopoe.

After breakfast we headed north around the eastern side of Kalloni Bay towards Kalloni town, some heavy breaking in Rob's bus *en route* enabling Martin to see his first whole Persian squirrel! Our first stop was at the 'mini-soccer' site on the outskirts of Kalloni by the turn-off to Dafia, where Steve quickly located a roosting scops owl in one of the large Eucalyptus trees. 'Scope-filling views - of a species more often heard than seen - were enjoyed by all. Reluctantly dragging ourselves away, we made our way through Kalloni town to Skala Kalloni and the famous pool in front of Kalloni II hotel. Here, black-winged stilts squabbled noisily in the shallow water and six garganey (including five superb males) swam and fed among the emergent vegetation. Ron's sharp eyes quickly picked out a bright green but motionless common tree frog 'stuck' to the side of a common reed stem and two more were quickly located nearby once everyone had 'got their eye in'. A coffee at one of the quayside tavernas was in order followed by our picnic lunch on the beach back near Kalloni II Pool, where we watched great crested and black-necked grebes feeding in the flat calm bay. A marsh harrier dropped in to hunt over the pool and three superbly summer-plumaged Mediterranean gulls flew over, uttering their loud, distinctive call.

Driving back through Kalloni town, the Kalloni Saltpans were our next stop. Around 70 avocets fed on the first of the large flooded pans, against a backdrop of over 250 greater flamingos, while three whiskered terns (*below*) and three little terns were nearby. A squacco heron flew in; a pair of stone-curlews were present along the top of one of the banks separating the pans and a flock of ten glossy ibises circled tantalisingly before moving away eastwards. Moving further on, we watched a flock of about 50 greater flamingos take to the air, revealing their striking crimson and black wing pattern. A mixed group of feeding marsh, curlew and wood sandpipers, ruff and greenshank tested our identification skills. A flock of over 100 ruff had probably recently arrived in. On the sheep fields behind the pans we found 15 ruddy shelduck, a flock of 16 short-toed larks flew over and three gull-billed terns could be seen on the more distant saltpans to our right.



On the way back to Vatera we stopped on the Achladeri to Vasilika road to admire the profusion of yellow Provence orchids that were flowering on the carpet of needles below the Calabrian pines. There was also a number of green-winged orchids, with the diminutive lesser yellow bee orchid on the roadside verge. In the evening a welcome visitor to Kalamakia was an impressive striped hawk-moth which eventually settled down on one of the outside lights, enabling Ron to photograph it with his trusty digital camera.

Highlights of the day were the flamingos (especially in flight), male garganey, Mediterranean gull, scops owl, tree frog and Provence orchid.

Tuesday 13/4/04 – the north coast & orchids east of Vatera

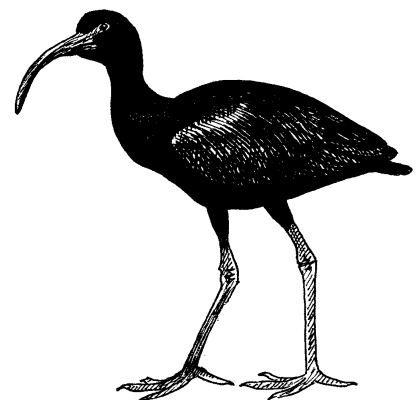
Our final full day on Lesvos, the group split into two with Rob's bus heading to the north coast in search of birds and Steve's bus heading east to Melinda to look at an area renowned for its orchids, recommended by Dirk Raes.

The 'birding bus' made their first stop at the 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road, where two Cretzschmar's buntings were in song and two Western rock nuthatches were seen up the slope. The only cornflowers of the holiday were seen here and pink hawksbeard flowered in profusion. The lay-bys along the coast road between Petra and Molivos were the next destination and almost as soon as we stopped a smart male Rüppell's warbler sang from the top of a nearby bush, providing excellent views for all. A male blue rock thrush perched obligingly in the open, another Western rock nuthatch was briefly seen and there was clearly a movement of good numbers of hirundines accompanied by swifts. As the wind got up, we sheltered in garrigue scrub for our picnic, accompanied by an Orphean warbler singing from deep cover and, while we were happily admiring cytinus, a curious parasitic plant belonging to a primarily tropical family that includes Rafflesia, Barbara found two ortolan buntings. An excursion into Molivos town brought us to the bakery, after which we proceeded to Eftalou where we ate our purchases and watched two whinchats.

The 'orchid bus' headed towards nearby Kato Stavros in the Vourkos River valley, with a Persian squirrel providing good views *en route*, before heading eastwards on unsurfaced tracks towards Akrafi and Neochori. Near Neochori we began to spot orchids from the bus so one of a number of roadside stops was duly made, producing Italian man and green-winged orchids and then these two plus Provence, pink butterfly, toothed and sombre bee orchids, as well as the curious hairy birthwort and *Fritillaria pontica* in flower. Heading south towards the coast through the narrow main street of Paleochori yielded a briefly glimpsed hoopoe and short-toed eagle despite the dull, cloudy sky. Another roadside stop brought spikes of *Ophrys umbilicata* and *Ophrys bucephala*, the latter orchid being endemic to Lesvos, in a steeply sloping olive grove, before we dropped downhill into the quiet coastal village of Melinda. Fortuitously bumping into Dirk Raes, we were able to locate the fairly inconspicuous entrance to the stream valley that stretched back above the village. After lunch we set off up the valley through terraced olive groves. Tassel hyacinths were abundant in places and hairy birthwort in flower were found frequently as we walked and searched for orchids. Once again we came across Italian man, toothed and sombre bee orchids while also adding small-flowered tongue, lesser yellow bee and another species of sombre bee orchid *Ophrys iricolor*, also known as rainbow orchid, making a day total of 11 species with 15 for the holiday overall. Bird-wise the stream valley seemed relatively quiet although we did hear middle spotted woodpecker and nightingale and subalpine warblers seemed to be everywhere while always remaining quite difficult to see! A male blue rock thrush flew over us as we headed back to the bus and we were able to 'scope it as it sang from an exposed rock some distance away.

Making their way back south, the birders couldn't resist popping in to Kalloni II Pool, where a purple heron was seen briefly, along with garganey, wood sandpiper and ruff. The highlight was however a flock of 11 glossy ibises (*right*) feeding actively in the shallows, showing to great effect their iridescent, oily purple-green plumage. Rob's group also paid a final visit to the ever-productive Kalloni Salt pans, which yielded marsh sandpiper, greenshank, a flock of 226 ruff and a male pallid harrier, the latter seen by David and Rob before disappearing from view. Despite best efforts, the harrier couldn't be relocated, solace being found in the form of a black stork feeding in the main channel only ten metres away, oblivious of its admirers!

Heading back towards Kato Stavros at the end of the day, past meadows full of tongue orchids, Steve's bus came across a woodlark, which gave good views. In contrast, two Orphean warblers were much less obliging.



Highlights of the day were Kalloni II Pool and its circling glossy ibises and marsh harrier, singing male black-eared wheatear, male blue rock thrush, male Rüppell's warbler, the 'front end' of a Persian squirrel (to go with a 'back end' seen earlier in the week), the amazing birthwort flowers, the orchids and the evening 'meze' at Kalamakia.

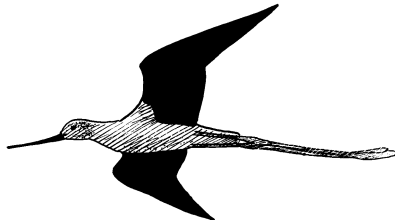
Wednesday 14/4/04 – reluctantly homeward bound

Up far too early, before dawn, to get to the airport at Mytilini for our flight to Athens. Being so early, the streets of Mytilini were virtually deserted, so driving was straightforward and we arrived at the airport without any navigational hitches. We said our farewells to Rob, who was staying on for another week to lead another group. It was daylight by the time we took to the air and, below us, Vatera, Agias Fokas, Mount Olympos and the salt pans at Kalloni were clearly visible. Later, after only a short wait in Athens we were in the air once again, flying above the Greek coastline, then northwestwards over the snowy Alps and Paris, arriving at Heathrow to sunshine, but a much cooler 10°C!

Thanks to Dimitra and Vaios Balkizas, Maria and Panagiotis at Kalamakia and Lefteris and Panagiotis Voudouris at House Voudouris for helping our holiday to run so smoothly, for the fabulous food (!) and for making us so welcome in Vatera. Thanks to Brian and Eileen Anderson and Dirk Raes for helping with the identification of some problematical *Ophrys* orchids and thanks again to Dirk for helping with identification of the local forest pines and for recommending the Melinda area for orchids.

Thanks to Angela, Ann, Bill, Margaret, David, Derek, Martin, Barbara, Malcolm, Helen and Ron for their terrific humour and for being such great company. Thanks to Ron for sharing with us his considerable Lepidopteral expertise, for keeping a daily butterfly list and recording (on CD-Rom) the photos of false Apollo, the many other butterflies and the orchids, particularly the *Ophrys* orchids, via his trusty Nikon Cool Pix 885 digital camera - a very useful tool! Thanks to Angela and Martin for recording and compiling much of the list of the many plants we had the pleasure to see.

Highlights of the week were Good Friday, Agiassos village and both the meadow above and the flowered-filled olive groves below Agiassos, the petrified forest, Kalloni II pool (let's hope it survives all the developmental threats), the sunny olive groves, the unspoilt nature of Lesvos and Maria's cooking at Kalamakia. From the faunal perspective, the highlights were the glossy ibises, the little and spotted crakes, scops owl and last but not least the false Apollo butterflies at Agiassos.



Systematic lists

Birds

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

One heard at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 12 April and one seen there on 13 April.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Four in Kalloni Bay off Skala Kalloni and one in Kalloni Bay off the Kalloni Salt pans on 12 April.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Seven in Kalloni Bay off Skala Kalloni on 12 April.

Cory's (Scopoli's) Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea diomedea*

Two moving east and a feeding party of 16, with Yelkouan shearwaters and yellow-legged gulls, just off the headland Agias Fokas on 9 April; 3 moving east offshore in late afternoon at the western end of Vatera Bay on 11 April and a feeding party of 12 offshore from Agias Fokas on 12 April.

Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

c.15 moving offshore (east and west) and a feeding party of c.50 just off the headland Agias Fokas on 9 April; 13 moving west offshore in late afternoon at the western end of Vatera Bay on 11 April; a feeding party of 20+ offshore from Agias Fokas and 11 moving west in Vatera Bay on 12 April and eight moving east in Vatera Bay on 13 April.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

One in Kalloni Bay off Alikoudi on 8 April; three, Agias Fokas on 9 April; four, Agias Fokas on 12 April with two in Vatera Bay on 12 April and one there on 13 April.

White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

A 'tamed' individual near the bakery in Skala Kalloni harbour on 12 April.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

One at the Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One at the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 and 11 April and at the Kalloni Saltpans on 10, 12 and 13 April.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

Two at the Kalloni Saltpans on 10 April; three there on 12 April and also recorded present on 13 April.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

One near Kofinas on 10 April and recorded present at the Kalloni Saltpans on 12 and 13 April.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

One at Kalloni II Pool on 13 April.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

One at the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 11 April; this or another individual over the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on the same day and one watched at close range in the main channel, Kalloni Saltpans, on 13 April.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Seen at nest on the old olive press chimney in Polichnitos on 8 and 12 April.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Ten high over the Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April moved off eastwards and 11 at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 13 April.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Five at the Skala Polichnitos Saltpans on 8 April; 250+ at the Kalloni Saltpans on 10, 12 and 13 April.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

One on the Kalloni Saltpans on 10 April and 15 on the sheep fields at the Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Singles at the Skala Polichnitos Saltpans on 8 April and at the Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

12 at the Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Six at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni and two at the Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April, with two at Kalloni II Pool on 13 April.

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Two near Skala Polichnitos Saltpans on 8 April; two near Vasilika and three around Agiassos on 9 April; three in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April and two between Paleochori and Melinda on 13 April.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Single females at the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April and at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 12 and 13 April.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

An adult male seen by David and Rob at the Kalloni Saltpans on 13 April.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* or **Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*

Single, undetermined 'ringtail' females and/or immatures near Skamnioudi on 8 April and at the Sigri-Eressos road junction on 10 April.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

One at Vatera on 13 April.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Seen daily, 8-11 April and again on 13 April including singles at Vatera on 8 and 13 April.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

One in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa; one over the Petrified Forest Park and another over the road west of Vatoussa on 10 April.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Singles at the Skala Polichnitos Saltpans and near Skamnioudi on 8 April; Vatera and at the Petrified Forest Park on 10 April and near 'Derbyshire' on 12 April.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

A pair over the Petrified Forest Park on 10 April; one mobbing a black stork over the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April and one above Melinda on 13 April.

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*

One heard by Martin and Barbara at the Petrified Forest Park on 10 April and one flushed and seen briefly in flight near the mouth of the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

One at the Almiropotamos River (around and just upstream of the first bridge), Vatera, seen on 8 and 10-13 April. Often with the male little crake.

Little Crake *Porzana parva*

A male and female at the Almiropotamos River (around and just upstream of the first bridge), Vatera, on 8 April, with the male seen again on 10-11 and 13 April. Often with the spotted crake.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Seen at the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 and 10-13 April with a maximum count of nine on 11 April and two at Skala Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 12 April and several there on 13 April.

Coot *Fulica atra*

1-2 at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 12 and 13 April.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Kalloni Saltpans on 10, 12 and 13 April; c.20 at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 12 and 13 April.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

70 at the Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April with similar numbers there on 13 April.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oediconemus*

Two at the Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April and heard calling there on 13 April.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

One at the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, with 12 at Skala Polichnitos Saltpans and one at Alikoudi Pool on 8 April; four near the mouth of the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Four at the Skala Polichnitos Saltpans and nine at Alikoudi Pool on 8 April.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

One at the Skala Polichnitos Saltpans on 8 April.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Five at the Skala Polichnitos Saltpans on 8 April and six at the Kalloni Salt Pans on 13 April.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Four at the Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

117 at the Kalloni Salt pans on 12 April and 226 there on 13 April, with a single at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on the same day.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

A single at the Skala Polichnitos Salt pans on 8 April.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Five at the Kalloni Salt pans on 12 April and six there on 13 April.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Four at the Skala Polichnitos Salt pans and one at Alikoudi Pool on 8 April; 10 at the Kalloni Salt Pans on 12 April with six there on 13 April.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Singles at the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April with two there on 11 April and one heard at the Kalloni Salt pans on 12 April.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Five at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 12 April with 3 there on 13 April; 23 at the Kalloni Salt pans on 12 April with 12 there on 13 April.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Singles at Alikoudi Pool on 8 April and the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 13 April.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Three adults over the beach at Skala Kalloni on 12 April and an adult east in Vatera Bay on 13 April.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans michahellis*

Seen daily. Common throughout the island.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Three at the Kalloni Salt pans on 12 April.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Several in Kalloni Bay, Skala Kalloni, on 12 April and at the Kalloni Salt pans on 12 and 13 April.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Three at the Kalloni Salt pans on 12 April and four there on 13 April.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

Three at the Kalloni Salt pans on 12 April and a single there on 13 April.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Seen daily, throughout the island.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Singles heard, Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April and near Neochori on 13 April.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

One seen northeast of Vasilika on 9 April and heard daily, 11-13 April.

Scops Owl *Otus scops*

One roosting in a Eucalyptus tree at the 'mini-soccer' and taverna site, Kalloni, on 12 April.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

One at dusk on the roof opposite House Voudouris, Vatera, on the evenings of 9, 10, 12 and 13 April.

Swift *Apus apus*

Seen daily in small numbers, including birds entering roof nest cavities in Kalloni town. A group of c.40 were over the bay at Achladeri on 9 April.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

c.50 feeding over hilly countryside just northeast of Vasilika and several above Agiassos on 9 April.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Singles, on the beach at Alikoudi Pool on 8 April; heard calling in hilly countryside just northeast of Vasilika on 9 April, near Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 12 April and between Paleochori and Melinda on 13 April.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One near Skamnioudi on 8 April.

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*

Heard on 8 and 9 April including 1-2 in the sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos; two seen in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 10 April; one heard calling from the olive groves in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April and one heard calling in the 'orchid' valley above Melinda on 13 April.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

A flock of 16 and a single in the coastal strip south of the Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Seen daily. Abundant throughout the island.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

One east of Kato Stavros on 13 April.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Several in a mixed hirundine flock near Skamnioudi on 8 April; one over House Voudouris, Vatera, on 11 April and several in a mixed hirundine flock between Petra and Molivos on 13 April.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

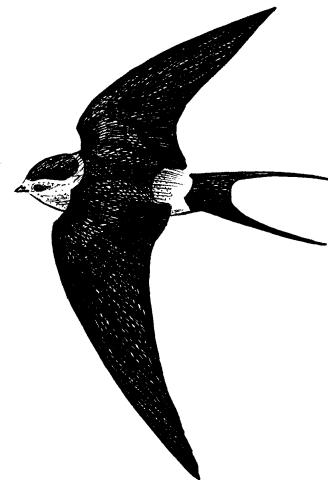
Two over hilly countryside just northeast of Vasilika on 9 April; two at Ipsilou Monastery on 10 April; one over House Voudouris, Vatera, on 11 April and two in the 'orchid' valley above Melinda on 13 April.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Seen daily in small numbers.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

Small numbers seen in Vatera and near the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 and 10-13 April; five in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 10 April; two near the mouth of the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April; several at the Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April; two above Melinda and a large movement with other hirundines between Petra and Molivos on 13 April.



House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Seen daily in small numbers.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

One at the Sigri-Eressos road junction on 10 April.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One at the Petrified Forest Park on 10 April.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Two on the 'rocky' field adjacent to Skala Polichnitos Saltpans and another nearby, 8 April.

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg*

Small numbers on the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, 8-13 April; a flock of c.60 on the 'rocky' field adjacent to Skala Polichnitos Saltpans on 8 April and two at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 12 and 13 April.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*

One on the 'rocky' field adjacent to Skala Polichnitos Saltpans on 8 April.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Small numbers on 8 and 9 April and daily, 11-13 April. A pair nesting on a small islet offshore from Agias Fokas.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Heard singing in the sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 9 April and near Neochori on 13 April.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

One in the sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 9 April.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Heard daily. Four singing on the scrubby woodland slopes above Agiassos on 9 April.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Two at Efthalou and a single at the Kalloni Salt pans on 13 April.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Four at the Sigri-Eressos road junction on 10 April.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

One on the 'rocky' field adjacent to Skala Polichnitos Salt pans on 8 April and a fine male near the mouth of the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanicus melanoleuca*

The stunning eastern race. Seen daily. All males with black throats except for one pale-throated form between Petra and Molivos on 13 April. Numerous and widespread in rocky areas.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

One at Agias Fokas on 9 April; single males between Petra and Molivos and above Melinda on 13 April.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Seen daily. Widespread. Relatively secretive compared to UK blackbirds so can be overlooked, but common in olive groves.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

One in the 'army camp' pine woodland at Achladeri on 9 April.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

One in pine woodland, near the T-junction on the Achladeri-Vasilika road on 10 April.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Heard daily on 10-13 April.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

1-2, Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8, 10 and 11 April; two at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 12 and 13 April.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

Seen or heard daily, 9-11 April and on 13 April, including birds at the nuthatch site near Achladeri and above Agiassos on 9 April, in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 10 April, along the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April and in the stream valley above Melinda on 13 April. Numerous at the latter two sites.

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia ruepelli*

At least six between Petra and Molivos on 13 April.

Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis crassirostris*

One near the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April; two in coastal scrub between Petra and Molivos and two east of Kato Stavros on 13 April.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Singles, Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8, 11 and 13 April.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

One near Skamnioudi on 8 April; heard singing at the 'nuthatch' site in the pine woodland at Achladeri on 9 April and one near Neochori on 13 April.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus tephronotus*

This is the shorter-tailed, grey-backed Asia Minor race. Two in the pine woodland at Achladeri on 9 April and several in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 10 April.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Seen and/or heard daily.

Great Tit *Parus major*
Seen and/or heard daily.

Kruper's Nuthatch *Sitta krueperi*
Superb views of a male near the 2003 nest-site at the 'army camp' pine woodland site at Achladeri on 9 April.

Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer zarudnyi*
A pair at the nest in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa; a single at Ipsilou Monastery on 10 April; two from the 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road and a single between Petra and Molivos on 13 April.

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*
Several in the 'army camp' pine woodland at Achladeri on 9 April.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*
One heard by Steve, calling from olive groves near the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Two adjacent to Skala Polichnitos Salt pans on 8 April; singles at the Sigri-Eressos road junction on 10 April and east of Kato Stavros on 13 April.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*
A pair near Skamnioudi on 8 April.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius atricapillus*
This race sports a black cap. Seen daily on 8-10 April.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*
Seen daily. Common and widespread throughout the eastern part of the island.

Raven *Corvus corax*
Seen daily, 9-11 April and again on 13 April.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Seen daily.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*
One at House Voudouris, Vatera, on 9 and 11 April and a flock of c.20 between Petra and Molivos on 13 April.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*
Seen daily.

Serin *Serinus serinus*
Seen and/or heard singing on 8 and 9 April and daily, 11-13 April.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*
Seen daily in small numbers.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*
Seen daily in small numbers.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*
Two at the Petrified Forest Park on 10 April; two in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April and six on the sheep fields at Kalloni Salt pans on 12 April.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*
Seen or heard daily.

Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea*
A pair at the Petrified Forest Park on 10 April.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*
Two in coastal scrub between Petra and Molivos on 13 April.

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*
At least four at the Petrified Forest Park on 10 April; two in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April and two from the 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road on 13 April.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Seen daily. Common and widespread throughout.

Total – 119 species

Mammals

Eastern Hedgehog *Erinaceus concolor*

One road death, near Polichnitos on 9 April.

Bat spp.

One in full flight, in bright mid-day sunshine, in the sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 9 April. Several bats at dusk and in late evening, present around House Voudouris throughout the holiday, were picked up by David's and Malcolm's bat detectors at around 50kHz indicating that these were probably Common *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* or Soprano *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* Pipistrelles. Richard Brooks (1998) lists *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, although this is not recorded for Lesvos [but *is* recorded for nearby islands] in *The Atlas of European Mammals* (Mitchell-Jones *et al.* 1999).

Persian Squirrel *Sciurus anomalus*

One in olive groves near the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April; one at Agiassos on 9 April; one seen by Ann in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April; one seen from Rob's bus near Achladeri on 12 April and one seen by the 'orchid group' on the road near Kato Stavros on 13 April.

Lesser Mole Rat *Nannospalax leucodon*

An abundance of burrow entrances in olive groves near the Almiropotamos River, Vatera and in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, as well as at other locations, are perhaps attributable to this species. Richard Brooks (1998) lists only greater mole rat *Spalax microphthalmus*; *The Atlas of European Mammals* (Mitchell-Jones *et al.* 1999) suggests that lesser mole rats on Lesvos may in fact be the Asia Minor species *Nannospalax nehringi*.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* or **Black Rat** *Rattus rattus*

Richard Brooks (1998) lists both species; *The Atlas of European Mammals* (Mitchell-Jones *et al.* 1999) records only black rat for Lesvos.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Three road deaths, including one near Vatera on 12 April and one near Neochori on 13 April.

Dolphin sp.

One unidentified dolphin off Molivos on 13 April. Richard Brooks (1998) lists Striped, Common and Bottle-nosed.

Amphibians & Reptiles

Common Tree Frog *Hyla arborea*

Three on common reed and giant reed adjacent to Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 12 April, with one there on 13 April.

Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda*

Heard calling, Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April; at Agiassos on 9 April and in and around Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 12 April.

Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca*

One in sweet chestnut woodland on the circular walk above Agiassos on 9 April and two in the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Balkan Terrapin *Mauremys rivulata*

Numerous in the sunshine at the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April and also seen there on subsequent days and several at the small 'pond' at the mouth of the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Green Lizard *Lacerta viridis*

Two mature adults (with bright blue throats) near the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April; a juvenile at the Petrified Forest Park on 10 April; an adult and a juvenile, Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April. Several juvenile 'green' lizards at these and other locations, probably this species.

Butterflies

Swallowtail *Papilo machaon*

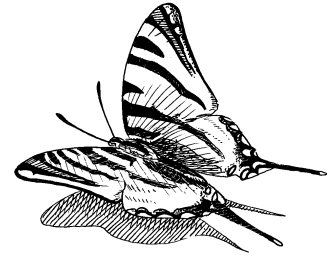
Two, Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April; Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April and singles, Kalloni II Pool and Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April.

Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius*

Two, olive groves near Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April; two seen in pine forest at Achladeri on 9 April and Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Eastern Festoon *Zerynthia cerisy*

Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April; Agiassos on 9 April; 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa and the Petrified Forest Park on 10 April; Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April (including female depositing eggs on the underside of birthwort leaves); near Neochori and in the stream valley above Melinda on 13 April.



False Apollo *Archon apollinus*

Several, including a well-photographed copulating pair, on the terraces near the beginning of circular walk above Agiassos on 9 April and 2-3 at Ipsilou Monastery on 10 April.

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Achladeri and Agiassos on 9 April; Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April; Skala Kalloni on 12 April and in the stream valley above Melinda on 13 April.

Eastern Dappled White *Euchloe ausonia*

Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April; Achladeri and Agiassos on 9 April; Petrified Forest Park on 10 April; Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April; Skala Kalloni and Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April.

Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April; Achladeri and Agiassos on 9 April; 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa and the Petrified Forest Park on 10 April; Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April; near Neochori and in the stream valley above Melinda on 13 April.

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April and Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*

Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Almiropotamos River, Vatera and Skala Polichnitos Saltpans on 8 April; Achladeri and Agiassos on 9 April; 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa and the Petrified Forest Park on 10 April; Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April; Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April and in the stream valley above Melinda on 13 April.

Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*

Achladeri and Agiassos on 9 April; 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 10 April; Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April and Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April.

Green-underside Blue *Glaucopsyche alexis*

Achladeri on 9 April; Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April and in the stream valley above Melinda on 13 April.

a **Blue**, *Pseudophilotes vicrama*

Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*

Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April; 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa and Petrified Forest Park on 10 April; Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Large Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis polychloros*

One, above Agiassos on 9 April.

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Agiassos on 9 April; 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 10 April and Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April; Achladeri and Agiassos on 9 April; 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa and Petrified Forest Park on 10 April; Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April; Skala Kalloni and Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April and in the stream valley above Melinda on 13 April.

Knapweed Fritillary *Melitaea phoebe*

A colony on the sides of the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Several near Achladeri on 9 April; Petrified Forest Park on 10 April; Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April and on the north coast near Molivos on 13 April.

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*

Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Large Wall Brown *Lasiommata maera*

Petrified Forest Park on 10 April.

Mallow Skipper *Carchodous alceae*

Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April; Agiassos on 9 April and Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Moths

Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*

Olive groves adjacent to the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April and Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 12 April.

Striped Hawk-moth *Hyles lineata*

One attracted to the lights at Taverna Kalamakia on 12 April.

Silver Y *Autographa gamma*

Adjacent to the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, on 8 April.

Dragonflies

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*

Kalloni Saltpans on 12 April.

Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*

A fresh female at the small 'pond' at the mouth of the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Other invertebrates

Field Cricket *Gryllus campestris*

Abundant on open ground near the Skala Polichnitos Saltpans on 8 April.

Bush-cricket sp.

Petrified Forest Park on 10 April.

Blue-winged Grasshopper *Oedipoda caerulescens*

Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April and also seen elsewhere.

Dung Beetle sp.

An enormous dung beetle, possibly one of the scarab group. Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, on 11 April.

Yellow-and-black Flat-backed Millipede

In grassland near Skala Polichnitos Saltpans on 8 April and also seen elsewhere.

Plants

Calabrian Pine *Pinus halepensis* ssp. *brutia*

The trees in the pine forest to the east of Kalloni Bay confirmed by Dirk Raes to be *Pinus halepensis brutia*.

Stone Pine *Pinus pinea*

Skala Kalloni. Introduced to the island.

Italian Cypress *Cupressus sempervirens*

Frequent and widespread; in both its 'normal' and columnar forms.

Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa*

The dominant tree above Agiassos, 9 April.

Kermes Oak *Quercus coccifera*

Evergreen, with small holly-like leaves. A frequent component of the garrigue.

Valonia Oak *Quercus aegilops*

Its acorn cups are unmistakable – large, with thick, flattened re-curved scales. Abundant in the 'Grand Canyon' area, west of Vatooussa, 10 April.

Gall Oak *Quercus infectoria*

Its pale foliage contrasts with that of *Q. aegilops*. Also present in the 'Grand Canyon' area, west of Vatooussa, 10 April.

Cytinus *Cytinus hypocistis* ssp. *clusii* (*Cytinus ruber*)

In garrigue just south of Molivos, 13 April.

Fig *Ficus carica*

Frequent.

Roman Nettle *Urtica pilulifera*

Seen at several locations including the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, 11 April.

Hairy Birthwort *Aristolochia hirta*

In the Vourkos River valley near Kato Stavros, east of Vatera, 11 April; near Neochori and frequent in the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.

Sea Beet *Beta vulgaris* ssp. *maritima*

Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, 11 April.

Glasswort sp. *Salicornia* sp.

Skala Polichnitos Salt pans, 8 April.

Sea Purslane *Halimione portulacoides*

Skala Polichnitos Salt pans, 8 April.

Small-flowered Catchfly *Silene gallica*

Mediterranean Catchfly *Silene colorata* subsp. *colorata*

Abundant along the top of the beach at Vatera. Common and widespread.

Crown Anemone *Anemone coronaria*

Peacock Anemone *Anemone pavonina*

Water-crowfoot sp. *Ranunculus* sp.

Two species present at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, 12 April. One with floating leaves is probably either Pond Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus* or Brackish Water-crowfoot *R. baudoti*; the other has submerged leaves only and is probably Common Water-crowfoot *R. aquatilis*.

Pheasant's-eye *Adonis annua*

A large, impressive clump, in open scrub adjacent to the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, 8 April.

Small-flowered Buttercup *Ranunculus parviflorus*

Celery-leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus*

Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, 12 April.

a **Poppy** *Papaver minus* ?

Short, with deep crimson (rather than scarlet) petals; growing on grass verges in Vatera and elsewhere. Possibly this species.

Yellow-horned Poppy *Glaucium flavum*
Vatera beach.

Bunias *Bunias erucago*

Virginia Stock *Malcolmia maritima*
Vatera beach.

Spring Rock-cress *Arabis verna*
'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, 10 April.

Three-horned Stock *Matthiola tricuspidata*
Vatera beach.

Dittander *Lepidium latifolium*

White Mignonette *Reseda alba*
At the roadside near Molivos, 13 April.

Reddish Stonecrop *Sedum rubens*
Vatera beach and Petrified Forest Park, 10 April.

Navelwort sp. *Umbilicus* sp.
Growing in the walls in the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.

Oriental Plane *Platanus orientalis*
A riparian species. Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, 11 April and in the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.

Mediterranean Salad Burnet *Poterium verrucosum* [*Sanguisorba minor* ssp. *magnolii*]

Thorny Burnet *Sarcopoterium spinosum*
A widespread, frequently dominant component of the garrigue.

Almond-leaved Pear *Pyrus spinosa* (*Pyrus amygdaliformis*)
Common and widespread.

Hairy Thorny Broom *Calycotoma villosa*
Occasional component of the garrigue and maquis.

Fodder Vetch *Vicia villosa*

Hairy Yellow Vetchling *Vicia hybrida*

Vicia melanops

Lathyrus blepharicarpus

Wild Pea *Pisum sativum*
In the olive groves below Agiassos, 9 April and near Paleochori on 13 April.

a **Medick** *Medicago littoralis*
Abundant on Vatera beach.

Trifolium uniflorum
Petrified Forest Park, 10 April.

Trifolium grandiflorum (*Trifolium speciosum*)
Abundant on Vatera beach.

Reversed Clover *Trifolium resupinatum*
Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, 12 April.

Bermuda Buttercup *Oxalis pes-caprae*
Frequent at roadsides and on open wasteground.

Cut-leaved Crane's-bill *Geranium dissectum*
Widespread.

Little Robin *Geranium purpureum*
Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, 11 April.

Shining Crane's-bill *Geranium lucidum*
Above Agiassos, 9 April.

Cut-leaved Stork's-bill *Erodium laciniatum*

a **Flax** *Linum*
White flower. Possibly *L. tenuifolium*?

Sun Spurge *Euphorbia helioscopia*
Vatera beach and frequent on arable land.

Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge *Euphorbia rigida*
Along the walled track above Agiassos and in the olive groves below Agiassos, 9 April. Also seen elsewhere.

Sea Spurge *Euphorbia paralias*
On the beach at the mouth of the Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, 11 April.

Large Mediterranean Spurge *Euphorbia characias*

Annual Mercury *Mercurialis annua*
Abundant in arable field margins.

Turpentine Tree *Pistacia terebinthus*
A frequent component of maquis.

Mastic Tree *Pistacia lentiscus*
A frequent component of maquis.

Musk Mallow *Malva moschata*
Vatera, 8 April.

Cistus creticus ssp. *creticus*
This and sage-leaved cistus frequently predominate in the garrigue.

Sage-leaved Cistus *Cistus salvifolius*

Tamarisk sp. *Tamarix* sp.

Field Eryngo *Eryngium campestre*

Shepherd's Needle *Scandix pecten-veneris*
Frequent in grassy places.

Water Dropwort sp. *Oenanthe* sp.
In a roadside ditch near Kalloni Salt pans. Could be Fine-leaved Water Dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*.

Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare*

Thorow-wax sp. *Bupleurum* sp.

Giant Fennel *Ferula communis* subsp. *communis*
Conspicuous along many roadside verges.

Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*
Abundant. Both blue- and scarlet-flowered forms were seen.

Ivy-leaved Sowbread *Cyclamen hederifolium*
Not in flower. Above Agiassos, 9 April, particularly along the walled track and near Neochori on 13 April.

Wild Olive *Olea europea* subsp. *oleaster* ?
Plants growing high up on the hillside west of Vatoussa, 10 April, were almost certainly wild olives.

Oleander *Nerium oleander* subsp. *oleander*

Squinancywort *Asperula cynanchica*
Adjacent to the Skala Polichnitos Salt pans, 8 April and near Neochori, 13 April.

Mallow-leaved Bindweed *Convolvulus althaeoides*
Roadside verges.

Borage *Borago officinalis*
Skala Polichnitos Saltpans, 8 April.

Blue Hound's Tongue *Cynoglossum creticum*
In olive groves between Paleochori and Melinda, 13 April.

Alkanet *Anchusa officinalis*
Almiropotamos River, Vatera, 8 April; near Noechori on 13 April and seen at sites elsewhere.

Henbit Deadnettle *Lamium amplexicaule* subsp. *amplexicaule*

Marjoram *Origanum vulgare*

French Lavender *Lavandula stoechas*
Frequent in garrigue.

Clary sp. *Salvia* sp.

Nettle-leaved Figwort *Scrophularia peregrina*
Along the track in olive groves adjacent to the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, 8 April and in the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.

French Figwort *Scrophularia canina*
In the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.

a **Mullein** *Verbascum undulatum*
Frequent on roadside verges.

Broomrape sp. *Orobanche* sp.
Parasitic and lacking chlorophyll. Seen at several sites including the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.

Buck's-horn Plantain *Plantago coronopus*
Abundant on Vatera beach.

Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*
Abundant on Vatera beach.

Pink Valerian *Centranthus calcitrapae* subsp. *calcitrapae*
In the olive groves below Agiassos, 9 April and in the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.

Large Venus's Looking-glass *Legousia speculum-veneris* or *Legousia pentagonica*
Adjacent to the Almiropotamos River, Vatera, 8 April and in the Petrified Forest Park, 10 April. Also seen at other locations.

Woolly Chamomile *Anthemis tomentosa*
Abundant on Vatera beach.

a **Mayweed** *Anthemis chia*
Grassy places and neglected arable land.

Field Marigold *Calendula arvensis*
Frequent in Vatera and other locations.

Syrian Thistle *Notobasis syriaca*
Roadside verges and open wasteground.

Milk Thistle *Cynara cornigera*

Cornflower *Centaurea cyanus*
Near the 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road, 13 April.

Salsify *Tragopogon porrifolius*

Pink Hawksbeard *Crepis rubra*
Frequent on roadside verges in the Ipsilou Monastery area, 10 April and growing in profusion near the 'bandstand' on the Kalloni to Petra road, 13 April.

Bulbous Arrow-grass *Triglochin bulbosa*

Skala Polichnitos Saltpans, 8 April and at the edges of Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, 12 April.

White Asphodel *Asphodelus ramosus* (*Asphodelus albus* subsp. *albus*)

Abundant throughout the island and dominant in places.

a **Fritillary** *Fritillaria pontica*

Above Agiassos, 9 April and near Neochori, 13 April.

Star-of Bethlehem sp. *Ornithogalum* sp.

Tassel Hyacinth *Muscari comosum*

Frequent in grassy places. Abundant in the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.

Common Grape Hyacinth *Muscari neglectum*

Black Bryony *Tamus communis*

Agiassos on 9 April.

Barbary-nut *Moraea sisyrinchium*

Abundant throughout the eastern part of the island.

Common Dragon Arum *Dracunculus vulgaris*

Large Cuckoo Pint *Arum concinatum* (*Arum italicum*)

Pink Butterfly Orchid *Orchis papilionacea*

Near Neochori, 13 April.

Green-winged Orchid *Orchis morio* subsp. *picta* (also known as Painted Orchid)

In the olive groves below Agiassos, 9 April; at the edge of pine forest near the T-junction on the Achladeri-Vasilika road, 12 April and near Neochori, 13 April.

Toothed Orchid *Orchis tridentata*

Near Neochori and in the stream valley above Melinda 13 April.

Italian Man Orchid *Orchis italica*

Near Neochori and in the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.

Fan-lipped Orchid *Orchis collina*

Petrified Forest Park and the Sigri-Eressos road junction, 10 April.

Provence Orchid *Orchis provincialis*

At the edge of pine forest near the T-junction on the Achladeri-Vasilika road, 12 April and near Neochori, 13 April.

Four-spotted Orchid *Orchis quadripunctata*

In the olive groves below Agiassos, 9 April.

Lesser Yellow Bee Orchid *Ophrys sicula* (*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *minor*)

In the olive groves below Agiassos, 9 April; Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, 11 April; at the roadside near the T-junction on the Achladeri-Vasilika road, 12 April and in the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.

Sombre Bee Orchid *Ophrys fusca*

In the olive groves below Agiassos, 9 April; near Neochori and in the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.

Rainbow Orchid (a Sombre Bee Orchid) *Ophrys iricolor*

In the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.

Mammose [Early Spider] Orchid *Ophrys mammosa* [*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *mammosa*]

A single spike on open ground near Skala Polichnitos Saltpans, 8 April.

Horseshoe Orchid *Ophrys ferrum-equinum*

Petrified Forest Park, 10 April.

Ophrys umbilicata

In steeply sloping olive groves above Melinda, 13 April.

Ophrys bucephala

In steeply sloping olive groves above Melinda, 13 April. Endemic to Lesbos.

Small-flowered Tongue Orchid *Serapias parviflora*

In damp grassland adjacent to the Kalloni Salt pans, 12 April; in olive groves between Paleochori and Melinda, 13 April.

Grasses

Large Quaking Grass *Briza maxima*

Vourkos River valley, east of Vatera, 11 April.

Winter Wild Oat *Avena sterilis*

Marram Grass *Ammophila arenaria*

Several clumps on Vatera beach.

Giant Reed *Arundo donax*

Introduced.

Common Reed *Phragmites australis*

Reedmace sp. *Typha* sp.

Several stands in Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, 12 April. Possibly *T. domingensis*.

Common Spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*

On the margins of the wet areas at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, 12 April.

Sea Club-rush *Scirpus maritimus*

Extensive stands at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, 12 April.

Sea Rush *Juncus maritimus*

Skala Polichnitos Salt pans, 8 April.

Ferns

Polypody sp. *Polypodium* sp.

Growing in the stone wall beside the track above Agiassos, 9 April.

Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*

In sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos, 9 April.

Maidenhair Spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes*

Growing in the stone wall beside the track above Agiassos, 9 April.

Rustyback *Ceterach officinarum*

Growing in the stone wall beside the track above Agiassos, 9 April and in the stone wall in the stream valley above Melinda, 13 April.