

CRETE BIRD REPORT 1986
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COMPILED BY:

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This report has been compiled from records made during the University of Kent Tour to Crete 15th-29th April, and with the help of the many people who visited Crete in 1986. It covers the period March to May with occasional records from later in the year. As usual with Crete the pattern of migration and weather is not clear. 1986 was a very dry Spring and it was not until the beginning of May that there was rain. This meant that the Samaria Gorge was open very early and with the mild clear weather in April the passerine migrants were few and far between, and it was not until late April early May that there were any obvious falls.

There were many records of winter migrants still present on the island in April. 'Anything can turn up anywhere' applies again. The report also includes records of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and butterflies.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* There were two at Aghia reservoir near Chania on the 24.4. and three on 4.5, single at Georgioupolis on 4.5. Recorded as relatively common on fresh open water in late May.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* 50 off the east coast at Kato Zakro on 24.4. and 20 east at Plakias on 29.4. and 10 east at Falasarna on 30.4. While on the 31st May there were 30 off Agia Pelagia.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* There were flocks of 19 reported off the south coast 24.4 and 29.4.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* There were 5 at Falasarna on 30.4.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* Mainly singles reported from the north and south coast but 120 were seen on 26.4 on migration arriving on the south coast. 20 near Phaestos next largest flock.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* Singles at Malia and Creta Sun lagoon, Amoudara marsh and various river mouth sites in April. Largest flock reported 7 at Aghia Galini on 27.4.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba* One at R. Karteros near Heraklion Airport 1.5.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* Common at all the coastal sites we visited but largest flock reported was at Plakias on the evening of the 27.4. when there were 54 Grey herons, 106 Little Egrets and 26 Squacco herons. Near Aghia Galini there were 30 on 30.4.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides* Singles and small flocks of up to 4 present at Mallia, Aghia reservoir, Geros river, Georgioupolis lake, Petres river and at the Creta Sun lagoon during late March, April and May.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* One on R. Geros 28.4.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* One feeding at Aghia reservoir 24.4. Singles at Creta Sun lagoon 17.4. and 18.4. also on the Geropotamus river and at Plakias and Tiflos.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* There was one at Aghia Galini 26.4

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LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus* One flew up from stream at Malia on 18.4. also at the river near the Creta Sun on the 28.4 while there were 3 at Geros river on 27.4. Reported as being on every pond with reeds.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* Record from Gouves last week in April and one near Neapolis 3.5.

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* 1 near Rethymnon 5.5. and west of Sitia 6.5. Another record from Spili at the beginning of May. Another record near Roumeli at the end of May.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* One record Petres river.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* Single males at Elounda, and Aghia reservoir and a flock of 24 roosting on the sea of Plakias on the 23rd all females. There were 2 males near Gerapotamos river 27.4. A pair at Aghia reservoir 2.5. and a single male at Georgioupolis also on 2.5.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* One at Creta Sun river mouth 30.3. Singles at Malia and Creta Sun lagoon in the last week in April. One at Georgioupolis 2.5. and 3.5.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* One 18.4. flying east Rethymna Beach Hotel. Also recorded near Sitia at the end of April, and one flying west of Hersonissos on 7th May.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* 4 at Kato Zakro 24.4.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* Singles recorded Plakias 26.4 and Falasarna 4.5.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* Singles from Lassithi 23.4, and Falasarna 4.5.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* Common throughout the island.

LONG LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus* Recorded from Spinalonga island in the first week in April, also from Knossos during May.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* 6 recorded in the Tavronitis valley 3.5. Also recorded first week in Nov.

BONELLIS EAGLE *Hieraaetus fasciatus* Two birds seen hunting over the hills near Agia Pelagia 16.4 - 19.4.

BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraaetus pennatus* Records from near Aghios Nikolaos, and a dark phase bird was seen on the 17th April flying west over the Rethymna Beach Hotel, Another record 23.4. near Prasses.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* Records from the gorge between Malia and Aghios Nikolaos, Dreros, Lassithi, Kato Zakro, Plakias, Falasarna, and Tifnos mainly juveniles recorded. One near Kato Zakro had a prolonged skirmish with Lesser Kestrel at the end of April. Another recorded from Akrotiri 19.5.

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LAMMERGEIER *Gypaetus barbatus* Recorded at the edge of the Lassithi plain. One associating with Griffon vultures in the Kourtaliotiko Gorge en route to Plakias on 20.4. One near Dreros end of April. Two at Falasarna on 30.4 and 4.5. One adult near Lakki (Omalos mountains) 4.5.

EGYPTIAN VULTURE *Neophron percnopterus* Several records received from the Sitia, Kato Zakro area.

GRIFFON VULTURE *Gyps fulvus* Recorded from Lassithi 9 in the sky together and another flock of 11 in the gorge near Plakias. One near Dreros. Two were seen near Lato 17.4. and at Kato Zakro 18.4. a pair fought with a pair of Ravens at a possible nest site. Also recorded from Mt. Youchtas, Sitia area, Falasarna and breeding in a gorge east of Prasses south of Rethymnon.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* One female at Malia on the 20.4. More single females in first week in May on north coast. One male at Seles north of Elounda in early April.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus* One at Seles in April.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* One at Seles during the first part of April.

LANNER *Falco biamicus* Late May record of an adult seen chasing a Lesser Kestrel in Petres Gorge and was attacked by juvenile Golden Eagle. The Lanner saw off the Golden Eagle after aerial display by both birds. Another record near Sitia.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* Records from Kato Zakro 18.4, 22.4. Falasarna 4.4. Also from Knossos, Lassithi, and Phaestos and the west in May.

ELEONORAS FALCON *Falco eleonora* 2 Knossos 24.4, 4 Psychro Cave 26.4, and Lassithi area, 1 Phaestos 29.4, 1 Lohra-Ida Mtns 30.4, and three west of Sitia 30.4 1 near Lakki, Omalos Mtns, 4.5, but 81 were seen at Falasarna on 4.5. At the end of May described as the commonest bird of prey with five seen together on several occasions, both light and dark phase.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* 1 Lassithi 23.4. also in the same area in May. Two near Hersonissos 2.5. During the last two weeks of May a record of adult with young at Knossos. Agia Pelagia had an adult during this period.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* Records from Heraklion and from Kato Zakro.

RED FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* Female at Malia 22.4. Five near Sitia 6.5. One male at Stavromenos also 6.5. Male and juvenile in the Lassithi foothills, female near Paliani, during last two weeks in May. Also reported from near Aghios Nikolaos in May, and from near Hersonissos first week in Nov.

LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni* Six recorded from Kato Zakro gorge, and records from other sites on the island, but no large colonies reported.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* Fairly common everywhere.

CHUKAR *Alectoris chukar* Several reports from near Samaria gorge and near Plakias as well as roadside en route to Lassithi and Anogia.

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QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* 2 heard near Geros river 1.5. One Malia calling 26.3, and 11.5.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* One in the reeds at the Creta Sun river 28.4.

LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva* One dead at the small marsh at Kato Zakro 19.4, one at the Aghia reservoir on the 28th and one at the Creta Sun river 17.4 and 28.4. and 1 Georgioupolis lake 2.5.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* One at the Creta Sun river 29.4.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex* One Malia during early May.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Present at all areas of fresh water, up to 10 at Almyros Beach and Georgioupolis lake 16.4..

COOT *Fulica atra* Seen at various fresh water sites on the north coast.

BLACK WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus* One at Damnoni beach on the 21.4, and one at Creta Sun lagoon on the 25.4, 26.5 and 6.5.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* Singles at the Creta Sun lagoon during our stay at the end of April, other singles reported in May.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* Up to four at the Creta Sun lagoon with Ringed Plover at the end of April.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* Two 17.4. one 18.4. river mouth near Platanes. Only one record in May from Agia Pelagia Bay.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* One Creta Sun river 4.5.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* Two at the river on the 28.4 and one on 29.4. A very late record for winter visitors.

SOCIABLE PLOVER *Vanellus gregarius* An immature was observed at the Creta Sun lagoon on the 29th April.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* One in the river on the 29.4. and 25 at Creta Sun lagoon 6.5. Also recorded from the bay at Plakias at the beginning of May.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* One Malia marsh 26.4, 4 at Geros river 27.4, and 1 Creta Sun lagoon 6.5

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* Up to 40 were at the Creta Sun lagoon from the 26th onwards many were immatures or were in winter plumage. Small numbers reported from many other river mouth sites and from Malia.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Up to 4 at the Creta Sun Lagoon 28.4..

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* 1 Geros river 29.4.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* One Creta Sun lagoon 17.4.

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GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* Singles at Creta Sun Lagoon on the 17.4. Also 25.4. to the 29.4.. At Georgioupolis lake there were 5 on the 24.4. Others at Geros river 29.4, 1.5. Damaged bird on Petres river end of May.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* One at Creta Sun Lagoon on three dates in early April.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos* Found at Plakias, Damnoni and at Creta Sun Lagoon, also reported in small numbers from many river mouths and beaches.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* The most common sandpiper of the trip with at least 9 at Heraklion marsh on the 26.4, 4 at Georgioupolis lake and 12 at Creta Sun Lagoon on 25.4 falling to 4 on 26 to the 29.4

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* Singles on the S. coast in the last week in April. Also recorded at Creta Sun lagoon.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* There were 8 at Aghia reservoir and 5 at Heraklion marsh where they were feeding at both sites on weed floating on top of the water. Other records from Elounda saltpans, and there were 10 on the Geros river 27.4. and 20 at the Creta Sun lagoon on 6.5.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* One on Aposelemis river at Gouves 22.4.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* One Creta Sun lagoon 27.3.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* One at Creta Sun lagoon early April.

GREAT SNIPE *Gallinago media* One flew up from the river near the Creta Sun Lagoon on the 27.4. Other records from river pools near Platanes.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* One at the same river on the 25.4 and 29.4. Also Geros river 27.4, 29.4 and Plakias 26.4.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicephalus* 3 at Creta Sun lagoon 17.4, One on 25.4. Another record received from east of Rethymnon at M. Arsaniou behind El Greco Hotel in May.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola* One at the Creta Sun Lagoon at the end of April and one Kato Zakro 22.4. One flying over the Aghia Reservoir on the 25.4, and there were 3 at the Creta Sun Lagoon on the 26.4.

AUDOUIN'S GULL *Larus audouinii* One Sitia harbour 30.4.

GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ichthyaetus* Single record from Agia Pelagia only one day at the end of May.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* Four imm. Heraklion Harbour 28.3. while on the sea at Amoundara there were ten immatures.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* Mediterranean herring gull common in small numbers.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* Single records from Malia marsh, Ierapetra, Plakias, and Falasarna had 7 on 30.4.

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GULLBILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica* 1 Ierapetra 24.4. One Malia 3.5.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* 2 in Heraklion Harbour 28.3.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida* One seen at Aghia Reservoir on the 25.4. also south coast single 24.4. One west Hersonissos 3.5. and one at Georgioupolis later in May.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* One at Geropotamus Bridge 6.5.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* Found nesting in the Kato Zakro Gorge. Small numbers at other rocky sites.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* Fairly common in the upland areas.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* 2 in Rethymnon town 4.5, and 5.5.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Migrants arriving off the sea at Moni Preveli and at Plakias 22.4, 23.4. While at Creta Sun Lagoon on the 28.4 there was a flock of 13.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* 5 at Kato Zakro 22.4. Cuckoos were also seen on the early walk towards Sweetwater Bay at Plakias 22.4, and near the Prophet Elijah's Chapel near Rethymnon 25.4, as well as in the Creta Sun Hotel garden. One rufus phase reported from Geros river, and 1 Askifou pass.

SCOPS OWL *Otus scops* Heard at all the places we stayed apart from the Creta Sun, and one was heard calling in the daytime at Moni Preveli. Records also from Aghia Galini, Kato Zakro, Elounda and Hersonissos.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* 1 Kastelli 3.5.

SWIFT *Apus apus* Present in large numbers at Chania and at the Creta Sun Lagoon at the end of April. Breeding records in May.

PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus* One 14.4 Rethymnon. Two near Chania at the end of May.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* Colony at Agia Galini 25 approx. Seen arriving off the sea at Damnoni beach 21.4. Breeding colony in Aghios Nikolaos in the cliffs below the Mirabello Hotel. There were small numbers with swifts at Creta Sun Lagoon 28.4. Reported as common in May.

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster* 1 22.4 Kato Zakro. Party passing through over Akrotiri 19. 5. Recorded from Malia 1.5, also from east of Sitia 6.5. five birds on wires. Small party on Akrotiri 19.4.

ROLLER *Coracias garrulus* 1 Tavronitis valley 3.5.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* Recorded in Elounda at the beginning of April. One at Creta Sun lagoon on the 21st April.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* First record 18.4. very late arriving this year and only singles reported in last two days of April.

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SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella cinerea* Recorded from Spinalonga Island first week in April. Platanos area in third week in April and one 27.4. Amoudara marsh.

CALANDRA LARK *Melanocorypha calandra* Several recorded from Northern Highway in May.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* One singing Amoudari plateau 3.5, and on Omalos plateau 25.4, and 1.5 and 4.5.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* One singing Agia Pelagia during the last two weeks in May.

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata* Common everywhere.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* Common but no large numbers seen until end of April when large parties seen on 29.4 at Geros river, with even larger numbers on 1.5. also high numbers on the north coast at Georgioupolis and Petres Gorge.

CRAG MARTIN *Hirundo rupestris* Colonies at Zeus cave above Psychro, in the Samaria gorge under an overhang by a resting place, and another colony in the Kroutayotiko gorge en route to Plakias.

RED RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* 1 Platanos area 17.4. 10 at Kato Zakro 22.4. Two at Creta Sun river on the 29.4 and Petres gorge 2.5.

PALE CRAG MARTIN *Hirundo obsoleta* At the river mouth at Kato Zakro a crag martin was seen drinking from the edge of a pool. It had a pale throat and upper breast 19.4.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* Uncommon, only a few seen at the end of April but a large movement was observed at Geros river 1.5. and common in the first week in May.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delicon urbica* Small numbers seen most days April and May. No large numbers reported.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* Creta Sun lagoon two on 27.3, and five on 30.3. Flock at Malia 23.4. and a small flock of about 7 at Creta Sun Lagoon 29.4.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris* One at Creta Sun lagoon on 30.3. Singles recorded from Spinalonga island at the beginning of April, Omalos on 25.4. Malia 23.4 and Creta Sun lagoon 25.4. 2 at Falasarna 30.4. One Petres gorge in May.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* 1 seen at Malia on 16.4 Other records from Plakias and Falasarna.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* Singles reported during April, and one Malia 1.5.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* Creta Sun lagoon 1 on 27.3.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* Common at most damp areas.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Flocks of different races of yellow wagtail were common near the sea. 200 in roost at Malia 22.4.

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GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* Seen on the Megalopotamos river near Moni Preveli, and on Geros river.

MASKED SHRIKE *Lanius nubicus* Possible record from wooded area en route to Chania in the latter half of May.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* Fairly common throughout the island after early April. Less common in May.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* Record from Creta Maris Hotel Hersonissos early April.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* 1 Malia 22.4, 1 on 28.4. at the Creta Sun. Recorded in May Geros river 1.5, Aghia reservoir 4.5. Geropotamus bridge 6.5

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* Heard calling at Malia on the 20.4. and Geros river 29.4. Singles at other sites throughout the island.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Singles at Aghia and at Georgioupolis, Malia, Geros river, Geropotamus bridge.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* Common in most areas of scrub or Giant reed *Arundo donax*.

FAN-TAILED WARBLER *Cisticola juncidis* Heard with its monotonous zitting song at Malia, Plakias, and at Creta Sun Lagoon. Pyrgos river, Lassithi plateau road, Ammoudara marsh, Agia Galini, Fourfouras, Lohra pass, Georgioupolis, Aghia reservoir, and Gerapotamus bridge.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* 1 at Falasarna 4.5.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* 3 at Kato Zakro 22.4. One at the ancient city of Lato 16.4. and at Psychro 17.4.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* One at the Heraklion marsh.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* 1 at Geros river 1.5. Also Floria, and Falasarna 3.5. and 4.5.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* One near Hamilo 18.4..

ORPHEAN WARBLER *Sylvia hortensis* First week in April Spinalonga island, and several in the area behind Elounda.

SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala* Common everywhere, many feeding young in April.

RÜPPELL'S WARBLER *Sylvia rüppelli* A male was seen below the monastery at Moni Preveli 22.4. Two pairs at Plakias on the west side of the promontory and another pair at the point where the road to Selia crosses the gorge. Others recorded in May from road to Messapotamus, 1 near Kera, 1 from North Highway, and 1 near Sisses.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* One Geropotamus bridge, one Agia Pelagia during latter half of May.

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WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* Heard en route from Lato to Hamilo 18.4. 1 Omalos plateau 4.5, 1 Petres gorge 4.5. Also Hotel Capsis Beach gardens in May.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* One singing in the olives near Hamilo in April and Capsis Beach gardens in May..

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* A large fall seen at Geros river 1.5. Recorded in Nov. at Matala.

BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* One at Aghia reservoir in the trees by the road 26.4. also recorded from Kato Zakro in 24. 4.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* Singles at Kato Zakro and at Plakias. Many seen with wood warblers on 1.5 at Geros river and at Falasarna 4.5.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* One female or immature at the old monastery at Moni Preveli 22.4. other singles 3.5 and 4.5. Recorded as common in May.

COLLARED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula albicollis* One near Ierapetra in early April. Recorded as common in May.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* Very common with many families already feeding young in April.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Common in late April and May.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius* Singing at the Alkion Hotel east of Almyros marsh and at Kato Zakro and at Plakias as well as other sites in April and many with young in May.

ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis* One on the cliff path at Moni Preveli 22.4.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* Large numbers reported moving through at the end of March. Common again in late April.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina* One Creta Sun Lagoon with flock of Wheatears 27.3.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica* Gournia 29.3. Many seen from the bus as we travelled almost every day April 16 to 29 April. Other records received from Malia, Petres gorge, Amoudari plateau, Katharon plateau and Geropotamos bridge. Largest number 12 at Falasarna. Movement recorded in third week in May.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus* 1 23.4. Recorded in hotel garden 1-7 November Hersonissos

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Singles records from west in first week in May. 1 Amoudari plateau 3.5.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* One at Creta Sun Lagoon 23.4. Records from near Agios Nikolaos, Geros river, Georgioupolis and Plakias.

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- THRUSH NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia luscinia* Recorded in first two weeks of April.
- RUFUS BUSH CHAT** *Cercotrichas galactotes* One Seles in April, 1 Falasarna 4.5.
- BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula* Common throughout the island.
- RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus* One recorded May 12th. near Falasarna.
- SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos* 1 Hotel garden in Agia Pelagia at the end of May.
- PENDULINE TIT** *Remiz pendulinus* Used nest found in Perama.
- BLUETIT** *Parus caeruleus* Common on the eastern and southern sites.
- COAL TIT** *Parus ater* Heard in the pines above Rethymnon. Records also from Omalos.
- GREAT TIT** *Parus major* Common in the olive groves.
- SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER** *Certhia brachydactyla* Seen in the Samaria gorge.
- WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Recorded everywhere except north coast near Gouves in April.
- CORN BUNTING** *Emberiza calandra* Common in the Plakias region. Recorded elsewhere on Lassithi, Malia, and near Fourfouras.
- ROCK BUNTING** *Emberiza cia* One record. 25.4.
- CIRL BUNTING** *Emberiza cirlus* One on Lassithi plateau 23.4. and in May. 4 Tavronitis valley 3.5. and 2 Omalos 4.5.
- BLACK-HEADED BUNTING** *Emberiza melanocephala* 10+ Falasarna 4.5.
- ORTOLAN** *Emberiza hortulana* Recorded Plakias, Fourfouras and Lohra pass. 3 near Perama in May.
- CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING** *Emberiza caesia* One sang on the hillside near Moni Preveli all afternoon 18.4.
- REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus* One record river Geros 27.4.
- CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs* Common.
- GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis* Very common.
- GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris* Common.
- HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Records from Moni Preveli, and above Neapolis.
- LINNET** *Acanthis cannabina* Seen en route to the Omalos and Lassithi plateaus.

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SERIN *Serinus serinus* One recorded in April Elounda area, another breeding near Phaestos.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* One Malia 11.5. a late record for a winter bird.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* Common in some areas eg. Agapi Beach Hotel and Iraklion.

ITALIAN SPARROW *Passer domesticus italiae* The most common sparrow.

CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Found above Psychro and at the Samaria Gorge.

ALPINE CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax graculus* Found with choughs at the Samaria Gorge in April. Recorded from Lassithi in May.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* 12 on south coast 24.4.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* Recent migrants seen at Moni Preveli and in the Megalopotomas valley. Also recorded Pyrgos river, Lassithi, Geros river, Agia Galini, Fourfouras, Askifou pass, during the first week in May.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* 2 Lassithi plateau 23.4, 26.4. Plakias area 26.4.

RAVEN *Corvus corax* Fairly frequent in the uplands, and Petres Gorge.

HOODED CROW *Corvus corone cornix* Common throughout the island.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* In Kato Zakro gorge and in the Kourtaliotiko gorge, also recorded from near Fourfouras, Lohra pass, 30 near Kamares and 20 in the Petres gorge.

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

MARSH FROG *Rana ridibunda*
STRIPE-NECKED TERRAPIN *Mauremys caspica*
TURKISH GECKO *Hemidactylus turcicus*
BALKAN GREEN LIZARD *Lacerta trilineata*
ERHARD'S WALL LIZARD *Podarcis erhardii*
BALKAN WHIP SNAKE *Coluber gemonensis*

BUTTERFLIES

SOUTHERN SWALLOWTAIL *Papilio alexanor*
SCARCE SWALLOWTAIL *Iphiclides podalirius*
EASTERN FESTOON *Zerynthia cerisyi*
CLEOPATRA *Gonepteryx cleopatra*
SOUTHERN COMMA *Polygonia Egea*
MEADOW BROWN *Maniola jurtina*
BATON BLUE *Pseudophilotes baton*
SOUTHERN SPECKLED WOOD *Pararge aegeria*

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WALL BROWN *Lasiommata megera*
SMALL BLUE *Cupido minimus*
SMALL SKIPPER *Thymelicus flavus*
MEDITERRANEAN SKIPPER *Gegenes nostradamus*
PYGMY SKIPPER *Gegenes pumilio*
AFRICAN GRASS BLUE *Zizeeria knysna*
BATH WHITE *Pontia daplidice*
SMALL BATH WHITE *Pontia chloridice*
LARGE WHITE *Pieris brassicae*
SMALL WHITE *Artogeia rapae*
PAINTED LADY *Cynthia cardui*
RED ADMIRAL *Vanessa atalanta*
CLOUDED YELLOW *Colias crocea*
SMALL HEATH *Coenonympha pamphilus*

MAMMALS

HEDGEHOG
STOAT

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Apologies to anyone whose records I have omitted or mangled.

Stephanie Coghlan
January 1987.
Revised Autumn 1987.

This report is a re-formatted version of the original report.
The text is unchanged apart from minor amendments.

JJ Coghlan
February 2012