CRETE BIRD REPORT 1987

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CRETE: BIRDS, MAMMALS, REPTILES AND BUTTERFLIES REPORT 1987

The main report covers records from period 23rd March to the end of May, other records were received for August, September, October and November 1987.

WEATHER

Winter 1986/87 was very wet and cold. In the middle of March there was snow right down to the coast. This was very exceptional weather for Crete. Late March was bright and April began with very windy but bright weather but this was followed by early heavy rain on the 2nd. and in the afternoon there was evidence of a migrant 'fall' at Elounda. Again there was early morning rain on the 3rd and a rather dull cold day but after this the weather held, with temperatures rising daily. Later in the month cold wet weather returned with gales and more small 'falls' of migrants. By May the weather settled down and by July some very high temperatures were recorded in exceptional heat waves. The rest of the year was the more usual pattern, of a hot dry summer with rain returning in October.

BIRDS

New records of interest were Great Crested Grebe, Great and Little Shearwater, Ferruginous Duck, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Pied Wheatear, Desert Wheatear, Olive Tree Warbler, Masked Shrike, and Cretzschmar's Bunting. There were several interesting 'falls' due to bad weather in parts of April. After the used Penduline Tit nest in 1986 this year there are several records of Penduline Tit. New records with insufficient data include possible Spotted Sandpiper, Tawny Owl (no records for these species) and Marbled Teal (no records since 1945).

BIRD LIST Crete 1987

LITTLE GREBE Tachybaptus ruficollis 13 on 27.3 at Georgioupolis 25+ at Aghia reservoir on 29.3. In April there were 4 at Georgioupolis lake on the 3.4, but only one 11.4, 26.4. and 28.5. At Aghia reservoir there were 12+ on 5.4. but only two 23.4. Recorded from Lake Kourna in November.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE Podiceps cristatus One in Souda bay 28.3.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* Two at Aghia reservoir on 5.4. A pair recorded from L. Kournas late April.

CORY'S SHEARWATER Calonectris diomedea Reported off the northcoast in small numbers on 25th March. A party of 6+ flew E. near Malia on 1.4. during strong winds. Small flocks of 20 to 30 moving east off Makryalos Bay 11.4. and many shearwaters seen off the north coast after gales of 15th/16th April. On 17.4, 3 off Heraklion on way to Santorini and 2 off Agii Theodore island 19.4. August records of up to 7 off Stalis most evenings. Offshore at the Creta Sun Hotel up to 6 daily between 16th - 22nd October while on 21st there was a flock of 40+.

GREAT SHEARWATER Puffinus gravis Three east Gouves 20.10.

MANX SHEARWATER Puffinus puffinus Singles 25.3 moving early in the morning off shore at the Creta Sun. 20+ with the Cory's also moving E. on 1.4. Four on 23.4 Gournia. In May several with the Cory's off Heraklion 17.5. In August 1 west Stalis on 30th. October records of 2 on 17th and 4 on 21st, between Creta Sun Hotel and Dia island.

LITTLE SHEARWATER Puffinus assimilis Two offshore Gouves 20.10.

CORMORANT Phalacrocorax carbo One off Maleme 4.4. Recorded with Cory's shearwaters 19.4. also off Paleo Gerani 26.4. and Plakias also in April.

SHAG Phalacrocorax aristotelis One off Chania 28.3.

BITTERN Botaurus stellaris One dead at river below Aghia Triada believed shot. One Heraklion Amoundara marsh 11.4.

LITTLE BITTERN Ixobrychus minutus One female 27.3.at Damnoni. First in April 4.4. Maleme. One R.Mylo ford 14.4. One Almyros 16.4. male. In May at Almyros 15th, and on 16th one flew down one of the streets in Ag. Nikolaos. Recorded as in every patch of reeds in May.

NIGHT HERON Nycticorax nycticorax 15 flew up from a roost at Aghia reservoir and reroosted in a tree on 5.4. Singles Elounda 9.4. 14.4. 19.4. 21.4. Paleo Gerani 20.4, Aghia Reservoir 23.4, Karteros 24.4. Malia 27.4. Pair in reeds east of Rethymnon 15.5. and 20.5. One Lassithi 23.5

SQUACCO HERON Ardeola ralloides Singles Malia and Elounda with 2 Elounda 11.4. and 3 same site 18.4. and 21.4. 1 Agia Marina 19.4. Georgioupolis 21.4. Three Aghia reservoir 23.4. and Karteros Marsh 24.4. One Elounda saltpans 14.5. Two Elounda 17.5.

CATTLE EGRET Bubulcus ibis One dead Creta Sun Lagoon 16.10.

LITTLE EGRET Egretta alba Common in small numbers at coastal sites visited during March, April and May. Largest flock 11. While in August there were flocks of 10 on 26th and 20 and 32 on 30th. In October only single recorded on 17th.

GREY HERON Ardea cinerea. There were 16 counted at various sites on 27.3 and singles were common at wet sites during the week 31st March to April 6th. Usually singles recorded later in April, Creta Sun lagoon, Vai, and Elounda but there were flocks of 45 west, 13 east and 8 west then east Makryalos Bay 11.4. 18 passing through same area 17.4. Three on Lassithi Lake 23.5. In August one or two birds west with Purple herons. Five flew west 17th October at Creta Sun lagoon. Late November records of singles.

PURPLE HERON Ardea purpurea 12 on migration at Malia 1.4. Singles recorded Almyros 17.4. Agii Theodore 18.4, Skoutelonas river 22.4 with 2 at the same site in the afternoon. 4 Creta Sun lagoon 15.4. One R.Mylo, Gerapotomas Bridge. Several Malia 16.4. but only one Malia marsh 24.4. and 25.4 and two R.Aposelemis 25.4. Single east of Rethymnon 15.5. Two 16.5. at Almyros marsh. In August passage of two flocks of 20 west Stalis 30th.

GLOSSY IBIS Plegadis falcinellus One west Makryalos Bay 11.4. One west Stalida 16.4. One at river mouth near Stavromenos 22.4.

FLAMINGO Phoenicopterus ruber Two west of Hania 15.4.

WIGEON Anas penelope 7 at Creta Sun lagoon on 23.3 and 4 on following two days. One male Lassithi wet area 23.5.

TEAL Anas creca Recorded near Maleme at beginning of April.

MALLARD Anas platyrhynchos One R. Petres 11.4. One R.Skoutelonas 22.4. However, in August there were up to 200 offshore at Stalis in early morning and evening, occasionally settling on sea.

GARGANEY Anas querquedula Eight at Aghia reservoir on 29.3 while there were 3 at Creta Sun lagoon 2.4. and one female at Aghia reservoir on 5.4. 12 Creta Sun lagoon 11.4 with numbers up to 22 at Creta Sun lagoon 25.4. Two flocks of 8 and 11 near Tavronitis river 13.4. One male Stavromenos 20.5. Roosts in Plakias bay but largest flock was 200 Makryalos Bay 11.4. Still present in May at Almyros m. and f. 13.5. and 16.5, 19.5. Up to 80 birds recorded in August with evening flights off Stalis. One waterlogged female there 31.8.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK Aythya nyroca One male at Creta Sun lagoon 24.3 and another single at the Creta Sun lagoon on 2.4. Also 1 male on pool at Malia after gales 16.4.

TUFTED DUCK Aythya fuligula 5 at Malia on 16th April.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* One west of Hersonisos 7.4. Singles Pigi 13.4 and Rethymnon 19.4. One with buzzards above Fournes 20.4. In May single Perama 23.5. Another record Plakias.

BLACK KITE Milvus migrans One west and then out to sea near Hersonisos 7.4. One west of Arkadi 12.4. One Falasarna 13.4. 1 on Chania-Omalos road at Fournes 20.4. Two over R. Kerides 22.4. also two Malia marsh 25.4. Three at Vai 26.4. in raptor passage.

LAMMERGEIER Gypaetus barbatus Two adults carrying nesting material near Falasarna and two juveniles on the Omalos plateau on 5.4. One above Kera en route to Lassithi 25.4. Two Lassithi 18.5. Four Kourtaliotiko Gorge 22.5. One Lato in May and one over Kamares (Mt.Ida) 25.5. Two Samaria gorge in May. One juv. Samaria gorge 23.8.

GRIFFON VULTURE Gyps fulvus One Mt.Youchtas 24.3, 5 over Spili 25.3 and 13+ at Megalopotamos bridge en route to Moni Prevelli. Five en route to Lassithi 31.3. Five over Spinalonga peninsula in April and thirty to forty above Kera 25.4 and 6 at Omalos 28.4. One Petres gorge 23.4. Two above Kourtaliotiko Gorge 22.5. Thirteen roosting near Linoperamata in early May. Twelve at Lassithi 18.5. Recorded as regular in May over the central mountains 30 in an hour over Kato 26.5. 3 Katharo plateau 20.5. August records from same areas. Recorded on the north coast over the American listening post at Gouves in October with 9 on 17th and 5 roosting there on 22nd. In late November records of 12+ valley south of Prasses.

SHORT-TOED EAGLE Circaetus gallicus One hunting in gorge behind Platanias on 11.4. and 12.4. One below Fourfouras 20.4.

MARSH HARRIER Circus aeruginosos One female Aghia reservoir 29.3. Up to 12 in movement on 16th, mainly females and 2+ males. A pair Aghia Marina 17.4. One m.west Chania 13.4. several over Malia reedbed 16.4.and 21.4. One female.imm. Malia 21.8. 27.4. One Vai 26.4. May record female over reeds at Georgioupolis 28.5.

PALLID HARRIER Circus macrourus A male quartering field behind Perivolia 24.4.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER Circus pygargus 4.4. one near Maleme. One immature ringtail west of Chania 13.4. Female with prey Aghia Marina area 17.4. One male Malia 27.4. Two in raptor passage Vai 26.4.

 ${\bf GOSHAWK}$ Accipter gentilis One Kroustas en route to Ierapetra 25.4. One Almyros 27.4.

 $\textbf{SPARROWHAWK} \ \textit{Accipter nisus} \ \texttt{One behind Rethymnon 19.4.} \ \texttt{Three Kroustas Mts} \\ 25.4.$

BUZZARD Buteo buteo Singles during last week in March and three at Mt. Youchtas on 24.3. Single 2.4., pairs 3.4 and 6.4. Then recorded as fairly common throughout island. Singles at Gouves in October.

 ${f LONG-LEGGED}$ ${f BUZZARD}$ ${\it Buteo}$ ${\it rufinus}$ One above Gonies 25.4. Single Perama 23.5.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD Buteo lagopus Pair near Spili 21.5.

GOLDEN EAGLE Aquila chrysaetos Two near Moxos 31.3. Three above Gonies 25.4. and one above Kritsa 6.4. Several imm. en route to Arkadi, and adults near Kavousi 12.4. One above small gorge Platanias river all in April. Other records Plakias and Falasarna. Recorded as relatively common in May. A September record of 2 Juveniles engaged in talon linking on 20th. over Plakias and three there in an aerial display 24.9.

BOOTED EAGLE Hieraaetus pennatus Single light phase over Krasi 9.4. Another single same phase hunting near Lato 17.4. A dark phase bird Georgioupolis 18.4. One October record 22nd at American Listening Post.

BONELLI'S EAGLE Hieraaetus fasciatus Pair briefly at Omalos possibly of this species 5.4. One behind Rethymnon 16.4. and two hunting over hills near Perama 21.4. Pair Linoperamata early May. Another record from Plakias. Also recorded in November.

OSPREY Pandion haliaetus One at sea off Almyros 15.4. One Souda bay 28.3. and one landed beside lagoons at Elounda 24.4. Also recorded off Olous in May.

LESSER KESTREL Falco naumanni Single male hunting at Gortys 10.4. and one male Aghia Marina 18.4. Pair breeding Platanias Gorge and a pair breeding Petres Gorge 11.4. One male Spinalonga peninsula 20.4. Another record Plakias. One Linoperamata early May. Male Katharo plateau 20.5. Three hawking insects near Knossos 20.8.

KESTREL Falco tinnunculus Singles seen most days last week March and first week of April but not common. Quite common in late April. Recorded as common in May.

RED-FOOTED FALCON Falco vespertinus Two m. Gortys 10.4. Very common 13.5, to 27.5. with party of ten. Another record Plakias and party of 4 Lassithi 23.5. Pair apparently resident olive grove near mouth of river at Dermatos 25.5.

MERLIN Falco columbarius One male near Chora Sfakion 26.5.

HOBBY Falco subbuteo One near Maleme 4.4. Two in gorge behind Platanias and Almyros 17.4. and one Malia.

ELEONORA'S FALCON Falco eleonorae First records 4.4. April records of singles from Agii Theodori island 17.4, A dark phase bird behind Rethymnon 17.4. other singles Elounda 22.4, Malia 25.4. Aghia Marina 30.4. Records in May from Rethymnon and Plakias, and 6 near Kabos 26.5. hawking insects. 5+ Kathero plateau 20.5. Three Lastros 23.5. and 14 Mesa Mouliana both between Ag.Nikolaos and Sitia. August records 1 Stalis 20.8 and 30.8, 2 Gouves and 5 Knossos on 20.8

LANNER Falco biamicus One in April 20.4. at Samaria gorge. One came in off the sea near Stalis 30.8.

PEREGRINE Falco peregrinus One seen briefly in Kourtaliotis gorge 27.3. In April 2+ Moxos 8th and one Arkadi 12.4, 1 Malia 16th. 3 Elounda 19.4 and 3 Kroustas 25.4. with one above Kera 25.4. Singles Stavromenos, Georgioupolis, and Perama in May.

CHUKAR Alectoris chukar Found Plakias. Two at edge of Omalos plateau 29.3. and 28.4, Petres gorge 11.4, Arkadi 12.4. and also heard near Moni Gouvernetou on Akrotiri 4.4. and Plaka near Elounda, 25.4 recorded near Kroustas. In May recorded above Anapoli 26.5. and near Linoperamata.

QUAIL Coturnix coturnix One flushed by the botanists on Spinalonga peninsula on 1.4, another flushed at Perivolia 18.4. One Elounda 12.4 and 22.4. and another recorded from Plakias.

WATER RAIL Rallus aquaticus Calling in reeds Malia 4.4. and Almyros 7.4. and from Malia 29.8.

SPOTTED CRAKE Porzana porzana One flushed from small marsh near Georgioupolis 23.4. Another record from Plakias.

LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva* Male and female at Georgioupolis lake on 27.3 and one on 2.4. Two there 26.4. One at seen Aghia reservoir 29.3.

MOORHEN Gallinula chloropus Main records from Almyros, Georgioupolis and Aghia with over 15 at Georgioupolis lake 2.4. and at Aghia reservoir on 5.4. 25 Georgioupolis 13.4. Single at Stavromenos 15.5. and down to 5 at Georgioupolis 28.5.

 ${f COOT}$ Fulica atra Ones or two seen at Georgioupolis lake and at Aghia reservoir and Almyros near Ag. Nikolaos in April and May. Scores on L.Kourna in November.

BLACK-WINGED STILT Himantopus himantopus One 23.3 at Creta Sun lagoon. Three roosted at the artificial harbour at the Marina Hotel on the morning of 1.4. Other records from Plakias in May and Elounda 14.5, 17.5. and 19.5.

AVOCET Recurvirostra avosetta Singles at the Creta Sun lagoon on 25.3 and 31.3. and 2.4.

STONE CURLEW Burhinus oedicnemus One flushed at Creta Sun 24.3. Three plus Malia 6.4. 2+ Creta Sun 10.4. and 2+ Malia 16th. while at Elounda there was one 12.4. and another 23.4. Also recorded from R.Kerides at Paleo Gerani 23.4.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE Glareola pratincola Party of 20+ 4.4. near Maleme, Widely reported west of Chania after gales 16.4. with flocks of 30. also Rethymnon beach 15.4. and 8 in flooded area near Georgioupolis, below L. Kournia 18.4. Seven in fields just E. of Kolimvari 22.4. One Almyros 25.4.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER Charadrius dubius Singles in last week in March at Creta Sun lagoon and 4 at Petres river 27.3. In April there were up to 15 counted at Creta Sun lagoon, also at Malia and Rethymnon, and 3 at Elounda saltpans 1.4. Other records Plakias and Almyros. One on R.Tavronitis 13.4 and 23.4. Single Stavromenos 15.5. Single at Frangocastelli 27.5. A flock of 14 were at Malia 29.8.

RINGED PLOVER Charadrius hiaticula Recorded at Creta Sun lagoon and at Elounda but only in ones and twos in late March, early April. 1 Almyros beach 2.4. and 4.4. and 16.4. Two Rethymnon beach 16.4. Singles Creta Sun beach 17th. and 19th October.

KENTISH PLOVER Charadrius alexandrinus Pair on beach at Elounda 1.4. and one Rethymnon beach 15.4.

GREY PLOVER Pluvialis squatarola One in summer plumage Elounda 19.5.

SANDERLING Calidris alba 4 on beach at Alkion hotel east of Aghios Nikolaos 17.4.

LITTLE STINT Calidris minuta 13 at on 23.3 and 15 on 24.3 at Creta Sun lagoon. There were 12 at the Creta Sun lagoon on 31.3 and 30+ 11.4. and 6 at Elounda salt pans 1.4. and 4 on 16.4. Singles Almyros on 2.4. and 16.4. Elounda 14.5 and Stavromenos 19.5, and 20.5. Dermatos river 25.5. and Frangocastelli 28.5.

TEMMINCK'S STINT Calidris temminckii Creta Sun Lagoon 18.4.

CURLEW SANDPIPER Calidris ferruginea One at Elounda 1.4. and 3 on the salt pans 7.4. One Rethymnon beach 15.4. Single 14.5, Elounda and 4 there 19.5. Pair Stavromenos 19.5. and 20.5. Another record Plakias.

RUFF Philomachus pugnax Singles at Creta Sun lagoon 23.3. and 2 on 24.3. Five including one shot by hunters on the Gerapotamos. The body used to train puppies in retrieving on 26.3. Singles at the Creta Sun lagoon on 31.3, 1.4, while on 2.4. there were 8. Up to a dozen on 11th but largest counts 15+. 15 Malia 4.4. 50+ flock at Malia 16th. One Creta Sun lagoon and 1 on river 25.4. Three Elounda 14.5. one 17.5. A late single record Dermatos river 25.5.

SNIPE Gallinago gallinago One at the Creta Sun lagoon 1.4. Two 10.4 and 15.4. One from the stream near Aghia reservoir 5.4. 3 or 4 marshy areas at Malia 4.4. Three Skoutelonas river 22.4. Two Creta Sun river 19.10.

GREAT SNIPE Gallinago media Singles Platanias 15.4.and Paleo Gerani 26.4. Two Malia 18.4. One Stavromenos 16.5 and Georgioupolis 24.5.

WOODCOCK Scolopax rusticola One record Plakias.

 $\mbox{\it WHIMBREL \it Numerius phaeopus}$ One at Malia 1.4. Two west out to sea off Gouves 19th October.

CURLEW Numenius arquata One Creta Sun Lagoon 10.4. and 11.4. 3 on reef at Frangocastelli 14.5. also one R. Kerides Paleo Gerani 20.4.

SPOTTED REDSHANK Tringa erythropus Recorded 4.4. near Maleme. and 18.4. Creta Sun lagoon.

REDSHANK Tringa totanus Winter visitor. Four at Creta Sun lagoon 23.3 and 3 24.3. Two 31.3. near the Marina Hotel Gouves and two 1.4. at the Creta Sun lagoon.

MARSH SANDPIPER Tringa stagnatilis One at the Creta Sun lagoon 31.3, and 1.4. Singles there 10th, 15th and 18th. One Elounda 11.4. and one Gournes after gales 16.4. One Rethymnon beach 15.4.

GREENSHANK Tringa nebularia One 28.3 at Souda bay. Two at Creta Sun lagoon on 1.4. 1 same site 11th and 18th. Single Elounda 9.4. and 11.4. but 5 there 16.4. down to one next day. Malia one 11.4 and four 16.4 but one 18.4. One Aghia reservoir 23.4.

GREEN SANDPIPER Tringa ochrupus Two at Geropotamos river 25.3. In April there was one Elounda 1st. one Creta Sun 12th. Single R. Mylo 14th and one Malia 16th. Two Aposelemis 25.4. One Georgioupolis 26.4. One Stavromenos 19.5. Two Stalis 30.8.

WOOD SANDPIPER Tringa glareola Singles at Creta Sun lagoon 31.4 to 2.4. Singles Elounda 1.4. 18.4. 21.4. and Malia 4.4. and 9.4. but 25+ at Malia on 16th in flooded fields after the storm. One R.Skoutelonas 22.4. 3 Tavronitis am. 13.4 and 20+ late pm. same day down to 2 R.Tavronitis 23.4. and one Aposelemis 25.4. Two Stavromenos 13.5 and 19.5.

COMMON SANDPIPER Tringa hypoleucos Singles holding territory on north coast last week in March. Six at Plakias 27.3 largest count in March. 15 Elounda 19.4 largest count in April. Two at the Creta Sun lagoon 31.3. to 2.4 and three at Aghia reservoir 5.4. Common at most wetland sites in April. Singles Almyros beach 12.5. and Stavromenos 20.5. Three Elounda 17.5. One Stalis 30.8.

TURNSTONE Arenaria interpres One Frangocastelli 22.5.

GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL Larus ichthyaetus An immature west of Petres bridge 18.4.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL Larus melanocephalus Single at Creta Sun Lagoon 24.3 Four in roost at Chania 28.3. one 29.3. Twelve imm. Amoundara 12.4. Two immatures 13th Agios Nikolaos and Rethymnon beach 15-22nd April and one Stalida 16th. One Chania harbour 18.4. One Almyros 15.4.

LITTLE GULL Larus minutus One Heraklion 22.4. Single immature Rethymnon Harbour 15.5. Another record Plakias.

BLACK-HEADED GULL Larus ridibundus Common in small numbers. Up to 40 in roost at Hania harbour 28.3 down to 25 6.4. Two on river near Platanias 22.4.

AUDOUIN'S GULL Larus audouinii One adult flying round Ierapetra Harbour 26.4. Two Sitia harbour 23.5.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus fuscus One in roost in field near Kastelli 3.4. 2 recorded Malia in April and one from Almyros 15.4. but 10+ Agios Nikolaos 13.4. Several imm. Perivolia 14.4. Singles on 17th, 18th, and 2 east on 21st October. Another winter record late November.

HERRING GULL Larus argentatus michahellis Mediterranean race, Common in small numbers daily, March and April and May. 100+ west of Rethymnon 17.4. One Atlantic race Chania harbour 29.3. but the records in October are all Atlantic race.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus marinus One record 18th October Gouves.

GULL-BILLED TERN Gelochelidon nicotica Two adults west Stalida 7th April. and 1 adult and 1 imm. west 16th. Singles Rethymnon harbour 15.4, Gournes 16.4, and Elounda 19.4. One Kolokithia in May. In October one west at Gouves on 21st.

SANDWICH TERN Sterna sandvicensis 2 and then 4 at Chania roost 28.3 and 29.3. Single Ag. Nikolaos 31.3. Two in Chania roost 2.4. Two Stalida 8.4. One Amoudara 12.4. on shoreline and Sitea 16.4. At least two Heraklion 22.4. October record of 3 with Cory's shearwaters on 21st. off Creta Sun beach.

COMMON TERN Sterna hirundo In April fairly common sightings of small numbers off Stalida and Malia. One off Georgioupolis 21.4 and one Paleo Gerani 22.4. One Almyros 17.4. and another record off Plakias in April.

LITTLE TERN Sterna albifrons One in Hania roost 2.4. Two Rethymnon beach 16.4. One 25.4. Almyros. Another record from Plakias.

WHISKERED TERN Chlidonias hybrida Two Malia 18.4. Four Elounda 16.4. and one fishing at Elounda 18 - 21.4. Another record 16.4. Sitea. 17.4. Tavronitis river. Three east of Rethymnon 15.5, and 16.5. Another record Plakias.

 ${\bf BLACK\ TERN\ }{\it Chlidonias\ niger\ }{\it One\ record\ }{\it Georgioupolis,\ another\ }{\it April\ 16th\ }$ along Sitia coast.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN Chlidonias leucopterus One full summer adult Georgioupolis 21.4. also one at Plakias and one Almyros 29.4. one Sitia in May. One at rubbish pool near Limnes 20.5.

ROCK DOVE Columba livia Small numbers in Kourtaliotiko gorge 25.3, 10+ at Falasarna 3.4. Found in gorges behind Rethymnon and also Karteros cliffs 24.4. and rocky coastal sites in east. Three in Samaria Gorge 23.8.

 ${\tt STOCK}$ DOVE <code>Columba oenas 2</code> on 2.4 en route to Rethymnon, while a single at Creta Sun 20.10 were the only records.

WOOD PIGEON Columba palumbus Uncommon, small numbers seen in the Lassithi region 1.4. Three above Gonies 25.4. Recorded as more common in May.

TURTLE DOVE Streptopelia turtur One 24.3. Aposelemis river Creta Sun. April records Aghia Marina and Heraklion 12.4. and 2 Malia 23.4. Two east over Perivolia 11.4. and three near Platanias 22.4. Recorded as common in rural areas in May.

COLLARED DOVE Streptopelia decaocto Recorded from Rethymnon in April.

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO Clamator glandarius One over reeds at Almyros.

CUCKOO Cuculus canorus Heard calling and two seen in the Rethymnon pines 2.4. One Minos Beach Hotel 2.4. Ag. Nikolaos. Two river Mylo 14.4. and 2 Fourfouras 20.4. One 17.4 Almyros. One Sitia in May. One Kathero plateau 20.5.

BARN OWL Tyto alba Resident pair near Ag.Marina west of Chania, seen taking half grown rat in April.

SCOPS OWL Otus scops A pair in the monastery garden at Aghia Triada on 4.4, and another in a small valley also on Akrotiri. Heard Georgioupolis 21.4. and Hotel Alkion east of Ag.Nikolaos 20.4. Another record Plakias. Singles 16.10 and 21.10 at Creta Sun Hotel.

 ${f NIGHTJAR}$ Caprimulgus europaeus One near Georgioupolis 21.4. Heard above Anapoli 27.5.

SWIFT Apus apus Common daily late March and early April, with large parties in Chania also May. Also recorded in November Rithymna Beach Hotel.

PALLID SWIFT Apus pallida One Georgioupolis 13.4. One Malia 16.4. and 25.4. Recorded Elounda area 22.4. Single Rethymnon 16.5. Several in Heraklion 20.8.

ALPINE SWIFT Apus melba First arrivals 25.3 and 26.3 then seen every day but only ones and twos, larger flocks of 30+ going through third week in April. Small colony breeding in cliffs below Mirabello hotel Ag. Nikolaos. In May common at Elounda, two in Kourtaliotiko gorge. Flock of 10+ over Gouves 17.8.

KINGFISHER Alcedo atthis Singles near Marina hotel 23.3 and one at Malia at the stream on 1.4. and 4.4. Another on coast near Stalida on same date. One at Elounda 19.4. One along small stream just east of Platonias 22.4. Daily on Aposelemis river 16-22th October.

BEE-EATER Merops apiaster One record Gournia in May.

ROLLER Coracias garrulus One west of Heraklion 10.4.

HOOPOE Upupa epops First at Festos 25.3 but only singles seen until we visited Akrotiri 4.4. when we found 10+ in the area between the airport and the monasteries with another in the monastery garden at Moni Gouvenatou. 3 Malia 4.4 and 2 Spinalonga island 5.4. Almyros 16.4. Single record 16.4. Sitea area. Singles R.Mylo ford 14.4. and one in Perivolia garden 21.4. Two Georgioupolis 21.4 and Skoutelonas river 22.4. Only two records in May 26.5. Recorded Malia and Stalis in August.

 $\mbox{WRYNECK } \mbox{\it Jynx torquilla}$ One in the olives outside the Souda Bay war cemetery 4.4.

CALANDRA LARK Melanocorypha calandra In April one Agia Pelagia on 10th and one west of Rethymnon on 23rd. One Creta Sun lagoon 20.10.

SHORT-TOED LARK Calandrella brachydactyla Four+ near Marina Hotel 23.3. Four in the fields next to the Creta Sun hotel 30.3. At Malia 20 12.4. increased to 30+ 16.4. Two 13. and 14.4 then six Elounda 19.4. and one there 17.5. Flock of eight Malia 29.8. Singles 16.10 and 18.10. and two 19.10 at Creta Sun lagoon.

CRESTED LARK Galerida cristata The most common lark. Recorded as common throughout the island in all months records received. 200+ in roost at Creta Sun lagoon third week in October.

WOODLARK Lullula arborea Singing on Omalos 29.3 and again heard on Akrotiri 4.4. and at Omalos 5.4. Single bird Gouves 11.4. Petres gorge 11.4. Plaka 12.4. and 2 above Lassithi plateau 13.4. and 14.4 Elounda. Four in fields behind Alkion Hotel 18.4. Pairs fairly regular by late April. In August about 8 in Olive and Carob trees behind Stalis.

SKYLARK Alauda arvensis One or two Malia 4.4.and 9.4. but 6 there 11.4. Common in May. but in October only two records one 16th and two on 21st.

SAND MARTIN Riparia riparia Three on 24.3 at Creta Sun lagoon also seen at Georgioupolis lake and at Aghia reservoir in ones and twos. 2.4 and 5.4. Later in April on Skoutelonas, Tavronitis, and Aposelemis rivers. Locally common in May. Singles recorded in October.

CRAG MARTIN Ptyonoprogne rupestris Colony in Kourtaliotis gorge 25.3. and in lower Kourtaliotis Gorge on 26.3. Found nesting in the Dikti cave at Lassithi 31.3. and in the Samaria gorge 5.4 and at Falasarna 3.4. Also breeding Arkadi Monastery 12.4.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* Common noted everyday 23.3-6.4 but no large passage noted until later in April. Common in May. Good numbers moving west during third week in October. Counts between 20 - 40 daily.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW Hirundo daurica Two below Moni Prevelli on 26.3. Two with swallows 1.4. at Hotel Marina. Breeding below Arkadi 12.4. At least 3 Almyros 16.4. One R. Aposelemis 25.4. 20+ near Keraktokampos on south coast in May

HOUSE MARTIN Delicon urbica First record flock 30+3.4. Nesting in the houses in the villages on the Lassithi plateau and with other hirundines at Georgioupolis and Agia.

RICHARDS PIPIT Anthus novaeseelandiae One at Creta Sun lagoon 18.10.

TAWNY PIPIT Anthus campestris Five in a party in shore fields near the Creta Sun hotel 30.3. One there 25.4. Single Elounda 1.4. and 19.4.and one Paleo Gerani 26.4.

TREE PIPIT Anthus trivialis Singles seen 2.4. and 4.4. and at Paleo Gerani 26.4. Passage of over 100 Malia 12.4. In May 18.5 singles recorded Chania and Armeni.

MEADOW PIPIT Anthus pratensis Fairly common in the lowlands end of March, 1.4, 2.4, and 4.4. A few with other pipits Gouves 11.4. One Aghia Marina 17.4. and 3 Paleo Gerani 22.4. One or two recorded daily 16th - 22nd October Creta Sun lagoon.

RED-THROATED PIPIT Anthus cervinus Two in a fall of migrants at Elounda 1.4. and small numbers here 20.4 - 23.4. 10 Malia 9.4. Large flocks moving west along foreshore west of Chania 13.4. Quite numerous in the Aghia Marina area 17.4 but these had departed 18.4. Single at Perivolia 20.4.

WATER PIPIT Anthus spinoletta Two on the shore at Falasarna 3.4.

YELLOW WAGTAIL Motacilla flava Feeding in ploughed fields on approach to Aghia Triada monastery 28.3. Also seen in parties every day with large numbers over 400 passing through Malia and Elounda 1.4. Smaller flocks later in April. Flock of 20+ blue headed west 30.8. Stalis. Small numbers seen in third week of October at Creta Sun.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* One R. Skoutelonas 22.4. and Plakias area. Another record from Aposelemis river and Creta Sun lagoon 16-22.10

WHITE WAGTAIL Motacilla alba Flock of 30+ 28.3 following the plough outside Aghia Triada monastery. Otherwise common everywhere in small numbers in spring and summer and early autumn.

WREN Troglodytes troglodytes In March in Plakias otherwise only found in the Samaria gorge 5.4. Scarce and irregularly distributed in April but recorded as more common in May. One Creta Sun hotel 16-22.Oct.

DUNNOCK Prunella modularis One Perivolia garden 11.4 and 17.4. only other record one in Marina Hotel garden 24.3. Winter visitor.

ROBIN Erithacus rubecula Singles in the gardens near the Marina Hotel 23.3.and 24.3. and Plakias 27.3. Six on Akrotiri 28.3. Single 18.10. Aposelemis valley. Winter visitor recorded in November.

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE Luscinia luscinia One heard and seen Falasarna 13.4. Other records Petres gorge 11.4. One R.Mylo 14.4. and Perivolia 20.4. Another near Spili 16.5.

NIGHTINGALE Luscinia megarhynchos One 29.3. at Aghia reservoir. Two seen at Falasarna 3.4, one at Ag. Nikolaos 2.4 and 5.4. and Aghia Triada monastery 4.4, singles Malia 16.4 Hotel Alkion 16.4. 17.4. Aghia Marina 17.4 and Georgioupolis 21.4. and one in full song 21.4. One heard singing at Aghia reservoir 5.4. Scattered records in May, in dense cover usually near water.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus* Three 26.3 Moni Prevelli, and 6+ 28.3 Akrotiri. Rithymna Beach hotel late November.

REDSTART Phoenicurus phoenicurus Male Souda Bay cemetery 28.3. One male Lato 2.4. another male on Akrotiri 4.4. Single males Aghia Marina 18.4. and Vai 20.4. Winter record Rithymna Beach Hotel late November.

WHINCHAT Saxicola rubetra Singles 24.3.and 28.3. Four on passage 1.4. at Elounda. Four Frangocastelli 14.4 and two Elounda 19.4. Later in April singles fairly common on passage. Then 80+ on Rethymnon beach 15.4. held up in storm. Small numbers recorded in May. Two 16.10. Creta Sun hotel.

 ${\bf STONECHAT}\ Saxicola\ torquata$ Common, already holding territories throughout the island in March.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR Oenanthe isabellina Two with a fall of other wheatears and other migrants at Elounda 1.4. One Malia 4.4. In May single Armeni area on 16th.

WHEATEAR Oenanthe oenanthe 10+ 23.4 and 20+ on Akrotiri 28.3. Common throughout the island until late April and May. One or two Greenland birds reported Elounda in April. Present in small numbers in uplands in May. Single record October 18th. at Creta Sun.

PIED WHEATEAR Oenanthe pleschanka One fine male Petres gorge 23.4.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR Oenanthe hispanica Two 25.3 Singles everyday at the end of March. Two seen at Falasarna 3.4, three on Akrotiri 4.4 and singles seen while travelling. Recorded as quite numerous in Omalos Mts. 20.4. also in May and again in August 6+. Pair Perama 19.5.

 ${\tt DESERT}$ WHEAEAR <code>Oenanthe deserta</code> One Paleo Gerani 22.4 after southerly winds.

ROCK THRUSH Monticola saxitilis One female Stalida 10.4.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH Monticola solitarius Common but thinly distributed in March and April. Two pairs Spinalonga. Other sites Siti pass, Falasarna, Lato, Vai, Hotel Alkion, Amoudara and Gournia. Common in the uplands in May.

RING OUZEL Turdus torquatus One heard Knossos 8.4.

BLACKBIRD Turdus merula Common but thinly distributed. Nightly roost recorded in Arundo donax at Creta Sun in October.

SONG THRUSH Turdus philomelus Three at Marina Hotel 24.3 and one 28.3 Souda Bay cemetery. Winter visitor but a May record of single at Stavromenos 18.5.

CETTI'S WARBLER Cettia cetti Common throughout the island in areas of Giant Reed Arundo donax.

FAN-TAILED WARBLER Cisticola juncidis One 27.3. Damnoni, In April records from Malia 1.4 and Creta Sun river, Amoudara 12.4. at least 4 Malia 16.4. Recorded from Aghia Marina 17.4. and 27.4 and Georgioupolis 21.4 and 26.4. Recorded as fairly common between Petres and Georgioupolis in April and common at Malia in August.

MOUSTACHED WARBLER Acrocephalus melanopogon Two Malia 12.4.

SEDGE WARBLER Acrocephalus schoenobaenus One singing Aghia reservoir 29.3. Heard and seen at Georgioupolis and Aghia reservoir 2.4. and 5.4. and Malia 12.4. and 29.4. One Almyros 18.5.

REED WARBLER Acrocephalus scirpaceus One Creta Sun 11.4 and one Amoudara 12.4. and also Malia in mid April. Recorded as common at Malia late August.

GREAT REED WARBLER Acrocephalus arundinaceus Single Almyros 5.4. Three Malia 12.4. One Almyros marsh 13.4. One Paleo Gerani 26.4.

OLIVACEOUS WARBLER *Hippolais pallida* One Paleo Gerani 23.4. and Aghia Reservoir 23.4. Another record Plakias. One singing near Fourfouras 20.4. One in Stalis garden 28.8.

OLIVE-TREE WARBLER $\it{Hippolais}$ olivetorum One record from ancient olive grove behind Platanias on 21.4.

SUBALPINE WARBLER Sylvia cantillans Two holding territory on cliff promentory Plakias. Found at Falasarna and Akrotiri and at Paleo Gerani in April. 1 in scrub above Minos Beach Hotel 3.4 and 5.4. One male Malia 16.4.

SARDINIAN WARBLER Sylvia melanocephala Common throughout the island.

RÜPPELLS WARBLER Sylvia rüppelli Many reports of arrivals on the south coast in the last week in March including cliff promentory Plakias. Single males Hersonisos 5.4, Knossos 14.4, Malia 16.4. Male and female in scrub above Minos Beach Hotel Ag. Nikolaos 1.4. Also near chapel on foreshore at Gouves 11.4 and one Falasarna 13.4. Another record above Chora Sfakion in April. Two pairs 18.5. mountain side near Linoperamata.

ORPHEAN WARBLER Sylvia hortensis One singing well at Plaka 7.4. and at Georgioupolis 21.4. A single on 18th October on R. Aposelemis.

LESSER WHITETHROAT Sylvia curruca One male at Falasarna 3.4.

WHITETHROAT Sylvia communis Seen at Falasarna and Aghia in early April. One Stalida 4.4. Arkadi Monastery 12.4 and near Pigi 12.4. Elounda 5.4. and 19.4. Fairly common in May.

GARDEN WARBLER Sylvia borin One near Creta Sun 12.4.

BLACKCAP Sylvia atricapilla Male and female 25.3. Gortys One at Creta Sun river and one at Georgioupolis. Also Aq. Nikolaos 31.3 and above Kritsa 2.4.

BONELLI'S WARBLER Phylloscopus bonelli One in olives near river leading to Creta Sun lagoon 24.3. and one Krasi village 9.4. One Mylo river ford 14.4. Another record Plakias in April. October record at Creta Sun lagoon on 20th.

WOOD WARBLER Phylloscopus sibilatrix One at Petres river 27.3. Three near Creta Sun 12.4. One hotel garden near Chania 13.4. Another record Plakias in April and one Plaka 12.4. and one Platanias gorge 17.4.

CHIFFCHAFF Phylloscopus collybita First record 24.3. and common in the west a the end of March. Seen and heard in Hania in the square outside Arkadi Hotel and inside the food hall, while more usual records came from Georgioupolis and Aghia during the first week in April. Singles on most days Creta Sun lagoon 16th - 22nd October. Wintering record late November.

WILLOW WARBLER Phylloscopus trochilus Small numbers common 23.4 - 29.3. Two at Falasarna 3.4, and many at Aghia reservoir 5.4. Small numbers moving through on 13.4. Similar records for third week in Oct.

FIRECREST Regulus ignicapillus Several singing in pine woods behind Rethymnon 19.4 Two seen 23.4.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Muscicapa striata April records 18.4 and 21.4 R.Petres area and R.Mylo. 21.4. Georgioupolis and Skoutelonas river 22.4. Singles Vrises, Kritsa and Lassithi plateau in May. Single record Creta Sun hotel in October.

COLLARED FLYCATCHER Ficedula albicollis First records April 4th near Maleme. One male above Stalida 4.4. Singles Creta Sun 11.4, Arkadi 12.4. and Lake Kourna, R.Mylo ford 14.4. Platanias river 11.4. and Perivolia gardens 19.4. Many in orchards at Falasarna 13.4. Three at Hotel Alkion and one at Aghia Marina 18.4. Single Gournia 20.4, Paleo Gerani 20.4. and Georgioupolis 21.4.

PIED FLYCATCHER Ficedula hypoleuca First records 4th and 5th April. Males Tavronitis 13.4, Omalos 20.4, Georgioupolis 21.4, Skoutelonas river 22.4, and Perivolia garden evening of 15 and 16.4. More records after 20.4. May record from Krousta.

COAL TIT Parus ater One L. Kourna 27.5.

BLUE TIT Parus caeruleus Common in the uplands. Less common on coastal plains.

GREAT TIT Parus major Common throughout the island.

SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER Certhia brachydactyla Two Samaria gorge 29.3. Three 28.4.

PENDULINE TIT Remiz pendulinus Two at Geros river 25.3 and two at Georgioupolis on 2.4. Two seen and heard at Almyros 5.4. and 28.4.

GOLDEN ORIOLE Oriolus oriolus First record Plakias, others Aghia Triada and near Sitea in April. One male singing on top of Eucalyptus at Georgioupolis on 13.4. Male near Spili 16.5. One female Stavromenos 14.5.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE Lanius minor Single Perama 23.5.

MASKED SHRIKE Lanius nubicus One record Plakias area.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE Lanius senator Two on 27.3. Damnoni. In the first week in April only seen at Falasarna where we saw four on 3.4. Two there 13.4. Two Creta Sun 11.4. Singles reported later in April and at Elounda. Single Perama 15.5. Lato 24.5. Regular pairs late May. An adult Chora Sfakion 23.8 and juv. Malia 29.8.

JAY Garrulus glandarius Recorded Samaria gorge 19.4. and 23.8. A single Vrisses 22.5 and one Kroutas 25.4. Four at Aradena near Anapoli 26.5.

MAGPIE Pica pica Two Samaria gorge 19.9.

ALPINE CHOUGH Pyrrhocorax graculus Four at Samaria gorge 29.3 and 15.4. also two 20.4 and 5.4. Another record Plakias area?

CHOUGH Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax One at Psychro Cave 6.4. Forty at head of Samaria gorge 29.3. and a flock of about 20 at Omalos 5.4. 10 in August on 23.8. Also 5 Kourtaliotiko gorge 22.5.

JACKDAW Corvus monedula 200 on 24.3. at bridge in Knossos valley but there was only a small flock near Knossos 6.4. Other colonies near Gouves and in Kourtaliotiko gorge and Petres Gorge.

HOODED CROW Corvus corone cornix Common throughout the island.

RAVEN Corvus corax Fairly common throughout the uplands and lowlands in singles or pairs. Three seen Plaka 7.4. 3 Lato 17.4. In May records of small numbers over suitable higher ground and 6 at river mouth at Sougia 19.5. Two on 18. and 19.10. near American listening station, Gouves.

STARLING Sturnus vulgaris Winter visitor 2 Malia 9.4. one still there 27.4. also one Aghia Marina area 19.4. Small numbers daily in mid October

 ${f HOUSE}$ SPARROW Passer domesticus Common but localised on north coast and at Elounda.

ITALIAN SPARROW Passer domesticus italiae Common around all habitations.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{TREE}}$ $\ensuremath{\mathsf{SPARROW}}$ Passer montanus Seen with Italian Sparrows in small numbers in April.

CHAFFINCH Fringilla coelebs Common throughout the island.

SERIN Serinus serinus Two 24.3 at Knossos and 3 at Souda Bay 28.3. Two near Stalida 4. and 5.4. Also seen at Aghia reservoir 5.4. Aghia Marina 17.4, and 30.4. males and female 19.4. One Elounda 18.4. Several in old olive grove along river near Platanias. Two in mid October at Creta Sun lagoon.

GREENFINCH Carduelis chloris Fairly common and widespread.

GOLDFINCH Carduelis carduelis Common seen everyday. Very common November.

LINNET Acanthis cannabina Common seen everyday in small flocks.

BULLFINCH Pyrrhula pyrrhula One seen in the Moxos area 31.3.

YELLOWHAMMER Emberiza citrinella One Paleo Gerani 23.4.

CIRL BUNTING Emberiza cirlus Seen on Lassithi plateau 31.3. Siti pass 9.4. Several males Arkadi 12.4, Kritsa 17.4. Lower records from Moxos and Malia and Platanias 21.4. Also on Lassithi in May.

ORTOLAN Emberiza hortulana Two males at Elounda 1.4. 2 Spinalonga fortress early April. Recorded en route to Sougia 13.4. and west of Rethymnon 23.4.

CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING Emberiza caesia Only two records, from Plakias and a pair near Rodopou in April.

REED BUNTING Emberiza schoeniclus Only one record Creta Sun lagoon 18.10.

CORN BUNTING Miliaria calandra One Damnoni 27.3. Seen at Creta Sun lagoon, in the fields near the hotel 30.3, 1.4. and at Elounda. Singles Malia 10.4. Fairly well distributed by late April. Common in May.

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

GREEN TOAD Bufo viridis
COMMON TREE FROG Hyla arborea
MARSH FROG Rana ridibunda
STREAM/AGILE FROG Rana graeca/dalmatina
STRIPE-NECKED TERRAPIN Mauremys caspica
LOGGER HEAD TURTLE Caretta caretta Young hatched Plakias.
TURKISH GECKO Hemidactylus turcicus
BALKAN GREEN LIZARD Lacerta trilineata
ERHARDS WALL LIZARD Podarcis erhardii
OCELLATED SKINK Chalcides ocellatus
BALKAN WHIP SNAKE Coluber gemonensis
LEOPARD SNAKE Elaphe situla
DICE SNAKE Natrix tesselata
CAT SNAKE Telescopus fallax

BUTTERFLIES and MOTHS.

SWALLOWTAIL Papilio machaon SCARCE SWALLOWTAIL Iphiclides podalirius EASTERN FESTOON CRETAN Zerynthia cerisyi cretica LARGE WHITE Pieris brassicae SMALL WHITE Artogeia rapae DAPPLED WHITE Euchloe simplonia ORANGE TIP Anthocharis cardamines CLOUDED YELLOW Colias crocea CLEOPATRA Gonopteryx cleopatra WOOD WHITE Leptidea sinapis SOUTHERN COMMA Polygonia egea PAINTED LADY Cynthia cardui RED ADMIRAL Vanessa atlanta QUEEN OF SPAIN FRITILLARY Issoria lathonia CRETAN GRAYLING Hipparchia cretica MEADOW BROWN Maniola jurtina ORIENTAL MEADOW BROWN Hyponephele lupina CRETAN SMALL HEATH Coenonymphe pamphilus SOUTHERN SPECKLED WOOD Pararge aegeria WALL BUTTERFLY Lasiommata megera SMALL COPPER Lycaena phlaeus LONG-TAILED BLUE Lampides boeticus HOLLY BLUE Celastrina argiolus BATON BLUE Pseudophilotes baton BROWN ARGUS Aricia agesstis COMMON BLUE Polyommatus icarus MALLOW SKIPPER Carcharodus alceae LULWORTH SKIPPER Thymeliicus acteoan

Humming Bird Hawk Moth Pine Processionary Moth

DRAGONFLIES

Crocothemis erythraea Ischnura elegans Anax parthenope

MAMMALS

HEDGEHOG Erinaceus concolor RABBIT Oryctolagus cuniculis WEASEL Mustela nivalis BEECH MARTIN Martes foina WILD GOAT Capra aegagrus Kri Kri DOLPHIN Delphinus delphis

STEPHANIE COGHLAN April 1987.

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This report is a re-formatted version of the original report. The text is unchanged apart from some minor amendments. JJ Coghlan February 2012