

CRETE BIRD REPORT 1993
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Crete Bird Report 1993

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*

PM MB

April: Offshore records from Platanos 3 on 1.4. Malia 8 on 6.4. Rethymnon 1 on 9.4. 6 17.4. 2 20.4. 1 20.4. Gouves 11 15.4. Hania 2 18.4. 13 19.4. 6 20.4. Sissi 20, 6.4.

Elafonisi 16.4. and Agia Roumeli 17.4.

May: Almyros 3 on 1.5. Olous 2 on 14.5. Aposelemis river 2 on 15.5. Heraklion 2 30.5.

June: Kastelli 20 on 3.6. and Plakias 30 on 4.6.

August: 2 Aposelemis river 31.8.

September: Up to 20 Istron 18.9.

MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER *Puffinus yelkouan*

PM MB

April: Offshore records Hania 5 on 18.4. 8 on 20.4. Agios Nikolaos 6+ on 27.4. Elafonissi 16.4. Agia Roumeli 17.4.

May: Almyros 10.1.5.

June: 30 Kastelli on 3.6. and 10 Plakias on 4.6.

September: Up to 4 Istron Bay 18.9.

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

PM WV

January 6 Karteros 16.1.

March: 3 Karteros 13.3. and 1 off Aposelemis river 12.3.

April: 20 Keridis 13.4.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

RB

April: 1 Hania harbour 15.4. 4 Agia Roumeli 29.4.

May: 10 Falasana 2.5.

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

PM

April: 1 Malia marsh [Dead] 2.4.

1 Agia reservoir 10.4.

1 3km East of Georgioupolis 10.4.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus*

PM

April: First record a single 23.4. Agia reservoir. Up to 7 there 6.5-17.5. Mainly singles at 8 other sites during May. Last record 3 Agia reservoir 6.6. 1 perched at top of a tree, Lefkogia 14.5. [AD].

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

PM

April-June: Recorded 4.4.- 6.6. at 16 sites mainly singles and small numbers. Regular during April at Agia reservoir with up to 4 birds.

Largest counts: 7 at Plakias beach 16.4. and 21 there 28.4. 9 flying in off the sea at Paleochora 15.4.

September: 100 Malia 1.9.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides*

PM

First record 1 Aposelemis river 12.3. Then widely distributed April/May. Most regular at Agia reservoir with up to 12 in early May.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

PM

First record 1 Malia 24.3. April-May common, reported from 19 sites. Up to 15 at Agia Reservoir. Plakias Bay 30 on rocks 16.5, by dusk upwards of 75 were present.

Autumn. 1 Lake Kournas 15.8. 1 Karteros 9.9. 6 Ierapetra 20.9. 4 there 21.9. 4 Heraklion 28.9.

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GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba*

PM

April: 1 Georgioupolis Lake 7.4.
4 Elafonissi Island 23.4.

May: 1 Elounda 5.5. and 1 Mochlos island 6.5. (RH.PH.GFA.JAG.NAC.JAC.)

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

PM

March: 1 Aposelemis river 8.3.

April: Small numbers, many singles recorded in April from 17 sites, max. 8 at Plakias 17.4.

May: Fewer in May recorded from 6 sites, singles to early June.

August: 1 Chania 8.8. and 1 Georgioupolis Lake 4.8. & 17.8. 1 Agia 17.8

1 Aposelemis river 23.8 & 31.8. 25 Hersonisos 27.8.

September: 36 Malia 1.9. 1 Aposelemis river 5.9. & 15.9.

Groups recorded arriving from the east 17.9.

October: 1 Rethymnon 20.10, 5 Heraklion 21.10, 1 Karteros 23.10 & 26.10.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*

PM

March: Widely reported 30.3.- mid May. Mainly 1-2 birds at 12 sites. Max. 8 Skinaria 20.4. and 8 Falasarna 23.4. 32 flying offshore at Plakias 7.5. A single Agia reservoir 6.6.

August: 1 Agia 17.8. & 1 Aposelemis river 27.8.

September: 1 Malia 1.9.

2 Aposelemis river 14.9. and a single there 15.9.

1 Ierapetra 20.9.

October: 1 Platanos 20.10.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

PM

May: 1 Georgioupolis gliding in a westerly direction on thermals 4.5. (JF)

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

PM

April: Main passage recorded from 12 sites from 10.4. to end of the month. Peak numbers, 50 Plakias passing headland 15.4. Next day several large flocks were seen off Moni Prevelli and for at least two hours some 420 were milling around. 24 Mylo river 19.4.

May: A single Tavronitis river 11.5. and Agia reservoir 31.5.

September: 5 Aposelemis river 14.9.

GREATER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus ruber*

AV

April: 1 Elounda Saltpans 26.4. (DM) and 27.4. (PR).

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

AV

January: 1 Elounda saltpans 27.1. (C&JH).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

AV

April: 1 at Ierapetra reservoir 1.4.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

AV

April: 1 with White-fronted goose at Ierapetra 1.4. same pair as previous years presumed escapes or feral birds.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

WV

January: 12 Ierapetra reservoir 27.1. (C&JH).

TEAL *Anas crecca*

WV

January: 8 Ierapetra reservoir 27.1.

March: 1 Heraklion Power Station 6.3.

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August: 1 Georgioupolis Lake 4.8.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

WV

January 9 Ierapetra reservoir 27.1.

April: 1 there 26.4.

1 Georgioupolis Lake 17.4.

1 Agia reservoir a single male 19.4. and 15.5. and 3.6.

NORTHERN PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

WV

January: 40 Ierapetra reservoir 27.1.

April: 1 Platanes river 19.4.

May: 1 male Platanes river 4.5. and 5.5.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

PM

March: First record 2 Agia reservoir 30.3. Then only pairs and singles during April to second week of May. Large numbers only from Makrialos with 70 on 1st April.

August: 9 Agia 17.8.

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

WV

January: 8 Ierapetra reservoir 27.1. (J&CH).

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Anas clypeata*

AV

January: 3 Ierapetra reservoir 27.1.(C&JH).

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

WV

January; 44 Ierapetra reservoir 27.1.

1 there September recorded one date between 21.9. and 5.10.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca*

WV

January: 1 Georgioupolis lake 18.4.(J&CH)

September:1 Ierapetra reservoir, no date??.(EAM)

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

WV

January: 6 Ierapetra reservoir 27.1.(C&JH)

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

PM

3 soaring with 2 Common Buzzards 17.4. over Spili. 1 Mylo river 19.4.

May: 1 flew west over Georgioupolis 4.5.

October: 1 Plakias 23.10.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

PM

More records than for some years, 1 Krea Vrasi, April, 1 Neapolis 26.4. 1 Melambis 14.4. 1 Sissi 6.4. 1 Tavronitis river 16.4. In May 1 Moni Vidianis on Lassithi 11.5. and 1 Armeni hunting by the roadside 16.5.

LAMMERGEIER *Gypaetus barbatus*

RB

April: 1 Kera/Avdou gorge 12.4. 1 Omalos 3.4. and 3 including 1 imm. Omalos 8.8. 1 Assi Gonia 15.5. 1 Gonies 26.4. 1 Sirkari area 3.6. 1 Kera/Avdou Gorge 12.6. 2 Christopigi 22.9.

GRIFFON VULTURE *Gyps fulvus*

RB

Common in mountains and gorges. Higher counts, 35 Theriso 12.5. and 24 Lassithi 3.5. 16 Omalos 19.8. 15 Marsulas 10.5. and 15 Kourtaliotiko 16.5. Only in 3-9 Sept-December.

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- SHORT-TOED EAGLE** *Circaetus gallicus* PM
 1 Phaestos 15.5. 1 Petres Gorge 10.4.
- MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus* MB PM
 Up to 3 Jan/Feb. Spring passage April-early May, with a high percentage of females and immatures. 3 Moni Vidianis 2ã & 1â 11.5. 1 Aposelemis river 31.8. and 2.9.
- HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus* PM WV
 1 Omalos 3.2. 1 Omalos 22.4. 2 Creta Sun lagoon 23.4. 1 there 4.4. (C&JH. JM) 1 Plakias 22.10. (GR)
- PALLID HARRIER** *Circus macrourus* PM
 1 Skinaria 19.-20.4. 1 Rodopou peninsula poss female 25.4. (J&CH, RH).
- MONTAGU'S HARRIER** *Circus pygargus* PM
 April: 1 American Listening Post (Mt. Ederi) 12.4.
 May: 1 Tavronitis river 17.5. A female Platanos 2.5. 1 male Moni Vidianis 11.5. Ringtails: 1 Kativola 15.5. 1 Rethymnon 12.4. (RSK, TD&GA, DR&JD)
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK** *Accipter gentilis* PM WV?
 Maroules, a female soaring with 2 Common Buzzards and a possible male in the area 21.4. (DM)
- EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK** *Accipter nisus* PM WV
 1 Samaria 13.5. 1 Petres Bridge 16.4. 1 Exopoli 30.4. 1 Agiroupolis 4.7. 1 Kalo Horio 8.8. 1 Ierapetra 20.9. 1 Kalo Horio 5.12.
- COMMON BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo* RB PM
 Very common, noticeably more numerous in upland areas in April. [B.b.vulpinus (Steppe Buzzard). Rethymnon Pines, April, 2 birds drifting west had some characteristics of the Eastern race of Common Buzzard, dark sandy brown-no barring, while primaries and secondaries when seen from below primaries seeming to have black fingers. [TD, GA.]
- LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD** *Buteo rufinus* ??
 September: 1 Aposelemis river 7.9.
- GOLDEN EAGLE** *Aquila chrysaetos* RB
 Widely reported from 14 sites including a lowland record at Heraklion.
- BOOTED EAGLE** *Hieraaetus pennatus* WV PM
 1 Kera/Avdou Gorge 17.4. 2 Kotsiphos Gorge 18.4. 2 Georgioupolis 18.4. 1 Imbros Gorge 4.6. and 1 Ierapetra 2.5.
- BONELLI'S EAGLE** *Hieraaetus fasciatus* RB
 1 Prinies 14.4., 1 Koutsomatados 2.5., 2 Imbros Gorge 13.5. 2 Lake Kournas 14.5. 1 Kera/Avdou Gorge 12.5. & 15.5. 1 Anogia 1.6, 2 Temenia 23.7. and 2 Amari 13.8.
- OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus* PM
 1 Falasarna 23.4. and 1 Agia reservoir 16.4.
- LESSER KESTREL** *Falco naumanni* RB? PM MB
 1 Gerani 16.4. A female at Falasarna 11.5. and single males at Olous 14.5. and Petres Gorge 16.5..

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KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*
Frequent and widespread.

RB

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*
Spring passage 23rd April to second week of May with parties of up to 25 along the North coast. Flock of 22 flew north over Agios Nikolaos 28.4. Largest number: c100 feeding over a field of cut grass near coast east of Georgioupolis 23.4.

PM

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*
April: 1 Ierepetra Reservoir 25.4.
4 Imbros 27.4.
May: 2 Lefkogia 1.5
1 Geroni 12.5.
1 Tavronitis river 17.5.
1 flew north Ag. Nikolaos 28.5.
June: 1 Agia reservoir 3.6.
August: 1 Rethymnon 3.8.

PM

ELEONORA'S FALCON *Falco eleonorae*
April: First record 2 Petres Gorge 16.4.
Then common from May last seen 27.10.

MB PM

LANNER *Falco biamicus*
May: 3 Petres Gorge 16.5. (RSK)

RB PM?

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*
Widely reported from 19 sites. Food pass to female noted Petres Gorge 16.4. Single over Kalo Horio 22.10. 1 Amari 17.12.

RB PM WV

CHUKAR PARTRIDGE *Alectoris chukar*
April: Seen and heard Armeni, Ag.Nikalaos, Samaria.
May: Imbros Gorge, Phaestos, Moni Prevelli, Kaliviani Monastery, Gingalos.
August: Moni Prevelli.

RB

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*
April: 1 Kato peninsula 16.4.
Heard Spili area calling 28.4.

MB PM

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*
February: 1 Aposelemis river 18.2.
March: 1 Malia 19.3. & 24.3.
May: 1 Platanes river 17.5.
December: 2 Malia 20.12.

PM WV

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*
April: 1 Linopteramata (dead) 3.4. 1 Keridis river 13.4.
1-2 Agia reservoir 7.- 12.4.
May: 1 Lake Kournas 12.5.

PM

LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva*
March: First record 1 Agia reservoir 30.3.
April: Then 1-2 during April. 1 Malia marsh 2.4. & 4.4. 1 Keridis river 13.4.
1 Gerani 16.4. & 23.4.
singles Tavronitis river 16.4, 20.4, & 23.4.

PM

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May: 1 Platanias river 7.5. & Georgioupolis Lake 14.5.& 16.5.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* RB PM

Fewer records than in previous years, small numbers at all the wetlands during April with a peak of 79 at Agia reservoir. A single Georgioupolis Lake 17.5. 12 there on 4.8. 6 there 17.8. 1 Geropotamos bridge 27.7. 1 Agia 20.8. 2 Aposelemis 25.9. 1 Giofiros river 26.10. and 2 there 21.12. 3 Aposelemis river 9.11.

COOT *Fulica atra* RB? WV PM

Ierapetra reservoir held the most birds with 800 on 27.1. reducing to 40 on 14.4. and 10 on 29.4. Small numbers in April at Agia reservoir, Georgioupolis Lake and Lake Kournas where maximum 12 on 17.4. 1 Georgioupolis 21.7. and 17.8. 12 Ierapetra 21.9.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus* PM

Recorded at 8 sites late March to third week in May. Mainly small numbers but 'many' Lake Kournas 21.4. and a party of 8 on Lassithi 16.4. Return migration began with a flock of 40 Georgioupolis Lake 10.8. 2 Elounda 20.9.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* MB PM WV

April: 2 Aposelemis river 3-4.4. 1 Gouves 15.4. 1 Elounda 28.4. 1 Platanes river 16.4.

CREAM-COLOURED COURSER *Cursorius cursor* V

First seen Aposelemis river 31.3. (J&CH) then Gouves lagoon 3.4. (BT, JW). The record is accepted and is the first for Crete.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola* PM

April: 18 Ierapetra reservoir 29.4.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* MB PM

Regular in small numbers at most river mouths along the North coast from 12.3. Breeding behaviour noted at Petres and Platanes rivers and Gouves. 3 Aposelemis river 8.6. 2 Georgioupolis 14.6. 4 Aposelemis river 9.8. & 23.8.

September: 100 Malia 1.9.

1 Aposelemis river 5.9. & 17.9.

October: 1 Karteros 26.10.

GREAT RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* PM WV

April: 1 Georgioupolis Lake 7.4. 2 there 10.4.
1 Agia reservoir 12.4. 1 Platanes beach 21.4. 1 Elounda 26.4.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* PM WV?

April: A male Platanes beach 21.4.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* PM

November: 1 Malia 22.11.

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* WV

March: 1 Gouves lagoon 31.3.

November: 2 Malia 22.11.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* PM

April: 1 Elafonnisi Island 16.4.

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LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

PM

Small numbers at 10 sites mainly North coast 30.3.to 20.5. usually 1-8 birds but a peak of 29 on 11.5. In August 1 Aposelemis river 9.8. 1 Karteros 4.9. 3 Elounda 20.9. Single Kato Gouves 21.11.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

PM

April: 1 Tavronitis river 23.4.
1 Petres 25.4.
1 Ierapetra reservoir 29.4. and 2.5.
May: 2 Platanes river 4.5.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

PM

1 Gouves lagoon 31.3. amd 3.4. 1 Elounda Saltpans 15.4. & 6 26.4.
1 Aposelemis river 15.5. 1 Tavronitis river 11.5. 1 Skoutelonas 15.5.& 17.5. 5 Georgiopolis 11.5. 1 Ierapetra reservoir 29.4.

DUNLIN *C. alpina*

PM

March: 2 Aposelemis river 31.3.
May: 1 Aposelemis river 4.5.
September: 1 Karteros 4.9.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

PM

Recorded at 10 sites between 3.3. and 15.5. Highest numbers: 13 Tavronitis river 11.5.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

PM WV

1 Karteros 13.3. Singles Malia 19.3., 24.3. 18.4. 2 Aposelemis river 19.3. and 1 there 18.4. 1 Agia reservoir 7.4. & 19.4. 2 there 18.4.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

PM

1 Ierapetra reservoir 1.4. 1 Gouves 13.-14.4. 1 Aposelemis river 18.4.

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

PM WV?

1 Elounda Saltpans 26.4. and 28.4.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

V??

1 Agia reservoir 2.5.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

PM WV

1 Aposelemis river 2.3. 1 Rethymnon Harbour 17.4. 1 Elounda Saltpans 26.4. 2 27.4. 1 Paleokastro 30.4. 5 Aposelemis river 1.10.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis*

PM

March: 2-3 Aposelemis river and Gouves lagoon 26.3.- 31.3. 1 there 3.4. & 4.4. 1 there 13.-15.4.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

PM

Recorded at 11 sites mainly singles but 5 Mylo river and Ierapetra reservoir 25.4.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

PM WV?

Widespread from 6.3. (C&JH), mainly singles. Last record, 1 Platanes river 6.5. Return in August 1 Aposelemis river 31.8. 7 there 2.9. 4 Karteros 4.9. 2 Aposelemis river 5.9. and 1 there 8.9. and 4 14.9. rising to 10 15.9.

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- WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola* PM
 1 Aposelemis river 27.3. & 31.3. then common at 15 sites April-mid May mainly small numbers max. 10 Tavronitis river 7.-17.5. and 7 Agia reservoir 6-17.5. In August 9 Agia 17.8. & 4 Agia 20.8. 3 Elounda 20.9.
- COMMON SANDPIPER** *Tringa hypoleucos* PM WV?
 1 Georgioupolis lake 29.3. and 2 Agia reservoir 30.3. Common April to early May. Small numbers recorded at 19 sites max. 7 Ierapetra reservoir 19.4. 1 Agia reservoir 21.7. 1 Geropotamos bridge 27.7. 1 Georgioupolis 17.8. 1 Agia 17.8. & 13 Aposelemis river 31.8. 1 there 7.9.& 15.9. and 3 there 17.9.
- TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres* PM
 April: 1 Frangokastello 20.4.
 May: 4 Elounda 1.5. 1 Plakias 12.5. & 14.5. 2 Georgioupolis 15.5.
- MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus* PM WV
 April: 1 Rethymnon beach 9.4. and Heraklion harbour 9.4.
 1 1st winter Chania harbour 19.4.
 4 Heraklion Power Station
- BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus* PM WV
 Many Heraklion 3.1.-16.1. 1 Agia reservoir 17.-18.4. 4 Chania harbour 19.4. 4 Ierapetra reservoir 29.4. and 7 there 2.5.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus* PM WV
 4 Iraklion 15.4. 3 Platanos flew east 16.4. All of the race L.f.fuscus
 1 Iraklion power station 30.3. & 3.4. and Elafonnisi island 16.4.
- HERRING/YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus cachinnans michahellis* RB
 Common throughout the year.
- GULL-BILLED TERN** *Gelochelidon nilotica* PM
 May: 1 Plakias 12.5. - 16.5. 1 Agia reservoir 17.5.
- SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis* PM WV
 April: 1 Chania Harbour 18.-19.4.
- WHISKERED TERN** *Chlidonias hybrida* PM
 April: 5 Ierapetra reservoir 29.4.
 June: 2 Agia reservoir 6.6.
- WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias leucopterus* PM
 April: 1 Ierapetra reservoir 29.4.
 May: 1 Ierapetra reservoir 2.5.
 1 Elounda 1.5.
 1 Georgioupolis Lake 16.5.
- ROCK DOVE** *Columba livia* RB
 Small flock Kera/Avdou Gorge 12.4. 20 Monasteraki 14.4. 8 Kotsiphos Gorge 17.4. and 2 there 10.8. 4 Samaria Gorge 18.4. 2 Kato Zakro 30.4.
- STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas* OB?
 May: 2 Omalos 23.5.]
- WOOD PIGEON** *Columba palumbus* RB
 Reported as widespread in April but in small numbers, fewer records in May, with up to 4 in gorges in June-Dec. 4 Omalos 8.8. and 4 Amari 6.8.

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COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

RB

New sites at Georgioupolis, Malia, Amari, Arolithos. While at Rethymnon they were reported from a much wider area.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

MB PM

First record 1 Rethymnon 13.4. Then reported from 17 sites max. 5 Armeni 21.4. Recorded as widespread in May. A few June records.

COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

PM

April: 1 Lake Kournas 7.4.
1 Georgioupolis 7.4.
4-6 Rethymnon Pines 11.4.
1 Aghia Triada 19.4.
August: 1 Agia reservoir 8.8.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

RB WV?

January: 1 Kalo Horio 12.1.
A single there 4.4. and 30.-31.5. 28.10.
1 Koutouloufari 5.2. 1 Ieraklion (dead) June. frequent in Kalo Horio (Pediados) in June.

EURASIAN SCOPS OWL *Otus scops*

RB MB

January: 2 Kalo Horio 28.1.- 27.10.
February: 1 there 15.-28.2.
Common March, April, May and June especially Kalo Horio (Pediados). Otherwise mainly singles but 3 calling Georgioupolis in April and 5 Argiroupoli 17.5. and 5 there 4.7. 1-2 in Kavousi 13-15.7.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Another 'calling' record this time from Georgioupolis 7.4. There have still been no acceptable sightings for this species.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

MB PM

May: 1 flew over the village at Georgioupolis towards the lake at 20.30. on 14th May.
August: 1 Kalo Horio 28.8.

SWIFT *Apus apus*

MB PM

March: Common from 18.3. Very common April, May, June and July. Hundreds feeding along river and lake Georgioupolis to Vrises 16.5. Huge numbers over Chania in April and 200 at Agia reservoir.

PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus*

MB PM

A flock in Rethymnon of 20-25 on 20.4. 2 pairs prospecting buildings there on the same day. 2 with Common Swifts at Georgioupolis 13.5. 1 Gouvenetos Monastery 9.5. 1 Kativola 15.5. 5-7 Agia reservoir 3.6.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*

MB PM

Common from 17.3. to August at many sites. Large numbers Phaestos, Kourtaliotiko Gorge mid. April. and Georgioupolis-Vrises 14.5. 20+ Moni Vrondissi 9.5. and Kato Rodakino 13.5. Lefkogia up to 2000 April-July.
Small numbers: August 20 Iraklion 2.8. 2 Mylo river 11.8. Others recorded at Chania and Elounda. Last 18.9 Loures.

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KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

RB? PM WV

Regular Rethymnon Harbour Jan/Feb.

March: 1 Iraklion 6.3.
1 Malia 19.3.

April: 1 Agia Galini 2.4.
1-2 Agia reservoir April.
1 Aposelemis river 17.4.

August: Singles Agia reservoir, Georgioupolis, Lake Kournas and Geropotamos bridge and Aposelemis river.

September: 1 Aposelemis river 2.9. 7 there 22.9. 1 9.11.

1 spring Pool 8.11. In December singles at Agia Galini 15.-17.12.

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*

PM MB?

Heavy Spring passage 8.4.-mid. May in a broad front the length of the island.

Highest concentrations Georgioupolis area with flocks of 12-50 flying North.

Peak numbers 7.5.-14.5. Chiona beach. Countless numbers mobbing gulls at sunset

7.5. A few near Vai 10.5. 50+ Platanos 14.00. 10.5.60 flew west at Georgioupolis at 18.00 hours 10.5. and the same day 20-30 feeding over cultivated fields.

Passage particularly heavy over Platanos and Georgioupolis on the 12.5. with flocks by 40-50 flying North. Ierapetra 11.5. and Skoutelonas 17.5.

Autumn: Common Kalo Horio in Sept. while up to 20 Kritsa 19.9. and 5-10 Kavousi 20.9.

EUROPEAN ROLLER *Coracias garrulus*

PM

May: 1 Aposelemis river 11.5. 2 there 12.5. 1 Kare 14.5.

September: 2 Aposelemis river 7.9.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

PM

Fewer records than usual, singles between 2.4.-19.4. at Kalo Horio (Pediados), Milatos, Kera/Avdou Gorge, Rethymnon, Plakias, Agia Triada, Phaestos and Georgioupolis.

May; 1 Phaestos 15.5. 3 records in September.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

PM

April: 1 Frangocastello 11.4.

CALANDRA LARK *Melanocorypha calandra*

PM

1 Drepano peninsula, flushed from a field 14.5. The origin of a caged bird in a Rethymnon taverna could not be established.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla*

MB PM WV

Smaller numbers than previous years. Kalo Horio frequent Jan. Common Feb.

January: 3 Malia 14.1.

February: Small flock Aposelemis river 10.2. 2 there 26.2. 1 there 14.4.

April, 1-3 recorded at Gortyn, Ierapetra, Istra, Rethymnon and Almyros.

May: 16 Malia 1.5. and single Falasarna 2.5. and Lohria 9.5.

August: flock at Aposelemis 31.8. and 8.9. down to 7 there 11.9. 2 Malia 1.9. 4 Gournes 29.10. 1 Aposelemis river 9.11. Small flock Kato Gouves 21.11. and Malia 20.12.

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata*

RB

Common and widespread resident.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

RB PM

1 Kalo Horio 20.1. Up to 4 in February and many in March. April/May widespread with records from over 20 sites. Most numerous Omalos with 19 in one small area.

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September: 1 Kalo Horio 3.9. 11.9. 14.9. 16.9. & 22.9. 1 Gouves 15.9. 3 Kalo Horio 30.9.

October: 2 Kalo Horio 7.10 8.10 and 12.10. Single there 22.10.

November: 1 Gouves 20.11. & 21.11.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

WV PM

January: 12.1. a flock Aposelemis river and 24.2. Another flock at Malia 21 and 15.2. Fewer there by 10.3. and only 4 on 24.3.

Autumn records of a single Gournes 3.11. 5 Aposelemis river 9.11. Large flock Malia 22.11.

December: Small flock Malia 2.12. 2 there 20.12. Flock Aposelemis river 21.12.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

PM

First Karteros with a small flock 6.3. Single there 13.3.3 Agia Galini 18.3. Then common April to mid May, up to 3500 Agia reservoir 18.4. down to 500 19.4. At Plakias some arriving off the sea and 350 at the Megalopotamos 16.4. At Ag. Nikolaos large number moving N 26.4.

In May small flocks at Platanos river 5.5. 3000 at Georgioupolis Lake 8.5. had departed by 16.5. Reported breeding in the cliffs at Chiona.

September: small flock Kalo Horio 12.9. 3 there 14.9. Single Aposelemis river 14.9. & 15.9. Very large flock Ierapetra 20.9. down to a small flock the next day. 4 Aposelemis river 22.4.

CRAG MARTIN *Hirundo rupestris*

RM PM

Small numbers Jan/Feb. at Ierapetra, Aposelemis river, Milatos Gorge.

Common April/May/June with small numbers in mountains and gorges, Max: 16 Kotsiphos Gorge 17.4. and 9 Kourtaliotiko 15.4.

July: 1 Agiropolis 4.7. 4 Kera/Avdou Gorge 10.7. 2 Zaros 19.7. Small flock Omalos 21.7. and 5 there 22.7.

Autumn: 1 Kera/Avdou Gorge 7.8. 10 Kourtaliotiko 14.8. Small flock Omalos 18.8. 9 Kotsiphos 19.10.

3 down at sea level at Agia Galini 15.12. Large flock Amari valley 17.12.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

MB PM

March: Common from 6.3. with heavy passage mid April to second week May. 200+ Plakias beach 16.4. Large numbers morning to mid afternoon at Rethymnon 17.4.

Agia reservoir 1000 6.4., 350 18.4., 60 19.4. Kato peninsula, west of Chania many moving east 16.4. There was a strong N movement over Ag. Nikolaos 27.-28.4. Georgioupolis hundreds moving N dawn to 8.30 on 12.5. Very common in June, July, August and September. Common until 16.10. Late record of 1 Aposelemis river 9.11.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*

MB PM

First in March: 2 Geropotamos Bridge 29.3.

Small numbers throughout April, usually 1-3 birds but a peak of 20 on 8.4.

Sites widespread Agia reservoir, Rethymnon, Spili, Kalamavka at a total of 16 locations.

June: 2 Myli 2.6. 1 Kalo Horio 10.6.

July: 2 Eleftherna 3.7. 1 Kalo Horio 8.7. 1 Geropotamos Bridge 31.7.

Autumn; 8 Amari 11.8. 1 Rethymnon 3.8. 35 Mylo River 11.8. 1 Petrokefalo 14.8. 1 Loures 18.9.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delicon urbica*

MB PM

Common from 6.3. to mid-May, usually small numbers but 200 Georgioupolis Lake 12.5. and 16.5. 60 Megalopotamos 16.4. 100+ Agia reservoir 15.5.

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June: 1 Kalo Horio 10.6. and 19.6. 2 Zaros 23.6.

July records small flocks Lassithi plateau 16.7. and Argiroupoli 25.7. Other
Autumn records 1 Stavrakia 13.8. 1 Kalo Horio 14.9. 2 Ierapetra reservoir 21.9.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*

MB PM

First 1 Aposelemis river 8.3. and 1 Karteros 13.3. small flock Malia 18.4. 6
Omalos 5.4. 1 Amari valley 17.4. 1 Frangocastello 20.4. and Moni Prevelli 22.4.
Several on passage Rethymnon 6.4. 6 Falasarna 7.5.
August: 10 Omalos 8.8. 3 Aposelemis river 27.8. and a single there 31.8.
September records 3 from Kalo Horio 1.9. 1 Aposelemis river 8.9. 2 there 17.9.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

PM

First single Aposelemis river 8.3. Frequent from 9.4. to early May most numerous
mid April.
December record of 2 Aposelemis river 21.12.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

WV OB PM

January: Many in Malia 14.1. Common February-March, scarce in April. 3
Platanos 1.4. 3 Aposelemis river 3.4. 1 Rethymna Beach Hotel 21.4. Widespread in
November and December.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

PM

First Agia Reservoir 30.3. 1-2 in April with peaks at Malia 'many' 18.4. and in
May. 20 on Lassithi 3.5. Last record 5 Kera/Avdou Gorge 5.5.
Autumn records, single Karteros 26.10. and many there 29.10. down to 2 there
9.11.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

OB PM

First record 3 Karteros 6.3. Common from Aposelemis river 10.3. 6 moving N at
Frangocastello 11.4. Agia reservoir a large flocks 30.3. Hundreds resting and
moving North 6.4. Smaller numbers in May max. 13 Malia 1.5.
2 Platanos river 18.5. was the last Spring record. Races recorded *flava*,
cinerocapilla, *feldegg* and more *thunbergi* than usual.
Autumn: 1 Aposelemis 23.8. and 31.8. 2 Aposelemis river 2.9. & 7.9. Single there
8.9. & 22.9. Flock Ierapetra 20.9. 3 OFI 25.9. 6 Georgioupolis 14.10.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

WV OB PM

Fewer records than previous years. A single on 2 dates Jan. and 3 dates Feb. at
Aposelemis river. Only 1 Spring record single Meskla 26.4.
Autumn records: 1 Ag. Nikolaos 15.10. 1 Fodele 10.11. and 1 Kalo Horio 30.11. In
December 2 Kalo Horio 5.12. 1 Aposelemis river 13.12. 1 Agia Galini 15.12. 1
Kalo Horio 28.12.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

WV RB PM

Common January- March. Widespread but scarcer than usual, in April.
Few reports in May. Single Kavousi 28.6. and 1 Agia reservoir 21.7.
Autumn: 1 Georgioupolis 4.8. 10 Agia reservoir 8.8. 2 Aposelemis river 15.9.
Small flock OFI 25.9. Common in October, November and December.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

WV RB

Single Kalo Horio 30.1. and 1 Armeni 17.3. were only Winter records. Common
April/May mainly in upland areas. 2 Myli 13.6. July records in uplands.
August: 2 Mylo 5.8. 3 Kera/Avdou 7.8. 1 Kera 7.8. 1 Kotsiphos Gorge 10.8. 1
Geropotamos Bridge 11.8. 1 Omalos 18.8, 3 Omalos 19.8.

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- ALPINE ACCENTOR** *Prunella collaris* RB
1 Kalliergi Hut 20.4. (TD)
- RUFOS-TAILED SCRUB ROBIN** *Cerotichas galactotes* ??
1 Akrotiri 1 mile inland from Stavros 14.4. (RDW). 1 Samaria Gorge 24.4. 4
Imbros Gorge 27.4. 1 Falasarna 2.5. (J&JD)
- ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula* WV PM
Common January and February but fewer towards the end of February. March mainly
singles, Last record 2 Milatos Gorge 19.3.
Common from 20.10. November and December: Common.
- RUFOS NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos* MB PM
First record 1 Lake Kournas 7.4. then many reports, mainly singles, remainder of
April into May. Numerous along the road and river to Asi Gonia 15.5. 1 Vrisses
14.6.
- BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochrurus* WV PM
Jan.-March, mainly singles recorded Kalo Horio, Elounda, 3 Aposelemis river
24.2. 1 Agia Triada 18.3. and 2 Kalives 30.3.
November: 1 Aposelemis river 9.11. 1 Gournes 12.11. 1 Kalo Horio 18.11, 21.11,
and 23.11. Single Malia 22.11. In December 1 Kalo Horio 3.12. & 5.12. 2 there
10.12. 3 Agia Galini 15.12. with very many there 16.12. 2 Ag. Georgios 16.12.
Single Agia Galini 17.12.
- REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* PM
First record 1 Kera 12.4. then mainly singles at Ag. Ioannis 17.4. Lassithi
20.4. 6 Akrotiri 19.4. and Ierapetra 29.4.
Autumn: 1 Plakias 23.10.
- WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra* OB PM
Winter: 2 Istron 27.1.
Widespread in April from 15.4. and singles until 15.5. at Aposelemis river,
Malia, Agia reservoir, Armeni and Mylo Ford. 2 Aposelemis river 14.7. and 3
there 15.9.
- STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquata* WV RB PM
Common and widespread.
- ISABELLINE WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe isabellina* OB PM
1 Malia 2.4. and 1 Gouves lagoon 4.4. (JF)
- NORTHERN WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe* MB PM
1 Aposelemis river 27.3. 2 Kalives 30.3. April common with records from many
areas. max Omalos c800 mid-April [DTI].
Autumn 4 Omalos 8.8. Frequent Aposelemis river in September. 1 Mount Ederi
30.9. October: 2 Aposelemis river 1.10. 5 Gournes 5.10. 1 Kato Gouves 11.10. 1
Aposelemis river 16.10.
- BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe hispanica* MB PM
1 Fortezza 9.4. then reported at over 20 sites, max. 6. at Moni Prevelli from
second week April to mid May. Common Omalos/Gingalos 5.5.
Autumn 2 Petres 3.8. and Georgioupolis 4.8.

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WHITE-CROWNED BLACK WHEATEAR *Oenanthe leucopyga*

AV

1 male photographed at the side of the road between Lakki and Omalos 15.4. (Joan Potts and High Peak RSPB Group)

ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis*

PM

1 Lassithi 28.4. (PAR)

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius*

WV

RB

PM

February: 1 Kalo Horio 5.2. and 25.2.

Common and widespread March-May mainly gorges and hillsides. 10 in Kotsiphos Gorge in April. 1 Kera/Avdou 10.7. 1 Omalos 21.7.

1 Amari 11.8. 1 Kotsiphos 10.8. 1 Kalo Horio 22.-30.9. 1 Koutouloufari 24.9. 1

Gournes 25.9. 1 Kalo Horio 1.10, 4.10, 8.10, and 13.10. December: 3 Kera/Avdou Gorge 1.12. 1 Kalo Horio 14.12., 18.12. & 28.12.

1 Agia Galini 15.12. & 17.12. 1 Ag. Georgios 16.12.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

WV

RB

PM

Common and widespread.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

WV

PM

January: Small numbers in early January at Kalo Horio (Pediados), many from 29th and a flock there 3.2. with many again 20.3.

Small numbers Aposelemis river 29.1. and Agia Triada 18.3.

Autumn 3 Kalo Horio 22.10. 2 there 7.11. & 30.11.

December: 1 Kera/Avdou Gorge 1.12. 1 Kalo Horio 10.12.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

WV

January and February: Fewer than some years at Kalo Horio mainly singles. 2 there 5.2. Last seen 1 on 20th March.

October: 1 Kalo Horio 24.10.

November: 1 Kera/Avdou 1.12.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

RB

Common and widespread.

ZITTING CISTICOLA *Cisticola juncidis*

RB

Recorded Georgioupolis with 4 holding territory in April, and near Mina/Delfina Hotel sign 23.4. 1 Malia 1.5. 1-2 Platanes river 5.5.-13.5.

1 near Episkopi 15.5.

Autumn: 1 Georgioupolis 5.8.

MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Acrocephalus melanopogon*

WV

PM

April: 1 Aposelemis river 14.4. [DTI] May: 1 Lake Kournas 12.5. [DT] and 1 Georgioupolis 12.5. [PM]

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

PM

March: 1 first recorded Power Station 29.3.

Present most wetland sites April. with a max. 40+ Agia reservoir 18.4. Very scarce in May.

Autumn: 1 Malia 1.9.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

PM

Winter 1 Malia 21.1. Fewer than Sedge Warbler.

1 Power station 6.3. and 5.4. Singles Aposelemis river 8.3. and 29.4.

Singles 30.3. 2 there 18.4. 1 there 19.4. 1 Gerani 20.4. In May: 3 Adele Kampus 5.5. 2 Platanes river 13.5. & 16.5.

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Autumn: 1 Agia reservoir 8.8. 3 Geropotamos Bridge 11.8.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* MB PM

Present at all wetland sites from 7.4. to mid-May. Main sites Agia reservoir with 4 there 16.4. and 2 Aposelemis river 11.-12.5.

September: 2 Malia 1.9.

OLIVACEOUS WARBLER *Hippolais pallida* MB PM

Recorded from 21.4. to mid-May. Agia reservoir up to 2 birds. 6 Aposelemis river 29.4. Common in May with 1 Morosini Aqueduct 13.5, 8 Petres River 18.5, Singles Dramia and Souda Bay 16.5. Single Georgioupolis 14.6. and 2 Aposelemis 20.6.

OLIVETREE WARBLER *Hippolais olivetorum* PM

1 Rethymnon to Armeni road 19.4.(J&JD). 1 Souda Bay Cemetery 17.5.(RSK) and 1 Ag. Vasilos 2.6.(S&DT) only one description.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* PM

4 Falasarna 7.5.

1 Gouvenetos Monastery 9.5.

1 Moni Prevelli 11.5.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* MB PM

April: 1 male Moni Prevelli 16.4.

May; 1 Kourtaliotiko Gorge 11.5.

SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala* WV? RB PM

Common and widespread.

RÜPPELL'S WARBLER *Sylvia rüppelli* MB PM

April: 1 singing male Tavronitis 11.4.(GFA et al)

1 male Psychro cave 14.4.(DTI)

May: 1 Petres estuary 9.5.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* MB PM

Only small numbers recorded at 9 sites during April. In May 1 Falasarna 7.5.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* PM

April: 1 Agia reservoir 8.4.

1 Petres Bridge 16.4.

May: 3 Falasarna 7.5.

3 Gouvenatou monastery 9.5.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* WV PM

A single Aposelemis river on 4 dates in February and March. 1 Kalo Horio 14.3.

BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* PM

April: 1 in woodland near Agios Pandes, on Vrisses road to Neo Horio 23.4.

1 Samaria Gorge 24.4.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* WV PM

March: 1 Agia reservoir 30.3. then passage April-early May noted at 12 sites until 10.5. usually 1-3 birds but 5 at Georgioupolis Lake 10.4.

September: 1 Malia 1.9. 1 Gournes 1.10. 1 Kato Gouves 11.10.

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CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

WV PM?

January:February: Small numbers Kalo Horio, Aposelemis river, Kato Gouves and Iraklion.

March: Common. April: mainly singles until 12.4. with many at Agia reservoir then singles to 3.5. Last Spring record 5 Eleftherna 8.5.

Autumn: 5 Rethymnon Park 18.9. 1 Aposelemis river 9.11. and 1 Karteros 27.11. 2 Aposelemis river 13.12.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

PM

Many Agia reservoir 12.4. 3 Kato Zakros 30.4. 1 Samaria Gorge 2.5.

Autumn: 1 Plakias 23.10.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus*

1 in woodland near Agios Pandes 23.4. [Dr.& Mrs.Day]

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

MB PM

First 16.4. then common until 13.5. 1 Armeni 28.5. 1 Gouves 11.6. 3 Kera/Avdou Gorge 10.7.

August: 1 Petres Gorge 3.8. 12 Agia reservoir 8.8. 1 Georgioupolis 10.8. & 14.8. 3 Arkadi 13.8. 1 Kare 14.8. 1 Agia 20.8.

September: 1 Kalo Horio 3.9. 2 Aposelemis river 8.9. 6 Kalo Horio 14.9. 4 Aposelemis river 14.9. Very many Aposelemis river 15.9. and reducing to many Aposelemis river 17.9. and a single at Gortyn 18.9.

Oct: 2 Aposelemis rivr 1.10, 1 Spring Pool 5.10, 1 Kalo Horio 12.10. 1 Rethymnon 20.10.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

PM

November: 1 Gournes 9.11.

COLLARED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula albicollis*

PM

April: Singles all males at Frangocastello 11.4. Gouves lagoon 13.4. Souda Bay 18.4. and Ierapetra 2.5.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

PM

April: A fall following a shower of rain on 19.4. resulted in good numbers especially in the Souda Bay, Akrotiri area. Smaller numbers usually 1-2 were present at 12 sites until 11.5.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

RB

Common and widespread. April more numerous than usual. (DTI)

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

RB

Common and widespread.

SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER *Certhia brachydactyla*

RB

April: 1 Agia Ireni 23.4. 1 Imbros Gorge 24.4. Many Samaria Gorge 24.4. and up to 5 there 13.5.

PENDULINE TIT *Remiz pendulinus*

WV RB

Recorded 14.1. to 14.5. at Malia with max.3, 14.1. and 19.3.

4 at Power station 5.4. Agia reservoir singles 4.4. and 12.4.

Singles Aposelemis river 27.3. and 31.3. In December 2 Malia 20.12.

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GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

RB PM

Recorded at 17 sites 16.4.-16.5. Peak numbers last week of April to 1.5. mainly singles but 5 Afrata 26.4. 3 Tavronitis river 23.4. 4 Georgioupolis 1.5. Returning birds 5 Aposelemis river 7.9. 1 there 14.9. and 2 on 15.9.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

PM

May: a male Petres Gorge 3.5. (JF).
August: 2 Aposelemis river 27.8. 3 there 31.8.
September: 1 Kalo Horio 1.9. 1 Malia 1.9. 2 Kalo Horio 3.9. & 14.9. Frequent Aposelemis river area in September. 1 Kalo Horio 12.10.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*

PM

August: 1 Prasses 15.8. (PAR)

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*

MB PM

1 Malia 24.3. and 1 Aposelemis river 27.3. Main arrival second week April and widespread in May, when recorded at over 40 sites. Two records in June 1 Kalo Horio 15.6. and 1 Kera/Avdou Gorge 19.6. Singles in July Gouves 1.7. & 21.7. and 1 Omalos 21.7. Autumn: all singles Frangocastello 10.8. Arkadi 13.8. Amari 13.-14.8. and Prasses 15.8. 1 Omalos 19.8.

EURASIAN JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

RB

February: 2 Malia 4.2.
April: 1 Lassithi 24.4. and on Omalos plateau, Samaria and Imbros.
May: Singles there 6.5. and 31.5. 1 Apostoli 9.5. 3 pairs Imbros Gorge 13.5
June: Single Kera/Avdou 19.6.
July: 9 Ligortinos 19.7. August: 2 Omalos 18.9.

YELLOW-BILLED CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

RB

6 Samaria 9.4. 3 there 6.5. 5 Monasteraki 14.4. 1 Omalos 22.4. 6 Gingalos 15.5. 2 there 18.8. and 1 there 19.8.

RED-BILLED CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

RB

Common April and May in the larger gorges and mountains especially Monasteraki Gorge with 70 there on 14.4. and 51 on Lassithi 3.5. 12 Gingalos 15.5. 30 Omalos 22.7.

EURASIAN JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

RB

Common throughout, larger flocks Jan.- March in upland areas. Single Agia reservoir 6.5. 2 Kourtaliotiko Gorge 14.5. Flocks over Gingalos 15.5. Small numbers in June. 1 Ligortinos 14.8. Flock Spring Pool 5.10. Small winter flocks in November and December.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone cornix*

RB

The race C.c.cornix the Hooded Crow is common throughout the island.

COMMON RAVEN *Corvus corax*

RB

Common in mountains and some lowland sites with 15 Karoti, near Episkopi 15.5. and 24 circling over Kotsiphos after the Gorge had been disturbed by 2 Booted Eagles *Hieraaetus pennatus* on 18.4. (DTI) 56 Amari 11.8. [PAR]

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

WV PM

Common in Winter with very large flocks in Iraklion, Karteros and Malia during January and February. A flock remained at Malia 10.3. Very large flock Iraklion

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26.10. Flock Karteros 26.10. Common in November and December with very large flocks.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* RB

Fewer records than usual. A few males in grounds of Creta Sun Hotel and Plakias, and Agia Reservoir.

Common in April. The Italian House Sparrow *P.d. italica* by far the commonest.

ITALIAN SPARROW *Passer domesticus italiae* RB

Very common everywhere.

A roost of 1000+ in Chania in trees near the market in April. (DTI).

SPANISH SPARROW *Passer hispaniolensis* PM

Scarce with a single in Plakias 16.4. and 1-2 possibles at Platanes river 4.5.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* WV? PM

April: 2 Souda Bay Cemetery 18.4. 10 there 19.4.

2 Agia reservoir 4.-17.4. 2 Adele 21.4.

August: 1 Rethymnon 3.8.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* WV RB PM

Abundant and widespread. Winter flocks.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* WV RB PM

Winter: Small flock Kalo Horio 24.1. 3 Aposelemis river 29.1. 1 Gouves 30.1.

Common in February. More widespread from 2.3. with small numbers Georgioupolis, Agia reservoir, Lakki, Ag. Konstandinos, 6 at Geroni 5.5., Falasarna, Tavronitis river, Stavromenos, Lassithi and Rethymnon.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* WV RB PM

Common and widespread. Small flocks and singles in winter.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* WV RB PM

Very common every month.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* MV RB PM

Common in winter with large flocks Kalo Horio, Aposelemis river and Malia. Still many Kalo Horio in May. Flocks return in September for winter.

CIRL BUNTING *Emberiza cirius* RB

1 Kalo Horio 5.2. Then recorded at 10 sites to May. Mainly 1-2 birds but 4 on Omalos and 3 Ag. Ioannis in April. 5 Kera/Avdou Gorge 15.5. Frequent in Kalo Horio in June.

2 Kalo Horio 3.9. 1 there Kalo Horio 11.9. & 18.9.

October: 1 Kalo Horio 12.10, 2 Kalo Horio 22.10, 1 Kera/Avdou Gorge 27.10.

November: 1 Kalo Horio 30.11.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* MB PM

April: A pair Moni Prevelli 16.4. 2 Spili 21.4. 1 Kato Zakros 30.4. A pair lake Kournas 14.5. then singles Mt Youchtas, Karpi and Mesi, all May.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* WV

1 Aposelemis river 20.1. and 13.3. (J&CH).

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CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*

WV? RB PM

Locally common, no large flocks. Widespread April with fewer records in May. Reported at 8 Frangocastello 8.4. many Miriokefalo. Tzermado, Plakias, 5 Amari valley 17.4. Zaniana, Lassithi, Neapolis, Falasarna, Imbros, Kare, Fortezza, Timbaki. 10+ Apostoli 9.5. Single Kissou Kampos 23.6. Singles Arkadi 3.7, Kaminaki 16.7. Many Lassithi on 16th July. Single Exo Potami 16.7. In December 55 Kalo Horio 8.12. 1 Kalo Horio 19.12. Small flock Malia 20.12.

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail *Papilion machaon*
Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirus*
Eastern Festoon *Zerynthia cerisyi f. cretica*
Small White *Artogeia rapae*.
Large White *Pieris brassicae*
Bath White *Pontia daplidice*
Clouded Yellow *Colias hecla*
Cleopatra *Gonepteryx cleopatra*
Southern Comma *Polygonia egea*
Painted Lady *Cynthia cardui*
Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*
Southern Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria aegeria*
Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*
Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*
Common Blue *Polyommatus menelaos*

MOTHS

Humming Bird Hawk Moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*
Silver Y *Autographa gamma*

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Leopard Snake *Elaphe situla*
Common Tree Frog *Hyla arborea*
Green Toad *Bufo viridis*
Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda*
Stripe-necked Terrapin *Mauremys caspica*
Balkan Green Lizard *Lacerata viridis*
Erhards Wall Lizard *Podarcis erhardii*

MAMMALS

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*
Beech marten *Martes foina bunites*
Weasel *Mustela nivalis*

Stephanie Coghlan.

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

JJ Coghlan
February 2012

THE COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* ON CRETE 1986 - 1993

The spread of the Collared Dove north westwards across Europe to Great Britain since 1930 has been well documented (Hudson 1965 and 1972). Although the direction of the spread missed the southern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, by 1986 two Collared Doves were discovered in the town of Rethymnon on the north coast of Crete only 200 miles from North Africa. Their numbers remained virtually static at this location for the next three years.

Then in 1990 single birds were seen at sites as far apart as Hania, Moxos, Knossos and for the first time on the south coast of the island at Frangocastello (See maps on the next page).

A further expansion of its range appeared to take place the following year with sightings at Ierapetra, Gouves, Monasteraki, Aghia Triada, Anapoli, Lassithi, Kalo Horio (Pediados) and Tylissos, mainly single birds being involved.

New locations in 1992 were at Plakias, Platanes river, Petres Gorge, Iraklion and Hersonnisos where up to 12 birds were recorded.

By 1993 Collared Doves were present at Malia and Georgioupolis while at Rethymnon, the original site, they were reported from a much wider area of the town including the eastern suburb of Perivolia.

Why the Collared Dove has taken so long to populate Crete is a puzzle. It is possible, but unlikely, that its present numbers stem from the original pair in 1986, if in fact they were a pair. Factors that may inhibit successful breeding could range from insufficient food, shortage of suitable nesting sites in populated areas to predation both natural and human.

However, it would seem inevitable that breeding has occurred at some point perhaps with limited success, but in the absence of any positive proof the only other possible explanation to account for the concentration of records along the north coast is the arrival of 'new' birds. These could be either from mainland Greece or the many islands to the north of Crete. A similar expansion of range had already taken place further west in the Mediterranean. This was first noticed in 1981 when there were a number of observations of Collared Doves inland in Spain away from their breeding limit along the northern seaboard. This southerly spread continued and by 1986 they had reached and breed in Morocco. Then in December 1991 up to 14 birds were present on the coast at Bizerte in North Tunisia, the first record for that country. This indicated a more possible arrival from either Sicily or Sardinia thereby making a similar spread into Crete, as already suggested, a most acceptable assumption.

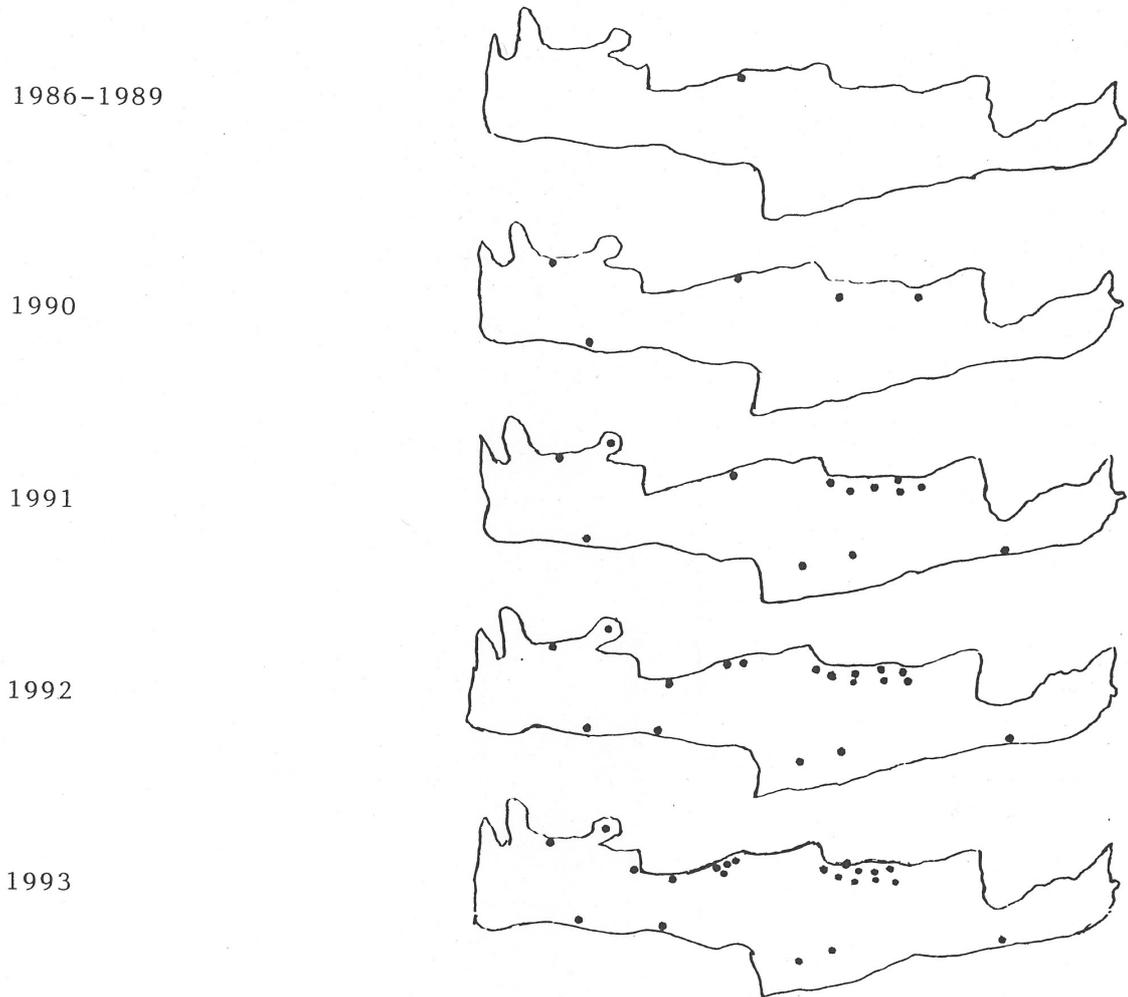
Denis Townsend 1995

References:

- Hudson R. 1965 The spread of the Collared Dove in Britain and Ireland. British Birds 58:105-139
- Hudson R. 1972 Collared Doves in Britain and Ireland 1965-1970 British Birds 65: 139-155
- European News
- British Birds 78: 642
- British Birds 80: 12 & 13
- British Birds 85: 453

Denis Townsend.

Crete Bird Report 1993



Sightings of Collared Doves on Crete 1986-1993.
(each location has been carried forward to the following year)

Crete Bird Report 1993

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