

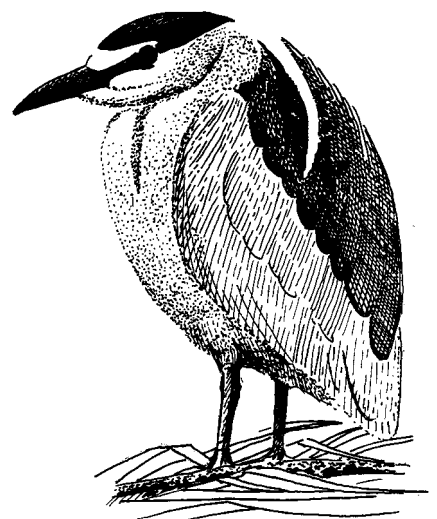
CRETE BIRD REPORT 1999

compiled by

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edited by:

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Introduction to Crete Bird Report 1999

Thank you to all those birdwatchers who have contributed reports of their sightings, which are helping to provide an overall picture of the birds of Crete. This year we have received records mainly from the visitor's season of April to October.

Sadly in May we received news that John Henshall who has been resident on the island since the early 1990's had died of a heart attack. He had worked for many years promoting conservation in Crete and he will be sorely missed. His contributions included helping to establish the Griffon Vulture Colony Observatory in the Selinari Pass, and promoting bird protection at the Aposelemis river, and Creta Sun lagoon. Then in December 2000 Denis Townsend, who since 1992 has compiled the Crete Reports, contracted pleurisy and pneumonia. Unfortunately it was too much for his heart and he died on December 30th.

This report is dedicated to these two steadfast workers for Crete.

Weather: The winter was mild and dry. Early April was unsettled with rain in the first week. Then the Spring and Summer were hot and dry. Bramiana reservoir was low in the Spring and almost dry by October. Water supply continues to give cause for concern. A new reservoir is being built in the Amari valley.

Names and Spelling: We have used the Marco Polo Kreta Die General Karte. 1:150,000 map for the place names and spelling.

Illustrations

Many thanks to Ken Baldrige who has again provided illustrations for this report.

Bird List follows the order in "The Birds of Greece" Handrinos/Akriotis. 1997

Status: rare, scarce, common, locally common, introduced.

R-resident, PM – passage migrant, AV – accidental vagrant, V - vagrant, SV – summer visitor, WV - winter visitor.

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LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptis ruficollis*

R PM

Up to 20 Agia Reservoir during March, smaller numbers at Georgioupoli Lake, Lake Kournas and Agia Reservoir in May. August record at Lake Kourna 13.8
4 at Bramiana Reservoir 2.10 is the only Autumn record.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

WV PM

3 Bramiana Reservoir 9.10

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*

SV PM

Small numbers past Frangocastello 10.4. Up to 30 Gerani 13.4. and 28 Elounda 28.4.
18 off Platanes 18.5.

MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER *Puffinus yelkouan*

PM

2 off Dia Island 26.4. Max. of 52 off Elounda 28.4.
A single Platanes 18.5.

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CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

WV PM

Singles Amoudi 1.4. and Elounda 23.4.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristoleitis*

rare R

3 off Gerani 11.4. and 16.4. 8 Spiliakos river mouth 14.4.

PELICAN sp.

introduced R V

Three juveniles flew north from Sisi Harbour 13.10.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus*

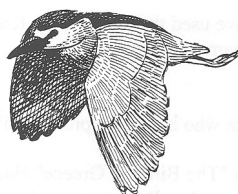
PM

Mainly singles at Limnes Pool 25.-27.4. Creta Sun lagoons, Aposelemis river and Elounda in April. 2 Kato Zakros 11.5. and Prevelli 25.5. Singles at Agia Reservoir 1.5. - 15.5. and at Elounda 20.5.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

PM

Recorded in small numbers in April at Thrapsano Pool, Bramiana Reservoir, and Kato Zakros with a maximum of 15 at Plakias 21.4. 4 Thrapsano Pool 21.5. and a single 29.5. 1 Georgioupoli Lake 14.5.



SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralliodes*

PM

Small numbers in April, Agia Reservoir, Kastelli Kissamou, Agia Reservoir. Max. 5 on 17. 4. at Thrapsano, Limnes, Bramiana Reservoir, and Elounda, Present in May at Kato Zakros, Georgioupoli Lake, Thrapsano Pool and Elounda. August record at Lake Kourna 13.8. Autumn: 15 at Kamissiana 16.8. A single at Bramiana Reservoir. 2.10.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

PM

Widespread from April to mid May at 15 sites. Max: 17 at Plakias 8.4. and large flocks off Elounda in last week in April. August record at Souda Bay Cemetery 15.8. Autumn: 21 Malia Beach 19.9. 3 Bramiana Reservoir 2.10.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba*

rare

PM


A single Elounda 26.4.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

PM

Small numbers from mid April to mid May at 12 sites, Max: 10 off Prevelli 13.4. Autumn: Singles at Elounda 11.7. Georgioupoli Lake 14.8. Kamisiana 14.5. -19.5. and 9 at Bramiana Reservoir 2.10.

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- PURPLE HERON** *Ardea purpurea* **PM**
 First record 1 Frangocastello 3.4. 17 Plakias 10.4. then singles at Aposelemis River, Thrapsano Pool, Bramiana Reservoir, Elounda and Agia Reservoir. until 14.5. 3 Agia Reservoir 17.5.
 Autumn: 12 near Kamisiana 15.8. -16.8.
- BLACK STORK** *Ciconia nigra* **rare PM**
 Two near Rapaniana 14.4. (SC & Snail's Pace)
 1 flying north over Lake Kourna 13.5. (JS)
- WHITE STORK** *Ciconia ciconia* **rare PM**
 6 flying east over Gerani 10.4. (JH) Flock of 50+ over Pachia Ammos across the bay from Agios Nikolaos 2.10. (M &RB)
- GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus* **PM**
 First record a single at Agia Reservoir 8.4. 8 in from the sea at Elounda 25.4. and 4 there 29.4. 3 Thrapsano pool 21.5. and a single 29.5. and Georgioupoli 14.8.
 Autumn: 1 Makrigialos 5.10.
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- GREATER FLAMINGO** *Phoenicopterus ruber* **rare PM**
 An immature bird present at Elounda all year and Xerokampos 28.1.
- GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser* **rare WV**
 5 at Bramiana Reservoir 2.10.
- WIGEON** *Anas penelope* **WV**
 20 Bramiana Reservoir 2.10
- TEAL** *Anas crecca* **WV**
 4 Agia Reservoir. 8.4. 100+ Bramiana Reservoir. 2.10.
- MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos* **R PM**
 A few in March with up to 10 at Agia Reservoir to 17.4. and a female there with 5 young 19.5. Summer record at Agia Reservoir on 20.8. Good numbers at Bramiana Reservoir in October.
- PINTAIL** *Anas acuta* **WV PM**
 1 Bramiana Reservoir 2.10 (M& R.B)

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- GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*** **PM**
 A flock over the sea at Plakias 1.4. 2 Bramiana Reservoir 25.4. and 11.5. Up to 4 Elounda 22.4. and 1.5. A single near Kamisiana 15.-20.8. and at Georgioupoli 17.8.
- POCHARD *Aythya ferina*** **WV**
 A single male at Agia Reservoir 7.4. 150 at Bramiana Reservoir 2.10
- FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca*** **rare WV PM**
 Two Bramiana Reservoir 26.4. are the only ones recorded.
- HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*** **PM**
 Five over Elounda 27.4. (DS) 2 over Fassa Valley 30.4.(SZ) 2 near Vai 5.5(EL) 1 Prevelli Palm Beach 25.5.(GO)
- BLACK KITE *Milvus milvus*** **rare/scarce WV PM**
 A single at Elounda 27.4. and 2 at Andraki 5.7. Kato Zakros 11.5 and 1.10.
- BEARDED VULTURE / LAMMERGEIER *Gypaetus barbatus*** **R**
 Recorded from Frati, Omalos, Kourtaliotiko Gorge, Stamia, and Miriokefala 1 adult on Gingilos Col seen from the Tourist Pavilion. 1 adult seen breaking bones below Kalergi Refuge on Canyon rim both on 29.4.
- GRIFFON VULTURE *Gyps fulvus*** **R**
 Common in the mountains and gorges. Highest counts: 27 near Ideo Andro 20.5. 11 Omalos 14.5. and near Sitia 28.9.
- SHORT-TOED EAGLE *Circaetus gallicus*** **poss WV PM**
 One Sfakion mountains 16. 2.-17.2. Two Imbros 18.4. 1 arrived Elounda 23.4. staying until 1.5. One carrying a snake near Amari Valley 10.5. A single Agia Reservoir 14.5.
- MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*** **rare WV PM**
 Spring passage mid April to mid May recorded at 7 sites with up to 13 at Elounda during this period.
- HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*** **rare WV PM**
 2 Geropotamos bridge 13.4. and Elepidion monument 14.4. Singles Polyrhinia 15.4. and Kourtaliotiko Gorge 21.4. A male near Vai 5.5.
- PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*** **rare PM in April**
 Males at Afrata and Gouvernatou 9.4. and ringtails probably of this species at Lakki and Ag Irini 7.4. 1 near Prevelli Bridge 1.4.(A&JS)
- MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*** **scarce PM in April**
 A male Kedros 8.4. Singles Deliana and Malathiros Gorge 14.4. Agia Reservoir 17.4. Thrapsano Pool 24.4. and Elounda 27.4.
- GOSHAWK *Accipter gentilis*** **WV PM**
 A single at Almyros 29.4.(DS).

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- SPARROWHAWK *Accipter nisus*** **R** **PM**
 Singles Kourtaliotiko Gorge 21.4. Elounda Valley 22.4. Kato Zakros 11.5. Kato Metohi 29.5. and Georgiupoli Lake and Lassithi in May.
 1 Koufonisi Island 5.10.
- BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*** **common** **R**
 Common and widespread. Possible migrants in mid April with 20 – 30 sightings per day (SC & SP).
- LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus*** **rare** **PM**
 Two Elounda 22.4.(DS) 2 Khordaki 16.5. appeared to be displaying (JS). One near Preveli near Drimiskos Road 1.4. and 3.4. (A&JS)
- ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*** **rare** **V**
 One recorded twice at Almyros wetland near Heraklion in Jan (MD).
- GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*** **R**
 Recorded at 15 sites including Omalos plateau 20.8.
- BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraaetus pennatus*** **R** **PM** **WV**
 Recorded Plakias, Agios Pavdos, Preveli, Samaria Gorge and Elounda mainly in April.
- BONELLI'S EAGLE *Hieraaetus fasciatus*** **R**
 One north of Prasses 5.4. and Preveli Bridge 12.4. 3 in Imbros Gorge from road above Chora Sfakion 28.4. A single Megalafia in May. 2 north of Lake Kourna 13.5. 2 Omalos 14.5. One soaring over Perivolakia Gorge 27.9.
- OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*** **rare WV** **rare PM**
 1 flying up stream at Agia Galini 24.4. Recorded daily at Elounda from 26.4. to 1.5. (DS)
- LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni*** **R?** **WV?** **PM**
 2 Malia 20.4. and two singles 29.4. and 1.5. Elounda (DS).
 A pair Akrotiri 9.5.(NH).
- KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*** **R**
 Common and widespread.
- RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*** **PM**
 Recorded Elounda on 6 days 21.4. to 4.5. Two there 8.5. 10 Kato Zakros 14.5. 1 Georgiupoli Lake 11.5.
- HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*** **scarce** **PM**
 A single Preveli 13.4. and Elounda from 28.4. to 33.5. One Lake Kourna in May. Small numbers Plaka, Skinias, Istro and Georgiupoli Lake 10.5.-14.5.
 Autumn record: One Malia 8.10.
- ELEANORA'S FALCON *Falco eleonora*** **SV**
 Recorded from 7.4. with a single at Rethymnon and one Gouvernatou 9.4.

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Common from May with a maximum of 24 at Vizori and 16 at Droxia 21.5.
Chania harbour 15.8.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| LANNER <i>Falco biarmicus</i> | scarce/rare | R |
| A pair on Mount Oxa were driven off by a peregrine (JS). | | |
| PEREGRINE <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | R | PM |
| Present at 15 sites. | | |
| CHUKAR <i>Plectoris chukar</i> | | R |
| Records from Samaria Gorge, Preveli, Imbros, Kato Zakros, Karoti, Miriokefala, Elounda and Neapolis. | | |
| QUAIL <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> | | PM |
| First Phaestos 9.4. Mesa Lassithaki 26.4. A few at Elounda April. Calling at Elounda and Andrakos in July. | | |
| WATER RAIL <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> | R | WV |
| One Agia reservoir 16.4. | | |
| SPOTTED CRAKE <i>Porzana porzana</i> | rare | PM |
| A single at Agia Reservoir 17.4. | | |
| LITTLE CRAKE <i>Porzana parva</i> | scarce | WV |
| Up to 6 at Agia Reservoir during April. 2 Almyros marsh 26.4. and one there 29.4. | | |
| BAILLON'S CRAKE <i>Porzana pusilla</i> | rare | PM |
| A single Agia Reservoir 7.4. and 11.4. | | |
| MOORHEN <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | R | PM |
| Present throughout the year.
Maximum: 20 at Agia Reservoir in April. | | |
| COOT <i>Fulica atra</i> | R | PM |
| In Spring present on several waters. Recorded at Agia Reservoir in August.
Autumn: 200 Bramiana Reservoir 20.9. rising to 800 on 9.10 | | |
| BLACK-WINGED STILT <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | | PM |
| Small numbers in April at Agia Reservoir, Thrapsano Pool, Limnes Pool, and Elounda. with a maximum of 10 at Frangocastello 10.4
A single at Thrapsano Pool 21.5. and 29.5.
Autumn: 1 Kamisiana 16.8. | | |
| STONE CURLEW <i>Burhinus oedichnemus</i> | SV | PM |
| April records: One Frangocastello 10.4. Singles at Gerani Beach and Plakias Beach 23.4. 4 Elounda 26.4. Breeding record from Heraklion airport runway. | | |

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LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* rare WV breeding SV PM
First record 3.4. Numerous in April, many west of Gerani 7.4. 10+ Tavronitis. Smaller numbers in May. August record at Souda Bay Cemetery 15.8.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* PM
Singles Elounda 24.4. Almyros 8.5. Xerokambos 12.5. 2 Malia 11.5. 1 Elounda 8.7.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrius* rare WV rare PM
One Elounda 22. to 25.4.(DS).

KNOT *Calidris canutus* V
One in summer plumage 23. to 24.4. at Elounda Salt pans (DS).

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* PM
3 Almyros beach 26.4. possibly the same birds at Elounda next day (DS). 1 Agia Reservoir 11.5. (JH).

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* WV PM
First 14.4. then small numbers at 7 sites in April. Increase in May with 8 at Almyros 8.5. and up to 75 Xerokambos 12.5.(GO) and 10 Elounda 14.5.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temmincki* scarce PM
A single Elounda 2.- 3.5. (DS).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* PM
Singles at Tersanas 6.4. and near Kapsa Monastery 27.9.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* WV PM
One Elounda 29.4. and 8.10.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* PM
Small numbers in April at Aposelemis River, Agia Reservoir, Thrapsano, Bramiana Reservoir and Elounda. 5 Thrapsano 21.5.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* WV PM
Singles Agia Reservoir 16.4., Mylo Ford 23.4. and Limnes 25.4.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* rare PM
One Elounda 4.2. (MD)

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* WV rare PM
2 Aposelemis River 12.4.-13.4. and 2 Gouves 14.4.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* rare PM
1 at Geropotamos, below Ag. Triada 24.4.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* WV PM
2 Elounda 24.4.-25.4. and a single 9.5. 1 Agia reservoir 17.5.

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- MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis*** **PM**
 Singles Platanes river 10.4. and Geropotamos Bridge 14.4.
 Spiliakos River 7.4. and Elounda 24.4.
- GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*** **PM**
 Singles Tavronitis River and Aposelemis River in early April. 1-4 Agia Reservoir,
 Thrapsano Pool, Bramiana Reservoir, Gouves and Elounda by the end of the month.
 A few at Kamisiana 16.8. – 20.8.
- GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*** **WV** **PM**
 Singles Tavronitis River and Agia Reservoir by 16.4. 2 Bramiana Reservoir 25.4. A
 single at Xerokambos 12.5. 2 at Elounda 11.7. and 1 at Kournas Lake 13.8.
- WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*** **PM**
 One Gouves 14.4. Small numbers during rest of the month at Agia Reservoir and
 Aposelemis River 1-3 Kato Zakros, Agia Reservoir, Thrapsano Pool, Agia Reservoir
 and Souda Bay in May.
 Maximum: 20 Agia Reservoir 14.5. A single Elounda 2.7.
- COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*** **WV** **PM**
 First a single at Petres Bridge 3.4. then small numbers at most river mouths, beaches
 and wet areas during April. August record at Chania 15.8.
- TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*** **rare WV** **rare** **PM**
 One Elounda 4.5. (DS).
- MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*** **WV**
 One flew west off-shore Plakias 6.4. 1 Elounda 26.4.
- LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*** **WV** **PM**
 2 immatures at Elounda 27.4. (DS). Singles Petres and Platanes river mouths in April.
- BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*** **WV**
 Winter visitor with a late record of 2 at Agia Reservoir on April 11th, one sub adult
 and a first winter.
- AUDOUIN'S GULL *Larus audouini*** **WV** **R** **PM**
 Recorded daily at Elounda in mid-April to early May. A single Agios Nikolaos 12.7. 6
 there 16.10.
- YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans michahelis*** **common** **R**
 Common and widespread.
- GULL-BILLED TERN *Sterna nilotica*** **PM**
 6 Elounda 27.4. 2 there 2.5. and 1 there 20.5.
- SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*** **PM**
 2 Frangocastello 3.4. 1 Chania harbour April.

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- COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo* **PM**
2 Elounda 29.4. 1-2 Chania Harbour in April.
- WHISKERED TERN** *Chlidonias hybridus* **PM**
2 Agia Reservoir. 11.4. 2 Elounda 30.4. 2 Souda Bay 11 and 13.5.
- WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias leucopterus* **PM**
Two Elounda 30.4. A single Agia Reservoir 11. and 14.5.
- ROCK DOVE** *Columba livia* **R**
Small flocks in gorges like Falasarna, Kotsiphos, Kourtalotiko Gorge. Several south of Sitia.
- STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas* **PM**
A single Kastelli 24.4. also recorded at Kritsa and Agios Nikolaos.
- WOOD PIGEON** *Columba palumbus* **R**
Thinly spread throughout the island including Samaria Gorge 20.8.
- COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocta* **R**
Fairly common in built up areas.
- TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur* **PM**
Two Kotsiphos Gorge 22.4. 5 Bramiana Reservoir 25.4. Numerous migrants Kato Zakros 10.5. then recorded at 19 sites up to 29.5. August record at Douliana 11.8.
- CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus* **PM**
Recorded from Polyrhinia, Hohlakies Gorge, north of Zakros and Aradaina on 15.4. Venizelou cemetery 17.4. Prasses 23.4 and Lassithi 26.4.
- BARN OWL** *Tyto alba* **R**
Recorded from Spili in April and 1 at Plaka 27.44. 1 was killed by a car at Viran Episkopi 20.5.
- SCOPS OWL** *Otus scops* **SV** **R**
Present at Kato Zakros, Hromonasteri, Megala Chorafia Water Tower and Georgioupoli in April and May.
August record at Vamos 16.8.
- NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus* **SV** **PM**
One heard at Tersanas 13.5. (JH) and at Vamos 16.8.(CS).
- SWIFT** *Apus apus* **SV** **PM**
First 1.4. then common until late September. Passage was noted with several hundred in Chania 17.4.
- PALLID SWIFT** *Apus pallidus* **SV** **PM**
2 Elounda 30.4.(DS) and Agios Nikalaos 8.5.(EL)
3 Amnisos 15.5. A single Lake Kournas 16.5. (GO)

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- ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*** SV PM
 First heard 1.4. then common until end of September.
- KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*** WV PM
 A single at Agia in April. August records at Makrigialos 1.8, 2 at Koutsouras 11.8. Lake Kourna 13.8. and one on stream above Mithi 23.8.
 Autumn: Common from late September with up to 5 around Makrigialos harbour.
- BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER *Merops supercilliosus*** rare V
 2 Kato Zakros 13.5. (GO)
- BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*** SV PM
 Earliest record was several over Plakias 7.4. Passage was noted over Elounda on 4 days from 25.4. with a maximum: 59 on 29.4. 2 Tersanas Pool 9. 5. Up to 7 at Kato Zakros 11.5. 1 Sises 12.5. 6 Kolimbari 15.5. and 4 to the north over the sea at Agia Galini 16.5.
 Autumn: A flock of up to 10 Kamisiana in September. 3 near Stavrochori 15.9.
- HOOPOE *Upops epops*** SV PM
 First 1 Spiliakos 7.4. then 1-2 at several sites in April One Elounda seen carrying food (DS). A nest with young near Elounda 10.5. possibly first breeding record for Crete (GO). One Ha gorge 22.8.
- WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*** SV PM
 One Omalos plateau 16.4. and Droxia 21.5.
- CALANDRA LARK *Melancorypha calandra*** rare WV PM
 One Preveli 9.4. (A&JS). Two Elounda 21.4. and 3.5. A single Plaka 27.4. and 2 there 2.5. and 1 Elounda 3.5. (DS).
- SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla*** breeding SV? R? PM
 1st 25 near Mt Kedros 8.4. Flocks recorded Gerani 7.4. to 12.4. and 70 Aposelemis River 24.4. 3 Limani 24.5. and 1 Kalo Metochi 29.5.
- CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata*** common R
 Common and widespread
- WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*** PM R
 Common, reported from over 30 sites.
- SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*** WV
 A winter visitor with a late record of a single at Petres bridge 4.4.
- SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*** SV PM
 Main passage from 7.4. to early May. Smaller numbers than previous years. August records 14.8. and 3 recorded 18.8.
- CRAG MARTIN *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*** R SV? PM
 Fairly common especially in gorges.

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SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* SV PM

Spring passage: Common from 1.4. August record 10.8. at Vamos.
Main Autumn passage in September to early October with 300 over Makrighalos
3.10. Many flew east over White river near Makrighalos 7.10.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* rare SV PM

First record 7.4. 10 Tavronitis River 14.4. then recorded at many sites, more
numerous than previous years. Some passage at Elounda with 69 on 27.4. and 16 there
29.4. 2 Fassa Valley 30.4.
Autumn passage was in late September to early October. Good numbers at Kalamavka
2.10.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* SV declining? PM

First record 7.4. Few at Agia Reservoir in early April increasing in May but the only
breeding record was around the Lassithi villages.
25 Sises 12.5. 28 Agia Reservoir 19.5. 7 arrived Preveli beach 25.5.
Autumn: many Lithnes 28.9. and Zakros 1.10.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae* V

A single at Malia Marsh 9.1.(MD).

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris* scarce SV PM

Small flocks Frangocastello and Preveli in mid April. 1 Gerani 8.4. 2 there 15.4. and
a single Aposelemis river 24.4. and Omalos 29.4. 3 Omalos 19.5 with one carrying
food and one singing at Mirokefala 28.5. 1 Amari 10.5.
August record at Georgioupoli Lake 15.8.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* PM

Remarkable numbers wintering on the Lassithi Plateau.(MD) 10 near Gerani 8.4.
Small flocks 15.4.-18.4. 2 Moni Preveli 27.4. Singles Plakias 23.4. and Aposelemis
River 24.4. Several Souda Bay cemetery in May.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* WV

2 Gerani 10.4., a single there 12.4. and 4 present 15.4.
Autumn record: 3 Paleokastro 1.10.

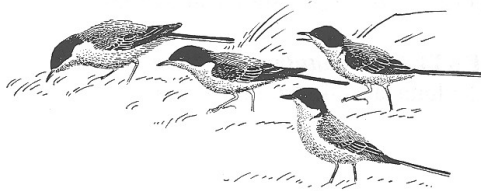
RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* rare WV PM

2 Aposelemis River 9.4. Small numbers 1-2 Gerani 9.4. and 15.-17.4.
15 Gious Plateau above Spili 26.4.

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YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* PM

First at Frangocastello 3.4. with small flocks 15.4. and 17.4. Good passage through Elounda April to early May with 100+ some days. Mainly *feldegg* and *flava* at least 1 *flavissima*. A few *beema*, 2 *cinereocapilla* and a possible *dombrowskii*.
Autumn: Small flocks in Kamisiana 15.8.-20.8.



WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* WV PM

Widespread mainly along the coast in April, with fewer in May. A family with 3 young at Petres river mouth 23.5. August: Recorded at Phalasarna 22.8.
Autumn: Common at Makrigialos 14.9. with small numbers in early October.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* R

Recorded in many locations especially in the mountains. 14 in song along a 2 kilometre stretch at Miriokefala 28.5.(GO).

ALPINE ACCENTOR *Prunella collaris* R

10 incredibly tame at Poris beyond the Kallergi refuge 29.4.

EUROPEAN ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* WV

A common winter visitor, usually departs by the end of March. A late record was one 27.4. at Thronos Acropolis.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* SV PM

Heard singing at Afrata 7.4. Singles at Aposelemis river 12.4. and Falasarna 15.4. 6 Agia Reservoir from mid April to mid May. 2 south of Prasses 23.5.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* WV PM

A common winter visitor usually departing by late March.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* PM

A winter record 1 Skinias Reservoir, Messara 13.1. (MD) Single females Afrata 7.4. and Aposelemis river 12.4. Males Frangocastello 18.44. above Frati and Moni Prevelli 22.4. 2 Kato Zakros 10.5.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* SV PM

Recorded Prasses and Apta 6.-7.4. 1 Gerani 10.4. Small numbers elsewhere in April. 1 Elounda 9.5. August record. 1 Moni Prevelli 13.8.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* WV PM R

Common and widespread breeding resident with many nests by April. Possible passage birds of other races. Recorded from Vamos 10.8.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabelline* PM

One Falasarna 15.4. 1 Elounda 24.4. and Plaka 27.4.

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- WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*** SV PM
 Passage birds from 7.4. - 12.4. along coast, then common in rocky mountainous areas. 12 in a 2 kilometre walk above Miriokefala. August: Kourtaliotiko Gorge 16.8. Autumn: Good numbers along coastal strip Kalo Nero to Goudouras and Makrigialos to Sitia 27.-28.9.
- BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica*** SV PM
 Recorded in April at Afrata, Gouvernatou and Frangocastello. A single at Elounda 7.5. and small numbers at Omalos, Spili and Lassithi in May. One Lassithi 29.9. August: Moni Prevelli 13.8.
- BLUE-ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis*** R
 Widespread in gorges sometimes along the coast.
- BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*** common R
 Common and widespread.
- SONG THRUSH** WV
 Winter visitor
- MISTLE THRUSH** WV
 Winter visitor.
- CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*** common R
 Common and widespread
- FAN-TAILED WARBLER *Cisticola juncidis*** locally common R
 Recorded from the Gerani, Georgioupoli lake and Andrakos areas with singing males in April.
- MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Acrocephalus melanopogon*** WV PM
 1 Amoudi 9.4. 1 Agia Reservoir 15.-17.4. 2 Mylo Ford 23.4. and 1 Thrapsano 24.4.
- SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*** PM
 First record 6.4. numerous at Agia Reservoir in early April. 1 near Georgioupoli Lake 7.4. Thrapsano pool 24.4. and Tersanas 9.5.
- REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*** PM
 A single Almyros 8.5., 1 Lake Kournas 10.5., 3 Geropotamos river 18.5. and 1 Agia Reservoir 19.5.
- GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*** PM
 Singles Agia Reservoir 7.4., Limnes Pool 25.4. and Georgioupoli Lake 16.5. 4 singing Agia Reservoir 19.5.
 Autumn: A single Kato Zakros 1.10.
- OLIVACEOUS WARBLER *Hippolais pallida*** SV PM
 5 pairs located Elounda. Widespread in riparian vegetation and olive groves.
 Autumn: 3 Kapsa Monastery 27.9. and several Kato Zakros 1.10.
 August: Recorded at Georgioupoli Lake 13.8.

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OLIVE-TREE WARBLER *Hippolais olivetorum* SV PM

One singing near Elounda on 23 and 29.4.(DS) and male at Agios Nikolaos 8.5. (EL).
1 in song Plemianiana 27.5. (GO).

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* PM

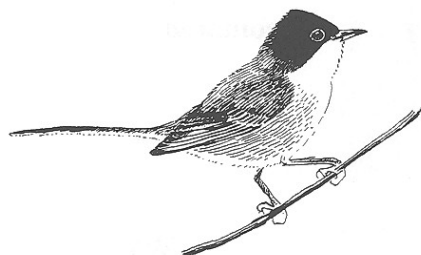
A single Elounda 29.4. (DS).

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* SV PM

Singles at Prevelli 9.4., Afrata 7.4. and Gouvenatou 9.4. and Elounda 25.-26.4.(DS).

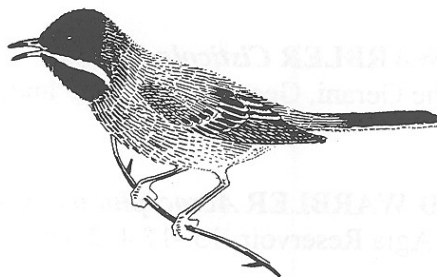
SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala* WV R

Common and widespread breeding bird.



RUPPELL'S WARBLER *Sylvia ruppelli* SV PM

A male Gerani in April. A pair at the entrance to Kotsiphos Gorge 22.4. A pair on territory at Elounda and a male at another site in April. A single at Vai 5.5.



ORPHEAN WARBLER *Sylvia hortensis* SV PM

One near Prevelli 13.4. and Spinalonga 21.-26.4. A pair Plakias 27.4.(DS). 2 Elounda 3.and 9.7.(JDL-D)

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* PM

A single Gerani beach 15. and 17.4.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* WV PM

Singing at Afrata, Hromonasteri, Mili and Plemeniana in May.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* PM

Singles Agia Reservoir 8.4., Agia Triada 9.4. Spiliakos River 14.4., Agia Reservoir 16.4. and Moni Prevelli Monastery 22.4.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* WV

One Sfakia 6.4. and Elounda 24.4. 2 Amari Valley 10.5.

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WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilos* **PM**
A single Aposelemis river 14.4. 2 Spiliakos river 7.4. and 1 Agia Reservoir 8.4. 1 Elounda 9.7. (JDL). 2 Agios Nikolaos 7.10. and Elounda 8.10.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* **WV rare PM**
One Elounda 8.7. (JDL-D).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* **SV? PM**
Fewer records than previous years. First at Agia Reservoir 8.4. then 22.4. near Ag. Ioannis. In May 1 Agios Nikolaos 2.5. and several Kalos Lakkos 7.5. and near Souda 16.5. and Megala Chorafia in early May. Several records in August from Georgioupoli at 14.8, and several at Kamisiana near Chania in August and 2 at Vidianis 29.9.

COLLARED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula albicollis* **PM**
A male at Polyrhinia on 15.4. 2-3 Moni Preveli monastery 22.4. and 1 Thrapsano pool 24.4. 1 Moni Preveli 9.5.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* **PM**
Singles Moni Preveli 12.4., Polyrhinia 15.4. and Moni Preveli 9.5.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus* **rare V**
1 Almyros marsh at Agios Nikolaos 14.1.(MD).

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus* **R**
Generally common.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* **R**
Widespread and common

COAL TIT *Parus ater* **rare R**
Recorded at Lake Kournas 13.8.

SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER *Certhia brachydactyla* **rare R**
One in Samaria Gorge 20.8.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* **PM**
Singles Delicana and Armeni 14.4. and Kritsa 3.5. Tzermiadon 4.5. Kato Zakros 10.5. Xerokambos and Elafonisos 12.5. Omalos 14.5. and 2 Aradiana 17.5. Autumn: One heard at White River at Makrigialos 7.10.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* **autumn PM**
Spring: A male Plaka 27.4.(DS).
Autumn: First Autumn record 22.8. at Vamos. 1-4 Makrigialos, Sitia, Lassithi and Kato Zakros 28.9. -1.10. A single Malia 8.10.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor* **rare PM**
A rare Autumn passage migrant. One at Fones 14.8. (CS) and a possible at Lentas 28.8.(TG).

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- WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*** **PM**
 First 5.4. then small numbers in April. Widespread by May.
 Autumn: A pair near Chania 11.8.
- MASKED SHRIKE *Lanius nubicus*** **rare PM**
 A male at Elounda 25.4. (DS).
- JAY *Garrulus glandarius*** **R**
 A single Platanes river 3.4. and 8 Omalos 19.5. and Mathes Valley 14.8.
- ALPINE CHOUGH *Pyrrhonorax graculus*** **R**
 Singles Kourtaliotiko Gorge 8.4. 21.4. and 23.4. Omalos 16.4.
- RED-BILLED CHOUGH *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*** **R**
 25 above Kallergi refuge 29.4. Small numbers up to 10 recorded on Omalos plateau,
 Lassithi plateau, Anogia and Kato Metohi.
- JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*** **R**
 Common in upland areas. breeding colonies at Morisini Viaduct, 80+ Agia Irini
 Aqueduct and 20+ above Kalamavka.
- HOODED CROW *Corvus corone*** **R**
 Common and widespread.
- RAVEN *Corvus corax*** **R**
 Common and widespread. The race *C.c. laurencei* occur in Crete.
- STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*** **WV**
 Winter visitor. Arrival noted with a flock of 20 at Makrigialos 7.10.
- HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*** **R**
 The race *P. hispaniolus italica* the Italian Sparrow is common throughout the island.
 Birds of the nominate race *P. domesticus*. Georgioupoli Lake and another at Marathos
 20.5.
- SPANISH SPARROW *Passer hispaniolensis*** **R PM**
 Single Vai 5.5. and Georgioupoli Lake. Up to 60 Gerani also recorded at
 Frangocastello 10.4 and Aposelemis river 12.4.
- TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*** **R WV**
 Gerani Beach 17.4. 2 near Mesa Lassithaki 26.4. also recorded at Souda Bay
 Cemetery in May. August record in Kourtaliotiko Gorge 16.8.
- CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*** **R**
 Common and widespread.
- SERIN *Serinus serinus*** **WV PM**
 Locally common, mainly in the west. Records from Gerani, Fres, Fournes, Prassies,
 Drapanias, Angouseliana, Kato Metohi, Omalos and Kalivis.

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GREENFINCH <i>Carduelis chloris</i> Common and widespread.	WV	R
GOLDFINCH <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> Common and widespread.		R
LINNET <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> Common, mainly small flocks in all upland areas.	WV	R
CIRL BUNTING <i>Emberiza cirlus</i> Occurs mainly above 300 metres but sometimes lower. Recorded from Afrata, Platanes river, Kritsa , Lassithi, Gouvenatou, Thrapsano Pool and Kali Sikea.		R
ORTOLAN BUNTING <i>Emberiza hortulana</i> 3 Evelpidion Monument 14.4. Singles at Falasarna and Plakias 20.4. Also recorded from Hametoulo, Sitanea, Meskla, Kato Prevelli and Miriokefala in May.	SV	PM
CORN BUNTING <i>Miliaria calandra</i> Fairly common recorded at many sites.	R	PM??

MAMMALS

BEECH MARTEN *Martes fiona*
EASTERN HEDGEHOG *Erinaceus concolor*
SHIP RAT *Rattus rattus*
WEASEL *Mustela nivalis*
BADGER *Meles meles*

AMPHIBIANS

GREEN TOAD *Bufo viridis*
COMMON TREE FROG *Hyla arborea*
MARSH FROG *Rana ridibunda*

REPTILES

STRIPED –NECKED TERRAPIN *Mauremys caspica*
BALKAN GREEN LIZARD *Lacerta trilineata*
ERHARD'S WALL LIZARD *Podarcis erhardii*
MOORISH GECKO *Tarentola mauritanica*

BUTTERFLIES

Order follows The Butterflies of Greece Pamperis 1997

SCARCE SWALLOWTAIL *Iphiclides podalirius*
SWALLOWTAIL *Papilio machaon*
EASTERN FESTOON Cretan form *Zerynthia cretica*
LARGE WHITE *Pieris brassicae*
SMALL WHITE *Pieris rapae*
BATH WHITE *Pontia daplidice*
CLOUDED YELLOW *Colias crocea*

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CLEOPATRA *Gonepteryx cleopatra*
SMALL COPPER *Lycaena phlaeas*
LONG-TAILED BLUE *Lampides boeticus*
LITTLE BLUE *Cupido minimus*
HOLLY BLUE *Celastrina argiolus*
COMMON BLUE *Polyommatus icarus*
RED ADMIRAL *Vanessa atalanta*
PAINTED LADY *Cynthia cardui*
SOUTHERN COMMA *Polygonia egea*
SOUTHERN SPECKLED WOOD *Pararge aegeria*
WALL BROWN *Lasiommata megera*

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5. 10.99 19.10. 99 Stuart & Julie Edwards

Corrections to 1998 Crete Bird Report

Page 3 Squacco Heron – add Agia reservoir to April/May.
Page 6 Montagu's Harrier – 9.4. not 11.4. at Stavros
Page 7 Booted Eagle – 8.4. not 11.4. at Agia Triada
Page 9 Oystercatcher should read ' 2 Souda Bay 6.4. to 8.4. A single there 9.& 10.4.
Page 12 Greenshank – add Tersanas to April/May.
Page 15 Swift – First Agia not Tersanas 5.4.
Page 17 Tawny Pipit - add 5 Agia Triada 4.4. and up to 3, 16.4. 1 Tersanas 6.4. 1 Omalos plateau 12.4.
Page 26 Ortolan Bunting – 1 Agia Triada 14.4.
Page 29 Rob Wilson not 14.4.-28.4. change to 4.4.98 – 18.4.98

Apologies to anyone else whose records we have omitted or mangled in this or any other previous reports.