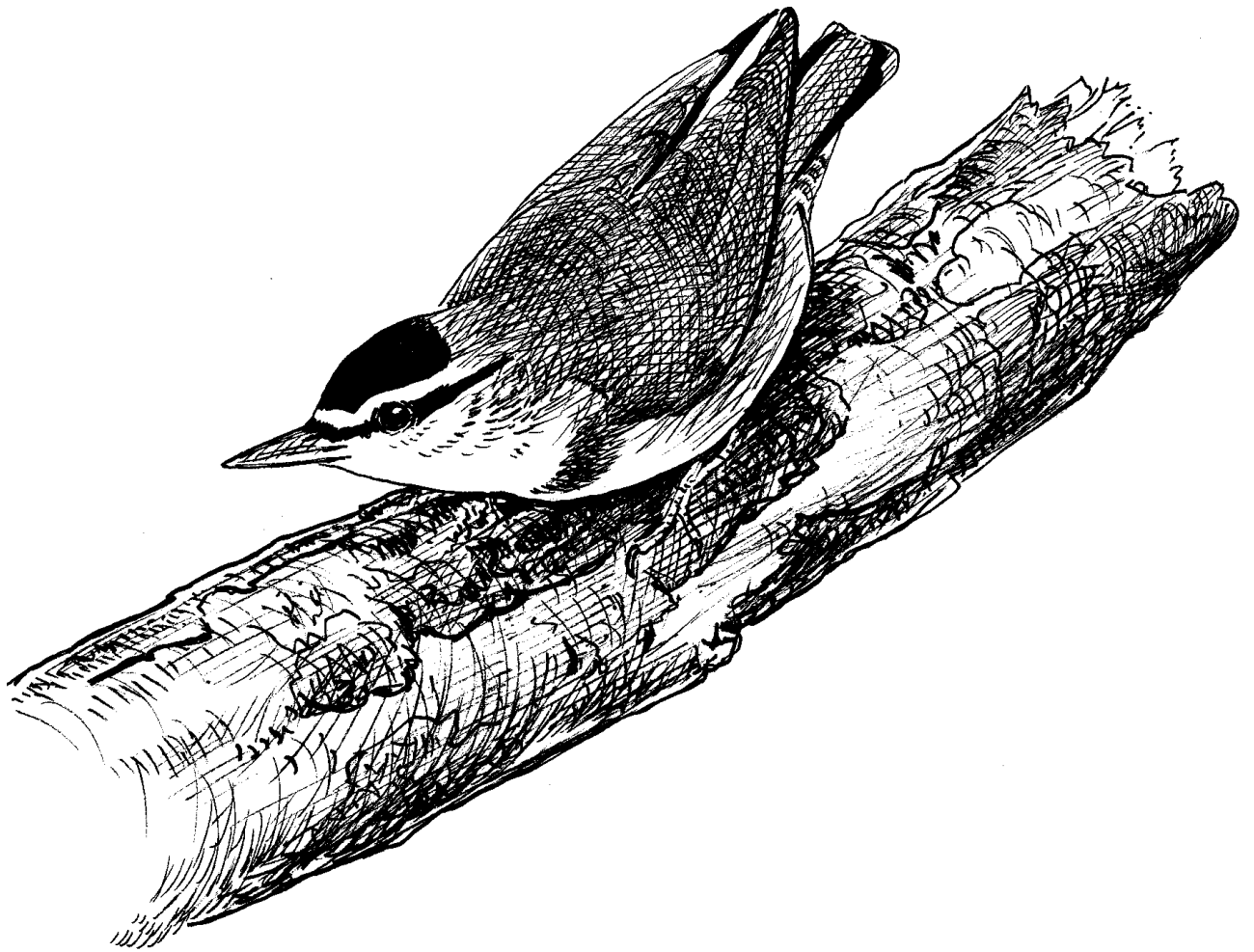


Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Lesvos
16 – 23 April 2003

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Holiday participants

Mary Seal Coon Pam Muirhead	Norfolk
Tony Summers	Leicestershire
Harvey Wood	Leicestershire
Ruth Matthews	Kent
David Stopher Caroline Stopher	Kent
Nym Clarke Jonathan Clarke	Bury St Edmunds
Tim Brown Judith Brown	Horsham, Sussex
Delphine Hoyle Brenda Owen	Wokingham
Angela Henson	Poringland, Norwich
Leaders	
Rob Lucking	Norwich
Steve Henson	Poringland, Norwich

Report by Rob Lucking and Steve Henson

Illustrations by Rob Hume, except black-winged stilt flock by Gary Wright.

Front cover: Krüper's nuthatch

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for surveys in the Kalloni Bay Important Bird Area by the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), which is based in Athens but whose work covers the whole of Greece and its islands. £700 was given to HOS this year - £25 per person from the holidays in Crete and Lesvos. This brings Honeyguide's total contributions to HOS since the first Honeyguide holiday in Crete in 1995 to £3,745, and to conservation projects in Europe from all Honeyguide holidays to £29,800. A thank-you letter from HOS appears at the end of this report.

Lesvos
16 – 23 April 2003

Itinerary

Wednesday, 16/4/03

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

Transfer to Malemi Hotel at Skala Kalloni.

Thursday, 17/4/03

Morning: birding near the hotel, at and around the Kalloni II Pool.

Taverna lunch on the coast near Achladeri, followed by botanising in nearby hillside scrub.

Late afternoon: Kalloni Salt Pans.

Friday, 18/4/03

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

Lunchtime: Molivos, including taverna lunch at the harbour.

Afternoon: Petra reservoir and surrounding scrub.

Saturday, 19/4/03

Morning: Skala Eressos.

Lunchtime: taverna lunch at the harbour in Sigri.

Afternoon: Sigri to Faneromeni Ford.

Sunday, 20/4/03

Morning: Kalloni West River.

Picnic lunch and afternoon in Napi Valley.

Late afternoon: Kalloni Salt Pans.

Monday, 21/4/03

Morning: brief look over Kalloni II Pool, followed by the Krüper's nuthatch site at the army camp at Achladeri.

Picnic lunch and afternoon in and around Agiassos.

Early evening: brief stops in Keramio for white stork at the nest and at Kalloni II Pool for little crane.

Tuesday, 22/4/03

Morning: return visit to 'Mini Soccer' and taverna on the outskirts of Kalloni for roosting scops owl, then roadside stop at the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, *en route* to the west of the island.

Picnic lunch and early afternoon at the Petrified Forest Park.

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

Evening meal at taverna in Skala Kalloni.

Wednesday, 23/4/03

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

Daily diary

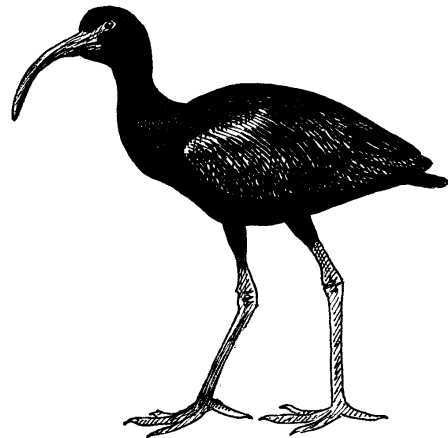
Wednesday 16/4/03 – east bound

We all met up at a bright and sunny Heathrow airport and were *en route* to Lesvos via Athens by 13h00. After waiting a couple of hours at the new Athens airport, we took the short fifty-minute flight to Lesvos, arriving at Mytilini around 21h00. We collected the minibuses and headed off through the town and on to Malemi Hotel in the coastal resort of Skala Kalloni, about an hour away, for a much-needed evening meal.

Thursday 17/4/03 – around Kalloni

Early morning was bright but with a chilly northeasterly breeze. After a leisurely breakfast we birded around the pool in front of Kalloni II Hotel where small flocks of ruff and wood sandpiper fed in the shallows, providing a good opportunity to compare the two. Black-winged stilts squabbled noisily and newly arrived garganeys fed alongside teal, pintail and shoveler – all late departing winter visitors.

A small group of glossy ibis (*right*) fed obligingly nearby with the morning sunlight revealing the subtle oily sheen to their plumage. A male little bittern and two squacco herons were also close by and a group of ten newly arrived whiskered terns circled the pool. A Cetti's warbler sang perched obligingly in the open for all to see in marked contrast to the ones at home!



A quick scan over Kalloni Bay revealed five black-necked and four great-crested grebes while the botanists found several patches of Mediterranean catchfly, plus three-horned stock. Pam found two scarce swallowtails, sadly the only ones of the holiday.

We adjourned for a well-earned 'meze' lunch at a coastal taverna on the edge of Achladeri village where we were treated to a remarkable display of impromptu Greek plate smashing, table 'overturning' and general exuberance, involving the young tattooed lady spotted by Tony! The peregrine and short-toed eagle flying over were but minor distractions!

An investigation of nearby limestone scrub revealed a good diversity of plants including white asphodel, Barbary-nut, grape hyacinth and peacock anemone, with pink butterfly and green-winged orchids, among the highlights. Those still birding were kept happy with black-eared wheatear, woodlark, woodchat shrike and ciril bunting.

We rounded off the day at Kalloni Salt Pans where we found another dozen whiskered terns with a single black tern amongst them, around 250 greater flamingos, ten marsh sandpipers, four little stints, two black-tailed godwits and a superb group of about 15 spotted redshanks in plumages ranging from winter to full breeding.

Highlights of the day were little bittern, squacco heron, glossy ibis, black-winged stilt, marsh sandpiper, summer-plumaged spotted redshanks and black-tailed godwits, plus the waders in general. Floral highlights were the anemones and Barbary-nut, while for Tony it could only be the lunchtime taverna 'incident' featuring the tattooed lady!

Friday 18/4/03 – to the north coast

Friday began cold, wet and windy but undeterred, we made the short journey to the outskirts of Kalloni where we saw two roosting scops owl in a roadside Eucalyptus and a very wet long-eared owl brooding a chick in a disused crows nest.

After another visit to the Kalloni Salt Pans, we decided to seek out better weather and headed off in the direction of the north coast. Upon arrival at Molivos we made our way downhill to the harbour where 'Albanian Tony' invited us in to his taverna for Greek coffees and prawns. Those who braved a peek over the harbour wall were rewarded with two shags and seven Mediterranean shearwaters.

Walking back uphill towards the minibuses we saw two freshly arrived wood warblers, a superb male black-eared wheatear and a kingfisher perched on the rocks below us. Back where the buses were parked, Angela, Brenda, David and Caroline were busy watching a little owl visiting a nest in a tall building and we watched it through the telescopes as it sat on the chimney of a local restaurant.

We moved on to Petra reservoir, after a brief roadside stop to check out an alleged dipper (no names mentioned!), for our packed lunch. The weather showed some signs of abating so we went for a short walk up to the reservoir where we saw two common sandpipers, a flock of 20 yellow-legged gulls, a single whiskered tern and a mixed flock of hirundines. The red-rumped swallows came so close that we could see the two white spots on the back. In the hillside scrub we saw lesser whitethroat, ciril bunting and a subalpine warbler. Unfortunately the weather closed in again and we got very wet walking back to the minibuses.

Back to the hotel early for dry clothes and a hot shower!

Highlights of the day were the three owl species, close-ups of wood warbler and a pair of black-eared wheatears and the harbour at Molivos.

Saturday 19/4/03 – a fig tree full of red-foots!

Another cold, windy day but marginally less rainy than yesterday. Nevertheless, we all wished we'd packed our gloves and woolly hats! We drove to Skala Eressos on the southwest coast of the island, seeing a long-legged buzzard *en route*.

The Chalandra River at Skala Eressos had been re-profiled but fortunately this had not made it any less attractive to migrant birds. On the far bank was a mixed flock of black-headed, blue-headed, grey-headed and white wagtails with a cracking male citrine wagtail among them and a more sombre-looking female nearby. Small numbers of waders fed in the shallow river including little ringed plover, marsh and wood sandpipers and a hobby rocketed past us.

At Skala Eressos beach just west of the river we found three hoopoes feeding among the tamarisks and a small flock comprising three whiskered and four white-winged black terns feeding offshore. The highlight was a flock of eight collared pratincoles hunkered down on the beach, keeping out of the rain and strong wind.

After a splendid lunchtime feast at a taverna in Sigri, we moved off towards the nearby Faneromeni Ford. We didn't get far before we stopped next to another group watching a pair of masked shrikes, a woodchat shrike, male collared flycatcher and two redstarts in a sheltered vegetable garden! Along the shoreline were a female collared flycatcher and a gull-billed tern.

We made slow progress down the road towards the ford, noting garganey, a male Montagu's harrier, another masked shrike, tree pipits and a male ortolan bunting in the rain. Still some distance from the ford, we came upon the most amazing sight: a mixed flock of male and female red-footed falcons, with three lesser kestrels for good measure, perched at close range in a fig tree!

Highlights of the day were garganey, a fig tree full of red-footed falcons, a superb male citrine wagtail, male collared flycatcher and woodchat shrike, plus the lunchtime prawns and for Ruth, her visit to a local kafenion in Skala Kalloni.

Sunday 20/4/03 – sunshine at last and the Napi Valley

Sunshine (well, it wasn't raining) at last! First stop the Kalloni West River only a short distance from the hotel. A pre-breakfast visit had revealed two slender-billed gulls and a flock of around 30 collared pratincoles so we decided to explore further.

Our first Kentish plover fed on the mudflats and the first of two black storks flew in to feed. Another hobby flew past and a second calendar-year male Montagu's harrier glided over at close range. No sign of the slender-billed gulls seen earlier but a flock of 23 collared pratincoles moving inland provided ample compensation.

En route to the Napi Valley, we stopped on the road to Agia Paraskevi to admire another flock of feeding red-footed falcons, while later on we watched a pair of masked shrikes in an olive grove just before Napi village.

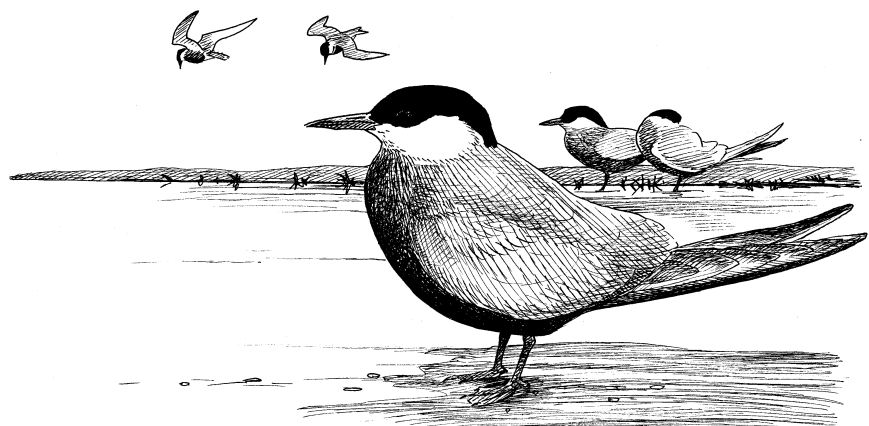
We had our packed lunch by the road, enjoying the sunshine in the Napi Valley before splitting up; some botanising, some walking and another group birding. The birders were satisfied with good views of a very active foraging pair of sombre tits carrying food back to their nearby nest and a noisy middle spotted woodpecker flying between oak trees. The real rarity, however, was a nuthatch - this species breeds on Lesvos in only very small numbers!

The warm weather brought out a good selection of butterflies with clouded yellow, small and Eastern dappled whites, small copper and small heath all on the wing and Angela almost stepped on a European glass lizard as it basked in the sunshine!

On our way back we stopped on the edge of Napi village to search for a rock nuthatch that a few of us had glimpsed perched on the roadside crash barrier as we drove past earlier in the day. Rob soon spotted the distinctively shaped nest built into an opening in the wall of a roadside house. Whilst waiting for the birds to appear, Pam and others kept us amused as they fed a donkey, but it wasn't long before both adult rock nuthatches arrived and gave us great views.

To round off the day, we returned to Kalloni Salt Pans where we found 16 gull-billed terns on the pasture near the entrance and the long-staying Dalmatian pelican was swimming along the channel. In the sheep fields south of the pans we found 30+ short-toed larks and to the southeast there were 21 ruddy shelduck, whilst a large mixed flock of black-headed and blue-headed wagtails fed frenetically amongst the sheep, accompanied by three summer plumaged red-throated pipits. Three stone-curlews were watched on the levees between the pans and a kingfisher fed in the channel.

Highlights of the day were black stork, the flock of red-footed falcons, stone-curlew, whiskered tern (*right*), kingfisher, blue-headed wagtail and a pair of rock nuthatches at the nest. Non-avian highlights were the Napi Valley with its meadows and wild flowers and basking European glass lizard!



Monday 21/4/03 – a ‘special’ nuthatch and flowers around Agiassos

First port of call today was the pine woodland at Achladeri, now vacated by the army. We quickly located the rotting tree stump used by the resident pair of Krüper’s nuthatches and were soon enjoying these lovely birds as they took food into their nest hole to their hungry brood. Nearby, a pair of short-toed treecreepers was busily doing the same. The woodland held good numbers of blue and great tits as well as our first records of long-tailed tit and serin. Unfortunately our stay at Achladeri was curtailed by the selfish behaviour of two photographers who proceeded to park their cars directly underneath the Krüper’s nest.

We then made the steep and windy drive up to the mountain village of Agiassos where our first port of call was the famous bakery. Having stocked up on cakes, some of us had coffee in a nearby taverna where we were treated to a demonstration of the traditional brewing of Greek coffees on an open fire fuelled by crushed olive stones. Others visited the famous Church of the Virgin Mary in the centre of the village.

Fuelled by a caffeine hit, we embarked on the circular walk in the sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos where we stopped half way round for our packed lunch in a pasture with scattered sweet chestnut trees. Unfortunately the cold spring had delayed many of the wild flowers that usually grow in profusion but we found plenty of crown anemones, grape hyacinths, star-of-Bethlehem and dragon arum, as well as peony and *Fritillaria pontica* with flowers still ‘in bud’. After lunch, half the group continued the walk and found cytinus (a parasitic plant lacking chlorophyll and related to Rafflesia, the world’s largest flower), which is parasitic on cistus. All the way round we were serenaded by numerous nightingales with some enjoying views of a bird singing out in the open. The botanists, meanwhile, went off to explore an area of olive groves just below Agiassos with their spectacular stands of flowering anemones and mayweeds, where they found green-winged, four-spotted, sombre bee and lesser yellow bee orchids.

To round off the day we stopped briefly in Keramio near Skala Kalloni to admire a pair of white storks at their rooftop nest (with attendant house and Spanish sparrows). Then at Kalloni Pool we watched a superb summer-plumaged white-winged black tern hawking over the water accompanied by hundreds of hirundines (mainly sand martins) and a male little crane skulking along the edge of the pool.

Highlights of the day were white storks at the nest, close views of a male little crane, white-winged black tern, nightingale, Krüper’s nuthatch and short-toed treecreeper feeding young at the nest. The circular walk and picnic spot above Agiassos and the flower ‘spectacle’ in nearby olive groves, including its anemones and orchids.

Tuesday 22/4/03 – the rugged western hills

Our final day and a second trip to the west of the island. First stop was an area known by birders as the ‘Grand Canyon’ near Vatoussa on the main road to Sigri. Enjoying the song of several nightingales around us, we picked up long-legged buzzard, alpine swift, crag martins against the rock face, rock nuthatch, a distant male blue rock thrush and a Persian squirrel. Below us in the scrub, two subalpine warblers afforded atypical, excellent views.

Pressing on to the Petrified Forest Park, we stopped by the road below the wind farm to admire a flock of 17 lesser kestrels hovering on the updrafts and catching insects from the rocky ground below, whilst a couple of alpine swifts flew through.

The famous Petrified Forest was formed 20 million years ago when pyroclastic flows from a now extinct volcano covered the dense forests on that part of the island. Over time, the organic molecules in the trees were replaced with inorganic minerals from the lava, resulting in a fossilised forest. A number of large sections of the fossilised trunks, including those of giant sequoias, have been carefully excavated and facilities provided to allow visitors to enjoy this unique landscape.

After lunch we took a walk around the park, seeing little owl and Cretzchmar's bunting at close hand and a pair of rather elusive orphean warblers. The target species however was cinereous bunting, another Lesvos 'speciality', and soon we enjoyed close views of a pair feeding in the rocks below us. As we headed back towards the car park, there was a small arrival of migrants with several alpine swifts flying through the valley (with one coming so low we could hear the wind whistling past its wings), whilst five whinchats and a female pied flycatcher were sitting on the fence.

Hoping for more migrants, the next stop was Ipsilou Monastery perched atop an extinct volcanic cone. Unfortunately there were few migrants around but in addition to the marvellous panorama we did see another long-legged buzzard, male blue rock thrush and another pair of rock nuthatches, as well as several Persian squirrels. Rock sparrows are usually easy to see here, but sadly they eluded us, although we did hear one call briefly.

Final stop for the day was the Sigri-Eressos road junction, a known site for Isabelline wheatear. After a search across the large expanse of open ground, three Isabelline wheatears were eventually tracked down, giving good views through the telescopes as they engaged in a territorial dispute on an old drystone wall. In addition, we added our final orchid of the holiday in the shape of fan-lipped orchid.

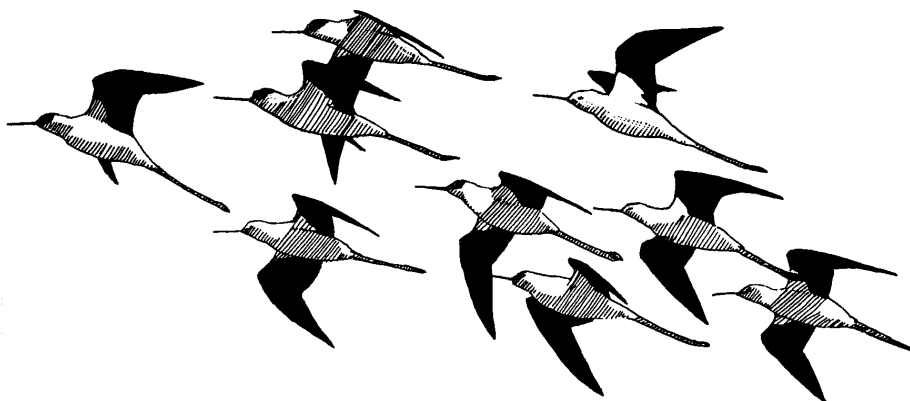
To top off a superb holiday we visited a taverna in Skala Kalloni for our evening meal, recommended to us by 'Albanian Tony' from Molivos. Fortunately 'Albanian Tony' is a man of impeccable taste and we enjoyed an outstanding meal. Afterwards, Steve presented 'Honeyguider' Tony with a 'certificate' (made by Angela) for 'outstanding spotting of the week', marking his observations of the tattooed lady at Achladeri!

Highlights of the day were long-legged buzzard, Isabelline wheatear, good views of subalpine warbler, Cretzchmar's and cinereous buntings, Tim's rufous bush robin, the Petrified Forest, including the huge girth of the sequoias and Ipsilou Monastery.

Wednesday 23/4/03 – reluctantly homeward bound

Up far too early, to get to the airport at Mytilini for our flight to Athens. Being so early in the morning, navigating through Mytilini was straightforward and we arrived at the airport in plenty of time.

Highlights of the week were the flowered-filled olive groves below Agiassos, the flowery meadows in the Napi Valley, Ipsilou Monastery, black stork, the two flocks of red-footed falcons including the falcon-filled fig tree, the stunning white-winged black tern, plus the 'dipper that wasn't' incident!



Systematic lists

Birds

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

At least two seen or heard on Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, 17 April and daily, 20-22 April.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Four in Kalloni Bay off Skala Kalloni and four off Achladeri on 17 April with singles off Skala Kalloni on 19, 20 and 22 April.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Four in Kalloni Bay off Skala Kalloni and two off Achladeri on 17 April with small numbers off Skala Kalloni on other days.

Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

Seven off Molivos harbour on 18 April.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

Singles on Kalloni Bay off Achladeri on 17 April and off Skala Kalloni on 17 and 21 April.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Two at Molivos on 18 April.

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*

One juvenile seen at close range at Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

Single males seen on Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 17 and 21 April and at Faneromeni Ford on 19 April.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Two at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 17 April with singles there on 19 and 20 April and three, 21 and 22 April. A single at Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Seen daily, 17-21 April. Widespread and seen regularly around Kalloni Bay and on all visits to the Kalloni Salt Pans.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

Two at the Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April with a single there on 18 April and a single near 'Derbyshire' on 21 April. Up to 5 at the Kalloni West River mouth, 17-22 April.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Two at 'Derbyshire' on 17 and 21 April; small numbers seen at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17, 18 and 20 April; one at Petra reservoir on 18 April and three at Kalloni West River on 20 April.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Singles seen at Achladeri and near 'Derbyshire' on 17 April, Kalloni West River and the Napi Valley on 20 April and near Skalochori on 22 April.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Seen on 17, 19 and 20 April, with a pair at rooftop nest in Keramio on 21 April.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

9 at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 17 April and 22 April; three, Kalloni Salt Pans on 18 April and 11, Kalloni West River on 20 April.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Up to 200+ at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17, 18, 20 and 21 April.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Two in a field near Faneromeni Ford on 19 April; 21 at Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April and one on the eastern side of Kalloni Bay north of Achladeri on 21 April.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

One, southeast of the Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Four on Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 17 April.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Singles on Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, on 17, 18 and 22 April.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Seen daily on Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni with a maximum count of five on 17 April.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Seen daily including four at a small pool along the track to Faneromeni Ford on 19 April and nine on Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, 22 April.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Two drakes on Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on most days.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

1-2, Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, 21 April.

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

One at the Achladeri taverna on 17 April; one over Kalloni West River, two over the Kalloni Salt Pans, one near Napi village and one, southeast of Kalloni Salt Pans, 20 April and 2-3 in the Achladeri area on 21 April.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Singles at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April, west of Skala Kalloni and near Faneromeni Ford on 19 April and at Kalloni West River on 20 April.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Single adult males at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 and 20 April and near Faneromeni Ford on 19 April. A second calendar-year male at Kalloni West River on 20 April.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

One east of Kalloni East River on 17 April; one along the road to Eressos on 19 April; one at Kalloni West River on 20 April; three in the Napi Valley and one *en route* on 20 April and one above Agiassos on 21 April.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

One along the coast on the road to Eressos, west of Skala Kalloni, on 19 April; 2-3 in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, one near Andissa and one below Ipsilou Monastery on 22 April.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Three with a flock of red-footed falcons at Faneromeni Ford on 19 April; 17 below the wind farm near the Petrified Forest and several around the Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Two near 'Derbyshire' on 17 April and one there on 21 April. One with the flock of lesser kestrels below the wind farm near the Petrified Forest on 22 April.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

A flock of c.30 near Faneromeni Ford on 19 April and 25 from the road to Agia Paraskevi on 20 April. Two males over the Napi Valley on 20 April and two over the Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Singles at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April, Skala Eressos on 19 April, Kalloni West River on 20 April and Skala Kalloni on 21 April and two in the Achladeri area on 21 April.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

One at the Achladeri taverna on 17 April and one at Sigri on 19 April.

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*

One seen from Steve's bus *en route* to the Petrified Forest on 22 April. Flushed by a long-legged buzzard!

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

1 heard, Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 22 April.

Little Crake *Porzana parva*

A male at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni, daily on 20-22 April.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Skala Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 17 April and daily, 19-22 April.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Seen daily, Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Seen daily at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni and the Kalloni Salt Pans.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

34 at Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April with similar numbers there on 17 and 18 April.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedipnemos*

One at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April, with three there and another heard to the southeast of the salt pans on 20 April. One at the Kalloni West River on 22 April.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

11 at Skala Eressos and a single on the Chalandra River at Skala Eressos on 19 April and c. 30 heading north over Kalloni West River the following day.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Six at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April, with two there on 18 and 20 April; four on the Chalandra River at Skala Eressos and one at a small pool along the track to Faneromeni Ford on 19 April and three at Kalloni West River on 20 April.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Four at Kalloni West River on 20 April.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Two at Skala Eressos on 19 April.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Four at the Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 and 18 April and one at a small pool along the track to Faneromeni Ford on 19 April.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Two at the Kalloni Salt Pans on 18 April; one at the Chalandra River at Skala Eressos on 19 April and two, Kalloni West River on 20 April.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

30-40 at Kalloni West River on 20 April.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Seen daily. The most numerous passage-migrant wader seen.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Singles at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni and near 'Derbyshire' on 17 April and 2 at a small pool along the track to Faneromeni Ford, 19 April.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Two at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April with a single at the same site on 20 April.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

One, southeast of the Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

c.15 at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April and at least two there on 18 and 20 April; one at Skala Eressos on 19 April.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

3-4 at Kalloni Salt Pans on 18 April.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Seen daily, 17-21 April including 10+ at the Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April and one at the Chalandra River, Skala Eressos, on 19 April.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Four at the Kalloni Salt Pans on 18 April; seven at Skala Eressos on 19 April; one calling, Kalloni West River and one at Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Seen daily. The second most numerous passage-migrant wader seen (after ruff).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One near 'Derbyshire' on 17 April; two at Petra reservoir on 18 April; three at Skala Eressos on 19 April and one at Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

A single immature (first-winter/second-summer), along the shoreline southeast of Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Six at Kalloni West River on 20 April and three there on 22 April.

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*

Two adults in the early morning at Kalloni West River mouth on 20 and 22 April.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans michahellis*

Seen daily. Common throughout the island, often seen circling on thermals.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelocheidon nilotica*

A single at Sigri and two near Faneromeni Ford on 19 April and 16 at Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Single in Kalloni Bay on 17 April.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Small numbers seen on 17 April and daily, 19-22 April.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Four at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 and 18 April and two there on 20 April; one at Kalloni West River on 20 April.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

Seen daily. 10 at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni and 12 at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April; singles at Molivos and Petra reservoir on 18 April; 3 at Skala Eressos 19 April; 10 moving north at Kalloni West River on 20 April and 1 on Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 21 April, with 8 there the following morning.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

A single at Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Four at Skala Eressos on 19 April and one at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 21 April.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Seen daily, throughout the island.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

One heard on 20 April.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

One heard above Agiassos on 21 April.

Scops Owl *Otus scops*

Two, roosting in a Eucalyptus tree at the 'mini-soccer' and taverna site, Kalloni, on 18 and 22 April.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

A breeding pair at Molivos on 18 April and one on a drystone wall at the Petrified Forest Park on 22 April. A dead one (road death) near the turning to the salt pans off the main road, east of Kalloni, 21 April.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otis*

An adult and at least one large chick at the 'mini-soccer'/taverna scops owl roost site, Kalloni, on 18 and 22 April.

Swift *Apus apus*

Small numbers seen on 17 and 18 April and daily, 20-22 April.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

Several around the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, several around Andissa, two at the wind farm near the Petrified Forest and a small but detectable passage of several birds over the Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Two at Molivos on 18 April and a single at Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Three at Skala Eressos and one at Sigri on 19 April; one heard in the Napi Valley, 20 April and singles heard in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa and at Ipsilou Monastery on 22 April.

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*

1-2 in the Napi Valley on 20 April and one near the picnic spot above Agiassos on 21 April.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Four at the Kalloni Salt Pans on 18 April with 30+ there on the sheep fields south of the lagoons and 4+ southeast of the lagoons on 20 April. Two at Kalloni West River on 20 April.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Seen daily. Abundant throughout the island.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

One near Achladeri on 17 April.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Seen daily. An arrival of several hundred, Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 21 April.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Four in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 22 April.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Seen daily, 17-21 April. Abundant in the Skala Kalloni area.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

Seen daily.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Seen daily. Many pairs nest building on Kalloni II hotel, Skala Kalloni.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

7-8 between Sigri and Faneromeni Ford on 19 April. Singles in the Napi Valley on 20 April; Ipsilou Monastery and at the Sigri-Eressos road junction on 22 April.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A single at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 17 April.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Three southeast of Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April.

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg*

Seen daily, 17-21 April. The commonest 'yellow' wagtail we saw on the island. Seen in small numbers in all wetland habitats. Large flock in the sheep fields southeast of Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*

Several at the Chalandra River, Skala Eressos on 19 April and in the wagtail flock in the sheep fields southeast of Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April.

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi*

A single, Kalloni Salt Pans on 18 April and several at the Chalandra River, Skala Eressos on 19 April.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

A male and female on the Chalandra River at Skala Eressos on 19 April.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Singles, Chalandra River at Skala Eressos and Faneromeni Ford on 19 April.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Several singing in the sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 21 April.

Rufous Bush Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*

One seen by Tim at the Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Several singing in the sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 21 April.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Seen or heard (mostly heard) daily. Particularly numerous in the sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 21 April.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Two at Sigri on 19 April and a single at Ipsilou Monastery on 22 April.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

One at Skala Eressos and two along the track to Faneromeni Ford on 19 April, one southeast of Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April with at least five at the Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

One, Kalloni Salt Pans on 18 April.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Three at the Sigri-Eressos road junction on 22 April.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A single, Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April with two there on 18 April and one southeast of the lagoons on 20 April.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanicus melanoleuca*

Seen daily. Numerous and widespread in the rocky western uplands.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

One male at the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa, with another at Ipsilou Monastery on 22 April.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Seen daily, 18-22 April.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Singles north of Achladeri and at the 'army camp' pine woodland site at Achladeri on 21 April.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Seen or heard daily. Regularly seen and heard around the Kalloni II Pool at Skala Kalloni.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Small numbers at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 17 and 21-22 April and three at Skala Eressos on 19 April.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

A single at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 22 April.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Two, Faneromeni Ford on 19 April.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

A single by the Malemi Hotel swimming pool on 17 April, with two there on 21 April.

Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida elaeica*

Single at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 17 April.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

Two males at Petra reservoir on 18 April; a male in song in the olive groves below Agiassos on 21 April and a pair at the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 22 April.

Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis crassirostris*

A male and female at the Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Seen daily, 17-20 April and on 22 April.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Two near Napi village and a single, southeast of Kalloni Salt Pans, 20 April.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Three at Molivos on 18 April; one at Faneromeni Ford on 19 April, with two *en route* and one in Napi Valley on 20 April.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Two at Molivos on 18 April; one near Eressos on 19 April and three at the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 22 April.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

One at Kalloni II Pool, Skala Kalloni on 20 April.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Single at Faneromeni Ford on 19 April.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

A male and female at Sigri on 19 April and two males above Agiassos on 21 April.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Two males and several females between Sigri and Faneromeni Ford on 19 April; a female at the Petrified Forest Park and three, Ipsilou Monastery on 22 April.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Several in the pine woodland at Achladeri on 21 April and in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 22 April.

Sombre Tit *Parus lugubris*

A pair food carrying in the Napi Valley on 20 April.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

1 at Molivos on 18 April and seen daily, 20-22 April.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Seen daily.

Krüper's Nuthatch *Sitta krueperi*

A pair feeding chicks in the nest at the 'army camp' pine woodland site at Achladeri on 21 April.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

One in the Napi Valley on 20 April.

Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer*

A pair at the nest in Napi village on 20 April. A pair at the nest in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa and a pair at Ipsilou Monastery on 22 April.

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*

Several, including a pair feeding chicks in the nest, at the pine woodland at Achladeri on 21 April and one above Agiassos on the same date.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Singles near Achladeri and at Skala Kalloni on 17 April; c.6 between Sigri and Faneromeni Ford on 19 April; 1 in the Napi Valley on 20 April and two at the Sigri-Eressos road junction on 22 April.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

A pair at Sigri and a single near Faneromeni Ford on 19 April and a pair near Napi village on 20 April.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius atricapillus*

This race sports a black cap. One near Kalloni Salt Pans on 17 April; one *en route* to the Napi Valley on 20 April and others seen, 21-22 April, including one in the 'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 22 April.

Hooded Crow *Corvus corone*

Seen daily. Common throughout the island.

Raven *Corvus corax*

A pair near Achladeri on 21 April.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen daily. Common and widespread throughout.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Seen around Skala Kalloni on 17 April and 19-21 April. Less common than house sparrow.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*

One heard at Ipsilou Monastery on 22 April.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Seen 17 and 18 April and daily, 20-22 April.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

One heard in the Napi Valley on 20 April and several in the pine woodland at Achladeri on 21 April.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Seen daily, 17-21 April.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Seen daily in small numbers.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Several, southeast of Kalloni Salt Pans on 20 April and a single at the Petrified Forest Park, 22 April.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

A male near Achladeri on 17 April; a male at Petra reservoir on 18 April; two in the Napi Valley on 20 April and one near Achladeri, 21 April.

Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea*

A pair at the Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

A male along the track to Faneromeni Ford, 19 April.

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*

Two on the hillsides near the wind farm; at least four at the Petrified Forest Park and one singing below Ipsilou Monastery, 22 April.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Seen daily. Common and widespread throughout.

Total – 150 species

Mammals

Eastern Hedgehog *Erinaceus concolor*

One dead at the side of the road (road traffic accident) near Skala Eressos on 19 April.

Persian Squirrel *Sciurus anomalus*

Singles at Faneromeni Ford on 19 April and the ‘Grand Canyon’ near Vatoussa on 22 April and four, Ipsilou Monastery on 22 April.

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

Probably the brown and pale grey colour morph of black rat ‘alexandrinus’. A dead one at the side of the road (road traffic accident) in Agiassos on 21 April.

Beech Marten *Martes foina*

One dead at the side of the road (road traffic accident) east of Kalloni town, 17 April and another RTA, west of Kalloni, on 22 April.

Amphibians & Reptiles

Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda*

Heard singing, mostly at night, around the Malemi Hotel.

European Glass Lizard *Ophisaurus apodus*

One found basking in the Napi Valley on 20 April.

Leopard Snake *Elaphe situla*

One dead on the road in Agiassos on 21 April.

Butterflies

Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius*

Two, seen by Pam at Skala Kalloni on 17 April.

Small White *Artogeia rapae* or **Southern Small White** *Artogeia manni*

Napi Valley on 20 April.

Eastern Dappled White *Euchloe ausonia*

Napi Valley on 20 April.

Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

Near Achladeri on 21 April.

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Near Achladeri on 17 April and 21 April; in the Napi Valley on 20 April and in the Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Kalloni West River and Napi Valley on 20 April and above Agiassos on 21 April.

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Several near Achladeri on 17 April and in the Napi Valley on 20 April.

Plants

Rustyback *Ceterach officinarum* subsp. *officinarum*

Growing on the stone walls along the track above Agiassos on 21 April.

Polypody sp. *Polypodium* sp.

Above Agiassos on 21 April.

Oleander *Nerium oleander* subsp. *oleander*

Large Venus's Looking-glass *Legousia speculum-veneris* or *Legousia pentagonica*

'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 22 April.

Dyer's Alkanet *Alkanna tinctoria* subsp. *tinctoria* (*Alkanna lehmanii*)

19 April.

Undulate Anchusa *Anchusa hybrida* (*Anchusa undulata* subsp. *hybrida*)

19 April.

Borage *Borago officinalis*

20 April.

Mediterranean Catchfly *Silene colorata* subsp. *colorata*

Cistus creticus subsp. *creticus*

Sage-leaved Cistus *Cistus salvifolius*

Spotted Rockrose *Tuberaria guttata*

Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Field Marigold *Calendula arvensis*

Skala Kalloni on 17 April.

Cornflower *Centaurea cyanus*

Napi Valley on 20 April.

Crown Daisy *Chrysanthemum coronarium* var. *discolor*

18 April.

Pink Hawksbeard *Crepis rubra*

Napi Valley on 20 April.

Viper's-grass sp. *Scorzonera* sp.

Possibly *Scorzonera sublanata*. Napi Valley on 20 April.

Reddish Stonecrop *Sedum rubens*

17 April.

Spring Rock-cress *Arabis verna*

'Grand Canyon' near Vatoussa on 22 April.

Three-horned Stock *Matthiola tricuspidata*

The beach at Skala Kalloni on 17 April.

Mediterranean Spurge *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii*

Along the walled track above Agiassos on 21 April.

Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge *Euphorbia rigida*

Along the walled track above Agiassos on 21 April.

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

17 April.

Henbit Deadnettle *Lamium amplexicaule* subsp. *amplexicaule*

20 April.

French Lavender *Lavandula stoechas*

Abundant on the eastern side of Kalloni Bay around Achladeri.

Broom sp. *Genista* sp.

On the scrubby hillside near Achladeri on 17 April and elsewhere.

Annual Yellow Vetchling *Lathyrus annuus*

20 April.

Hairy Lupin *Lupinus micranthus* or **Narrow-leaved Lupin** *Lupinus angustifolius*

19 April.

Trifolium uniflorum

18 April and at the Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Trifolium grandiflorum (Trifolium speciosum)

Skala Eressos on 19 April.

Reversed Clover *Trifolium resupinatum*

Skala Kalloni on 17 April.

Hairy Yellow Vetchling *Vicia hybrida*

Skala Kalloni on 17 April.

Vicia melanops

20 April.

Fodder Vetch *Vicia villosa*

Skala Kalloni on 17 April.

Pale Flax *Linum bienne*

Napi Valley on 20 April.

Tree Mallow *Lavatera arborea*

17 April.

Peony *Paeonia mascula* subsp. *orientalis*

Above Agiassos on 21 April. Flowers still tight, 'in bud'.

Ramping Fumitory *Fumaria capreolata*

19 April.

Fumitory sp. *Fumaria* sp.

Skala Kalloni on 17 April.

Yellow Horned-poppy *Glaucium flavum*

Skala Eressos on 19 April.

Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*

Blue flowered. Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Ivy-leaved Sowbread *Cyclamen hederifolium*

Above Agiassos on 21 April, particularly along the walled track.

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

Found by Tim on the scrubby hillside near Achladeri on 17 April. Above Agiassos on 21 April.

Crown Anemone *Anemone coronaria*

Agiassos on 21 April and also seen elsewhere.

Peacock Anemone *Anemone pavonina*

On the scrubby hillside near Achladeri on 17 April and also seen elsewhere.

Water-crowfoot sp. *Ranunculus* sp.

18 April.

Mignonette sp. *Reseda* sp.

17 April.

Almond-leaved Pear *Pyrus spinosa* (*Pyrus amygdaliformis*)

Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*

19 April.

Saxifrage sp. *Saxifraga* sp.

Leaf similar to meadow saxifrage *S. granulata* in appearance. 22 April.

Southern Red Bartsia *Parentucellia latifolia* subsp. *latifolia*

On the scrubby hillside near Achladeri on 17 April.

White Henbane *Hyoscyamus albus*
17 April.

Giant Fennel *Ferula communis* subsp. *communis*

Water Dropwort sp. *Oenanthe* sp.
Skala Kalloni on 17 April.

Pink Valerian *Centranthus calcitrapae* subsp. *calcitrapae*
In the olive groves below Agiassos on 21 April.

Large Cuckoo Pint *Arum concinatum* (*Arum italicum*)
17 April.

Dragon Arum *Dracunculus vulgaris*
Above Agiassos on 21 April.

Barbary-nut *Moraea sisyrinchium*
Achladeri on 17 April.

Yellow Asphodel *Asphodeline lutea*

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

Fritillaria pontica
Above Agiassos on 21 April.

Grape hyacinth *Muscari neglectum*

Butcher's Broom *Ruscus aculeatus*
Above Agiassos on 21 April.

Star-of Bethlehem sp. *Ornithogalum* sp.
On the scrubby hillside near Achladeri on 17 April and in the sweet chestnut woodland above Agiassos on 21 April.

Sombre Bee Orchid *Ophrys fusca*
In the olive groves below Agiassos on 21 April.

Horseshoe Orchid *Ophrys ferrum-equinum*
Found by Judith, Tim, Nym and Jonathan and photographed by Ruth, at the Petrified Forest Park on 22 April.

Lesser Yellow Bee Orchid *Ophrys sicula* (*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *minor*)
In the olive groves below Agiassos on 21 April.

Fan-lipped Orchid *Orchis collina*
Sigri-Eressos road junction on 22 April.

Pink Butterfly Orchid *Orchis papilionacea*
On the scrubby hillside near Achladeri on 17 April.

Green-winged Orchid *Orchis morio* subsp. *picta* (also known as Painted orchid)
On the scrubby hillside near Achladeri on 17 April and at Agiassos on 21 April. Also seen elsewhere.

Four-spotted Orchid *Orchis quadripunctata*
In the olive groves below Agiassos on 21 April.

Tongue Orchid sp. *Serapias* sp.
On the scrubby hillside near Achladeri on 17 April.