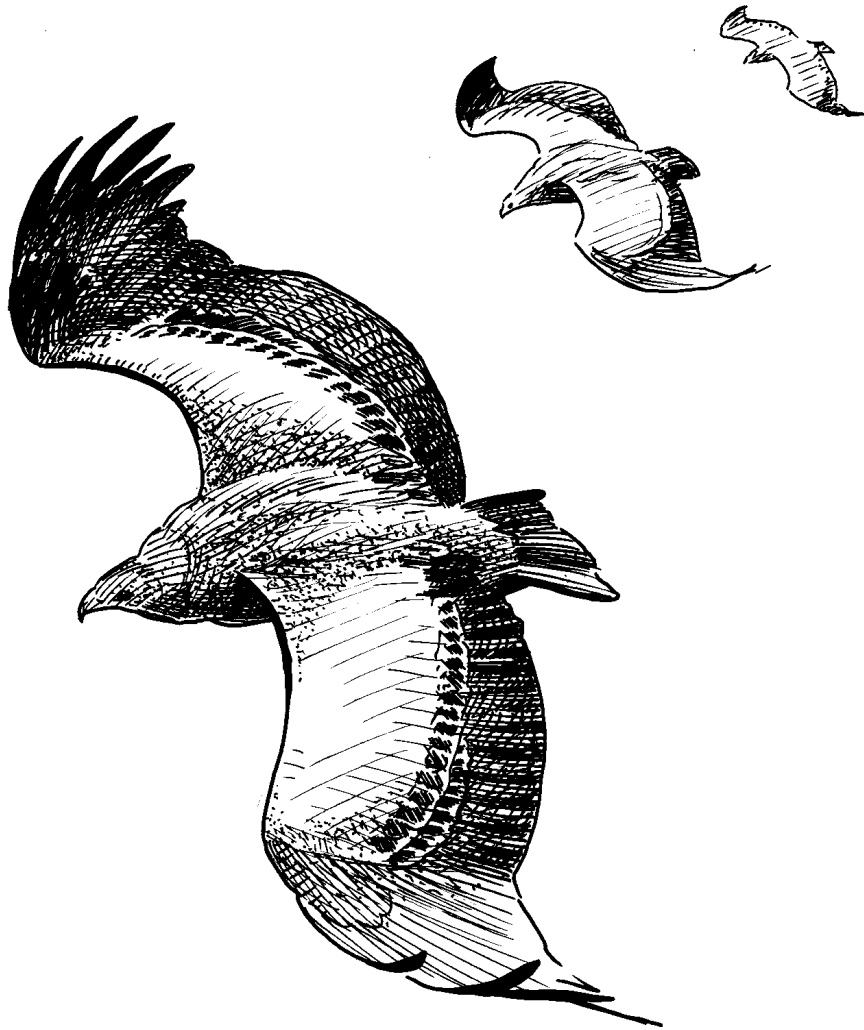


Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

36 Thunder Lane Thorpe St Andrew Norwich NR7 0PX
Telephone and Fax 01603 300552 Evenings and weekends



Crete
3-10 April 2001

Crete
3-10 April 2001

Holiday participants

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| David Hastings Diana Hastings | Edinburgh |
| Margaret Cox Edward Cox Helen Cox | Norfolk |
| Pam Muirhead Mary Seal Coon | Norfolk Norfolk |
| Pete Peters Rita Peters | High Wycombe |
| Mike Bonney Rosemary Bonney | Newton Abbot |
| Frank Dunn Joyce Dunn | Hartlepool |
| Meryl Sherry | Norfolk |
| <u>Leaders</u> Ivan Nethercoat Chris Durdin | Sandy Norwich |

Report written by Ivan Nethercoat & Chris Durdin. Bird list by Ivan and plant list by Chris.

Illustrations by Rob Hume. Cover: griffon vultures

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for the lammergeier conservation project of the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), which is based in Athens but whose work covers the whole of Greece and its islands. £350 was sent this year - £25 per person. This brings Honeyguide's total contributions since the first Honeyguide holiday in Crete in 1995 to £2,395, and to conservation projects in Europe to £22,805. A thank-you letter from HOS appears at the end of this report.

Crete 3-10 April 2001

Tuesday 3 April – Heraklion and Plakias

Day 1 and after queues at Gatwick we were quickly on board and on route to our sun drenched Mediterranean destination. Three hours later we descended through low clouds and a strong wind and rain to escort us in our coach to the southern town of Plakias. From the bus there were quick glimpses of swallows and house martins, the striking yellow flowers of giant fennel, while in the mountains a lone griffon sailed overhead, a hint of better to come. A temperature of only 13 degrees was not what was expected but the reception at the Sofia Hotel was warm and the evening meal at Gio-Ma taverna was excellent.

Wednesday 4 April – Plakias to Mirthios

A pre-breakfast trip for a few early risers proved productive but very cool and windy. Some migrant waders were feeding in the smelly stream that enters the bay. Common sandpiper, little ringed plovers and little stint remained obligingly close as we approached. Further on a small flock of short-toed larks were feeding among crested larks and whinchat, while a field or two away there were a couple of woodchat shrikes, all good signs of migration.

Back for breakfast and then a walk to the hillside village of Mirthios in warm sunshine and a pleasantly cooling wind. Alpine swifts greeted us at the start, soon to be followed by buzzards and kestrel. As soon as the village was left behind the flowers became a great source of interest, particularly as the path developed and the orchids became more numerous. As the day warmed up butterflies took to the wing, particularly in the sheltered areas.

After a steep climb up above the Venetian mill we were soon taking off the layers as the sun shone hot from the south while it appeared that the north of the island was in heavy cloud. Surprise find of the day was a still blind, baby beech martin lying in the path. Apparently healthy, we assumed we had disturbed its mother while moving her young to another nest. We quickly left and hoped she would return.

Into Mirthios for a lunch break and drink in a technically closed taverna and then a quicker route back down the hill to Plakias. This is a great introduction to the delights of Crete, birds of prey, great flowers and eventually good weather, with a super meal in the Corali taverna.

Thursday 5 April – Kourtaliotiko Gorge and the Kedros foothills above Spili

A warm but quieter start to the day for the early risers. New to the smelly river was wood sandpiper and from the cliffs a peregrine was seen taking home its latest kill. Spanish sparrow, little egret and wheatear were some of the highlights before breakfast.

First stop of the day was the Kourtaliotiko Gorge. Griffon vultures were the bird stars of the gorge with the delights of wild cyclamen and numerous other rock garden flowers making for a slow descent to the little chapel at the bottom of the gorge.

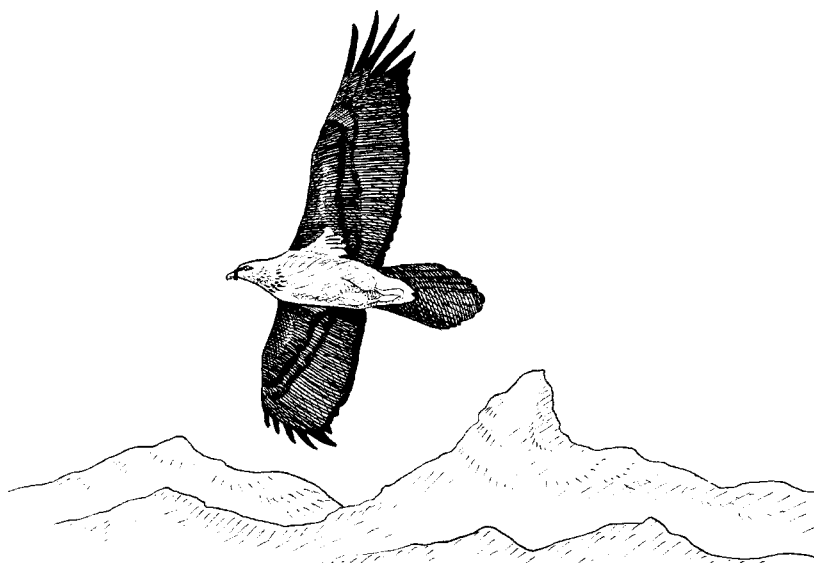
With all of the group reassembled, we took the short trip to Spili for a lunch of gyros – like a donner kebab mix of meat and salad – eaten by the stone lion fountains in the town centre. Then to Spili 'bumps', a unique area for orchids, breathtaking in its mix of species and aesthetic splendour. Some of these are fairly straightforward; for example hundreds of yellow few-flowered orchids, four-spotted, mambose and Cretan bee orchids are reasonably consistent in appearance and taxonomy. The bravest botanists also got stuck into sorting out three different yellow bee orchids and hybrid sawfly x marenge orchids. Easier were the black widow irises and sheets of wild tulips, both of which were pushing through both grass and the arable that seems to be nibbling around the edges of the orchid hills.

While this is a site primarily for flowers it also has some interesting birds, not least of which was the lammergeier which cruised low over the heads of the orchid hunters while the vulture hunters watched from slightly more of a distance but with excellent views none the less. A special mention in dispatches for Frank who had been searching for years for lammergeier. He'd had to withdraw from a

Spanish Pyrenees holiday where they were seen, then making it the following year when they weren't for the only time. So Frank isn't a jinx after all...

Woodlark, blue rock thrush, and numerous griffon vultures were other highlights but all a little overshadowed by the big one!

Supper was at the Krikri taverna.



Friday 6 April – Phaestos

Spoke too soon about the good weather. After a warm evening, the day started with heavy rain. The vehicle hire company had swapped one minibus for a 'new' one, in fact rather older, and this was taken out for shelter for the early morning birdwatch towards the next coastal bay at Souda (but not the famous Souda on the north coast). Having decided to go west for a change, the bus promptly broke down about two miles from the hotel leaving us to walk back for breakfast through heavy rain. However in between the heavy showers migration was very visible with flocks of whimbrel and glossy ibis to keep us entertained.

The return of previous bus was soon arranged and arrived at 10 o'clock so no great problem on transport, but the rain continued. We drove to Phaestos to try and get away from it but instead took it with us. There was a short respite of a few dry minutes in a small valley filled with giant fennel along the roadside and a possible steppe buzzard soaring overhead. The valley below Phaestos was briefly alive with swallows and swifts and martins including red-rumped swallow and flocks of alpine swift. However the rains we had escaped soon caught up with us and the heavens opened. All we saw of the historic site was a rainy view from the Phaestos souvenir shop and café.

Maybe the weather was better further west? Reluctantly we took the drive back, after lunch at the café, calling in at Moni Preveli in the hope that things would be better. Much better weather as we arrived and then torrential rain again as we parked! So after a coffee we headed back towards the hotel.

As we approached Plakias a dark heron was seen circling the fields – a purple heron, soon to be joined by another 30 companions, a flock of birds seemingly unable to decide what to do, should we land or carry on? Land or carry on? Like a driver in a car park unable to decide on which bay to occupy they appeared and disappeared for quite some time. The rain had all but stopped now when a marsh harrier appeared, joined later by three more.

Things were looking up so we took the beach road back for an early finish, or so we thought. Two hours later we were still there, in bright sunshine and calm wind, watching all sorts of migrants coming and going:

- Purple herons flying in off the sea
- c100 garganey flying over the bay
- c 200 short-toed larks on the beach
- up to six marsh harriers in the air together
- a ringtail Montagu's harrier doing a low close fly past before soaring away over the hill
- wheatear, whinchat and tawny pipits running about in the scrub

So after atrocious weather all day, the island redeemed itself in the end with an excellent display. At the suggestion of George from the Hotel Sofia, our taverna supper was a short drive away at the Damnoni in the small resort of Mythos.

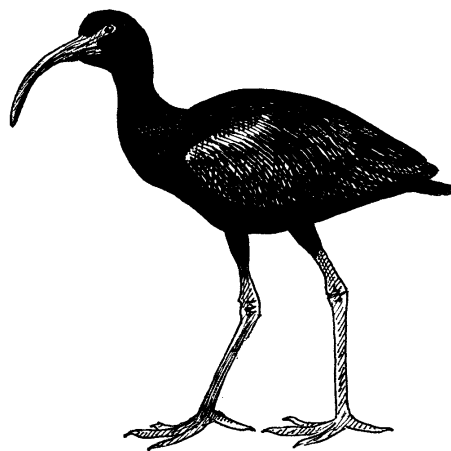
Saturday 7 April - Kotsifou Gorge, Lake Kournas and Ayia Reservoir

Pre breakfast today was a little disappointing after the excitement of the night before, a lone glossy ibis being the highlight. Today was to be spent to the north, via the Kotsifou Gorge first and then on to Lake Kournas and Ayia Reservoir.

The gorge was very windy but interesting with our first views of chukar, an excellent aerial display from jackdaws chasing a raven away from nests and a constant fly by from griffon vultures. Blue rock thrush looked superb in the full sun, while down below the botanists were being treated to yellow tree flax hanging from the gorge face and added early spider and monkey orchid to the already long orchid list.

On and farther north to Lake Kournas, Crete's only natural freshwater lake. Small tavernas on the lake shore provided a useful stop for coffee and excellent Greek yoghurt with honey. The Sardinian warblers had been a little elusive up until today when a fine male greeted us as we left the bus. The lake itself was a little quiet but formed a beautiful backdrop to a coffee and raki. Then on the way out, a brief chat with our old friend Doug Ireland and a group from Island Holidays.

Moving on to the reservoir involved an unexpected detour through the back streets of Hania as the main road was closed. However due to a great team effort of eagle eyes and Greek translation this proved to be no trouble. Not long out of Hania a cry went up of "Glossy ibis!", fortunately near a turn off. The unexpected often has added value and these birds were truly superb and lived up to their name in the bright sun and clear skies. There were ten birds resplendent in their bronze plumage and giving excellent views in the telescope. As usual other birds appeared once 16 pairs of eyes get scanning in an area; tree sparrow, little egret and squacco heron popped up in the few minutes we were there.



Ayia Reservoir is a small artificial lake, but very natural looking with reeds and trees along three of its banks and a dam on the fourth from where we were able to watch. Garganey and a large flock of yellow-legged gulls were first on view, two non-breeding cattle egrets and a very obliging squacco heron which was reluctant to leave the path as Pam walked along the shore. The site is well known for its crakes; and eventually one was seen by the group, but across the water in the reeds. Mary wandered off to the edge of the dam to have her own private view of a very close little crake but was unable to attract our attention. Marsh harrier, alpine swift, water rail, kingfisher and ruff added to our sightings.

A detour to the small wetland at Giorgiopolou was very worthwhile. The light was perfect and showed off black-winged stilt in all its leggy glory and in front of us a great reed warbler showed well for a few minutes before settling down behind some reed.

A late lunch/early evening meal was had in the Platia taverna at Giorgiopouli which turned out to be one of the best we had all week, which was no mean feat as all the tavernas had been excellent. Two bottles of fizz were ordered to celebrate Pete's birthday. Chris, suspecting there was no alcohol in it – helpful for the drivers, of course – presented the bottle to Mary to take advantage of her knowledge of the Greek language with the question "Is there alcohol in this", to which the reply was "No, the bottle's empty". OK, it was funny at the time.

Sunday 8 April – Moni Preveli

A half day in theory, with a free afternoon. A morning drive to the headland at Moni Preveli, only a few kilometres from Plakias. Inland was grey and cloudy but here on the coast we were in warm sunshine with a pleasant wind.

A chukar called from one hillside and an ortolan bunting from another. In the valley floor a pied flycatcher took its place among the Sardinian warblers, stonechats and goldfinches. A walk onto the headland proved very productive when a beautiful male black-eared wheatear hopped up onto a fence post giving everybody excellent views. A cuckoo put in a brief appearance but star bird for most of the group was a very obliging nightingale hopping about on the path long enough to be seen in the telescope by all who wanted to. For many this was the sight of the week, perhaps a measure of the mystique this rather plain bird has.

A long, late lunch in a taverna in Plakias was followed by a siesta. Ivan went to see friends in Rethymnon and Chris took most of the group for short walk west along the coast in the early evening. Cretan ebony, or shrubby sainfoin, an island endemic, is abundant here, and there was a small flock of little egrets on the rocks. We returned to eat at the Sofia taverna, which had just opened for the year so hadn't quite got its act sorted.

Monday 9 April – Frankocastello

A change of plan before breakfast with a trip west to Souda bay, home of wild Cretan palm and very promising hillsides. Two subalpine warblers greeted us on a short walk up the road followed shortly by Chris's hearing picking up a different warbler call. A male Ruppell's warbler was soon found to be the owner to the surprise and delight of the group. Busy nest building, the bird stayed in view until we had to leave for breakfast.

There was a slight detour after breakfast back to show the rest of the group the Ruppell's warbler before heading a few kilometres west to Frankocastello. From a very warm early morning the cloud came in and the wind got faster so by the time we arrived only one or two pair of shorts were still being worn. Still there were birds around and we set off; however the weather suddenly turned into a fierce storm and we beat a hasty retreat to the taverna on the cliff top.

Bad weather is often very good for birdwatchers and today was no exception. During the storm a redstart came down onto the taverna's outside eating area. While we were inside watching from the warmth of coffee and lunch, with occasional forays outside to see what else was around, wood warbler and subalpine warbler also took refuge in the taverna garden.

After the storm we set off again but this time the area was alive with birds blown in with the storm. The wind cleared the sky and the day ended in glorious sunshine. Some of the highlights of a short walk along the headland were 8-10 subalpine warblers; three black-eared wheatears, both pale-throated and black-throated; three nightingales; another redstart; c50 tree pipits; a wryneck; spotted flycatchers; spectacled warbler and two magnificent fly pasts by Montagu's harriers, the first a adult male and the second a young male, still a ringtail but showing grey plumage. An excellent day and the sort of place that makes Crete so special at this time of year.

Our final meal was a return to the Corali taverna. Very sociable it was too, but the young lady with 'olive skin and raven hair' may have had something to do with Chris's choice.

Tuesday 10 April – Plakias, Heraklion and return to Gatwick

The last day! The pre breakfast crew went on patrol again hoping some of yesterday's action had also happened at Plakias. A first winter night heron greeted us in the river which was a great start but little else showed up apart from a very nice bee orchid growing beside a track among giant reed.

Back for breakfast, packing and last minute shopping before boarding the coach to Heraklion, our final bird in Plakias being a squacco heron in breeding plumage, flying over us as we approached the hotel.

Vultures soared over the gorge as the bus took us across the island and a turtle dove almost collided into the vehicle near Heraklion, our last new bird for the trip.

Butterflies

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Scarce swallowtail | Southern comma | Speckled wood | Holly blue |
| Large white | Painted lady | Wall brown | Common blue |
| Clouded yellow | Red admiral | Small copper | Essex skipper |

Other notable insects

Acerdia ungarica, a stick-insect like grasshopper
Egyptian locust

Graphasoma italicum, a red and black shield bug
Violet carpenter bee

| BIRD LIST- Crete April 3-10, 2001 | |
|--|---|
| Little grebe | Ayia reservoir |
| Night heron | Small flock over Plakias (5 th) 1 st winter bird in stream at Plakias (10 th) |
| Squacco heron | Non breeding bird at Ayia Reservoir Breeding plumage bird Plakias (10 th) |
| Little egret | Flock of 10 at Plakias (5 th) Separate flocks of 11 () & 32 (8 th) birds flew in off the sea, Plakias |
| Grey heron | 2 birds Frankocastello |
| Purple heron | Separate flocks of 26 (6 th) & 38 (6 th) birds at Plakias, 20 past Moni Preveli (8 th) |
| Glossy ibis | Flocks of 10 (6 th) & 12 (7 th) Birds off the sea, Plakias and 10 more near Ayia (7 th) |
| Mallard | 1 Ayia reservoir |
| Garganey | C100 birds on the sea at Plakias (6 th) |
| Shoveler | Ayia reservoir |
| Lammergeier | 1 adult at Spili |
| Griffon vulture | Frequent sightings of small numbers at Kourtaliotiko gorge, 10 + birds at Spili |
| Marsh harrier | 6 at Plakias (6 th) |
| Montagu's harrier | 1 "ringtail" Plakias (6 th) 1 adult male and 1 young male Frankocastello (9 th) |
| Sparrowhawk | Plakias |
| Buzzard | Frequent |
| Steppe buzzard? | 1 buzzard, with a uniform pale tail, west of Timbaki (6 th) showing characteristics of this subspecies |
| Kestrel | Frequent |
| Peregrine | With prey at Plakias, carried Prey toward Myrthios. 1 bird seen from Spili town centre apparently defending territory from griffon vultures |
| Chukar | Moni Preveli, Kotsiphou Gorge |
| Water rail | Ayia Reservoir |
| Little crane | Ayia Reservoir |
| Moorhen | Giorgiopouli |
| Coot | Giorgiopouli |
| Little stint | 1 Plakias |
| Ruff | 12 Ayia (7 th) |
| Whimbrel | Small flock off the sea, Plakias (6 th) |
| Black-winged stilt | 1 at Giorgiopouli |
| Little ringed plover | 3 Plakias |
| Green sandpiper | 1 Ayia reservoir |
| Wood sandpiper | 1 at Plakias, 1 Ayia |
| Common sandpiper | 3 Plakias |
| Black headed gull | Ayia reservoir |
| Yellow-legged gull | Large flock Ayia |
| Rock dove | Kourtaliotiko Gorge |
| Woodpigeon | Myrthios |
| Collared dove | Frequent sightings |
| Cuckoo | 1 at Moni Preveli |
| Swift | Odd birds throughout |
| Alpine swift | Large flock, Phaestos (6 th), odd birds throughout the week. |
| Kingfisher | Plakias, bird flew into taverna window, carried off by cat! (4 th) 1 at Ayia reservoir |
| Hoopoe | 2 brief sightings from vehicles only |
| Wryneck | 1 Frankocastello (9 th) |
| Short-toed lark | 3 (4 th) followed by two flocks of c100 and c50 (6 th) at Plakias |

| | |
|---|---|
| Crested lark | Numerous |
| Woodlark | Spili |
| Sand martin | Myrthios |
| Crag martin | Myrthios, Kourtaliotis |
| Swallow | Numerous |
| Red-rumped swallow | 1 at Plakias, at least two in large flock of swallows, swifts and martins east of Phaestos (6 th) |
| House martin | Frequent sightings |
| Tawny pipit | Plakias, Frankocastello |
| Tree pipit | Several odd birds, flock of c.50 off the sea at Frankocastello (9 th) |
| Yellow wagtail (<i>Montilla flava flava</i>) | Plakias |
| Yellow wagtail (<i>Montilla flava cinereocapilla</i>) | 1 at Plakias |
| Grey wagtail | Frankocastello |
| White wagtail | Kourtaliotiko |
| (Pied wagtail) | Plakias, Kourtaliotiko Gorge |
| Wren | Kourtaliotiko Gorge, Moni Preveli |
| Nightingale` | Moni Preveli 1 bird feeding on track, 2 poss 3 birds Frankocastello (9 th) |
| Redstart | 2 Frankocastello (9 th) |
| Whinchat | Plakias, Frankocastello |
| Stonechat | Plakias |
| Wheatear | Plakias, Frankocastello |
| Black-eared wheatear | 2 Moni Preveli, 3 at Frankocastello (1 black-throated) (9 th) |
| Blue rock thrush | Frequent sightings in hills |
| Blackbird | Frequent |
| Cetti's warbler | Frequently heard, seen at Myrthios |
| Fan tailed warbler | 1 heard from vehicle west of Giorgiopouli |
| Grasshopper warbler | 1 singing at Damnoni (7 th) |
| Sedge warbler | Ayia reservoir |
| Reed warbler | 1 strange plumaged bird at Damnoni |
| Great reed warbler | 1 Giorgiopouli |
| Sardinian warbler | Frequent sightings toward the end of the week |
| Subalpine warbler | At least 10 birds at Frankocastello (9 th) after thunderstorm. 1 pair at Souda |
| Ruppell's warbler | 1 male apparently nestbuilding at Souda (9 th) (just west of Plakias) |
| Blackcap | 1 at Plakias |
| Wood warbler | 1 Frankocastello (9 th) |
| Spotted flycatcher | 2 Frankocastello (9 th) |
| Pied flycatcher | Moni Preveli |
| Blue tit | Frequent in woodland |
| Great tit | Frequent in woodland |
| Woodchat shrike | Frequent sightings throughout |
| Jackdaw | Kourtaliotiko Gorge |
| Hooded crow | Frequent sightings throughout |
| Raven | Plakias, Moni Preveli |
| Spanish sparrow | A few birds (up to six) at Plakias Flock of several hundred at Frankocastello (9 th); not counted but in region of 300 |
| Italian sparrow | Numerous throughout |
| Tree sparrow | 1 near Ayia (9 th) |
| Chaffinch | Frequent |
| Serin | Ayia |
| Greenfinch | Plakias |
| Goldfinch | Frequent |
| Linnet | Plakias |
| Cirl bunting | 1 heard Myrthios |
| Ortolan bunting | Moni Preveli |
| Corn bunting | Frequent, winter flocks and singing males |

**HONEYGUIDE WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS
CRETE 3-10 APRIL 2001
PLANT LIST**

The following list comprises the more obvious plants seen and identified during the week.

Key and nomenclature: Latin names of plants follows those used in *Flora of the Cretan Area* (Turland et al 1993), any alternative names as used in *Mediterranean Wild Flowers* (Blamey & Grey-Wilson 1993) follow in brackets.

* Endemic to Crete

Introduced and not native to Crete and cultivated or planted species

1 SPERMATOPHYTES

i) Gymnosperms

Cupressaceae - Cypress Family

Cupressus sempervirens forma. *horizontalis* Cypress

C. sempervirens forma. *sempervirens* Funeral Cypress

Ephedraceae – Joint pines

Ephedra fragilis Joint pine

Pinaceae – Pines

#*Araucaria araucana* Norfolk Island pine (widely planted)

ii) Angiosperms

a) Dicotyledons

Aizoaceae - Aizoon Family

Carpobrotus edulis var. *rubescens* Hottentot Fig

Anacardiaceae - Pistacio Family

Pistacia lentiscus Mastic Tree

Apocynaceae - Oleander Family

Nerium oleander subsp. *oleander* Oleander

Boraginaceae - Borage Family

Anchusa cretica An alkanet

Anchusa italica (*A. azurea*) Large Blue Alkanet

Borago officinalis Borage

Cynoglossum creticum Blue Hound's Tongue

Echium italicum subsp. *biebersteinii* Pale Bugloss

Echium plantagineum Purple Viper's Bugloss

Onosma erecta A Golden Drop

Symphytum creticum (*Procopiana cretica*) Procopiana

Cactaceae - Cactus Family

Opuntia ficus-barbarica (*O. ficus-indica*) Prickly Pear

Campanulaceae - Bellflower Family

* *Petromarula pinnata* Cretan Wall Lettuce (on Venetian mill under Mirthios, but not in flower)

Caprifoliaceae - Honeysuckle Family

Sambucus nigra Elderflower

Caryophyllaceae - Pink Family

Petrorhagia velutina (*Kohlrauschia velutina*)

Silene bellidifolia
Silene colorata subsp. *colorata*

Cistaceae - Rockrose Family

Cistus creticus Cretan Cistus
Cistus salvifolius Sage-Leaved Cistus

Compositae - Daisy Family

Anthemis rigida subsp. *rigida* Rayless Chamomile
Asteriscus aquaticus
Asteriscus spinosa (*Pallensis spinosa*)
Bellis annua Annual daisy
Calendula arvensis Field Marigold
Chrysanthemum coronarium var. *coronarium* Crown Daisy
C. coronarium var. *discolor* Crown Daisy
Galactites tomentosa Mediterranean Thistle
Scorzonera cretica Cretan vipers grass
Silybum marianum Milk thistle
Tragopogon sinuatus (*T. porrifolius*) Wild Salsify

Convolvulaceae - Bindweed Family

Convolvulus althaeoides Mallow-leaved Bindweed
Cuscuta epithymum Dodder

Crassulaceae - Stonecrop Family

Umbilicus parviflorus Small-Flowered Navelwort

Cruciferaeae - Cress Family

Arabis verna Spring rockcress
Biscutella didyma Buckler Mustard
Capsella bursa-pastoralis Shepherd's purse
**Ricotia cretica* Ricotia
Sinapsis arvensis Charlock

Dioscoraceae - Yam Family

Tamus communis Black Bryony

Euphorbiaceae - Spurge Family

Euphorbia acanthothamnos Greek Spiny Spurge
Euphorbia characias Mediterranean Spurge
Euphorbia dendroides Tree Spurge
Euphorbia helioscopia Sun Spurge
Ricinus communis Castor Oil Plant
Mercurialis annua Annual mercury

Geraniaceae - Geranium Family

Erodium gruinum Long-beaked Storksbill
Erodium moschatum Musk storksbill
Geranium dissectum Cut-leaved Cranebill
Geranium lucidum Shining Cranesbill
Geranium molle Dovesfoot cranesbill
Geranium purpureum Little robin
Geranium rotundifolium Round-leaved Crane's-Bill

Guttiferae - Hypericum Family

Hypericum empetrifolium subsp. *empetrifolium* Shrubby St. John's Wort

Labiatae - Mint Family

Coriodothymus capitatus (*Thymus capitatus*) Shrubby Thyme
Lamium amplexicaule Red hemp-nettle

Marrubium vulgare White horehound
Phlomis fruticosa Jerusalem Sage
Prasium majus Spanish Hedge-nettle
Salvia fruticosa Three-Leaved Sage
Stachys sp Clary sp

Leguminosae - Pea Family

Acacia spp Mimosa
Anthyllus vulneraria ssp.praepropera Red (Mediterranean) Kidney Vetch
Bituminaria bituminosa (Psoralea bituminosa) Pitch Trefoil
Calicotome villosa Hairy Thorny Broom
Cercis siliquastrum Judas tree
Ceratonia siliqua Carob Tree
Coronilla cretica
* *Ebenus creticus* Shrubby Sainfoin (Cretan ebony)
Hippocrepis multisiliquosa? A horseshoe vetch
Lupinus micranthus Hairy Lupin
Medicago arabica Spotted Medick
Medicago marina Sea Medick
Medicago orbicularis Large Disk Medick
Medicago scutellata another large disk medick (with glandular hairs on pods)
Robina pseudacacia False acacia
Spartium junceum Spanish Broom
Tetragonolobus purpureus Asparagus Pea
Trifolium campestre Hop trefoil
Trifolium stellatum Star Clover
Trifolium tomentosum Woolly Trefoil
Trifolium uniflorum One-Flowered Clover
Tripodion tetraphyllum (Anthyllis tetraphyllum) Bladder Vetch
Vicia sativa agg Common vetch
Vicia sepium Bush vetch

Linacea - Flax Family

Linum arboreum Tree Flax (=shrubby flax)
Linum bienne Pale Flax

Malvaceae - Mallow Family

Lavatera cretica Lesser Tree Mallow
Malva sylvestris Common Mallow

Moraceae - Fig Family

Ficus carica Fig
Morus alba White Mulberry

Myrtaceae - Myrtle Family

Myrtus communis subsp. communis Common Myrtle

Oleaceae - Olive Family

Olea europaea subsp. europaea Olive

Orobanchaceae - Broomrape Family

Orobanche ramosa Branched Broomrape

Oxalidaceae - Sorrel Family

Oxalis pes-caprae Bermuda Buttercup

Papaveraceae - Poppy Family

Glaucium flavum Yellow-Horned Poppy
Papaver rhoeas Common Poppy
Papaver somniferum Opium poppy

Platanaceae - Plane Tree Family

Platanus orientalis Oriental Plane

Polygalaceae - Milkwort Family

Polygala venulosa Eastern Milkwort

Primulaceae - Primrose Family

Anagallis arvensis Scarlet Pimpernel (Scarlet and blue forms)

**Cyclamen creticum* Cretan Cyclamen

Punicaceae – Pomegranate family

Punica granatum Pomegranate

Ranunculaceae - Buttercup Family

Anemone coronaria Crown Anemone

Anemone hortensis ssp. *heldreichii*

Ranunculus asiaticus Turban Buttercup

Ranunculus gracilis

Resedaceae - Mignonette Family

Reseda lutea Wild Mignonette

Rosaceae - Rose Family

Rubus sanctus Bramble

Sanguisorba minor subsp. *verrucosa* Mediterranean Salad Burnet

Sarcopterium spinosum Thorny Burnet

Rubiaceae - Bedstraw Family

Sharardia arvensis Field Madder

Rutaceae - Rue Family

Citrus limon Lemon

Citrus sinensis Orange

Scrophulariaceae - Figwort Family

Bellardia trixago Bellardia

Linaria pelisseriana Jersey Toadflax

Misopates orontium Lesser Snapdragon (= weasel's snout)

Parentucellia viscosa Yellow Bartsia

Scrophularia lucida Shining Figwort

Scrophularia peregrinum Nettle-leaved Figwort

* *Verbascum arcturus* Hanging Mullein

Verbascum sinuatum

Verbascum pulverulentum Hoary mullein

Solanaceae - Potato Family

Hyoscyamus albus White Henbane

Mandragora autumnalis Mandrake

Solanum nigrum Black nightshade

Styracaceae - Storax Family

Styrax officinalis Storax

Tamaricaceae - Tamarix Family

Tamarix smyrnensis Tamarisk

Thymelaeaceae - Daphne Family

Thymelaea hirsuta Thymelea

Umbelliferae - Carrot Family

Daucus carota Wild Carrot
Ferula communis subsp. communis Giant Fennel
Tordylium apulum Mediterranean Hartwort (equally 2-lobed petals)
Tordylium officianale a hartwort (with unequally lobed petals)
Torylis arvensis Spreading Hedge-parsley

Urticaceae - Nettle Family

Parietaria judaica Pellitory of the Wall
Urtica pilulifera Roman Nettle

Valerianaceae - Valerian Family

**Valeriana asarifolia* Cretan Valerian
Valerianella sp (discoidea?) A Corn Salad

Verbenaceae - Verbena Family

Verbena officinalis Vervain

Vitaceae - Vine Family

Vitis vinifera subsp. vinifera Grape Vine

b) Monocotyledons

Agavaceae - Agave Family

Agave americana Century Plant

Amaryllidaceae - Daffodil Family

Pancratium maritimum Sea Daffodil (leaves only)

Araceae - Arum Family

Arisarum vulgare Friars Cowl
Arum creticum Cretan Arum
Dranunculus vulgaris Common Dragon Arum

Graminaceae - Grass Family

Arundo donax Giant Reed
Briza maxima Giant Quaking Grass
Lagurus ovatus Hare's-tail
Phragmites australis Reed

Iridaceae - Iris Family

Gladiolus italicus Field Gladiolus
Gynandriris sisyrinchium Barbary Nut
Hermodactylus tuberosus Widow Iris
Iris pseudocorus Yellow Flag

Liliaceae - Lily Family

Asphodeline lutea Yellow Asphodel
Asphodelus aestivus Common Asphodel
Drimia maritima (Urginea maritima) Sea Squill
Muscari comosum Tassle Hyacinth
Ornithogalum collinum
Ornithogalum narbonense A spiked Star of Bethlehem
Ornithogalum umbellatum Star of Bethlehem
* *Tulipa cretica* Cretan Tulip
Tulipa sylvestris Wild Tulip

Orchidaceae - Orchid Family

Aceras anthropophorum Man Orchid

Anacamptis pyramidalis Pyramidal Orchid
Ophrys apifera Bee orchid
Ophrys bombyliflora Bumble Bee Orchid
Ophrys doerfleri (*O. cretica*) Cretan Bee Orchid
Ophrys fuciflora Late Spider Orchid
Ophrys heldreichii (*O. scolopax* ssp. *heldreichii*) Marengo Orchid
Ophrys iricolor Rainbow Orchid
Ophrys lutea Yellow bee orchid)
Ophrys phrygana Phrygana Orchid) these three all 'yellow bee orchids' at Spili
Ophrys sicula Sicilian Orchid)
Ophrys mammosa (*O. sphegodes* ssp. *mammosa*) Mammose Orchid
Ophrys spegoides Early spider orchid
Ophrys tentredinifera Sawfly Orchid
Orchis boryi
Orchis italica Italian Man Orchid
Orchis lactea Milky Orchid
Orchis pauciflora (*O. provincialis* subsp. *pauciflora*) Few-flowered Orchid
Orchis quadripunctata Four-Spotted Orchid
Orchis simia Monkey orchid
Serapia bergonii (*S.vomeracea* ssp. *laxiflora*) Bergon's Tongue Orchid
 Plus hybrid sawfly x marengo orchid at both Spili and Kotsiphos gorge

Palmae – Palm Family

Phoenix theophrasti Cretan Palm
 #*Washingtonia filifera* Washingtonia

Pteridophyta – Ferns

Adiantum capillus-veneris Maidenhair fern

And finally, nominations for wildlife of the week:

| | |
|----------|---|
| Rosemary | orchids at Spili, especially few-flowered orchids |
| Margaret | orchids at Spili |
| Helen | nightingale on the ground at Moni Preveli |
| Rita | few-flowered orchids |
| Pete | lammergeier |
| Mary | orchids at Spili |
| Meryl | nightingale on the ground at Moni Preveli |
| Diana | sheets of Bermuda buttercup |
| David | warblers |
| Frank | lammergeier, hirundine flock and orchids at Spili |
| Joyce | nightingale on the ground at Moni Preveli |
| Edward | orchids at Spili |
| Ivan | beech marten |
| Mike | nightingale on the ground at Moni Preveli |
| Pam | Spanish sparrow flock |
| Chris | tulips and orchids at Spili |



early spider orchid

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We experienced an island full of culture and heritage, a culture expressed in food, drink lifestyle and buildings and a rich natural heritage of wildlife. Vultures, eagles and orchids are always special, partly because of their fragility but also because of what they represent. Your visit here has helped conserve some of that natural heritage and expressed in a very positive way to local people that there is real value in having an island rich in wildlife.

Thank you for your company, your stories and good nature, we hope to see you on future trips with Honeyguide.

Ivan and Chris