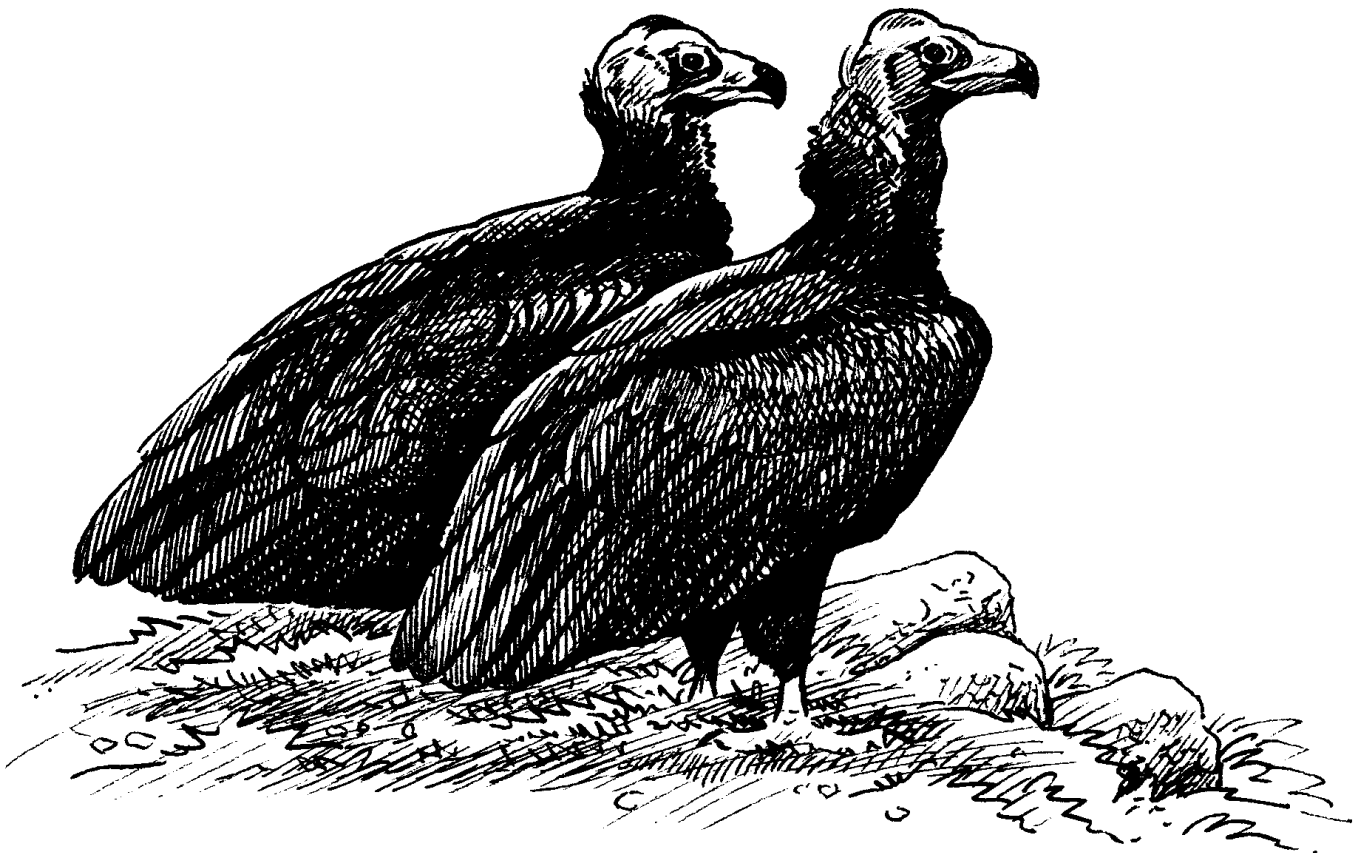


Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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



**Eastern Greece
6-13 May 2000**

Eastern Greece
06 – 13 May 2000

The group

Christine Hall	London
Jane Dunlop	Kidderminster
Jim Pollok-Morris Pat Pollok-Morris	Helensburgh
Sarah Rejman-Greene	Ipswich
Prilly Heffer Alison Stanes	Blandford, Dorset Guernsey
<u>Leaders</u>	
Steve Henson	Poringland, Norwich
Chris Gibson	Dovercourt

Daily log, lists of plants, insects, reptiles, amphibians and mammals by Chris Gibson.

Full bird notes and day-by-day highlights by Steve Henson.

Illustrations by Rob Hume. Front cover: black vultures

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project. It was a little complicated in this case as our hosts decided that it should be split equally between Dadia Ecotourism Centre and WWF Greece, so the cheque for £175 came back to the Honeyguide office and two cheques each of £90 were sent back to Dadia. This brings the total given to conservation projects in Europe through Honeyguide holidays to £20,180.

EASTERN GREECE 6 - 13 MAY 2000

Summary – itinerary & daily highlights

Day 1 Saturday, 6/5/00

Afternoon: flew from London Heathrow on 1225hrs Olympic Airways flight to Athens. Internal flight to Alexandroupolis, arriving at 2230hrs. Picked up hire cars at the airport and drove to Dadia, stopping in the village for a late evening meal at the Samos Taverna *en route* to the Ecotourism Centre.

Day 2 Sunday, 7/5/00

Morning: circular walk through Dadia village, downhill through farmland into the Diavolorema River valley, northeast of the village.

Lunch in Dadia at the Oikogeneiaki Taverna near the village square.

Late afternoon: Dadia Forest Reserve - walked part way along the road leading to the observation hide at the raptor 'feeding station'.

Highlights of the day were: a black stork over the village, the breeding white storks at the nest in Dadia village square & flocks of migrating white storks overhead, bee-eaters, cirl and black-headed buntings, Camberwell beauty butterfly, and the irises (*Iris attica*) found at the edge of the forest.

Day 3 Monday, 8/5/00

Morning: Evros Delta - open area north of the railway line and a part-circuit of Drana Lagoon.

Late afternoon: walked up onto the hillslopes east of Loutros (tracks wind uphill from the village in an approximately east to northeasterly direction)

Highlights of the day were: the Evros Delta and its wealth of birds including large numbers of passage waders, the flock of greater flamingos, adult white-tailed eagle, displaying male goshawk, Levant sparrowhawk, the lanner, the Loutros Hills and their wild flowers, and the large colourful centipede.

Day 4 Tuesday, 9/5/00

Morning: Evros Delta - visited the Evros Delta Information Centre at Loutros where Andreas Athanasiadis gave a presentation, followed by the Anthi lagoons and beach, west of the Loutrou River.

Late afternoon: drove up the steep track onto St. George's Hill, the southernmost of the Loutros Hills, for fine views over the Evros Delta.

Highlights of the day were: the Anthi lagoons and their carpets of flowering water-crowfoot, squacco heron, glossy ibis, stone curlew, Mediterranean gull, white-winged black tern, prolonged views of a foraging hoopoe and two long-legged buzzards over the Loutros Hills.

Day 5 Wednesday, 10/5/00

Morning: a walk through Dadia village, downhill through woodland, scrub and small fields into the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village.

Picnic lunch at 'Shrike Corner' followed by free afternoon.

Highlights of the day were: golden orioles, the pair of masked shrikes, an adult ant-lion on the wing, purple gromwell and the picnic spot at 'Shrike Corner'.

Day 6 Thursday, 11/5/00

Morning: the high, craggy radio mast at Kapsalo in Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi.

Afternoon: lunch stop and leisurely afternoon, northwest of Lefkimi. Stream valley 'meadow', scrub and woodland.

Highlights of the day were: rock thrush, good views of a perched hawfinch, the variety of orchids and plants in general (including marvellous peonies & irises), the stream 'meadow' area at the picnic-spot and the stunning views over the forest from the radio mast at Kapsalo.

Day 7 Friday, 12/5/00

Morning: Dadia Forest Reserve - a post-breakfast visit by minibus to the observation hide overlooking the raptor 'feeding station'.

Late morning & afternoon: Evros Delta - a circuit of Drana Lagoon (along the canal beyond the pump houses and back into arable farmland before re-crossing the railway line and rejoining route 95).

Highlights of the day were: the white pelican fly-past, close-up views of lots of stunningly colourful bee-eaters, and the raptor 'feeding station' in Dadia Forest Reserve.

Day 8 Saturday, 13/5/00

Departed Dadia Ecotourism Centre as dawn broke (0515hrs) for 0725hrs Olympic Airways flight from Alexandroupolis to Athens. Transferred to Athens international airport for onward flight to London Heathrow.

Highlights of the week were: adult white-tailed eagle, a perched Levant sparrowhawk, the white pelican 'flypast', glossy ibis, black-tailed godwits in brilliant summer plumage, white-winged black terns, Drana Lagoon with its breathtaking vista and busy with wetland birds, the Anthi lagoons with sheets of water-crowfoot, the peaceful picnic-spot northwest of Lefkimi, the birdsong, sounds and smells of Dadia Forest, the large colourful centipede and, everywhere, the wildflowers.

The Oikogeneiaki Taverna near the village square and the showers at the Centre also featured as non-wildlife highlights of the week!

DAILY LOG

Saturday 6 May: the journey there

The group assembled at Heathrow Terminal 2 by 10.30, displaying an admirable punctuality which was a leader's delight throughout the holiday. What a pity Olympic Airways was not so prompt - the Athens flight was delayed by ninety minutes.

The weather was lovely and sunny as we departed, but over Germany we soon ran into a big thunderstorm. The world disappeared as we ploughed into the cloud, and the next few minutes were full of the thrills and spills of rather dramatic turbulence. But once over the Alps, fine weather reasserted itself, and those on the right-hand side of the plane were treated to magnificent views of Croatia's Dalmatian coast and its myriad of islands, and then the mountains and lakes of the northern Pindhos.

Once in Athens, by now early evening, it was again warm (19°C) and settled, and the wait for a transfer flight gave an opportunity to start the week's bird list from the airport steps - house martin, yellow-legged gull and house sparrow - the archetypal Mediterranean airport bird community.

A further delay on the short hop to Alexandropolis ensured it was dark for much of the flight, eventually touching down at 22.30. As we walked from the plane to the terminal, big raindrops started to fall, leading to worries (thankfully unfounded) that this week was set to follow the unsettled pattern of the previous two. As if to highlight our late arrival, the luggage reclaim failed to disgorge two items: Jim and Pat had checked their cases through from Glasgow, but somewhere along the way they had gone astray. Forms were duly filled in, and steps taken to try and ensure their speedy reuniting. Meanwhile, Steve and I collected the hire cars (not a problem despite me stupidly forgetting my driving licence - the Greek laid-

back approach to life has some merits), luggage was loaded onto the minibus which had been sent to meet us, and we ventured off in search of sustenance.

The bridge to the intended taverna at Loutros was still down, as it had been last year, so on we continued, catching snatches of nightingale song, arriving in Dadia just before midnight. Thankfully the Greek way is to eat late, especially on Saturday night, and the Taverna Simos was still open - despite the late (early?) hour, we gratefully tucked in to the first of many excellent meals and bottles of retsina. It was after 1am when we eventually rolled up to the Ecotourism Centre, collected our bags and claimed the rooms. Just one last problem - not enough rooms had been reserved, and there were no spares, so Steve and I ended up sharing. As we settled in, a tawny owl hooted and scops owl called, a promise of great things to come in the morning.

Sunday 7 May: local walks - Diavolorema Valley and Dadia forest trail

Given our long day travelling, a late breakfast was in order, under clear blue skies and already warm sunshine. The local birds were making their presence felt vocally - great tit, turtle dove, chaffinch, nightingale and hoopoe provided the atmospheric backdrop. Everyone was keen to get out, so we held a short organisational meeting, and assembled in the car park. A male cirl bunting was singing away on top of a pine tree, a position it seemed not to shift from for the entire week, and a couple of red-rumped swallows joined the more familiar hirundines overhead. Soon the large soarers started to appear - well, the Dadia Forest is renowned as the best raptor breeding site in Europe. First a buzzard and Egyptian vulture, along with a raven; then the really big birds - six black vultures and a more contrasty griffon, and a black stork gave a superb fly-past. Dwarfed by the larger raptors, one or perhaps two falcons were identified through the 'scope as Eleanora's; although they are usually associated with sea cliffs, before their late summer breeding gets under way, they do wander more widely inland.

Which way to look? All this activity overhead, but carpets of lovely flowers by the road: purple patches of thyme, grey-leaved cistus coming into flower, intensely blue and purple buglosses, and poppies - yes, just the same as our British poppy, but looking so much more dramatic in the bright Mediterranean light. Away on the distant crag, a single eastern strawberry tree clung to the rocks, displaying its glowing orange bark to advantage. And all the while, the sight and sound of insects, feeding and flying: iridescent green rose chafers, fearsome-looking purple/black carpenter bees, the incessant trilling of field crickets, and by the stream (half a kilometre but one hour later!) a scarce swallowtail and a rather worn Camberwell beauty.

Walking through the village, we came to the square and its almost obligatory white storks' nest. One was sitting tight among the Spanish and house sparrows, both nesting within the nest, when suddenly the sparrows scarpered as the stork's mate floated in with fresh nest lining, amid much bill-clapping. As our eyes and ears focussed skyward, it was not long before a flock of thirteen bee-eaters, the jewels of the air, flew past.

After liquid refills from the shop to sustain us through what promised to be a really hot first day, we continued on through the village. But soon we again ground to a halt, eyes upward, as first 11 then 41



white storks drifted northwards, followed by 15 more bee-eaters. Turning off the road onto a dusty track, we slowly headed down through the fields into the Diavolorema valley. Truly, it was like going back in time - small fields, large hedges, and birds everywhere. Crested larks were in the fields, corn buntings seemingly on top of every bush, or at least those which were not already occupied by a stunning, singing male black-headed bunting. The familiar meeting the unfamiliar: whitethroats scratching away in the hedges, to a backdrop of olivaceous warblers, yet more scratchy, sounding disturbingly similar to a sedge warbler. Usually very skulking, one particular olivaceous warbler put on a marvellous show, singing in the open, tail-flicking, and admirably demonstrating its absence of other identification features.

A four-spotted moth, Egyptian locust (with its distinctive vertically-striped eyes) and both red- and blue-winged grasshoppers provided the insect interest, along with green hairstreak, clouded yellow and numerous Glanville fritillaries, just the sort of meal fit for a shrike. And red-backed shrikes were there, standing sentinel on many a dead twig. The plants too were like a blast from the past – corncockle, cornflower and pheasant's-eye, all on the brink of extinction in Britain, creating a mosaic of colour in every field margin.

All too soon, time and temperature caught up with us, and it was back to the village for lunch. On the way, Steve noticed a grass snake apparently trapped in a steep-sided water trough, and rescued it with the aid of a long stick. The village centre taverna (the Oikogeneiaki Taverna) was open, and duly provided plates full of their lovely salads; as we ate, a booted eagle flew over, followed by a much larger, speckled raptor which may well have been an immature imperial eagle, one of the very few left in this part of the world.

After a short rest back at the ranch, most of the party assembled for a late afternoon stroll along the track into the forest. The woodland - tall black pines, more shrubby Calabrian pines, and scattered oaks and other broadleaves over an understorey of tree heath - was impressive in its beauty and scent, even if it was rather quiet on the bird front. Just blackbird, chaffinch, great tit, chiffchaff and robin were in song, and a short-toed eagle circled overhead. But out of the dense shade, the plants were certainly impressive, with patches of vivid yellow flax, upstanding white spikes of asphodel, the tiny purple toadflax *Linaria pelisseriana* and, best of all, a flowering clump of *Iris attica*, its petals a delicate mix of yellow, mauve and brown. A male green lizard rested on a cut stump, admired by all and showing its blue throat (separating it from the very similar Balkan green lizard) to advantage, while a Hermann's tortoise pattered along the verge. This individual proved the exception - it had just one supracaudal plate rather than two as is usual for this species. But the absence of spurs on its thighs and the presence of a nail on the tail-tip confirmed it as not being spur-thighed tortoise; like virtually all tortoises we encountered, its soft parts near the leg-holes were host to numerous large ticks.

After the evening meeting and roll-call of birds, it was back down to the village. Last night's taverna was closed, so we returned to our lunchtime venue, which proved an altogether more local experience with no restaurant pretensions, although with equally delicious food. As we left, a spare, third stork was in attendance on a pole in the square, and scops owls called tantalisingly from the shadows. On our return home, Vangelis, the centre director, had left welcome news that the lost luggage would be delivered tomorrow.

Monday 8 May: Evros Delta (Drana lagoon) and Loutros hills

A short pre-breakfast ramble was delightful, given the glorious weather, but produced few birds of interest, apart from a splendid pair of black-eared wheatears. The male in particular was resplendently black-throated, set off by his almost ivory body.

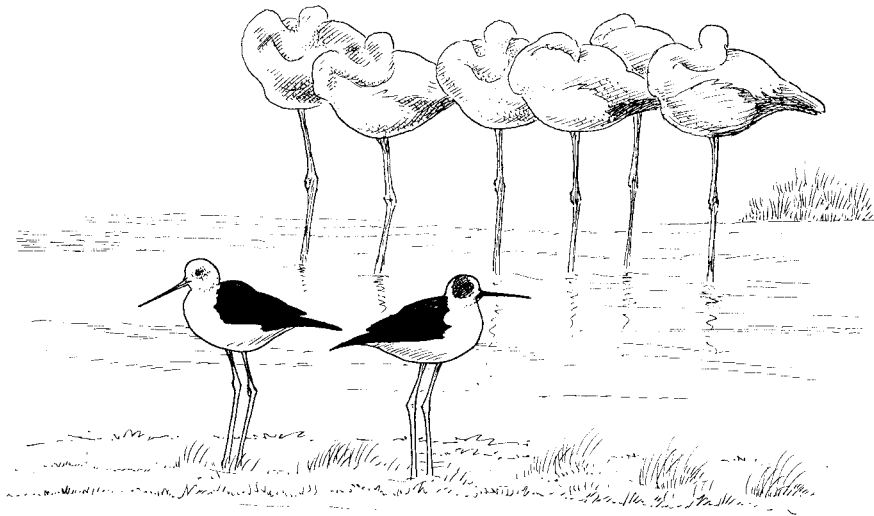
Then it was down to the delta, but not before an unscheduled stop to admire our first lesser spotted eagle of the trip, typically ranging over the lowland valley farmland. Elsewhere on the journey, a weasel ran across the road, and we had good views of both black stork and roller in flight. Just after leaving the main road at Loutros, Steve screeched to a halt to pick up a dead wood sandpiper lying in the road.

Moving on, we set off down the dirt tracks which cross the delta. Our first stop was amongst stony agricultural fields, an absolute blue riot of cornflowers with a single spike of tongue orchid nestling within them. Both woodchat and red-backed shrikes surveyed the scene from the scattered bushes, which also held a resting, migratory group of some 42 turtle doves and a whinchat. Calandra larks were singing, and two short-toed eagles and several quartering marsh harriers completed the scene.

Across the railway line, we came to a large drainage canal, fringed with reeds, resonating to the guttural song of great reed warblers and the explosive chatter of Cetti's warblers. It was on the breezy side, but eventually everyone was able to see great reed warblers working their way up the stems, which bent under the weight of such a large, chunky bird. In the water, several large and variously-coloured marsh frogs sat around, occasionally bursting into a quacking chorus, and a couple of European pond terrapins basked on a fallen log.

As we continued driving along by the canal, marsh harriers became an ever-present feature, often four or more in the air at one time. At least three isabelline wheatears showed well on the track, bold and upright, although their sandy colour merged well into the background on the bare fields, and in the distance, a group of 20 white pelicans circled around. These were an especially pleasing sight, as they are generally passage birds, which we had expected would have been away on their breeding grounds by now.

Approaching the first major lagoon (Drana), it was alive with water birds - flocks of little egrets and spoonbills, a scatter of squacco herons, and avocets, shelduck and spotted redshanks in full, black breeding dress feeding on the water's edge. Out in the open lagoon, white blobs resolved themselves through the heat haze into mute swans, and a pale pinkish patch into a group of three hundred or more greater flamingos, another surprise given the late date, although apparently recent years have seen them staying longer and in larger numbers, raising hopes of breeding.



The salinity of the water was highlighted by saltmarsh vegetation, especially sea purslane and shrubby glasswort amongst patches of flowering tamarisk, a mosaic habitat much beloved of that most attractive of yellow wagtails, the black-headed Balkan form. They were everywhere, adding a splash of colour to the scene; just one male with a paler head and white throat appeared to be different, of the ashy-headed Italian form. In the air, lapwings were displaying, a few gull-billed terns and Mediterranean gulls flying around, and further flocks of white pelicans move through, first 22, then 11 and then 24. And Prilly, fast becoming our expert spotter, pointed out a large, high-flying raptor. Very large, in fact: as it came closer it became clear we were looking at a magnificent adult white-tailed eagle.

Moving on, a vista of the open coast unfolded, to reveal yet more pelicans: at least 60 resting on an offshore sand bank, and a further 55 flew over. The change of angle brought better views of the smaller

waders on Drana lagoon – hundreds of ruff (a few males in breeding plumage), dozens of little stints, and a few curlew sandpipers – when suddenly all exploded into the air, as a lanner scythed its way through and across the lagoon, before retreating towards the hills without a meal.

And so our thoughts too turned to food, after a morning of being overwhelmed by birds. We headed back, pausing only to watch a lesser spotted eagle being mobbed by a red-footed falcon, to the taverna by the broken bridge near the Hotel Plotini. Even as our lunch was served, the wildlife just kept coming – a warningly-coloured cream-spot tiger moth was rescued from self-mutilation against the clear plastic awning. After lunch, we had hoped to call in at the Evros Delta information centre to organise our next trip, but it was closed. So we headed inland towards Loutros village, past the river in which we were once again surprised to see some laggards of winter, two pygmy cormorants at rest on a dead tree.

On the outskirts of Loutros, we found a shady spot to park under a series of wonderful, old oriental plane trees. Hardly had we got out of the cars, when a scops owl burst into ‘song’, possibly disturbed by the drumming of a Syrian woodpecker, which we eventually managed to spot in flight. From there, we trekked up in the still-increasing heat onto the low hills east of the village. Agriculture gave way to open grassland and scrub, home to woodlark, orphea warbler and several spur-thighed tortoises. And the flowers! Masses of cornflowers again; patches of the sprawling spurge *Euphorbia myrsinites*, familiar to many British gardeners; vivid purple splashes of large Venus’s-looking-glass, among a host of grassland delights. Steve spotted a European glass lizard (a large, fast-moving slow worm-a-like) dashing across a path, and we chanced upon two separate mega-centipedes. Perhaps 15cm long, with a carapace-span of 1cm and leg-span of 3cm, chestnut-brown with orange legs - my books don’t run to the identification of such exotica, and even an internet search failed to help me, although Chinery raises the possibility of *Scolopendra cingulatus*, the largest European centipede. Poisonous maybe (I certainly kept well away from the front end!), dramatic certainly - for me, these were one of the highlights of the week - but then I’m strange like that. Even more appreciated by the rest of the group was a goshawk, which sailed over our heads before performing its stooping and swooping display flight and dropping into the wood down below.

Back in the cars, we headed home, only to halt at the main road junction as a falcon- or cuckoo-like bird flew into a tree. It was a Levant sparrowhawk, which gave an excellent view at rest through the telescope. We eventually trundled back to the centre at 19.15 - a long, but very rewarding, day behind us. Bad news, the suitcases had not arrived as promised, but Jim and Pat looked fetching in their dinner outfits of newly-purchased Dadia project black vulture T-shirts!

Tuesday 9 May: Evros delta (Anthi lagoons) and St Nicholas Hill, Loutros

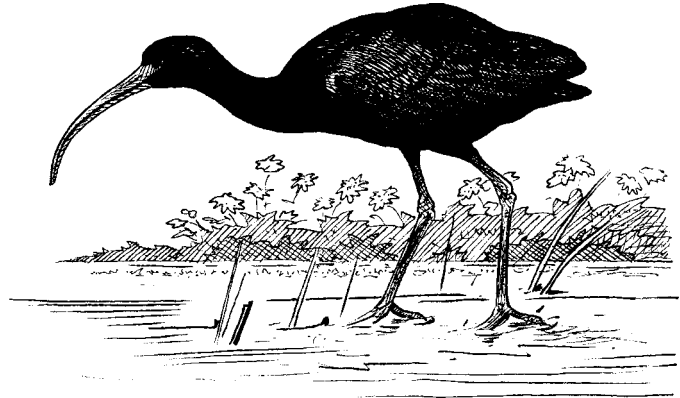
My early morning exploration located several golden orioles, typically attracted to poplar trees just below the centre. One male in particular put on a lovely, noisy, fluttering display as it hovered in front of a hidden female. After breakfast, first stop was at the village shop; we failed to get stamps (none are available in Dadia), but the opportunity was taken to supplement the rather meagre packed lunch.

We planned to visit the hills and valley above Lefkimi, but just above the village we were turned back by soldiers engaged in the first of two days of military manoeuvres. So a hasty reorganisation was in order, and we headed back down to the delta, spotting two each of lesser spotted eagle and Levant sparrowhawk *en route*. This time the Evros Delta information centre was open, but as they were not expecting us, it was largely a self-guided experience, until Andreas, the project director arrived, and agreed at no notice to give us a short presentation on their work. However, the electricity was off, so no slides could be shown - it was all done around the relief map. Andreas gave us an excellent talk on the wildlife and habitats of the delta, the history of the project, and its achievements, secured despite severe financial constraints - EU funding is currently awaited. He then escorted us into the delta to the Anthi Lagoons, a series of freshwater pools in marked contrast to yesterday’s saline waters. And what a contrast – still huge numbers of birds, amid a reedy setting, and among sheets of white-flowered water crowfoot.

Hoopoe, bee-eaters and roller performed well on telegraph wires, while over the pools there were good numbers of feeding whiskered terns. All too briefly, a flock of around 20 white-winged black terns (such stunning birds!) dropped out of the sky and joined in the fun. All the while, little egrets, with a scattering of great whites, probed among the shallow waters, bitterns boomed from the reeds, and both ruddy shelduck and garganey were glimpsed on the pools. The ditches and dykes were alive with insects taking advantage of the warm, still conditions, especially dragonflies and damselflies: emperor, lesser emperor, two species of *Lestes*, red-veined darter and innumerable blue damselflies, mostly remaining unidentified. And in the water, there was a constant procession from the murky depths to the surface of giant tadpoles, up to 10cm long, which were later identified as those of eastern spadefoot toads.

A troop of 25 white pelicans flew over, followed by four more ruddy shelduck and a prehistoric battalion of 14 glossy ibises, which circled around before settling in a marshy field. There were relatively few small birds to be seen, apart from a single, presumed migrant, spotted flycatcher, tawny pipits and short-toed larks on the track, and the ever-present black-headed wagtails.

Lunchtime arrived, and Andreas was called away, leaving with a donation from Honeyguide in support of their sterling work; as Steve and I rejoined the group, we watched southern festoon and Queen-of-Spain fritillary feeding on thistle heads. By now, the mosquitos and other flies were becoming a nuisance, so lunch was a rather hurried affair, interspersed with excellent views of bee-eaters and collared pratincoles overhead, a pair of calandra larks, and Cetti's warblers heard and (surprisingly) seen well.



A sea breeze then sprang up, making the previously fly-ridden beach a viable prospect for a walk. And we were not the only ones: two herds of cows were also down there, taking a paddle. The dune fringe was in many respects reminiscent of home, with for example sea holly, but the birds were more special. Flocks of yellow-legged gulls, with a few black-headed and two slender-billed for comparison, were drinking from the freshwater flows, and 10 black and a white-winged black tern rested at the water's edge. As we scoured the beach, a selection of waders came into view – oystercatcher, grey plover, sanderling, curlew and two stone-curlews – and a loose flock of great crested grebes loafed offshore. The discovery of a Kentish plover nest and its agitated owners brought an end to our beach walk, but numerous mementoos ended up in various pockets, in the form of the diverse array of sea-shells on the beach – pelican's foot, tellins, piddocks, razor-shells, spiny cockle, and ram's-horn snails, the last presumably washed from the freshwater marshes.

As we headed back to the cars, the sky was turning rather hazy. In the humid conditions, bird activity was decreasing once again, and scarce chaser dragonfly, forester moth and the pale *helice* form of clouded yellow were all seen. In one short stretch of ditch, three grass snakes were seen swimming along the far bank, an indication of the abundance of amphibian prey. But the mozzies got the better of us, and the cars provided a degree of welcome refuge. A few brief stops to watch three singing calandra larks, perching rollers and lesser grey shrike, and an excellent hunting dark male red-footed falcon, and it was back up to the Loutros hills, this time to the chapel of St George on the peak overlooking the delta.

Even high up, the mosquitoes were still a considerable nuisance, although the superb views across the delta were some compensation. A Hermann's tortoise ambled along the track, and a hoopoe performed admirably in front of the whole group, spending several minutes probing in the turf for invertebrates. As we pottered back down the track, everyone had good views of singing ortolan buntings; some saw long-legged buzzard and hawfinch; and back near the road, a bedraggled buzzard was located on its crag nest.

A late return to Dadia once again (19.45), but great news - the lost suitcases had arrived! As we set off to the taverna, a nightjar flew over the car park, and then it was down to the serious business of food. By now, the menu was familiar, and so was Steve's appetite - thus began Jane's long mission to fill him up!



Wednesday 10 May: Soufli; Diavolorema valley; free time and Dadia nightlife

A pre-breakfast trip to Soufli was laid on for those seeking stamps, fruit, silks and other presents, or simply a change of scene. We parked under the storks' nest, and in addition to the main quest managed to spot pallid swifts and Syrian woodpecker. A brief stop at a pot shop on the way back left two of the group with one more large item to pack into their return luggage.

After a late breakfast, we headed once again on foot to Dadia village. The usual Egyptian and black vultures were overhead, and a dung beetle, complete with ball of dung, almost underfoot. At a muddy puddle, greenfinches and goldfinches were drinking, while hirundines were gathering mud - including two magnificent red-rumped swallows. We continued down into the Diavolorema valley, by a different, more forested route than previously, the shade of the trees providing welcome shade on what was becoming the hottest day so far. Sadly, no red squirrels showed themselves, although they had left plenty of evidence in the form of eaten cones.

Several tortoises were encountered, all spur-thighed (by now I was getting something of a reputation for tortoise abuse, turning them over for identification), and a tree sparrow sitting by a hedge, while four black storks and an Egyptian vulture shared a thermal, and butterflies abounded in the still heat, including adonis blue and brown argus. The woods provided a contrast to the more open habitats: oaks and pines, over an understorey of hazel, eastern hornbeam and butcher's-broom, and a few choice plants in flower, including purple gromwell, its startling blue flowers glowing like a beacon from the gloom. A large ant-lion flapped its ungainly way across a glade, briefly holding up our procession; fortuitously, as it happened, as we were just in the right place at the right time for one of the displays of the trip. Golden orioles had been calling all the way down, but one male took this moment to perform a long circular flight over the field for all to see. In all, perhaps three males and one female were seen from just this one location.

Below the woods, the aspect opened up to farmland, pocket-sized fields and huge hedges – towards an area termed 'shrike corner' by the 1999 holiday party. And yes, the shrikes were there: red-backed, woodchat and lesser grey, on many an upstanding vantage point, together with a pair of stonechats, the male being an especially well-marked bird, almost approaching one of the eastern races such as *variegata*, and a single ortolan bunting, outside its usual habitat, so possibly a migrant. All these along with numerous corn and black-headed buntings: a veritable feast of agrarian biodiversity and rural charm, at least until we were forced away from our chosen lunch-spot in the valley by a farmer turning up to spray his fields. Still, that was not until after Prilly had gone for a wander through the trees and come back with tales of a 'black and white flycatcher' - it wasn't, but it *was* a masked shrike, completing our set. In fact, there was a pair, keeping deep in the canopy in a most unshrikelike fashion.

As it was now the nominal 'free' afternoon, everyone wandered back at their own pace. I went exploring, trying to find a forest trail back to the centre, but succeeded only in finding a remarkably well hidden military camp nestled above the village. As it transpired when I later explored the red forest trail, I was only a hundred metres from the marked path, but bristling with cameras and binoculars, I took no chances and turned tail.

In the evening as we walked to dinner, a pair of little owls gave excellent views on a house roof - one remained so still that it invited speculation as to whether we were all looking at a roof ornament. At least until it blinked! Dinner was a cosy affair; the party of 18 Swiss bird holidayers who were staying at the hostel for a couple of days were there too (and of course arrived at the taverna just before us), and the

locals were out in force to watch the Greek cup final (AEK Athens 3, Ionikos 0).

Later, heading homewards, we took the opportunity of a warm night and being on foot to investigate the nightlife. There were several scops owls calling around the village, although none was prepared to give us even a brief glimpse. By the stream, a cacophony of amphibian song was revealed by torchlight to be coming from common tree frogs (one was watched in full flow at close range), green toad, and both marsh and agile frogs. And in the water, to my great surprise, there were several large crabs, looking to all intents and purposes like the familiar shore crabs; I for one was not aware that there were any freshwater crabs in Europe. Around the lights, a few moths were flying and being harried by bats; using the bat detector, it was possible to see and hear the action, although we could not come up with any more specific identifications than a species of both pipistrelle and horseshoe bat.

I was so impressed with the stream life that I decided to return with my camera. Steve came along too, and we then met up with the Swiss party as they disembarked. Doing our bit for Anglo-Swiss relations we invited them to join us, and three accepted. All that we had seen previously was still there, and I discovered the great value in being able to recall the scientific names of the species concerned. By now it was well past midnight, and the larger moths were flying. Most notably under one particular light, presumably one which for some reason was producing more UV light, we found an eyed hawk-moth, a bedstraw hawk and almost a swarm of at least five pine hawks.

Thursday 11 May: Kapsalo and the valley above Lefkimi

Before breakfast, by popular demand, a small group walked up to the top of the rocky hill west of the centre. Not billed as an 'official' walk, as it looked rather difficult, it actually transpired to be far easier than anticipated, apart from the final ascent of the rocks at the summit - it took just 12 minutes. Once there, the views over the village and forest were lovely, as expected, and a very pleasant few minutes was spent in perfect early morning weather simply soaking up the sun and scenery.

For the main event of the day, we returned to Lefkimi, hoping that the military had withdrawn. Which they had, so we headed up and out of the village, a dramatic, twisting, uphill drive eventually reaching Kapsalo, at 604m, the highest peak in these parts. Situated on the south-western edge of the strictly protected forest, it is clad with pine and oak forest, much of it with an understorey of eastern strawberry-trees, whose similarity to rhododendrons lent an almost Himalayan feel to the landscape.

At the top, apart from the seemingly obligatory communications paraphernalia, the views in all directions were superb, if a little hazy, and the wildlife was no less exciting. Three Egyptian vultures circled around at close range, and blue rock thrushes and crag martins were present, if a little elusive. Best of all was a male rock thrush, atop a rock in apparently ideal breeding habitat: that is, apart from the altitude, some 400m lower down than its usual altitudinal range given in *The Birds of Greece*. But the birds were eclipsed by the sheer diversity and abundance of insects: swarms of longhorn beetles, some incredibly large; several species of fat, colourful bush-crickets; a couple of fast-flying, predatory ascalaphids; and many clouded apollo butterflies - the list goes on, even though most cannot be identified with the books available. It brought home the fact that a name is not everything - and sometimes it is sufficient just to experience the variety of life.

We then moved on foot down the track as far as the large rock outcrops, in almost overwhelming heat. New plants came thick and fast - perfoliate alexanders, wild tulip, honey garlic, perennial cornflower and the real stars, wild red peonies, their flowers of such beautiful simplicity that they put the familiar garden adulterations to shame. Even this high up, the bee-eaters were active as a flock of 25 wheeled through, and two short-toed eagles drifted more lazily over. The big rocks didn't produce the hoped-for eagle owl, but blue rock thrush and black-eared wheatear were some compensation.

At this point the group diverged. Some headed further down, finding sword-leaved helleborine and periwinkle; others stayed put in the welcome shade; while Steve and I slogged back uphill for the cars -

surprisingly, no-one volunteered to join us! But we got our due reward, with a sighting of powdered brimstone, a sparsely distributed, largely montane Mediterranean butterfly.

Regrouped in the cars, we drove back through the spectacular mountain woodland, pausing only to scrutinise a flock of sparrowhawks - 13 Levant and 2 common - which provided excellent flight comparisons. A lunch spot was chosen by a shady stream in the valley above Lefkimi; almost before we disembarked, a European glass lizard slithered rapidly into a patch of scrub and we found ourselves among impossibly-pink wild gladioli and several orchid species - mambose, lax-flowered and tongue, including a cluster of several hundred of the last in a couple of square metres a little way up the hill. An orphean warbler was singing thrush-like in the scrub, and several yellow-bellied toads, including a mating pair, hung on the surface of pools in the stream.

A lovely peaceful lunch was accompanied by the incessant trilling eastern Bonelli's warbler (later, eventually, seen well), and the somewhat less relaxing, earth-trembling sound of quarry blasting. Almost simultaneously, Steve and I picked up a perching bird on the opposite hilltop, which through the scope turned into a hawfinch - and there it remained, uncharacteristically, for several minutes. The next couple of hours were just spent pottering in the woods and down the stream (really, it was too hot to do anything more), with peacock anemone, silver-washed fritillary, Roman snail and beautiful demoiselle just some of the highlights.

As we headed home, ominous clouds were looming and thunder rumbled in the distance, but without coming to anything, at least in Dadia. Before dinner, we gathered in the information centre where Valya, from WWF Greece, explained the origins and purpose of the Dadia Forest project. As a professional conservationist, working with public sympathy and secure resources, it was humbling to hear of their considerable achievements against all the odds, turning local antipathy, or at best apathy, into sympathy and support for the riches of the forest. And how pleasing it was for us to be part of it - by spending money locally, on products and services, we were helping to replace sustainably the income lost by enforced cessation of logging in the strictly protected forest. Moreover, the £25 contribution from each participant was going directly to support the work of this vital project. Our cheque was presented by Steve, bringing the total conservation contribution by Honeyguide in its first ten years to more than £20,000 - green tourism at its best.

The intended slide show proved impossible as the projector wasn't working, so we headed off to the village for dinner, to further support the local economy (not that such altruistic thoughts were uppermost in our minds - wildlife watching is hungry work!). Afterwards, I hoped the hawk-moths might show again, but this time, the light was attracting only mole-crickets, themselves attracting the attention (and abuse!) of the local street dogs.

Friday 12 May: Dadia vulture feeding station and Evros Delta (Drana lagoon)

The end of the holiday was looming, so several people ventured out early to make best use of the short time left. I headed into the valley below the centre, which was alive with golden orioles - at least six males and two females - and Steve came up with the only short-toed tree creeper of the trip. After breakfast, we were bussed up to the vulture feeding station in the forest. Looking over the carcasses, there was little aerial activity, but several black, Egyptian and griffon vultures were already in attendance. Perhaps they were too full to fly away? Booted and short-toed eagles, black stork and 16 bee-eaters flew over; a hawfinch and a party of long-tailed tits were glimpsed in the forest; and a lesser spotted woodpecker called, but remained resolutely hidden. Then it was back to the centre to settle the bills, before heading off for a final look at the delta. A Balkan green lizard held up proceedings, sunning itself on the track, before we arrived at Drana lagoon once again. There were still flamingos and swans to be seen, but generally fewer herons and waders than on our previous visit - or were we just becoming habituated to the riches of the wetland birdlife? But, ever the icing on the cake, bee-eaters gave unsurpassable views perched in bushes by the track, the cars doubling as effective hides. Moving further round the lagoon than before, we found large flocks of curlew sandpipers and a few grey plover in full breeding dress, while a turnstone flew over

calling, and a wigeon splattered out of the reeds. And both groups managed fleeting glimpses of European sousliks scurrying across the track.

We settled for lunch on a beach overlooking a tidal creek; absolute solitude, set off dramatically by a stately fly-past of 78 white pelicans. After lunch, we continued along the track, away from the lagoon, but between marshy fields with grazing cattle and fishing little and great white egrets. Two pygmy cormorants flew over, and a (great) cormorant on a creek struggled with, but eventually succeed in swallowing a huge eel. Away towards the military zone, a sandy bank was riddled with holes, and wheeling around were hundreds of sand martins and dozens of bee-eaters. We thought we had struck lucky with a distant wader which elicited calls of 'spur-winged plover' - a feature of the military no-go area - but through the scope, it was 'just' a lapwing. But even this was notable: it had a brood of well-grown chicks. *The Birds of Greece* in 1997 noted that lapwings were believed not to have bred on the delta since 1990 - perhaps the conservation efforts are bearing fruit.

We pressed on, the land becoming ever drier and more intensively cultivated. Eventually the wetland birds more-or-less petered out, but it didn't matter - everyone was well satisfied with the delights that Evros had delivered. As we headed home, a few strange wet spots appeared on the windscreens. It was raining! This was the first, and only, time we had witnessed precipitation since the moment of our arrival at Alexandropolis - although we soon got used to it again on our return to Britain! We arrived back at the centre at 17.30, time to pack in anticipation of an early start tomorrow, before heading off for our final, delicious taverna meal. A short round-up session over dinner seemed to suggest all were very happy with the holiday, and although lists are not everything it was with some satisfaction that this year's bird list of 158 species was slightly higher than last year's

Saturday 13 May: Back home . . .

Up at 04.30, it was just getting light as we started to pack the minibus. A tawny owl hooted, nightingales broke into hesitant song, and from deep in the forest, towards the vulture restaurant, came the sound of a pack of dogs. Or were they? Wolves are still to be found in the protected forest, so just possibly Dadia had yielded up one final surprise.

Then off to Alex for a 07.30 flight to Athens, no delays to speak of, and we were back in Britain by lunchtime, tired but exhilarated, and not a little sad to have exchanged the sights, sounds and smells of Dadia for the hubbub of Heathrow.

Systematic lists

Birds

English & scientific names, and status are based on *The Birds of Greece* (Handrinos & Akriotis 1997) except for Bonelli's warbler which is now considered to be a distinct species, Eastern Bonelli's warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis* (see *Ibis* 139: 197-201). Status is general and refers to Greece as a whole.

Little grebe

Widespread and locally common resident

2 & several heard, Anthi Lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5; 1 heard, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Great crested grebe

Fairly widespread and locally common resident, common and widespread winter visitor

7+ on the sea, offshore from Anthi Lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Cormorant

Fairly widespread and locally common resident, common and widespread winter visitor

Small numbers, mainly along the coastal margins, Evros Delta, 8/5 & 12/5. 2 moving west offshore, Anthi Lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Pygmy cormorant

Scarce and local resident, locally common winter visitor

2 (1 immature) on the Loutrou River south of Loutros village, 8/5; 6 over Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

White pelican

Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant

Flocks of 20, 22, 11, 24 & 55 over Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5. A flock of 25, plus several others, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5. A flock of 78 gave a low-level 'flypast' over Voulgarouda and Drana Lagoons, Evros Delta, 12/5. Distant views of 60+ resting on a sandbank along the coastal margin, to the west of Voulgarouda Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5 & 12/5.

Bittern

Widespread but scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

2-3 heard booming, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Squacco heron

Common but local summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant

3, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5; c.10, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Little egret

Fairly common and widespread resident, common and widespread passage migrant

Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5.

Great white egret

Rare and local resident, widespread and locally common winter visitor

c.8, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5; 5, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Grey heron

Common and widespread resident

1, Diavolorema River valley, northeast of Dadia village, 7/5; Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5.

Purple heron

Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common passage migrant

Several, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Black stork

Rare and local summer visitor and passage migrant

1 over the village, Dadia, 7/5; 3, Evros Delta and 1 north of Provatonas, 8/5; 3, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5; 6+, Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village and 1 over the village, Dadia, 10/5; 2, Dadia Forest Reserve and 1, Evros Delta, 12/5.

White stork

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Several seen daily, 7/5-12/5. Flocks of 41 & 11 moved north over Dadia village, 7/5. c.10 feeding in the Evros Delta, 8/5. Occupied nests – Ardanio; village square, Dadia; Kornofolia; Loutros; Monastiraki (2); Provatonas and in the centre of Soufli. 4 (rather than the usual pair) birds were present in the village square in Dadia on 10/5.

Glossy ibis

Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and widespread passage migrant

A flock of 14, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Spoonbill

Rare and local resident

c.50 in Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5; smaller numbers, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Greater flamingo

Fairly widespread and locally common non-breeding visitor

A feeding flock of c.300 in Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5, with smaller numbers on 12/5.

Mute swan

Rare and local resident, locally common winter visitor

Very numerous, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5 & 12/5; several on the Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Ruddy shelduck

Scarce and local partial migrant

4-6, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Shelduck

Scarce and local resident, fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor

Small numbers, Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5.

Wigeon

Fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor

A pair, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Gadwall

Scarce and local resident, fairly common winter visitor

1, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5.

Mallard

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, very common and widespread winter visitor

c.5, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5; 4+, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5 and 3, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Garganey

Scarce and local summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant

A pair, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Honey buzzard

Widespread but scarce summer visitor and passage migrant

2 over Dadia Forest Reserve, 7/5; singles, Dadia, 10/5 & 11/5; 2 over forest near the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5; 1, Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi, 11/5 and 1 near the raptor 'feeding station', Dadia Forest Reserve, 12/5.

Black kite

Rare and local resident, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

1 near the refuse tip south of Feres, 8/5.

White-tailed eagle

Rare and local resident

An adult high over Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5.

Egyptian vulture

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

Several, Dadia, 7/5; singles, Dadia and Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 10/5; 2-3 near the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5 and several at the raptor 'feeding station', Dadia Forest Reserve, 12/5.

Griffon vulture

Fairly common but local resident

Several over Dadia and the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 7/5 & 10/5; 5 near the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5 and several at the raptor 'feeding station', Dadia Forest Reserve, 12/5.

Black vulture

Rare and local resident

Several over Dadia and the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 7/5 & 10/5; 2+ near the

radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5 and several at the raptor 'feeding station', Dadia Forest Reserve, 12/5.

Short-toed eagle

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor

1-2, Dadia Forest Reserve, 7/5; 2 north of the railway line, Evros Delta, 8/5; 2, Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5; 1, Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi, 11/5 and 2 over forest near the raptor 'feeding station', Dadia Forest Reserve, 12/5.

Marsh harrier

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, common winter visitor and passage migrant

Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5. Frequently seen hunting over arable farmland and scrub at the periphery of the delta.

Goshawk

Fairly common and widespread resident

A male in spectacular display-flight, hillslopes east of Loutros, 8/5.

Sparrowhawk

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common resident, common and widespread winter visitor

2 accompanying a flock of 13 Levant sparrowhawks moving southwest, to the southeast of Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5.

Levant sparrowhawk

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

1 over Dadia, 7/5; 1 near the Hotel Plotini, south of Loutros, 8/5; 2 south of Feres, 9/5 and 13 moving southwest, to the southeast of Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5.

Buzzard

Common and widespread resident and winter visitor

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5, including an adult at the nest, St. George's Hill, south of Loutros, 9/5 showing the distinct pale plumage typical of a proportion of buzzards breeding in this area. Another was seen over the Evros Delta on the same day. [These are not typical steppe buzzards *Buteo buteo vulpinus*. In areas of secondary contact, in north and eastern Europe, the nominate *B.b. buteo* intergrades with *B.b. vulpinus* (which breeds further north and east)].

Long-legged buzzard

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common partial migrant

2 over the hillslopes south of Loutros, 9/5, were seen well by a few fortunate Honeyguiders.

Lesser spotted eagle

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

1 over Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5; 1 in the Diavolorema River valley, Dadia, 8/5; 2 near Lefkimi, 9/5; 1, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5; 2, Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia, 10/5 and 1 west of Lefkimi, 11/5.

Booted eagle

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

2, Diavolorema River valley, northeast of Dadia and 1, over Dadia village, 7/5; 1, hillslopes east of Loutros, 8/5; 1, Evros Delta, 8/5; 1, Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5 and 3 over forest near the raptor 'feeding station', Dadia Forest Reserve, 12/5. Pale and dark morphs were seen.

Kestrel

Common and widespread resident

Singles, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5 and Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5. Seen along route 95 on 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5.

Red-footed falcon

Common and widespread passage migrant

1 mobbing a lesser spotted eagle over Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5; a perched adult male in arable farmland north of Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Eleonora's falcon

Fairly widespread and locally common summer visitor

1 (pale morph), hawking over forest above the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia Forest Reserve, 7/5.

Lanner

Widespread but rare resident

1, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5.

Water rail

Common and widespread resident

2 heard, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Moorhen

Common and widespread resident

2 heard from the drainage canal north of Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5.

Coot

Common and widespread resident, very common winter visitor

Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Oystercatcher

Scarce and local resident, fairly common winter visitor

Small numbers, Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5.

Black-winged stilt

Fairly widespread and locally common summer visitor, common and widespread passage migrant

Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5. Most numerous on the Anthi lagoons, 9/5.

Avocet

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common resident and winter visitor

Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5.

Stone curlew

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

A pair on the beach south of Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Collared pratincole

Fairly common but local summer visitor, widespread passage migrant

Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5. Large aerial feeding gathering over the Anthi lagoons on 9/5.

Ringed plover

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, rare winter visitor

1, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5.

Kentish plover

Common and widespread resident

2, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5; several (also a nest with eggs) along the beach and shoreline south of Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5 and several, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Grey plover

Fairly widespread and locally common winter visitor and passage migrant

1 on the beach south of Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5; 11, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Lapwing

Scarce and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor

1, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5; c.8, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5 and a pair with young, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Sanderling

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

2, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5; several, feeding along the shoreline south of Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Little stint

Very common and widespread passage migrant, locally common winter visitor

Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5 & 12/5. Numerous on the latter date.

Curlew sandpiper

Widespread and locally common passage migrant

Several, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5; 2, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5 and numerous, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Dunlin

Common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant

A single, large flock, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Ruff

Very common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5.

Black-tailed godwit

Widespread and locally common passage migrant, scarce winter visitor

2, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Curlew

Common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant
c.10 feeding along the shoreline south of Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Spotted redshank

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor
Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5. Fewer birds on the latter date.

Redshank

Widespread and locally common resident
2, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5.

Greenshank

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant, scarce winter visitor
1, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Wood sandpiper

Common and widespread passage migrant
Small numbers, Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5. 1 dead by the roadside, adjacent to Hotel Plotini, south of Loutros, 8/5.

Common sandpiper

Rare and local summer visitor, fairly common and widespread passage migrant
1, Evros Delta, 8/5.

Turnstone

Fairly common and widespread passage migrant
1, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Mediterranean gull

Widespread and locally common resident
Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5.

Black-headed gull

Rare and local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor
c.15 on the beach south of Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5; 1, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Slender-billed gull

Rare and local resident, locally common winter visitor and passage migrant
2 adults with black-headed gulls on the beach, south of Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Yellow-legged gull

Very common and widespread resident
Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5. Several at the refuse tip south of Feres, 8/5.
Also seen in Athens, 6/5.

Gull-billed tern

Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant
c.5, Voulgarouda Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5; several, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5 and 2+, Voulgarouda Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Sandwich tern

Rare and local resident, common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant
Small numbers, Evros Delta, 8/5 & 9/5.

Common tern

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant
Small numbers, Evros Delta, 9/5 & 12/5.

Little tern

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant
Small numbers, Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5.

Whiskered tern

Rare and local summer visitor, common passage migrant
Good numbers feeding over the Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

Black tern

Rare and local summer visitor, common passage migrant
A flock of 10 on the shoreline, south of Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5.

White-winged black tern

Common and widespread passage migrant
c.20, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5; 1, accompanying a flock of black terns on the shoreline south of

Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5 and 1, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Rock dove (Feral pigeon)

Status?

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Collared dove

Common and widespread resident

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Turtle dove

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen daily, 7/5-13/5, with a group of 42+ in scrub north of the railway line, Evros Delta, 8/5.

Cuckoo

Fairly widespread but scarce summer visitor, widespread and fairly common passage migrant

Heard daily, 7/5-12/5, with a few individuals seen.

Scops owl

Common and widespread partial migrant

Up to 3 birds calling in and around Dadia village after dark, 7/5-13/5. One heard calling in mid-afternoon from Oriental planes adjacent to the Loutrou River, south of Loutros, 8/5.

Little owl

Fairly common and widespread resident

A pair on rooftops in Dadia village, 10/5; 1 at dawn, south of Feres, 13/5.

Tawny owl

Fairly common and widespread resident

Singles heard calling from Dadia village and at the edges of Dadia Forest Reserve, 7/5, 12/5 & 13/5.

Nightjar

Common and widespread summer visitor

1 flew over the Ecotourism Centre car park during early evening, Dadia, 9/5.

Swift

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Also seen in Athens, 6/5.

Pallid swift

Common and widespread summer visitor

Several over the town, with swifts, 10/5.

Bee-eater

Widespread and locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5, in small loose flocks of up to 25 birds, including c.25 around the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5. Abundant in the Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5, with breeding colonies east of Drana Lagoon on the latter date.

Roller

Scarce and local summer visitor and passage migrant

1 north of Feres, 8/5; 1 north of Monastiraki and 1 north of the Anthi lagoons, 9/5; 2 to the south of route 95 near Hotel Plotini and 2, north of Monastiraki, 12/5; 1, to the north of the Doriskos turning, route 95, 13/5. Perches on wires in arable farmland.

Hoopoe

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

1 heard, Dadia, 7/5; 1 heard, hillslopes east of Loutros, 8/5; 1, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta and 1, St. George's Hill, south of Loutros, 9/5; 1, east of Lefkimi, 11/5 and 2, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Green woodpecker

Widespread and locally fairly common resident

Singles heard near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia, 7/5 & 11/5.

Syrian woodpecker

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen daily, 8/5-12/5 including birds around Dadia village, east of Lefkimi, near the Loutrou River south of Loutros (drumming among Oriental planes) and in Soufli.

Lesser spotted woodpecker

Fairly widespread but scarce resident

1 heard, near the raptor 'feeding station' hide, Dadia Forest Reserve, 12/5.

Calandra lark

Widespread and locally common resident

1+, north of the railway line, Evros Delta, 8/5; 2, Anthi lagoons and 3 in farmland to the north, 9/5; 1, in arable farmland adjacent to route 95, 9/5 and 1, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Short-toed lark

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5; 1, hillslopes east of Loutros, 8/5.

Crested lark

Common and widespread resident

Common in open areas, including roadsides and arable farmland. Seen daily, 7/5-13/5.

Woodlark

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen on 8/5-12/5, including a group of 7, St. George's Hill, south of Loutros, 9/5.

Skylark

Fairly common but local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor

Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5. Occurs on open saltmarsh in saline areas.

Sand martin

Widespread and locally common summer visitor, very common passage migrant

Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5 & 12/5, including breeding colonies east of Drana Lagoon on the latter date; several, St. George's Hill, south of Loutros, 9/5.

Crag martin

Fairly common and widespread partial migrant

2+ near the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5.

Swallow

Very common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Red-rumped swallow

Widespread and locally common summer visitor

Several seen each day on 7/5, 8/5, 10/5, 11/5 & 12/5.

House martin

Common and widespread summer visitor

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Also seen in Athens, 6/5.

Tawny pipit

Widespread but scarce summer visitor

Several, Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5 & 12/5 and Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5 including one on the beach.

Yellow wagtail

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Birds showing the characteristics of the black-headed race, *Motacilla flava feldegg* were numerous on the saltmarsh of Drana Lagoon and surrounding areas, Evros Delta, 8/5 & 12/5; Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5 and 2, along the road, Diavolorema River valley northeast of Dadia village, 10/5 & 11/5. 1, Drana Lagoon on 8/5 showed characteristics of the ashy-headed race, *Motacilla flava cinereocapilla*.

White wagtail

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, common and widespread winter visitor

Seen around the village and Ecotourism Centre, Dadia, 7/5, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5.

Robin

Fairly common and widespread resident, very common winter visitor.

Seen or heard on 7/5, 9/5, 11/5 & 12/5.

Nightingale

Common and widespread summer visitor

Heard daily, 6/5-13/5, with a few individuals seen.

Whinchat

Scarce and local summer visitor, common passage migrant

2, north of the railway line, Evros Delta, 8/5; 2, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Stonechat

Common and widespread resident

A pair, Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia, 10/5.

Isabelline wheatear

Rare and local summer visitor

3 along the canal bank and in an adjacent arable field, north of Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta 8/5 & 12/5.

Black-eared wheatear

Common and widespread summer visitor

The eastern race, *Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca*. Seen on 7/5, 8/5, 9/5, 11/5, 12/5 & 13/5. Males of the black-throated form are spectacular!

Rock thrush

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

A male, on the rocky slopes below the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5.

Blue Rock Thrush

Fairly common and widespread resident

4, on rocky outcrops near the radio mast at Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5.

Blackbird

Common and widespread resident

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Mistle thrush

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen daily around the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia and at the edges of Dadia Forest Reserve, 7/5-12/5.

Cetti's warbler

Common and widespread resident

Heard calling from the base of tamarisks and adjacent vegetation along the canal north of Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5 & 12/5, with 1 seen, 8/5; 1 seen well and others heard, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 12/5 and 1 heard southwest of Ardani, 13/5.

Reed warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Several heard in song along the canal east of Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Great reed warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

3 seen well in tall reed (*Phragmites australis*) along the canal north of Drana Lagoon, Evros Delta, 8/5 & 12/5, with several others heard. This large warbler becomes very visible when singing, as it climbs the reed stems.

Olivaceous warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor

Seen or heard on 7/5, 8/5, 10/5 & 12/5. 1 in song seen exceptionally well, Diavolorema River valley, northeast of Dadia, 7/5.

Subalpine warbler

Common and widespread summer visitor

1, Dadia Forest Reserve, 7/5.

Sardinian warbler

Very common and widespread resident

Seen or heard daily, 7/5-12/5.

Orphean warbler

Widespread but scarce summer visitor

1, hillslopes east of Loutros, 8/5; 2 heard singing in scrub, Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi, 11/5.

Lesser whitethroat

Fairly common but local summer visitor, locally common passage migrant

1 heard, singing from scrub on the edge of Dadia village, 10/5.

Whitethroat

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Blackcap

Common and widespread resident

Edge of Dadia village, Dadia Forest Reserve, 10/5; near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia, 10/5; Kapsalo, and at lower altitude, Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi, 11/5.

Eastern Bonelli's warbler

Fairly widespread and locally fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

1 seen well & several heard singing, Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi, 11/5.

Chiffchaff

Fairly common but local summer visitor, common and widespread winter visitor

Dadia Forest Reserve, 7/5; hillslopes east of Loutros, 8/5; St. George's Hill, south of Loutros, 9/5; Kapsalo, and at lower altitude, Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi, 11/5.

Spotted flycatcher

Widespread and locally common summer visitor, very common passage migrant

1, Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5; 1, Dadia Forest Reserve, 12/5.

Long-tailed tit

Fairly common and widespread resident

4+, Dadia Forest Reserve, 12/5.

Blue tit

Very common and widespread resident

1 heard near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia, 7/5.

Great tit

Common and widespread resident

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Short-toed treecreeper

Fairly common and widespread resident

1, next to the Ecotourism Centre cafe, Dadia, 12/5.

Golden oriole

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Heard daily, 7/5-12/5 and seen on several occasions, including 3 males & a female, north of Dadia village, Dadia Forest Reserve, 10/5. At least 6 males & 2 females were in the wooded valley below the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia, 12/5.

Red-backed shrike

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Lesser grey shrike

Fairly widespread but scarce summer visitor and passage migrant

1, north of the Anthi lagoons, Evros Delta, 9/5; 2, Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 10/5; 1, raptor 'feeding station', Dadia Forest Reserve 12/5 and 2, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Woodchat shrike

Common and widespread summer visitor

1, north of the railway line, Evros Delta, 8/5; 7+, Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 10/5; 1, Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi, 11/5 and 1 alongside route 95, 12/5.

Masked shrike

Scarce and local summer visitor

A secretive male & female, 'Shrike Corner', Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 10/5.

Jay

Widespread and locally common resident

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Magpie

Common and widespread resident

Evros Delta, 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5; along route 95 on 8/5 & 13/5 and in the Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 10/5.

Jackdaw

Common and widespread resident

Seen in Feres, Provatonas and at various points along route 95 on 8/5, 9/5 & 12/5. 2, hillslopes east of Loutros, 8/5 were the only ones seen away from the built environment.

Hooded crow

Very common and widespread resident

Seen daily, 7/5-13/5.

Raven

Fairly common and widespread resident

1 over Dadia village, 7/5; 1, hillslopes south of Loutros, 9/5; 2, Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia

village, 10/5 and 2, Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve, 11/5.

Starling

Fairly common but local resident, very common and widespread winter visitor

Seen on 7/5-10/5, 12/5 & 13/5.

House sparrow

Very common and widespread resident

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Also seen in Athens, 6/5.

Spanish sparrow

Widespread and locally very common resident and summer visitor

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5. A small breeding colony in Dadia village occupies the underside of the stork's nest in the village square.

Tree sparrow

Widespread and locally common resident

1, in farmland at the edge of Dadia village, 10/5.

Chaffinch

Very common and widespread resident and winter visitor

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Serin

Fairly common and widespread resident

Seen or heard daily, 7/5-12/5.

Greenfinch

Common and widespread resident

Small numbers on 8/5-12/5.

Goldfinch

Common and widespread resident

Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Linnet

Common and widespread resident

1, north of the railway line, Evros Delta, 12/5.

Hawfinch

Fairly widespread but scarce resident, widespread and locally common winter visitor

1, hillslopes south of Loutros, 9/5; 4 near the edge of Dadia village, Dadia Forest Reserve, 10/5; 4, Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi, 11/5 and 2, plus others heard, Dadia Forest Reserve, 12/5.

Cirl bunting

Common and widespread resident

1-2 pairs, near the Ecotourism Centre, Dadia, 7/5, 8/5, 10/5, 11/5 & 12/5; 2 near the edge of Dadia village, Dadia Forest Reserve, 10/5 and 2 heard, edge of Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi, 11/5.

Ortolan bunting

Widespread and locally common summer visitor

2 heard, hillslopes east of Loutros, 8/5; 1 & others heard, hillslopes south of Loutros, 9/5; 1, Diavolorema River valley, north of Dadia village, 10/5; 1 & others heard, Kapsalo, Dadia Forest Reserve and others heard at lower altitude, Dadia Forest Reserve, northwest of Lefkimi, 11/5.

Black-headed bunting

Widespread and locally very common summer visitor

Very common. Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Corn bunting

Very common and widespread resident

Common but outnumbered by black-headed bunting. Seen daily, 7/5-12/5.

Below are presented the lists of many of the plants and animals we saw (and identified!) during the week. In particular the plant and insect lists are far from comprehensive, at least in part due to the lack of good field guides to this part of Europe. English names are given only where one is in general use in the books.

The localities in which each species was recorded are given the following codes:

D - Dadia area generally
 DA - agricultural areas close to Dadia in the Diavolorema valley
 DF - Dadia Forest
 DK - Kapsalo
 DL - valley above Lefkimi

L - Loutros hill areas generally
 LN - St Nicholas Hill only

E - Evros Delta generally
 ED - Drana lagoon
 EA - Anthi lagoons

PLANTS

The list is largely of species seen in flower, and excludes many grasses and similar species

Pteridophytes (ferns and allies)			
<i>Cheilanthes vellea</i>			D
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken		DF
Gymnosperms (conifers)			
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	cypress		DF
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	prickly juniper		DF
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Calabrian pine		DF
<i>P. nigra</i>	black pine		DF
Dicotyledons			
Aceraceae (maple family)			
<i>Acer campestre</i>	field maple		D
<i>A. monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier maple		DK
Anacardiaceae (pistachio family)			
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	smoke bush		DK
Apocynaceae (periwinkle family)			
<i>Vinca herbacea</i>	herbaceous periwinkle		DK
Apiaceae (carrot family)			
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	hemlock		DA
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	field eryngo		D L E
<i>E. maritimum</i>	sea-holly		EA
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	fennel		DA
<i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i>	parsley water-dropwort		EA
<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	perfoliate alexanders		DK
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>			DA
Asclepiadaceae (milkweed family)			
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	swallow-wort		D
Aristolochiaceae (birthwort family)			
<i>Aristolochia clematitidis</i>	birthwort		DA

Asteraceae	(daisy family)		
<i>Achillea nobilis</i>			DK
<i>Anthemis chia</i>			D
<i>A. tomentosa</i>			E
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	cornflower		DA L E
<i>C. triumfetti</i>	perennial cornflower		DK
<i>Filago pyramidata</i>	broad-leaved cudweed		LN
<i>Tragopogon hybridus</i>			DL
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	spiny cocklebur		DA
Boraginaceae	(borage family)		
<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	bugloss		D
<i>A. officinalis</i>	alkanet		D
<i>A. undulata</i>			D E
<i>Echium italicum</i>			L
<i>E. plantagineum</i>	purple viper's-bugloss		L
<i>Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum</i>	purple gromwell		DF
<i>Nonea pulla</i>			DA
Brassicaceae	(cabbage family)		
<i>Alyssum corymbosum</i>			L
<i>A. saxatile</i>			DK
<i>Arabis turrita</i>	tower-cress		DK
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	hoary cress		DA E
<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	flixweed		DA E
Buxaceae	(box family)		
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	box		DF
Campanulaceae	(bellflower family)		
<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	clustered bellflower		DK
<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	large Venus's-looking-glass		L
Caprifoliaceae	(honeysuckle family)		
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	dwarf elder		DA
Caryophyllaceae	(pink family)		
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	corncockle		DA
<i>Dianthus giganteus</i>			DL
<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>	rose campion		DK
<i>L. viscaria</i> ssp. <i>atropurpurea</i>	sticky catchfly		DK
<i>Minuartia setacea</i>			D
<i>Petrorhagia prolifera</i>	proliferous pink		L
<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	annual knawel		L
<i>Silene alba</i>	white campion		DA
<i>S. conica</i>	sand catchfly		L
<i>S. cretica</i>			E
<i>S. multicaulis</i>			E
<i>S. viridiflora</i>			D
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	bladder campion		DK
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	corn spurrey		ED
Chenopodiaceae	(goosefoot family)		
<i>Arthrocnemum fruticosum</i>	shrubby glasswort		E
<i>A. perenne</i>	perennial glasswort		E
<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	sea-purslane		E
<i>Salicornia europaea</i>	glasswort		E

Cistaceae	(sun-rose family)		
<i>Cistus incanus</i>		grey-leaved cistus	DF
<i>C. laurifolius</i>			DF
<i>C. salvifolius</i>		sage-leaved cistus	D
<i>Fumana arabica</i>			DF
<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>		spotted rock-rose	DF
Cornaceae	(dogwood family)		
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>		dogwood	DA
Corylaceae	(hazel family)		
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>		eastern hornbeam	DF
<i>Corylus avellana</i>		hazel	DF
Crassulaceae	(stonecrop family)		
<i>Sedum cespitosum</i>			D L
<i>S. reflexum</i>		rock stonecrop	D
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>		navelwort	D
Dipsacaceae	(teasel family)		
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>		teasel	DA
<i>Knautia orientalis</i>			DK
Ericaceae	(heather family)		
<i>Arbutus andrachne</i>		eastern strawberry-tree	DF
<i>Erica arborea</i>		tree-heath	DF
Euphorbiaceae	(spurge family)		
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>			L
<i>E. nicaeensis</i>			D E
Fabaceae	(pea family)		
<i>Chamaecytisus hirsutus</i>			DF
<i>Coronilla emerus</i>		shrubby scorpion-vetch	D
<i>Genista janauensis</i>			DK
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>			ED
<i>L. nissolia</i>		grass vetchling	DA
<i>L. setifolius</i>			DA
<i>L. venetus</i>			DF
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>		pitch trefoil	DA
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>		false acacia	D
<i>Spartium junceum</i>		Spanish broom	D
<i>Trifolium boissieri</i>			ED
<i>T. resupinatum</i>		reversed clover	EA
<i>T. stellatum</i>		starry clover	E
<i>Vicia cracca</i>		tufted vetch	DK
<i>V. lutea</i>		yellow vetch	DA
<i>V. pannonica</i>			DA
<i>V. villosa</i>		fodder vetch	DA
Fagaceae	(beech family)		
<i>Fagus moesiaca</i>		eastern beech	DF
<i>Quercus cerris</i>		turkey oak	DF
<i>Q. dalechampii</i>			DF
<i>Q. pubescens</i>		downy oak	DF
Fumariaceae	(fumitory family)		
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>		fumitory	DA

Geraniaceae	(crane's-bill family)		
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>			D
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	cut-leaved crane's-bill		DA
<i>G. molle</i>	dove's-foot crane's-bill		DA
<i>G. sanguineum</i>	bloody crane's-bill		DF
<i>G. rotundifolium</i>	round-leaved crane's-bill		DA
Hypericaceae	(St. John's-wort family)		
<i>Hypericum cerastoides</i>			DF
<i>H. olympicum</i>			DF
<i>H. perforiatum</i>			DF
<i>H. perforatum</i>	perforate St. John's-wort		DK
Lamiaceae	(mint family)		
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	blue bugle		DF
<i>Lamium garganicum</i>			DK
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	white horehound		L
<i>Stachys cretica</i>			D
<i>Teucrium polium</i>			L
<i>Thymus capitatus</i>			L
<i>T. longicaulis</i>			D L
Linaceae	(flax family)		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	pale flax		E
<i>L. catharticum</i>	purging flax		D
<i>L. nodiflorum</i>	yellow flax		DF
<i>L. tenuifolium</i>			DF
Loranthaceae	(mistletoe family)		
<i>Viscum album</i>	mistletoe		DA
Malvaceae	(mallow family)		
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	common mallow		DA
Moraceae	(fig family)		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	fig		DA
Oleaceae	(olive family)		
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	manna ash		DK
<i>Jasminum fruticans</i>	wild jasmine		DA DK L
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	wild privet		DF
Orobanchaceae	(broomrape family)		
<i>Orobanche alba</i>	thyme broomrape		D
Paeoniaceae	(peony family)		
<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>			DK
Papaveraceae	(poppy family)		
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	common poppy		DA L E
Platanaceae	(plane family)		
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	oriental plane		L
Polygalaceae	(milkwort family)		
<i>Polygala comosa</i>	tufted milkwort		DK

Polygonaceae	(dock family)		
<i>Rumex crispus</i>		curled dock	DA
Ranunculaceae	(buttercup family)		
<i>Anemone pavonina</i>		peacock anemone	DL
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>		traveller's-joy	DK
<i>Ranunculus circinatus</i>		fan-leaved crowfoot	EA
<i>R. ficaria</i>		lesser celandine	D
<i>R. pseudofluitans</i>			DL
<i>R. trichophyllus</i>			EA
<i>R. velutinus</i>			DA
Rhamnaceae	(buckthorn family)		
<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	Christ's-thorn		D E L
<i>Rhamnus oleoides</i>			L
Rosaceae	(rose family)		
<i>Geum bulgaricum</i>			DK
<i>Potentilla recta</i>		sulphur cinquefoil	DL
<i>Poterium verrucosum</i>			DA
<i>Rosa canina</i>		dog rose	D
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>		wild service-tree	DK
Rubiaceae	(bedstraw family)		
<i>Galium cruciata</i>		crosswort	DF
Salicaceae	(willow family)		
<i>Populus canescens</i>		grey poplar	D
<i>Salix alba</i>		white willow	D
Scrophulariaceae	(figwort family)		
<i>Linaria pelisseriana</i>		Jersey toadflax	DF
<i>L. peloponesiaca</i>			D
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>			D
<i>Verbascum blattaria</i>		moth mullein	D
<i>V. sinuatum</i>			D E
<i>V. thapsus</i>		great mullein	DK
<i>V. undulatum</i>			D
Tamaricaceae	(tamarisk family)		
<i>Tamarix hampeana</i>			E
Tiliaceae	(lime family)		
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>		silver lime	DK
Ulmaceae	(elm family)		
<i>Ulmus canescens</i>			DA
Violaceae	(violet family)		
<i>Viola kitaibeliana</i>		dwarf pansy	DA
Monocotyledons			
Cyperaceae	(sedge family)		
<i>Carex divisa</i>		divided sedge	EA
<i>Scirpus maritimus</i>		sea club-rush	EA
Iridaceae	(iris family)		
<i>Gladiolus illyricus</i>		wild gladiolus	DL

<i>Iris attica</i>			DF
<i>I. pseudacorus</i>	yellow flag		E
Juncaceae	(rush family)		
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	sharp rush		E
Liliaceae	(lily family)		
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>			DF
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	tassel hyacinth		DK
<i>M. neglectum</i>	grape hyacinth		D
<i>Nectaroscordum siculum</i>	honey garlic		DK
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	star-of-Bethlehem		DK DL
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	butcher's-broom		DF
<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i>	wild tulip		DK
Orchidaceae	(orchid family)		
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	sword-leaved helleborine		DK
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	violet bird's-nest-orchid		DF
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> ssp. <i>mammosa</i>			DL
<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	lax-flowered orchid		DL
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	tongue orchid		DL ED
Poaceae	(grass family)		
<i>Aegilops ovata</i>			L
<i>Briza maxima</i>	large quaking-grass		D
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	drooping brome		DA E
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	wood melick		DK
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	common reed		E
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	bulbous meadow-grass		D
<i>Stipa pennata</i>			L
Typhaceae	(reedmace family)		
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	lesser reedmace		E
<i>T. latifolia</i>	greater reedmace		E
FUNGI			
<i>Leipota rhacodes</i>	shaggy parasol		EA
LICHENS			
<i>Cladonia foliacea</i>			DF
<i>Rhizocarpon geographicum</i>			DF
<i>Umbilicaria</i> sp.			D

INSECTS

Lepidoptera - butterflies (* - caterpillar only)

Swallowtail	D E
Scarce swallowtail	D L E
Southern festoon	EA
Clouded apollo	DK
Large white	D
Small white	D
Green-veined white	DK
Orange tip	D
Bath white	L
Freyer's dappled white	L
Wood white	DF
Clouded yellow	D E L
form <i>helice</i>	EA
Berger's clouded yellow	ED
Brimstone	DA
Powdered brimstone	DK
Camberwell beauty	D
Small tortoiseshell	DA
Large tortoiseshell	LN*
Painted lady	D L
Red admiral	D L
Southern white admiral	D
Queen-of-Spain fritillary	E
Glanville fritillary	DA DL L
Marsh fritillary	DA
Silver-washed fritillary	DL
Speckled wood	DF
Wall	D E
Small heath	D L E
Common blue	D L
Adonis blue	DA DL
Brown argus	DA DL
Small copper	D
Grecian copper	DL
Green hairstreak	D
Grizzled skipper	DA

Lepidoptera - moths (* - caterpillar only)

Hummingbird hawk-moth	D
Pine hawk-moth	D
Eyed hawk-moth	D
Bedstraw hawk-moth	D
Four-spotted	DA
Spotted clover	L
Silver Y	DK
Delicate	D
<i>Euclidia trigena</i>	L
Little emerald	D
Lime-speck pug	D
Yellow belle	D
Gypsy moth	L*
Buff ermine	D
Scarce forester	EA
Cream-spot tiger	D L

<i>Eucharia casta</i>	D
Lackey	DA*
Pine processionary	DF*
<i>Dyspessa ulula</i>	D
Diamond-back	D
<i>Evergestis frumentalis</i>	L
<i>Dioryctria schuetzeella</i>	D
<i>Eurrhysis pollinalis</i>	DL

Odonata - dragonflies & damselflies

<i>Anax imperator</i>	EA
<i>A. parthenope</i>	E
<i>Libellula fulva</i>	DA EA
<i>Sympetrum fonscolombei</i>	EA
<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	DL
<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	E
<i>Lestes macrostigma</i>	EA
<i>L. viridis</i>	EA

Orthoptera - grasshoppers & crickets

<i>Oedipoda coerulescens</i>	DA
<i>O. germanica</i>	DA
Egyptian locust	DA L E
Field cricket	D L E
Mole cricket	D

Hymenoptera - bees, wasps & ants

<i>Messor barbara</i>	DA E
<i>Scolia flavifrons</i>	DA
<i>Vespa crabro</i>	DF
<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	D

Coleoptera - beetles

<i>Acanthocinus aedilis</i>	DF
<i>Calosoma sycophanta</i>	DF
<i>Cetonia aurata</i>	D
<i>Cicindela campestris</i>	D
<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	D E
<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>	D
<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>	D E
<i>Scarabaeus</i> sp.	D
<i>Timarcha tenbricosa</i>	DA
<i>Trichius fasciatus</i>	DK

Hemiptera - bugs

<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>	DA
<i>Coreus marginatus</i>	DA
<i>Graphosoma semipunctatum</i>	DA

Dictyoptera - mantises

<i>Empusa fasciata</i>	DA DK
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Neuroptera - lacewings

Ant-lion sp.	D
<i>Libelloides macaronius</i>	DK

OTHER INVERTEBRATES

<i>Helix pomatia</i>	Roman snail	DL
Freshwater crab		D
Tortoise tick		D L
<i>Scolopendra cingulatus</i> ?	giant centipede	L

AMPHIBIANS

Green toad	D
Yellow-bellied toad	DL
Eastern spadefoot	EA
Agile frog	D
Marsh frog	D E
Stream frog	D
Common tree frog	D

REPTILES

Hermann's tortoise	D L
Spur-thighed tortoise	D L
European pond terrapin	D E
Stripe-necked terrapin	EA
Green lizard	D
Balkan green lizard	ED
Balkan wall lizard	D
Snake-eyed lizard	D
European glass lizard	DL(dead) L
Grass snake	DA EA
Dice snake	DK(dead)

MAMMALS

Eastern hedgehog	roads (dead)
Pipistrelle sp.	D
Horseshoe bat sp.	D
Red squirrel	DF (cones)
European souslik	E
Wild boar	LN (rootings)
Weasel	D
Red fox	LN E (droppings)
Wolf ?	D (calls)